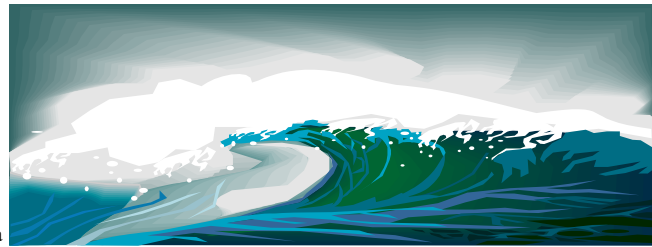




The *October 2025* Anchor

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



Thinking of Our Role in the Harvesting

Our community recently wrapped up the *Annual Harvest in the Wood Festival*, featuring crafters, food vendors, and musical entertainment amid the laughter of children. As the leaves change and fall decorations adorn our front yards, we are reminded that we are in the season of harvest. This week's festivities highlighted the biblical truth emphasized by Jesus in Luke 10:2: "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.*" Just as farmers gather their crops, Christians are called to share the transformative power of Jesus Christ. As Pastor at First Baptist Church, I find joy in witnessing our church family actively spreading the gospel. It fills my heart with gratitude to see our congregation engaged in service and outreach, demonstrating that our faith is vibrant and alive. For example, Bill and Trudy Casto promoted Operation Christmas Child at Harvest in the Wood, sharing Christ's love by telling others about the ministry of distributing shoeboxes filled with gifts for children worldwide.

For believers, sharing the Good News is a command, not just a recommendation. Maya Angelou, one of the great poets of our time, once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." Her words stress the importance of our actions, emphasizing gentleness and compassion as we spread God's love. When we share Christ's message, we plant seeds of hope in others' hearts. Let's be honest: sharing our faith can be challenging. We may feel introverted, uncertain, or even spiritually adrift, evident in our reduced church attendance or neglected prayer and Bible reading. Sometimes, we need to take a deep breath and ask God to draw us closer in fellowship. Denzel Washington remarked, "In this lifetime, you don't have to prove nothing to nobody, except yourself." Many Christians can relate to questioning their worthiness to contribute to Christ's mission. Yes, the harvest can be difficult, and the weight of the world can feel overwhelming.

Nevertheless, in Matthew 28:19-20, we read the Great Commission, where Jesus commands us to "*go therefore and make disciples of all nations.*" Each conversation, act of kindness, and testimony serves as a seed planted in people's hearts. By cultivating relationships and sharing our experiences, we prepare the way for a bountiful harvest. Galatians 6:9 encourages us: "*And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.*" Our efforts in sharing the gospel carry the potential for eternal impact. Just as farmers await their crops, we should anticipate the joy of harvest.

In John 4:35, Jesus reminds us, "*Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.*" This invites us to recognize the need for the gospel beyond our immediate surroundings. By uniting our efforts across the churches, we can create a ripple effect of faith throughout the community. As I shared in a sermon, Jennifer and I once nearly got wiped out by water skiers on a jet ski due to the rippling wake they created. Little ripples can become waves, and waves can change the tide. Knowing that we can create ripples in our spheres of influence should excite us. As we move into October, let us remember our call to share the Good News of Christ. As we proclaim His love, we plant seeds that will yield an abundant harvest. God said His Word will not return void. When we do our part, the Lord will follow through the Holy Spirit. Let us embrace our role as co-laborers in the Lord's vineyard. Together, we can commit to sharing the message of hope and salvation, even when the journey gets tough. The harvest is indeed great, and the time for FBC to act is now. Happy October!

Much Love,

Pastor Toby



September has been such an exciting month in our youth ministry! Together, we have been diving into some fascinating and important truths from Scripture—specifically, exploring humanity’s standing before God and what it means to live in the reality of our sinfulness. Questions like “What is sin?” and “Are we born into it?” have sparked meaningful conversations and helped our group wrestle with the deep truths of God’s Word.

It has been a joy to see our students engage with these topics in thoughtful and personal ways. Of course, in true youth group fashion, our time has also been filled with plenty of fun and laughter. From friendly cornhole matches and intense games of spikeball, to a unique variation of ultimate frisbee packed into a smaller space (which proved to be way more exciting than it sounds), the competitive spirit was alive and well! These games, while lighthearted, continue to provide a great opportunity for connection, teamwork, and building lasting friendships.

Looking ahead, October is shaping up to be a very special month for Pastor Ethan and Zoë as we will be traveling to Thailand for a couple of weeks. This trip will be a meaningful time of ministry and personal growth, and we are excited to share about it upon our return.

To celebrate coming back together as a youth family, we have a big bonfire planned at Tom’s. This evening will not only be a time of fun, food, and fellowship, but also an opportunity to hear stories and experiences from a country far, far away!

