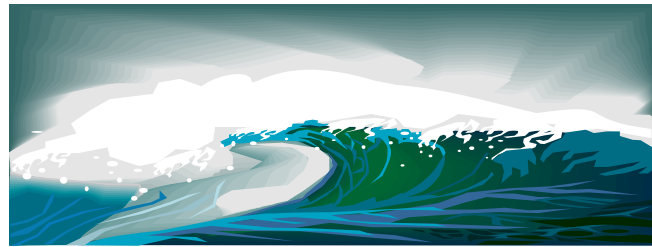




The *October 2020* Anchor

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a



As we head into the month of October, I am reminded about the importance of discipleship. This is a fancy word that centers around learning from someone. The Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words asserts the word "disciple" in the Greek is *manthano* which means "to learn," or "one who follows one's teaching." Think of the game, Follow the Leader. The leader in this old schoolyard game would lead a single file line of people making movements and gestures that had to be followed. Everything the leader did, the follower had to do. If the leader raised his right arm, then everyone following would raise his right arm. Simply put, there was no discussion about why, it was understood that as a follower, you did as the leader did. In that game, if you chose to do your own thing or go your own way, then you were not doing as you should as a follower.

Likewise, our life as a Christian is a lot like that game on the bigger scale. We have Jesus Christ in our lives who is our Leader. He walks with us through the journey we call life. As a disciple, or learner of His teaching, we follow Him and do what His teaching says. He is more than a leader in the life of a Christian, He is our Shepherd, our Father, and our Friend. *He leads us besides the still waters* (Psalm 23). He protects us. We follow Him not because we are in a game, but because *He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life* (John 14:6). He knows the way we should go, which ultimately ends in eternity with Him. He wants us to endure and persevere. When you and I commit to being a disciple of Christ, we not only learn His Word, but we also apply His Word to our life. When we learn, and then do what we learn, we signify we are disciples of Christ. By being a disciple of Christ, we try to live like Jesus wants us to. He knows our voice. He knows our name. *Why would we not want to follow Him?* As we enter October, let us pause a moment to thank God for teaching us how to live. He gave us His Word, so that we could live. It is not burdensome to follow. **It is joy.** Can we esteem to be a better disciple of the Lord's? Because in Discipleship, we put our learning into action and we love the brethren.

Beginning October 1, the Sunday morning worship services on Sunday will be moving back into the sanctuary until further notice. *Our start time will go back to the original 10:45 a.m.* in preparation for resuming Sunday School sometime in the near future at 9:30. The health department has informed us the indoor mask requirement has to remain in place for indoor worship at this time. When there is a change in these requirements, we will let you know. Our service will continued to be streamed online for those who prefer to watch the broadcast from home.

Last month, I was extremely happy Susan West, with the church's Family Life program, held two movie nights in the courtyard on the inflatable big screen. There were about 25 people on-hand who were seated with their families under a clear sky. Normally, movies are held inside. It was great to see people come together for fun. She is also planning a family pumpkin carving event outside in the courtyard that ends with everyone's pumpkin lit up. This was a huge success last year. I'm sure it will be great this year. Talia Martinez, with the church's Children's Department, is also planning some great activities for this month including a *Trunk or Treat* in our parking lot for our kids, just in case the city's trick or treat night is canceled.

Additionally, I want to thank Jo Hendricks for stepping forward to lead a new Young Adult Group for ages 18-35. The Board of Christian Education approved this class back in March, and it is now up and running. It is a Sunday School class of sorts, as far as Bible Study, that will address life issues. They may meet on days other than Sunday, depending on their schedules. They will also be incorporating some activities to grow in fellowship. This age group has fallen through the cracks at our church and others for many years. Having attended the first meeting held at the Riverfront Park last month, it was refreshing to see their excitement about the class. In all, there were about ten present for that first meeting. If you know someone in this age range, get them involved in this group, even if they are not affiliated with our church. In 20 years, these folks will be the leaders in our church and we should do everything in our power to help them grow and excel in their faith and to be ready to take those reigns. ***God is moving!***

Lastly, thank all of you for your continued giving during the pandemic. First Baptist has been blessed. Thank you for remaining faithful in your giving which has helped the church continue to meet its obligations. Our church allows for giving in person, online via our website, and by mail 215 Ann Street, Ravenswood, WV 26164. I cannot emphasize enough, how appreciative I am to serve you as pastor. If I can be of assistance to you and your family, please let me know. My prayer for each of you is that God will continue to strengthen your faith, equip you for service, and to make known His great love for you daily.

