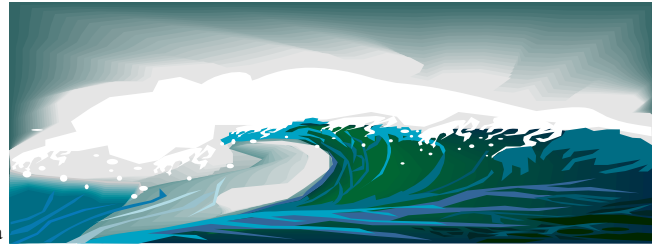




The *October 2024*
Anchor

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



This time of year, I start to think about “change.” The beautiful leaves are beginning to come alive with a vast array of colors as fall approaches. Change can be challenging, but it’s also beautiful.

When reflecting on personal change, it’s hard not to consider the transformation we undergo as Christians when we surrender our lives to the Lord. Ephesians 4:20-24 states, “*You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness*” (NIV). This kind of spiritual change allows us to focus more on Jesus in our lives. As believers, we are called to live better, fostering a desire to love and serve others—not out of pride, but from humility, following Jesus’ example.

Sometimes, change is forced upon us by circumstances beyond our control. We might lose a job and have to relocate, or face health issues that sideline us. However, the Lord can use these circumstances to bring about spiritual transformation. For that change to occur, we must be obedient and willing to embrace it, rather than resist. In our humanity, we often find it easier to resist change instead of accepting it. Our rebellious nature can give Satan an advantage early in our lives, leading us to believe that becoming a Christian means abandoning our dreams and desires. Nothing could be further from the truth. With Jesus at the center of our lives, we gain perspective on our dreams, realizing that God has created each of us for a greater purpose that glorifies Him. This may even mean achieving those dreams. I don’t have to change who I am or disregard my wishes. When Jesus is our Savior, the Holy Spirit molds us into who we are meant to be in Christ. Although this process can be challenging in our sin-filled world, we must remember that if God is behind our desire for spiritual change, then great things lie ahead in our relationship with Him.

Consider the Apostle Paul and his dramatic conversion. Scripture vividly portrays Saul’s transformation into Paul. Saul, a fervent persecutor of Christians, encounters Jesus on the road to Damascus and is temporarily blinded. This profound experience leads to his conversion and a complete reversal of his life’s direction. Despite facing hardship and persecution after his conversion, he became one of the greatest apostles, writing much of the New Testament.

As we are continually transformed into the Christians and disciples we are meant to be, it’s important to remember that God does not change. In Malachi 3:6, the Bible says, “*I, the Lord, never change.*” If “change” means moving in another direction, why would God need to change? As GotQuestions.org explains, for God to change would imply that He needs to become either better or worse. Since God is the ultimate perfection, Got Questions says, “He cannot change because He cannot be better than He already is; and He cannot fail or become less than perfect, so He cannot become worse than He is. God’s quality of never changing is called immutability.”

I’m grateful that God does not change. If He did, we would never know how to please Him, praise Him, or understand what it takes to be saved or reconciled to Him. Since God is unchanging and has given us His Word, we can know that if we are saved, we can stand justified before Him. His Word guides us in how we can change by praising Him more, studying His Word more, and loving each other as a demonstration of the love Christ has extended to us.

Yes, it’s a season of change—not for God, but for you and me. Look at the leaves and be reminded that change can be beautiful, especially when it draws us closer in our relationship with the Lord. Obedience is the hard part. Obedience will lead us to change by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Toby

To Our Pastor

In Infinite Wisdom
The Lord surely knew
That we would need a Pastor
As Faithful as you.

A Love of God's Word
& a Heart for His flock
You give of yourself
& You Stand on the Rock.

We Appreciate You!!



Welcome Our New Youth Pastor



We would like to welcome Ethan Tawney to the First Baptist staff as Youth Pastor. Our members voted on Ethan for the position of Youth Pastor following the morning worship on September 29. Ethan becomes the 4th Youth Pastor for First Baptist Church.

Following the unanimous vote in favor, Ethan and his wife Zöe joined our congregation.

Ethan and Zöe live in Parkersburg where she works as a nurse and he is an electrician.

Ethan's position begins on October 1. We look forward to having this couple join us in fellowship as well as having him lead our youth.

May the Lord bless this couple as they begin this ministry.