We want to sincerely thank each of you for your continued support, encouragement, and prayers for our youth ministry. None of this would be possible without you, and we are deeply grateful for the way you invest in the next generation. We continue to see more and more students show up to youth on Sunday evenings and we are so excited to share that. God is doing great things in and through our students, and we can’t wait to see all that He has in store for the months ahead.

Soli Deo Gloria,

-Pastor Ethan

Attention All Youth!



MMY - BONFIRE @ TOM'S

October 19th, 6pm-8pm

Bring a Chair!!

59 1st Avenue, Ravenswood WV, 26164

**IT'S GOING TO BE A GREAT TIME FOR ALL JUNIOR AND SEN-
ior high youth.**

**JOIN US AT TOM STEPHENSON'S HOME AND PLAN TO HAVE A
real ly fun time!**

Pastor Appreciation

Pastor Toby



Pastor Ethan



A Pastor's Heart

A pastor's heart is **P**rotective
and guards his flock from Satan's snares.

A pastor's heart is **A**ttentive
and seeks to know his people's cares.

A pastor's heart is **S**acrificial
and for his sheep will give its all.

A pastor's heart is **T**ender
and listens to the Spirit's call.

A pastor's heart is **O**bedient
and heeds the Master's commands.

A pastor's heart is **R**eflective
and considers he is but a man.

By: Deanna Malawy

Thank you for all you do!



Sr. High Convention

Registration is now open for this year's Sr. High Convention, held Nov 14-16 at Saint Albans FBC. We invite all youth in grades 9-12.

The Youth Ministry Planning Team (YMPT) welcomes you to join us for Senior High Convention, an event for 9th through 12th grade students. Held at First Baptist Church of Saint Albans, this is the perfect venue for your youth group to join with others from across WV in worship, teaching, activities and fun!

To register, please contact Pastor Ethan or the office.

Fall Children's Rally

For children currently in grades K-5, 6th grade is optional.

Saturday, November 1, 2025

At Parchment Valley in the Greenlee Activities Center



THINGS ARE GOING TO GET MESSY!

Jesus loves messy people! That's good news for us, because we all have our own messes. *What a Mess!* is about how Jesus deals with our messes: our sins, mistakes, and weaknesses.

Throughout the day we will look at the following questions:

- Why is the world such a messy place?
- How does Jesus respond to our messiest moments?
- How should we respond to our messes?
- What does Jesus do about our messes?
- What about *other* people's messes?

And me? I'm a mess.
I'm nothing and have nothing:
make something of me.
You can do it; you've got what it takes -
but God, don't put it off.
Psalm 40:17 MSG

COST: \$14.00 (if postmarked by October 14th) **\$26** (if postmarked after October 14th or at the door.)

Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:30-9:50 a.m.	Welcome Instructions Singing
10:00-10:40 a.m.	Lesson 1
10:45-11:25 a.m.	Lesson 2
11:30-12:10 p.m.	Lesson 3
12:15-12:45 p.m.	Lunch
12:45-1:10 p.m.	Singing
1:15-1:55 p.m.	Lesson 4
2:00-2:40 p.m.	Lesson 5
2:45-3:00 p.m.	Singing Closing

MISSION PROJECT

CAMP SUPPLIES for
WEIRTON CHRISTIAN CENTER

*Twin Sheet Sets
Bath Towel
Wash Cloths
Bug Spray
Sunscreen
Toothpaste
Walmart Gift Cards*

T-shirts:
Pre-sale only.
No t-shirts will be for sale at the Rally.
Cost \$11.00 each
and must be pre-ordered and pre-paid by October 14th.



Pumpkin Party Time!



Fun for all! October 26 at 5:00 in the Fellowship Hall

Pizza and drinks provided

Prizes awarded for different categories:

scariest, ugliest, prettiest, etc.

Come in costume if you dare.....

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
First Baptist Church
Fellowship Hall

215 Ann Street
Ravenswood, WV

Monday, October 6
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.

Come to give blood Sept. 22-Oct. 19 for a \$10 Amazon.com Gift Card by email! See rcblood.org/fall

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

©2017 The American National Red Cross

[illegible]

Hosting OCC



Preparing the way for this year's shoebox ministry, Talia Martinez, Jordan Williams, and Trudy Casto hosted an area meeting to give new info and encouragement to those who attended. FBC is the area drop off.



FBC Welcomes Beth Sauvageot

We were blessed to have Beth join our congregation on September 14 to share videos and pictures of her journey to Africa to give out the shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child ministry.

Coming full circle from our boxes being filled to her delivery of boxes to the children around the world was an adventure in love.

Thank you, Beth!