In His service,

Pastor Toby



Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Isaiah 43:18-19

October is Pastor Appreciation Month



In 1 Timothy 5:17, Paul writes, ***“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching”***. And, in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, he states, ***“Respect those who work hard among you, who are over you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work”***.

We have a lot to be thankful for this year. Through his leadership (with the Deacons), we have been able to forge ahead hearing the Word of God preached and the Bible taught even in difficult circumstances. Pastor Toby has lead the way in the community with online services. He still reaches out with visitation, cards, phone prayers, and dedication to his flock. The Lord has placed him with us ***“for such as time as this”***.

Let us all take time to express our heartfelt gratitude, love and support for Pastor Toby and his family. Let them know how much they, indeed, are loved.

Thank You, Pastor Toby



Through all the chaos and uncertainty this summer and beginning of fall, we have been blessed to have a healthy, active youth group. All the kids have been faithful in their attendance and we have kept our average attendance at 18 - this includes high school and middle school.

Now that school has started, we are settling in to our new routines. We are still meeting at Tudor's for Wednesday nights but Sunday swimming has ended. We had 30 kids at our last swim party! Many thanks to Bob and Helen Johnson for all the time they donated for us to be able to study the Lord and have fun.

For a few Sundays, we are meeting at my farm on Flatwoods Road. I enjoy having kids at the farm, sharing my animals and time with them. We learn a lot from each other. We have been continuing our study in the book of James and are learning to live the Ten Commandments in our every decision.

I am working on activities for the group that will be within the guidelines for Covid-19. One of the church activities I want to encourage the kids to attend is the Pumpkin Carving on Saturday, October 24 at 5:00. Family Life is planning this fun event and the kids really enjoyed it last year. Prizes will be awarded for each age group so at least two of my kids will be winners! Of course, all of the kids are winners with Jesus!

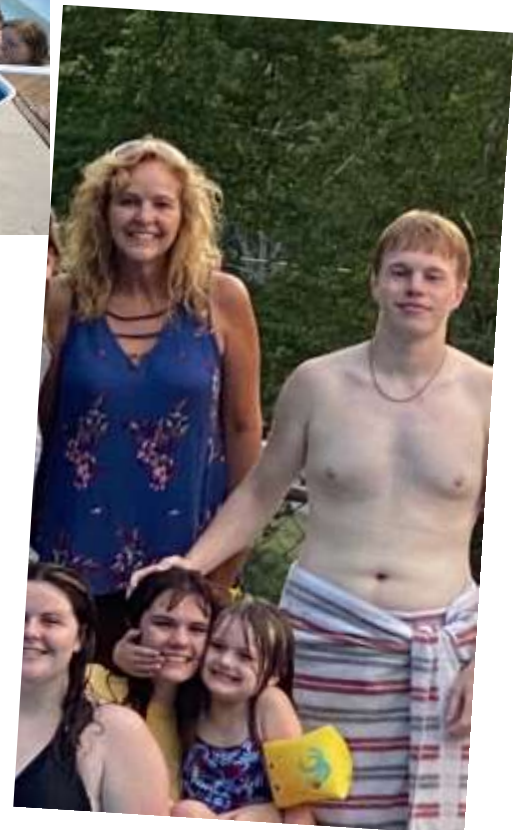
Our hearts were saddened for Conner Ritchie and his family at the loss of his great grandparents in September. We continue to pray for each other and lift up our petitions to the Lord as He tells us we should. Supporting each other in prayer is an important part of youth.

Leading the kids toward a relationship with Jesus is my greatest job!

Blessings,

Ann

Last Plunge of the Year!



**Many Thanks to Our Community
Emergency Services for
Their Dedication to Our Safety**



***FBC
remembers
9/11***



Up On The Roof

Many thanks for the anonymous donation that allowed FBC to replace two A/C units last month.



October Business Meeting

Our Third Quarterly Business Meeting will be held on October 14 at 6:30 for all FBC members.

During this important meeting, we will be voting on the budget and slate of officers for 2021. Social distancing and masks-till-seated will be observed.

All reports for the committees and boards need to be in the office by October 7. Reports to be submitted are Nominating Committee, Financial Committee, Deacons Board, Trustee Board, BOCE, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Church Clerk and Pastor.

