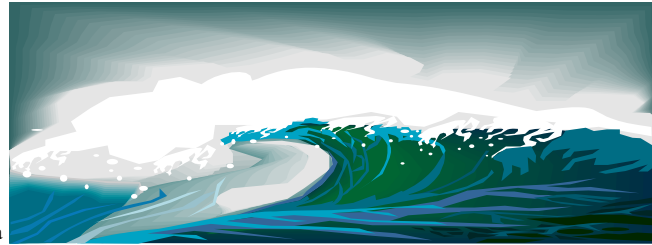




The *September 2021*
Anchor

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



I was reading a devotion called “Reflections of Autumn” by Dr. David Jeremiah and in it, he says the word Autumn only appears once in the Bible and that is in Jude 1:12. Jude speaks of false teachers comparing them to “autumn trees without fruit,” - implying that autumn should be a fruitful season, the most abundant of the year. How can we take advantage of the “autumn of life”? I thought about that question, and it made look at my own life. I thought I would share that this month, and see if you can relate. We can draw closer to God in all seasons.

First, when we look at our spiritual lives, we often find ourselves going through many different seasons. At times, we may be on fire for God and wanting to learn everything about Him, and even praying more than we normally do. This equates to a harvest time in our walk with God. We reap that which has been sown. It’s all good!

Then there’s the seasons of contentment, where we find ourselves merely “ok” in our walk with God. The problem is, being just “ok” might indicate we are only going through the motions in our worship. That means, we might go to church, but we are not really engaged or present in our worship. But, as many tell me, at least we are present. This kind of contentment should serve as a wake up call to all of us. We should seek revival when this season is upon us.

Then, one cannot forget the season of spiritual drought. This is when we know we need God more than ever in all aspects of our life, but instead of seeking Him, we suffer. We allow our soul to mope and groan about God’s absence. The remedy is seeking God first. Let us long for the rains of blessings that only the Lord Jesus can provide.

While Jude was speaking of Autumn as barren trees, let us seek to use this time to celebrate the harvest that comes from the tree. Britannica tells us “Autumn is connected with the harvesting of crops.” It says, in this time, “festivals revolving around the season’s importance in food production, animals gather food in preparation for the coming winter, and those with fur often grow thicker coats.” Britannica ends by saying, “Many birds migrate toward the Equator to escape the falling temperatures.” To that end, Autumn is both a celebration of what has come and a time to make provision for what’s ahead. It’s a crossroad.

Let us apply these traits spiritually. Let us celebrate every leaf that turns a bright color, as a reminder of God's goodness in our lives. As the leaves will seemingly come alive with splendor, they will fall. As these leaves die and fall, they remind us that without God, we too, fall. And that our hope for eternal life is only in the resurrection found in Christ Jesus. Most of all, if we know we need Jesus in our lives, let us seek Him now while He may be found. Let us praise God in all seasons of weather, and in all seasons of spirit. For He is worthy to be praised.

On a different note, but still pertaining to fall, I want to remind everyone the church will be hosting the Football End Zone celebration after every home varsity football game. We need your help again this year with snacks and drinks. We could also use your help setting up and cleaning up after the event. Please see Ann or Susan and let them know how you can help. Thanks for all you do!

In His Service

Pastor Toby





Things are winding down for the summer fun for the youth. The end of July we had the Marietta Aquatic trip with Wendy's and Whit's for dessert. Our Back to School Swim party was at the Johnson pool on August 15 just in time for a final dunk before school started. Twenty kids came and enjoyed the swim. Our final total for the yard sale in July was \$3400.00.

We've been enjoying SnoBiz a lot on Wednesdays and have started preparing our meals on Sunday evenings at church when we meet.

We have been studying John 6 and working on listening to God to what He wants us to do instead of blindly doing our own thing.

September begins the End Zone parties! Our first one is Friday, September 3 after the Ravenswood home game. All youth are invited to come by and enjoy a time of games, fellowship and, of course, food and drinks. This is a safe place for the kids to gather. We need your help though. If you are able to come on Friday to set up or come later to help clean up, please plan on it. We want the kids to have fun but stay safe so chaperones are greatly needed too. Maybe you can't be there but can help with snacks and drinks. We are still staying safe so snacks need to be individually wrapped if you are making homemade goodies.

All the youth are invited to come for the Labor Day Swim and Putt Putt Golf outing on Monday September 6.