Mission Trip to NC



Allen Palmer



Holly Palmer



Toby Wagoner



Good Hope Group

Men's Fellowship

September 2025





THE
GREAT COMMISSION
FELLOWSHIP
2000 • 1000 • 10000

2-Part Webinar
**HOW TO SHARE YOUR FAITH
IN A WORLD THAT DOESN'T
APPEAR TO BE LISTENING**

Speaker: Raphael Anzenberger

Day 1: 9/11 and Day 2: 10/2
AT 12:00 PM (EST)



SCAN CODE TO
REGISTER TO
RECEIVE THE
ZOOM LINK.
OR, USE LINK...

<https://tinyurl.com/ybpz9yuw>



We're able to offer this event at no cost to you, thanks to the generosity of **The Great Commission Fellowship & Ascent.**

 ASCENT

Evangelism Webinar

The WVBC has partnered with the Great Commission Fellowship to host a two-part webinar on "**How to share your faith in a world that doesn't appear to be listening.**" You can still register for Part 2 of the webinar, held Thursday, Oct 2.

Third Quarter Business Meeting

FBC 3rd Quarter Business meeting will be held on Wednesday October 15 at 6:30. (Adult Bible Study will not be held).

All members are encouraged to come and take part in the Lord's business for our church.

Please remember to have all reports turned into the office by October 8.

Thank you.



THE 160TH
ANNUAL MEETING
OF OUR WVBC FAMILY

October 16-17, 2025

Emmanuel Baptist Church
1401 Washington St. W, Charleston, WV 25387

*"Expect great things from God .
Attempt great things for God."*

 More information
304-422-6449

 Visit our website
www.wvbc.org

Women's Day is on Thursday, October 16. All women are welcome.

If you would like to be a delegate to the convention from our church, please contact Pastor Toby or the office. FBC can have 5 delegates.

Pre-Convention Activities

Download the WVBC APP!

Have the WV Baptist Newsletter
delivered to your phone!



DOWNLOAD NOW!
<https://tithely.app.link/wvbc>

Vol. LXXXXII, Issue 06 October-November 2025

Table of Contents

Pre-Convention Activities	2
Annual Meeting Registration Form	3
Keith and Deborah Myers Update / Sarah McCloy Update	4
Missionary Intern Reflects on India / Missionary Internship Program	5
Fall Children's Rally / Parchment Valley Conference Center	6
Baptist Campus Ministry	7
Camp Cowen Recap	8-9
Ministry Internship Program	10
Youth Leader Core / Senior High Convention	11
Area Minister News	12-13
Obituaries / Leadership Changes / Ministry Employment Opportunities	14
Prayer Calendars	15
Coming Events / Mountain State Mission Offering	16

All Pre-Convention Activities are on Thursday, October 16th with registration taking place at 9:00 AM. You can register for these activities on the WVBC Annual Meeting registration form.

Women's Day—\$11

Organized by the American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV, this year's theme is "Emmanuel, God with Us," and the keynote speaker is Sherry Husted, president of the ABWM of WV. Worship will be led by Marsha Raker and the missionary speakers will be Kim Weaver and Shelly Dawson. Also included in the program is a discussion of next year's WV Hope Ministries, Mission Outreach Project and Special Project.

Registration is at 9:00 AM, followed by the start of the program at 9:30 AM. Lunch is included, and the program will end prior to the first session of the WVBC Annual Meeting.

Men's Day—\$11

Organized by the American Baptist Men of WV, the Men's Day activity will involve a service project for low-income residents in the area.

Registration is at 9:00 AM and departure is scheduled for 9:30 AM. Lunch at South Charleston First Baptist Church is included, and the event will end prior to the first session of the WVBC Annual Meeting.

Pastors4Pastors Event—\$25

Organized by Pastors4Pastors, all pastors from across the WVBC family are invited to join at Oakwood Baptist Church for this special event. The keynote speaker will be Mac Lake (also the keynote for our WVBC Annual Meeting), and the topic will be "Leading Yourself."

Registration is at 9:00 AM, followed by the start of the program at Oakwood Baptist at 9:30 AM. Shuttles will be available from Emmanuel Baptist. Lunch is included, and the program will end prior to the first session of the WVBC Annual Meeting.



DOING CHRIST'S WORK *together*

by Intentionally Engaging Communities for Christ

Annual Meeting Registration Form

This registration form can be used by delegates, visitors and exhibitors. Please use a separate form for each person. All mail-in registrations must be postmarked by October 6. Online registration will be open on wvbc.org until October 12.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Church: _____ Association: _____

REGISTRATION TYPE:

_____ Delegate (\$20)

_____ Non-Delegate (\$20)

_____ Exhibitor (\$20)

NOTE: DELEGATES MUST HAVE THIS FORM SIGNED BY PASTOR OR CHURCH CLERK

Pastor or Clerk Signature: _____

PRE-CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Please mark any pre-conference activities you plan to attend.