The 2021 Financial Budget was emailed to all members on September 18 and is available now for review on the bulletin board outside the office. If you need a copy, please contact the office.

Fellowship Hall Use

As we return to a semblance of normalcy, we have been working on the ability to use our Fellowship Hall again.

Previously, we have used it for bereavement dinners and can allow its use for small groups following services such as funerals or wedding rehearsals.

At this time, meetings are allowed with social distancing. The Deacons, Trustees, Financial and BOCE groups have been able to meet and maintain a cautious distance.

Now we are able to have church groups such as Youth, Men's Fellowship and CIRCLE use the room. Masks should be worn until seated and social distancing observed and food should **not** be served buffet style.

We hope to open the Fellowship Hall for more activities for our church members soon.



CIRCLE Meeting Scheduled

Our next CIRCLE meeting will be held on
Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 in the Fellowship Hall.
Susan West will be hosting this event.

All women of the church are encouraged to
come and enjoy the evening.



First Baptist Church

215 Ann Street, Ravenswood, WV 26164

Monday October 5, 2020

1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Due to COVID-19 precautions, we are encouraging all donors to make an appointment for this drive.

For an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org and use Sponsor Code: Ravenswood

Or call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

*Offers and items are not transferable and are not redeemable for cash. Items are available while supplies last. ©2020 The American National Red Cross | 2875.01 W

18-35 Class Begins!



YOUNG ADULTS GROUP



FBC has started a Young Adults Group (~ages 18-35) and is meeting on Sunday mornings around the scheduled service hour. Due to the colder fall weather in the month of October, the group will be meeting at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Once Sunday School resumes, the group will meet in a different room. We are still working out those details.

There are currently 10 participants who are meeting to learn more about God's Word and for fellowship and spiritual growth. They are:

Talia Martinez	Jordan Williams	Tara Davis
Zach Graham	Jacob Graham	Kaeleigh Grandon
Emily Rutter	Cari Ferguson	Victoria Legg
Taylor McCartney (in FL-joining on Zoom)		

If you know of others who would like to join the group virtually, they can contact Talia for a Zoom log-in.

We have begun a study in "Fundamentals of the Faith" written by John MacArthur. Anyone who may have an interest in joining the group is encouraged to join as soon as possible so you get the most out of the study materials and support from others.

Our first meeting was at Riverfront Park with Toby Wagoner, Sandy McClure and Kevin Woods attending to help kick off the program. We hope to make many connections between this group and other members of the church.

YOUNG ADULTS WELCOME!
Sunday at 9:30 am
Fellowship Hall

We are also in the process of planning an outing for October. Prayers for this group are appreciated as many are facing personal and career challenges. As a group, we have tried to move forward in the midst of several obstacles. It is our prayer that God will use these efforts for His purpose and allow all of us to grow closer to Him.

Jo Hendricks, Facilitator

Welcome to our world, Carter Ryan Massey!



Born September 18; weighed 7lbs 4 oz; 20" long. Carter is the great grandson of Richard and Phyllis Massey. *Congratulations Grandpa Richard and Grandma Phyllis!*

Just two old friends sitting on the porch...



Quinter Vought and John Stephenson enjoy an afternoon as friends. Nice to see people coming together and remembering each other.



**Enjoying our last
outside service**



Kudos to Nathanael!



Courtesy photo
This 19th century, 26" 300 pound bell got a makeover this week. Thanks go to Nathan Flesher for sandblasting and paint. Steve Blackhurst for fabricating a new "clapper." Ron Roush and Robbie Evans of Ravenswood City maintenance for installation. And BOPARC Superintendent Katrena Ramsey for painting and display design. This bell was manufactured in Cincinnati by L. Haven Company and sold to the Episcopal Church for \$18. Please enjoy and give it a ring!

Nathanael Flesher was among those who helped rejuvenate the bell at the Washington Museum. He sandblasted and painted the bell to give a new look to an old part of Ravenswood history.

It's great to see our church people helping the community.

Way to go, Nathanael!



Movie Nights Return

It has been difficult, to say the least, for our FBC clan to gather and have a good time.

However, thanks to our new-to-us inflatable movie screen, the month of September saw the emergence of fun!

We originally had our first movie scheduled for August but due to inclement weather, we watched *Dolittle* the first Friday in September.