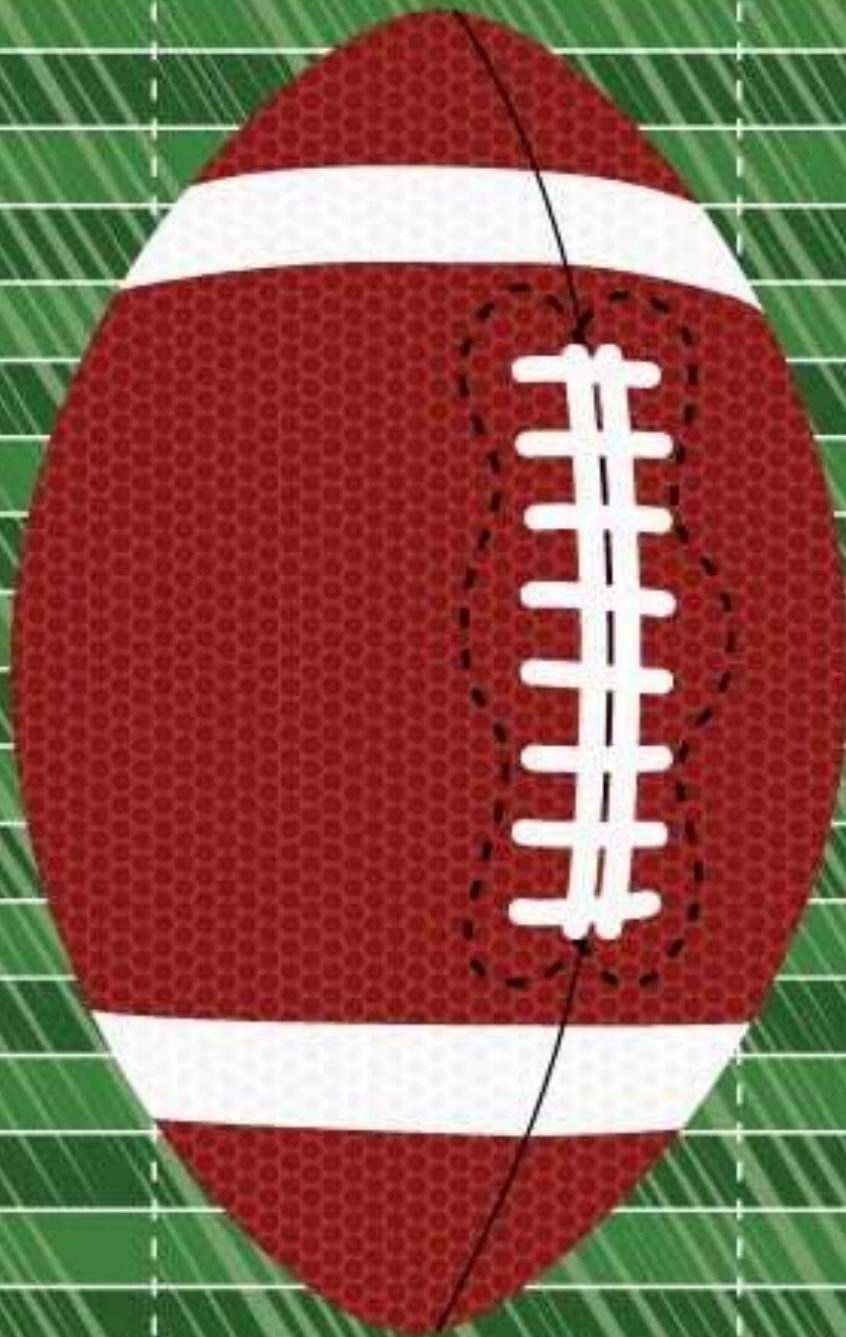
We have had pretty good numbers on Wednesdays but not so much when we meet at the church on Sundays. My guess is the kids are still enjoying being able to go out without masks. We'll continue our outreach and pray for more kids to come to know the Lord.

Again, thank you to everyone for your support of the FBC Youth group. Everything you do for us is a great blessing.

Blessings,

Ann

END ZONE !!



Friday September 3

From a Bird's Eye View

Did you know Pastor Toby is taking flying lessons?!!

On one of his flights over Ravenswood, he took these pictures.

May First Baptist Church be a beacon in our community.