_____ American Baptist Men of WV (\$11)

_____ American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV (\$11)

_____ Pastors4Pastors (\$25)

MEAL OPTIONS

Please mark any meals for which you wish to purchase tickets.
They will be available for pickup at the registration table.

THURSDAY:

_____ Baptist Campus Ministry Banquet—5 PM (\$20)

FRIDAY:

_____ Ministers' Wives' Fellowship—Noon (\$12)

_____ WV Baptist Historical Society—Noon (\$17.50)

_____ Palmer Theological Seminary—5 PM (\$45)

CHILDCARE

Childcare is available during the following sessions. Please list the names and ages of children you will be dropping off.

ABWM—Women's Day	WVBC Session 1	WVBC Session 2	WVBC Session 3	WVBC Session 4



Time to Love our Pastors!

On October 19, Sunday after our church service, all the women of the church are welcome to attend CIRCLE's Pastor Appreciation Luncheon.

We will be honoring Pastor Toby and Jennifer; also Pastor Ethan and Zöe.

Take time to show some love to those who lead us!

Women's Day 2025

American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV Thursday October 16- \$11

- Registration: 9:00 AM at Emmanuel Baptist Event
- Location: Emmanuel Baptist Sanctuary
- Speaker: Sherry Husted
- Missions Speakers: Kim Weaver and Shelly Dawson
- Topic: Emmanuel, God with Us
- * Nursery provided for preschool children



Goodbye for now..



Mary Elizabeth Proctor
March 9, 1937 to August 31, 2025

*Sing the wondrous love of Jesus
Sing His mercy and His grace
In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.*

*When we all get to heaven
What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus
We'll sing and shout the victory*

*Onward to the prize before us
Soon His beauty we'll behold
Soon the pearly gates will open
We shall tread the streets of gold.*

*When we all get to heaven
What a day of rejoicing that will be
When we all see Jesus
We'll sing and shout the victory*



Focus on Sunday School:



Can We Hide From God?

Saul was king of Israel but he was not good anymore. The Lord would replace him with another.

Samuel, the prophet of God, was to consecrate the chosen one to be the new king. The elders and Jesse's sons were called to the sacrifice.

Who would be the new king? But the Lord said to Samuel, *Do not consider his appearance or height, for I have rejected him* (the sons who came with Jesse). *The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.*

Samuel sent for David, the youngest son of Jesse. He would become the anointed King of Israel!

We may hide behind a mask or put on a good show, but the Lord sees our hearts.



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
Annalee Cummins—10/26
Joan Grimmatt—10/29
Kay Pursley—10/30
Ashlee Wyant—10/31

Is your name missing?
Tell Susan

October Calendar

Oct 1 Trustee Meeting
Oct 6 Blood Drive
Oct 8 3rd Quarter Reports Due
Oct 12 Deaconess Meeting
Oct 13 BOCE; Anchor Articles Due
Oct 14 Men's Fellowship
Oct 15 3rd Quarter Business Meeting; Finance
Oct 16 WVBC Annual Convention; Women's Day
Oct 17 WVBC Annual Convention continues
Oct 19 CIRCLE; Social Committee Meeting;
MMY bon fire
Oct 26 Pumpkin Carving/Painting Party
Oct 28 Deacons Meeting

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

Bible Book of the Month October 2025 Leviticus



CommUnity Kitchen

Oct 4 Teagan Stevens and Kids
Oct 11 Rose & Sandy H
Oct 18 Mike, Terry & Sandy C
Oct 25 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 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Aaron & Melissa Bennett, Cass	2 Beau Bennett	3 Blake Bennett	4 Mike & Terry Bird
5 Hazel Brammer	6 Carolyn Brown	7 Jason Brown	8 Zack Brown	9 CW & Mary Caldwell	10 Bill & Trudy Casto	11 Grant & Cari Chapman
12 Shawn & Tanya Cole	13 Brent & Sandy Confer	14 Jamison Cooper, Dalilah	15 Deshone Cooper	16 Beverly Conley	17 Dave & Carol Crow	18 Bryan & Andrea Crow
19 Benjamin Crow	20 Charity Cummins	21 Elisabeth Cummins	22 Annalee Cummins	23 Mike & Renee DeLong	24 Danny & Sherry Dzierzanski	25 Bryan & Andrea Donahue, Xavier, Violet, Finley
26 Ellen Emerson	27 Annabelle Flesher	28 Jeff & Venisa Flesher	29 Nathanael & Kaylin Flesher	30 John & Anna Flora, Liam, Emry	31 Helen Frank	



**You crown Your year with goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance**

Psalm 65:11