Our second movie, *The Chronicles of Narnia—The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, was shown on September 25.

Free movie, free drinks, and free snacks proved to be great fun for those who came (20-25).

We hope to be able to have indoor movies soon. When we do, we hope to see you there!



Lord, Hear our Prayer!

The Jackson County Ministerial Association gathered across the county schools on September 4 to lift up prayers for our schools, teachers, support staff, bus drivers and children.

Pastor Toby helped lead the prayers at Ravenswood Middle School.





It's that
time again!

Time to tell Good News. Time to give Great Joy!

Time to look ahead to the Christmas season and those children around the world who need to know someone cares.

We will be collecting the Christmas Child Shoeboxes during the month of October. The boxes will be available at the church from October 1 and should be returned by November 8.

Let's tell the world the Good News with Great Joy!



Here at FBC

Inside Worship

Starting October 4 at 10:45, we will be returning inside the church to the sanctuary for our Sunday morning worship services. The weather has become too chilly to be outside and now is a good time to return to our normal location and time.

We will be following the Health Department indoor guidelines and be utilizing masks and social distancing. We will also continue to live stream the service for those watching from home. Zoom will be available too.

We are hoping to resume our Sunday School classes by the end of October or first of November. Watch for further announcements on this.

Sunday will be very special as we resume our observation of Communion.

Hope to see you there!

Psalm 122:1 *'I was glad when the said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord.'*

Looking Ahead

Each Christmas season, the deacons oversee the collection and distribution of gifts for FBC.

This year, to help alleviate the financial stress of additional giving during December, the church is now accepting monetary donations for FBC gifts through the months of October, November and December.

If you feel led to give, please write your check to *FBC* and enter *Christmas Gift* in the memo. You may also give online at our website by using *Tithe.ly* and select *Church Christmas Gifts*.

Thank you for your continued support.



Communion Service

***Sunday
October 4***



Adult Buzzer Games Day



Have you missed your Thursday afternoon Adult Game Day?

Well, it's back—with a twist.

Adult Game Day will restart Thursday, October 1 from 1:00 to 3:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

Instead of the card games though, we will be having fun using **social distancing** and.....**BUZZERS!**

Games like Trivia and Password will be the order of the day and instead of touching cards, each person will have their own buzzer.

So wear your masks, bring your own snacks and drinks, and
Prepare to **BUZZ!**

Pumpkin Carving Is Back!

Remember last year when we had such a great time carving our pumpkins? Well, get ready! We are doing it again!

On Saturday, October 24 at 5:00 we will line the sidewalk around the church courtyard and start carving pumpkins. After a short devotion, everyone will begin on their creation.

All pumpkins will be completed by 6:15, they will then be lit and everyone will parade around the walk to choose their favorite carving.

Prizes will be given for Most Creative, Best k-5, Best 6-8, Best 9-12.

Sign up today! Bring your own pumpkin or contact the church if you need one. We will be spacing the tables for social distancing.





FBC Trunk or Treat

On October 31 from 2:00 to 3:30, we will be hosting the FBC Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot.

All kids and wanna-be-kids are invited to come and have a great—safe—fun time.

Any adults who would like to participate with a decorated trunk will be entered for a prize for the Most Awesome Trunkster!

West Virginia American Baptist Women's Ministries



2019 Goal: \$110,000 Total Received 12/31/2019: \$91,463

2020 Goal: \$100,000 Total Received 08/31/2020: \$38,821.77

Love Gift, begun in 1932 due to a deficit in the denomination, outlived the Great Depression and continues to bless regional, U.S., and world-wide ministry and missions. This extra gift to United Mission supports camps, conferences, new church planting and development, education and evangelism, area ministers, campus ministries, AB women's ministries, AB men, Weirton Christian Center, American Baptist Schools, hospitals, and children's homes... to name a few recipients. Fifty-four percent (54%) of Love Gift stays in West Virginia.

Money collected for Love Gift is documented by your local church's treasurer on the monthly Mission Giving report form (Line B – United Mission Love Gift) and is sent directly to the West Virginia Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102.

As one can see above, Love Gift collections have slowed during the pandemic. This, in turn, will affect the ministries in our State that receive these funds. Please encourage those who would like to participate in this mission giving to designate Love Gift on their donation to your church treasurer.

How can you support Love Gift TODAY?