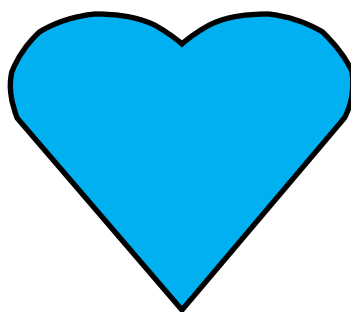


First Time for a Love Touch



Mike and Tara Davis enjoy their twin sons today. Tara held Brayden for the first time and Mike held Kashton. It's the first day all 4 have been together!

Our prayers continue for Brayden and Kashton as they continue their journey to grow healthy.

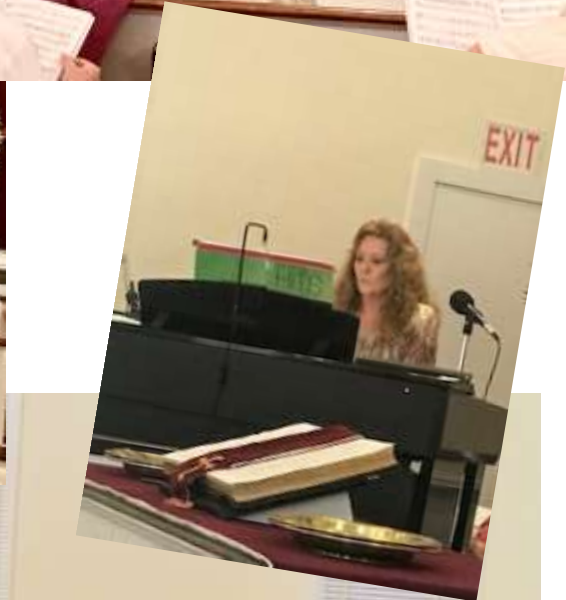


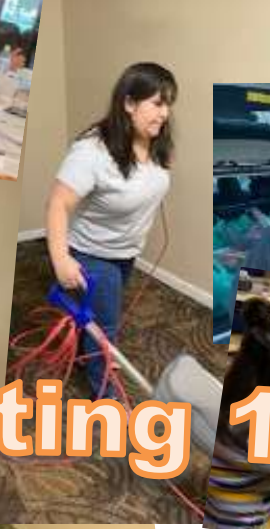
Making a Joyful Noise

Abbi and the choir are singing again!

The choir resumed practices on Wednesday at 7:30. They will be singing on Sunday September 12 during the morning worship service.

Welcome Back Choir!





18-35 celebrating 1 year!





WHY GIVE TO THE WMO?

Answers to your most frequently asked questions about the World Mission Offering

HOW ARE MY GIFTS FOR THE WMO USED?

WMO gifts, like all gifts to the IM General Fund, are used 85% for mission program (global servant, partner and other ministry support), 10% for administrative support and 5% for development costs.



WHAT ABOUT MY GIFTS TO GLOBAL SERVANTS?

All global servant personalized support is targeted for global servants (item A in the chart above). Each year, IM global servants seek to raise approximately \$9.7 million of the \$12.4 million needed for their ministry programs.

WHY DOES IM INVITE GIVING FOR GLOBAL SERVANTS, FOR THE IM GENERAL FUND, AND FOR THE WORLD MISSION OFFERING?

As the body of Christ, we are in partnership with those in the field, those in the home office, those in the local churches and individual donors. When each area contributes, no one group carries the full burden of expense. IM does not ask global servants to raise all of the funding that they need, but comes alongside them in financial support as well as in ministry.

WHAT ELSE WILL MY WMO GIFTS DO?

Giving to the WMO is the best way to make sure that you give to everybody and everything at IM. Whenever personalized funding falls short, WMO gifts fill the gap, keeping global servants in the field and covering ministry expenses such as education, visas, and passports. WMO gifts also fill the gaps in funding other IM expenses (items B, C, and D in the chart above), supporting global servants with training and pastoral care, enabling IM to address crises as they arise, and much more.



Each year, FBC has taken time to remember those who lost lives and those who gave their lives to rescue others in the 9/11 attacks in America .

The Board of Christian Education will again be collecting snacks to take to our First Responders - police, EMTs and firefighters - on September 10. If you would like to help out, please bring individually wrapped snack items - cookies, cheese or peanut butter crackers, slim jims, chips, chewing gum, etc - to the Fellowship Hall by Friday morning September 10.

*Thank you to all the First Responders
for your protect and care.*



Here at FBC

Jim McCaulley Rededicates with Baptism



We were blessed to witness the baptism of Jim McCaulley on August 1.

Jim rededicated his life to the Lord and wished to be baptized.

Let us thank the Lord and ask Him to guide Jim in his walk with Jesus.