Ethan giving his testimony



Question & Answer after church



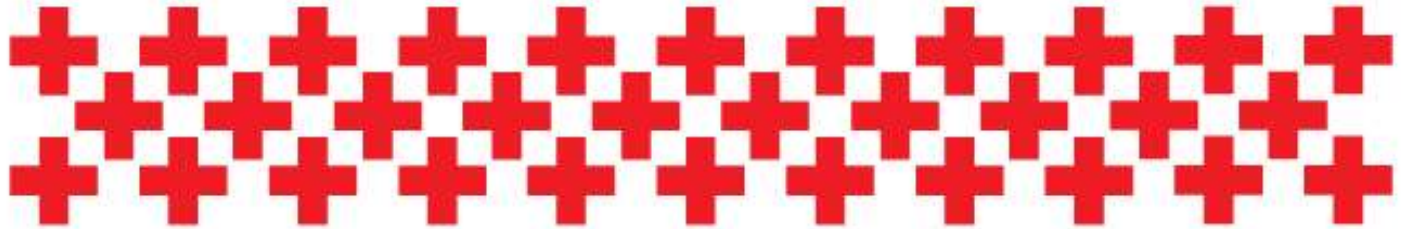
Accepting the vote results



Ethan and Zöe join FBC

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
First Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

215 Ann Street
Ravenswood, WV

Monday, October 7
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)
or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: Ravenswood to schedule an appointment.

**Treat yourself! Come to give in Oct. for a \$10 Gift Card
by email. See rcblood.org/treat**

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

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WEST VIRGINIA BIBLE READING MARATHON

WHEN: Coming October 5th - 9th

Opening Ceremony @ 2:00pm on Saturday
Closing Ceremony @ 10:00am on Wednesday

WHERE: Southwest steps of the West
Virginia State Capitol Building (along Kan-
awa Blvd.)

1900 Kanawa Blvd. E.
Charleston, WV 25317

Pastor Toby will be there Monday morning for
90 minutes. If you are interested,
please contact Pastor Toby or go to the website

wvbiblemarathon@gmail.com



Blessings at FBC



Brent Ritchie shows his witness in baptism



Conner Ritchie rededicates his life by baptism



On September 8, following the baptisms of Brent and Conner Ritchie, we were blessed to observe the dedication of their youngest son Beckham Lance Mitchell Ritchie for the Lord.

The Ritchie family - Brent, Angel and Conner - then joined our church for membership.

Welcome to the family of FBC!



Kelly Taylor is baptized by Pastor Toby

What a blessing to hear the testimony of Kelly Taylor as we observed her baptism on September 15.

Kelly may be returning to Texas after the first of the year, but wherever she goes, she will go with the Lord and our love.

Youth Activities-Register Early!

SENIOR HIGH CONVENTION



TEACH ME YOUR
Paths
PSALM 25: 4-5

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Charleston

November 8-10

Grades 9-12

\$40 per person until October 25th

Join us for a weekend of worship,
Bible study, fellowship, and fun!

Register at

wvbc.org/ministries/youth

Contact the Office

Fall Children's Rally

For children in grades K-5, 6 is optional

Saturday, November 2, 2024

Parchment Valley in the Greenlee Activity Center



Cost: \$14 (or \$26 after October 15th)

Register today at www.wvbc.org

Remembering 9/11



The Board of Christian Education and Deacons purchased and presented gifts certificates to local First Responders for 9/11.

Sandy Confer is pictured with the Firefighters, Ravenswood Police manager Heath Bloxton, and the EMS workers.

Thank you to all the First Responders who choose to protect us in our community.



Third Quarterly Business Meeting

Our next quarterly business meeting will be held on October 16 at 6:30. During this time, we as a church, will make decisions about the church. All members are encouraged to come and be a part of the Lord's business.

All officers are asked to have their reports to the office by October 9 in order to have them ready for Sunday October 13.



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Anticipation!



Time to Pack the Joy!



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Operation Christmas Child!



Ding Dong Bell Ringers!



Jocelyn Lawson



Kacie Johnson



Liam Harpold



Gabe Harpold



Tallulah Stevens

Here and there at FBC



Our Adult Life Representative, Kristi King, is organizing an event for all.

Painting with Cheryl will be on October 17 at 6:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

The cost is \$35.00 and includes all supplies needed to produce the 11x14 canvas show here.

We need at least 10 people to sign up by October 13 in order to have the event.

If you are interested, please contact Kristi or the office soon to get on the list.

Hope to see you there!

Welcome Fall to FBC

Many thanks to June Hicks for adding to the beauty of our church for the fall season.

June had the wreaths on our front door special made in memory of her husband Sam Hicks.



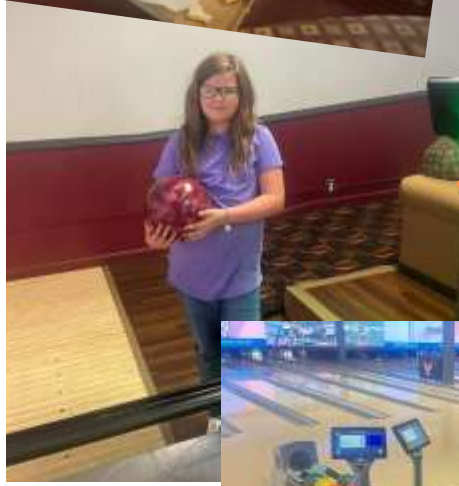
Trustee Ron Starkey and wife Amy were busy preparing the new look for the Youth Pastor's office to get it ready for Ethan to move into. Many thanks for your work.