- Receive a Love Gift offering at every women's ministry event or meeting in your church or region.
- Set Love Gift goals for giving.
- Place Love Gift boxes on tables at conferences, board meetings and association events.
- Keep a large jar in back of the church for "Pennies from Heaven for Love Gift." (Congregations have collected \$40 to \$50 monthly this way!)
- Give each family in your church a Love Gift Box
- Every fifth Sunday of a month, receive a Love Gift offering during worship.

Thank you in advance for sharing this information with your church membership.

Sincerely,

Judy Staats, WV ABWM Love Gift Coordinator



TRASH TO TREASURE

2020 SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

KIM PICKRELL, COORDINATOR



Ephesians 4:23-24

*"to be made new in the attitudes of your mind;
and to put on the new self,
created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."*



Keynote Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Mary Beth McCloy
(Available on Video)



Session 1

Trash to Treasure: You Are Not Trash

Session 2

Trash to Treasure: The Treasures God Gives You

Session 3

Trash to Treasure: Treasuring Others

**** While the 2020 In-person Spiritual Growth Retreat was cancelled, we can still reap the benefits of the messages from our speaker through links that will be available on the WVBC website (wvbc.org) as well as the WVBC Facebook page on October 10.**



ANCHOR ARTICLE FOR OCTOBER 2020

FINANCE COMMITTEE- 2021 Budget

The Finance Committee has completed the process of Budget development and has submitted the final draft to the church for review. We will discuss and vote on this proposal at the October 14 business meeting. It is posted at the church and available through e-mail or a written copy from Susan.

This year, we recommended that each group or persons requesting budgetary monies submit a proposal of plans and an amount requested. Special thanks to those who took the time to complete this as it was very valuable to the committee as they reviewed and made decisions. This year, we were able to meet the requests submitted. In addition, the committee met a total of 3 times to review and revise the budget. Much thought and work went into developing a plan that will meet the needs of the church while planning ahead for future needs.

Overall, there was a 2.9 % increase in the 2021 budget (\$182,265.08) from 2020 (\$176,905.08) but there were also 6 new categories of expenditures added. They were: Pastor Discretionary, Deacon Discretionary, Young Adults, Programs & Activities, Awards & Recognition and Local Missions.

GIVING THROUGH TITHELY

Covid-19 has certainly had an impact on programs and services. A silver lining in the midst of this pandemic is that we have seen an increase in giving using Tithely. Between the months of January to Sept 9, 2020 the total gifts on Tithely were \$44,202.93 (up from \$22,177.30 during the same time period in 2019). Also, the number of donors has almost tripled (from 32 in 2019 to 95 this year). Since our services and bible studies are on-line, many from outside the area are able to participate and many contribute using the Tithely app. The previous finance groups who had the foresight to add this to FBC so that we were already set up to weather the Covid crisis are to be commended.

Also, we have added several other categories of giving but the most common contributions are to the General Fund, Deacon Fund, Building Fund, and Various Missions. Check it out to see if this is something you might like to participate in as well.

LEGACY GIVING

In the past few months, our church has been blessed to have received monetary gifts in the amount of \$10,000 from the Anne Adkins Family and \$30,000 from an Anonymous Donor. As a result, we have been able to purchase the 2 new much needed furnace units at a cost of \$14,383.99 which were installed in mid September. These generous donations have prompted the Finance Committee to work on a Legacy Giving program for others who might like to provide for church needs as well. Donors—you are setting a wonderful legacy for others to follow. THANK YOU SO MUCH for planting these seeds! May the harvest be plentiful!

It's Growing\$\$\$

Our Building Fund is growing leaps and bounds! As of September 28, the BF is at \$26,805.57!

Thanks to all who have been supporting this project. A new roof is looking closer every day!

Many thanks to our Change Bottle group. Two new people joining the Quarter/Dime Club are:
Phyllis Massey—\$100 Pauline Walker—\$80

That Change REALLY Adds Up!!!



WVBC Family Virtual Celebration

Coming this October

Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt His name together.

- Psalm 34:3



I would like to invite you to join with your Baptist brothers and sisters from around the state in a special four-part WVBC Family Virtual Celebration, which will premiere October 13, 2020.