Makenzie and Grace



A song of praise filled the sanctuary with the beautiful voices of Kenzie Grandon and Grace Shirley.

Thanks, ladies, for the wonderful music!

Keep on praising the Lord!



Deep Roots

“Still other seed fell on good soil”

Matthew 13:8

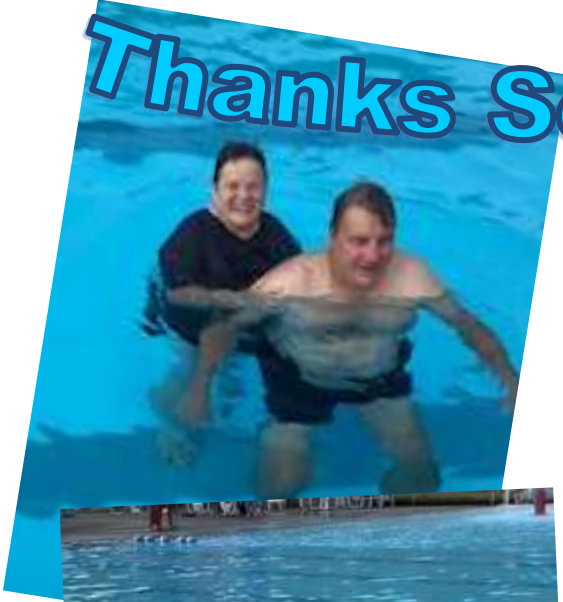
Obviously, the pecan seed fell on good soil at the parsonage. The roots went very deep, grew, and grew, then grew some more. Getting those roots out has been an adventure.

Soon though, the walk way will be ready for a safe concrete pathway to the church across the street.

May the seeds of Jesus we plant in the souls of people we meet take root and grow as deeply and be as hard to remove.

Picnic n Swim Fun

Thanks Social Committee!



Thanks John S!



Good Hope Association Annual Meeting 2021



Rev. Bob Keen, Keith Miller, Marie DeLong, Pastor Toby Wagoner, Zola Miller, Pastor Bill Stewart, Pastor Herman Robinson, Kathy Hudson and Tina Mealey were inducted in as officers of the Good Hope Association at the annual meeting that was held at FBC on August 15. Pastor Richard Lockhart gave the annual sermon and reports were given from the different committees. Thank you Social Committee for a job well done! Thank you, Abbi Woods, for the beautiful music. Thank you First Baptist for being a gracious host!



Good Job Social Committee!



Welcome Back

After a summer away at boot camp, Philip Lyons was welcomed back to his Senior High School Sunday School class (Rakivists) with a cake and lots of hugs and smiles.

He will be finishing his senior year a Ravenswood before returning to more training next summer.



Sunday Nights at FBC



Nominating Committee



FBC Youth



God's Cadets



Prayer for our schools



The Jackson County Ministerial Association organized a back to school prayer for schools across the county on August 23. Pastor Toby was one who led prayer at the Henry J Kaiser Elementary School here in Ravenswood.

We continue to prayer for our schools, kids, teachers, support staff and the Board members.



Carry the Light!



Don't feel sorry for or fear for your kids because the world they are going to grow up in is not what it used to be.

God created them and called them for the exact moment in time that they're in. Their life wasn't a coincidence or an accident.

Raise them up to know the power they walk in as children of God.

Train them up in the authority of His Word.

Teach them to walk in faith knowing that God is in control.

Empower them to know they can change the world.

Don't teach them to be fearful and disheartened by the state of the world but hopeful that they can do something about it.

Every person in all of history has been placed in the time that they were in because of God's sovereign plan.

He knew Daniel could handle the lions den.

He knew David could handle Goliath.

He knew Esther could handle Haman.

He knew Peter could handle persecution.

He knows that your child can handle whatever challenge they face in their life. He created them specifically for it!

Don't be scared for your children, but be honored that God chose YOU to parent the generation that is facing the biggest challenges of our lifetime.

Rise up to the challenge.

Raise Daniels, Davids, Esthers and Peters!

God isn't scratching His head wondering what He's going to do with this mess of a world.

He has an army He's raising up to drive back the darkness and make Him known all over the earth.

Don't let your fear steal the greatness God placed in them. I know it's hard to imagine them as anything besides our sweet little babies, and we just want to protect them from anything that could ever be hard on them, but they were born for such a time as this.

~Alex Cravens

NOTE: One of my friends shared this on Facebook. I was touched by the message and wanted to share it with you. Susan



About this event

Fall Rally is a one-day event (with the option to stay overnight Friday) for students going into grades 6 through 12.

The Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT) welcomes you back for another year of state youth events! Kick off the school year with us at Fall Rally, an event designed for 6th through 12th grade students. Held at Camp Cowen, this is the perfect venue for your youth group to join with others from across WV in worship, teaching, activities and fun!

Our theme: **The Elements, John 16:33**, recognizes that Christ offers us peace in the midst of whatever we face, whether joys or struggles. The Elements: foundation, restoration, ambition and communication help us process our past, inform how we live in the present and guide our future!

Contact the office for more information.

Thank you, Teachers

Sandy Confer, Sunday School Superintendent, introduced and thanked the teachers who dedicate their time to teaching the Word of God to our church family. A gift was given to each teacher and then Sandy prayed a prayer of consecration for them.

A meal was prepared for the teachers and their families as a thank you.



Thank you Teachers!



Focus on Sunday School:



It's amazing what you can learn in Sunday School!

How big were the giants?

We can read in Deuteronomy 3:11 about Og, king of Bashan. It doesn't say much about him, but he must have put up a really great fight! He was mentioned more than 20 times in the Bible.

And boy, was he tall! It doesn't say how tall exactly but his bed was 9 cubits long and 4 cubits wide and made of iron. How big is that? Well, it's **13 feet 6 inches long and 6 feet wide!** Talk about a kingsize bed! *By the way, Goliath was only 9 ½ feet tall.*

There sure aren't many people today that are 13 feet tall. But God is stronger than anyone. He can take on the big battles for us and win!

Remember, The Lord is my strength and my salvation. Whom shall I fear?

NO ONE!

Please join us at 9:30 on Sundays!

September Calendar

- Sep 1 World Mission Offering Begins
- Sep 2 Deaconess Meeting
- Sep 3 First End Zone!!
- Sep 5 Promotion Sunday
- Sep 6 Labor Day - Office Closed
- Sep 7 Trustee Meeting
- Sep 9 Nominating Committee
- Sep 10 First Responders Appreciation Day
- Sep 13 BOCE
- Sep 14 Men's Fellowship
- Sep 16 CIRCLE
- Sep 18-19 ABWM Spiritual Growth Retreat
- Sep 20 Deacons Meeting
- Sep 21 Financial Committee Meeting

September Birthdays



Janyce Watkins—9/1
Helen Frank—9/2
Abbi Woods—9/7
Jim Frazier—9/9
Diana Staats—9/10
Alan Arrington—9/14
Philip Lyons—9/15
Angel Ritchie—9/16
Nathanael Flesher—9/17
Liam Davis—9/17
Sami Lawson—9/19
Gary Balser—9/19
Susan Gerstell—9/20
Jessica Morgan—9/21
Megan Noble—9/22
Charolette Jeter—9/23
Christian Jeter—9/23
Kathy Hudson—9/24
Susan Price—9/25
Bev Stephenson—9/27
Sandy Confer—9/27
Jonathan Morgan—9/27
Cass Bennett—9/29

Bible Book of the Month September 2021

Amos



CommUnity Kitchen

Sep 4 NO CK Holiday
Sep 11 Wagoner Family
Sep 18 Episcopal Church
Sep 25 Jim McCauley

If your family or group would like to help out with this ministry, please contact the office. Thank you.

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.

September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Adam McGoskey, Taylor	2 Theresa McKown	3 Cassandra McKown	4 Carolyn Mellinger
5 Don & Phyllis Michael	6 Daryl & Roberta Miller	7 Sue Miller	8 Ben & Christie Mize	9 Jesse & Macie Mize	10 Josh Mize	11 David & Mary Jo Moore, Hunter
12 Eugene & Jessica Morgan, Aiden, Jazalyn	13 Rick & Cathy Murray	14 Nikki Nicholson Allana Reece	15 Megan Noble, Brody	16 Jesse & Holly Nowry	17 John & Jennifer Ortt	18 Allen & Holly Palmer
19 Adam Palmer	20 Tyler & Jennifer Pitts, Owen, Isabella	21 Mick & Susan Price	22 Mary Proctor	23 Amy Perdue	24 Kay Pursley	25 Roger & Belinda Rader
26 Juanita Raines	27 Don & Melissa Raynes	28 Lee & Connie Reynolds	29 Tyler & Michelle Ritchie Josh, Mary Beth	30 Rhonda Ritchie		

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast because they trust You.

Isaiah 26:3