Good Job!!!

Smiles and Families



Young and Old



Family Fall Festival

October 27 from 6 to 7:30



The whole family is invited to the annual Family Fall Festival.



With games, food, prizes, magic and more for everyone.

Bring your kids, neighbors, relatives and plan to have a super terrific time!



We will be in the Fellowship Hall
October 27 starting at 6:00.





Women's News

The CIRCLE meeting this month will be on October 13 at 12:30. This will be our annual Pastor Appreciation dinner. All women are welcome to come as we let Pastor Toby and Jennifer know how much we appreciate them and their dedication to our church. We will also welcome Zöe and Ethan to our fellowship.

Upcoming women's activities will be a Soup to Go to help the victims in North Carolina, planning our annual Pumpkin Roll baking for our donations throughout the year, and planning the annual Progressive Dinner. Stayed tuned for more details.

2024 Women's Day at the Convention is on Thursday October 17 at Calvary Baptist Church in Oak Hill. The activities begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. The address is 1424 Main Street East, Oak Hill, WV. All women are welcome to go to this event.



Our Women's CIRCLE encourages all women who attend our church to come be a part of our love and gatherings as we try to serve to the Lord with dedication to His people in our church, our community, our state and beyond.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Hebrews 10:24

Focus on Sunday School:



Daniel Praises God



Remember Daniel who was in the lions den? He never gave up on his faith in the Lord. Whether in prison or in danger or elevated by the king, Daniel took time daily to praise the Lord.

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
wisdom and power are his.

²¹ He changes times and seasons;
he deposes kings and raises up others.

He gives wisdom to the wise
and knowledge to the discerning.

²² He reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what lies in darkness,
and light dwells with him.

²³ I thank and praise you, God of my ancestors:
You have given me wisdom and power,
you have made known to me what we asked of you,
you have made known to us the dream of the king."

In the book of Daniel, we can learn from his example.

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

October Birthdays



Jason Brown—10/1
Andrea Crow—10/4
Caralyn Graham—10/8
Brandon Wyant—10/9
Bryan Donahue—10/10
Tyler McGoskey—10/10
Cari Chapman—10/15
Taylor Woods—10/15
Jason Kerns—10/23
Joan Grimmett—10/29
Kay Pursley—10/30
Ashlee Wyant—10/31

**Is your birthday name
missing? Tell Susan**

October Calendar

Oct 3 Deaconess Meeting
Oct 5-7 Read Through the Bible in Charleston
Oct 7 Red Cross Blood Drive
Oct 8 Men's Fellowship
Oct 9 3rd Quarter Reports Due
Oct 13 CIRCLE
Oct 14 BOCE; Trustee Meeting; Anchor Articles Due
Oct 15 Financial Committee
Oct 16 3rd Quarter Business Meeting
Oct 17 Painting with Cheryl; Women's Day at Convention
Oct 18 WVBC Annual Meeting
Oct 20 Social Committee Meeting; Deacon Ordination
Oct 26 Woods/Farrell Wedding
Oct 27 Family Fall Festival
Oct 29 Deacon's Meeting

* Game Day every Thursday 1:00-3:00 (not on holidays)

Bible Book of the Month October 2024 Ecclesiastes



CommUnity Kitchen

Oct 5 Burt Lyons
Oct 9 Need Volunteer
Oct 19 Need Volunteer
Oct 26 Sherry Walker

*Sign up for
CommUnity Kitchen 2024!*

**Delivery People needed for
CommUnity Kitchen.
Contact Susan**

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 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mark & Susan Gerstell	2 Mike & Angela Graham, Alli, Cara	3 Jacob Graham	4 Zack Graham	5 Terri Greenwood
6 Nathan & Lilli Hall	7 Bill & Tammy Harpold	8 Shane Harpold	9 Kenley & Skyler Hickman	10 Destijane Hicks	11 June Hicks	12 Kathy Hudson
13 Bobby & Charolette Jeter	14 Christian Jeter	15 Margaret Johns	16 Bob & Helen Johnson	17 Ann Johnson	18 Torren & Shealyn Johnson, Emrie, Kacie	19 Jason & Leigh Ann Kerns, Mason, Logan
20 Matt & Kristi King, Landon, Nat	21 Randy & Sami Lawson, Jocelyn, Trey	22 Debbie Legg	23 Tom & Susan Lookabaugh	24 Burt & Debbie Lyons	25 Philip Lyons	26 Greg & Rhonda Lyons, Kyle, Cameron
27 Peg Lyons	28 Tara Mackerley, Luke	29 Talia Martinez	30 Richard & Phyllis Massey	31 Robert McCauley		