It would be easy to think that ministry during this pandemic has been paused. However, as you will hear in the celebration, God has been very active working in and through His people who together make up the WVBC family of churches! Now is the perfect time to celebrate God's goodness and guidance as we as a Convention family strive in this unusual season to find new and creative ways to "Do Christ's Work Together!" As the words of the great hymn of the faith written by Fanny Crosby proclaim, "To God be the glory, great things He hath done!"

Richest of Blessings,

Mike Sisson

WVBC Family Virtual Celebration

Family Celebration Schedule:

Each session will last approximately 30 minutes and will be full of highlights and updates. Sessions will be streamed to both our Facebook page and our YouTube channel, and the link will also be e-mailed out on the evening of the session. Some of the highlights of each session are listed

Tuesday, October 13 at 6 pm

Celebration of 2020

Update/Vision for 2021 by Mike Sisson, Executive Minister
Ward Hibbs' Award

Thursday, October 15 at 6 pm

Parchment Valley Conference Center Update

Brothers' Keeper Recap

Bobby Wood School of Christian Studies' Graduation

Tuesday, October 20 6 pm

West Virginia Baptist Camp at Cowen Celebration

Baptist Campus Ministry Update

Multigenerational Discipleship

Thursday, October 22 6 pm

Global Missions Update

Commissioning Service

Guided Time of Prayer

How to Watch:

You can watch our sessions in any of the following ways:

On our Facebook page

On our YouTube channel

By subscribing to our emails

Focus on Sunday School:



Sunday School teaches us many things. There are exciting stories and people in the Bible.

Have you ever had a bad hair day? Well, King David's son has the worst hair day ever!

2 Samuel tells us about King David's son Absalom. He was good looking and must have been **very** conceited. The Bible mentions he had beautiful thick, long locks of hair. Absalom got a haircut every year. (whether he needed it or not!) He was proud of his hair and had it weighed after each cut.

Absalom was not a good son. He led a rebellion against his father David. King David and his followers left Jerusalem but later he gathered up supporters and they fought to get David's kingdom back.

Proud Absalom took off on his mule to flee the battle. But guess what?? His **hair** got caught in an oak tree! He couldn't get loose and was hanging by his beautiful, thick locks of hair! Can you imagine that? He was so tangled and unable to get out that King David's soldiers were able to capture him and kill him. David was able to go back to Jerusalem and be Israel's king again. Hmmm. Wonder where the mule went??

Sometimes we may be like Absalom and let ourselves be conceited thinking "I am the best" or "I am better than you or God". God's hates pride and He wants us to love Him above everything.

When you look in the mirror, remind yourself who made you and how good God is to you. Then go and reflect Jesus.

October Birthdays



Jason Brown—10/1
Aiden Morgan—10/3
Andrea Crow—10/4
Bryan Donahue—10/10
Cari Chapman—10/15
Taylor Woods—10/15
Liz Stewart—10/20
Wayne Fridley—10/22
Jason Kerns—10/23
Bill Stewart—10/24
Charlie Stewart—10/24
Joan Grimmett—10/29
Kay Pursley—10/30

Bible Book of the Month October 2020

Leviticus



Right Now Media Link

For over a year, FBC people have had the opportunity to enjoy Bible Studies, Children's shows, a HUGE library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want on *Right Now Media*. There is content for all ages and stages of life.

Some of you have already signed up for it. If not, I encourage you to register today. Here is the link:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/fbcravenswood> or

Text RIGHTNOW FBCRW to 41411

CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



October 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Danny & Sherry Dzierzanski	2 Gloria Easter	3 Rodney & Sheila Eskins
4 Mona Eubanks	5 Heidi Farrell	6 Annabelle Flesher	7 Jeff & Venisa Flesher	8 Nathanael Flesher	9 Helen Frank	10 Jim & Kathy Frazier
11 Wayne Fridley	12 Mark & Susan Gerstell	13 Kenny Goodwin	14 Mike & Angela Graham, Alli	15 Jacob Graham	16 Zach Graham	17 Geraldine Gregorich
18 Terri Greenwood	19 Nathan & Lilly Hall	20 Mike Hall	21 Bill & Tammy Harpold, Shane	22 Jo Hendricks	23 Kyle Hickman	24 Crystal Hickman, Tara
25 Destinijane Hicks	26 Lisa Hoke	27 Kathy Hudson	28 Bobby & Charolette Jeter, Christian	29 Margaret Johns	30 Bob & Helen Johnson	31 Ann Johnson

