

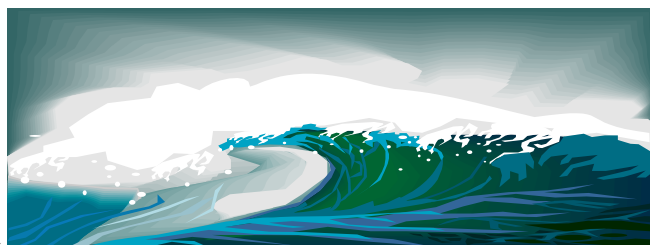


The

July 2026

Anchor

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



Celebrating Our Freedom in Christ

This year's Independence Day celebration is especially meaningful as our nation honors America's 250th birthday. It is an opportunity to reflect on our nation's history and to thank God for His many blessings upon our country and its people. Galatians 5:1 says, ***"For freedom, Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery."***

As we reflect on the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, it is important to remember the even greater freedom we have through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Just as we cherish the freedoms we experience in our nation, we should also celebrate the unshakable freedom we have through faith in Christ. As we spend time in prayer and meditate on God's Word, we discover both the joy and the responsibility of following Him. That relationship should inspire us to share His love with others and to serve one another. When we do, we begin to recognize that God is blessing us every day, even in ways we may not always notice. James 1:17 says it this way, ***"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father..."***

June was a wonderful month at First Baptist Church. We were blessed to host our Vacation Bible School, *True North*, where children learned the importance of navigating life by keeping their eyes on Jesus. We averaged more than 70 children and volunteers each evening. I want to express my sincere appreciation to Britany Pistelli for leading this year's VBS, as well as every volunteer who helped make it such a success. I witnessed countless hours of dedication and hard work that came together beautifully to create an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

I also want to give a special thank you to the children and adults who generously contributed to this year's VBS mission offering. In just three days, we raised enough money to purchase four beds through Jackson County's Sleep in Heavenly Peace ministry, which provides beds for children in our community who are currently sleeping on the floor. Thank you for your generosity and for demonstrating the compassionate heart of Christ.

Once again, First Baptist had the privilege of hosting the Brother's Keeper mission teams for lunch during their week of ministry in our area. Each day, the teens and their work crews gathered in our fellowship hall for a meal, a chance to cool off, and a time of fellowship before returning to their projects. Our church provides an annual \$1,000 sponsorship to support this ministry, which serves many of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

Summer also brings opportunities for church camp. A special thank you goes to Connor Wyant and Max Pistelli for representing our church at Camp Cowen at the end of June. Camp Cowen, located in Webster County, is the Baptist camp for our state. Our prayer is that even more of our youth will participate in Camp Cowen and Brother's Keeper next year. To encourage involvement, our church provides free registration for all children in our church who wish to attend. We view this sponsorship as an investment in both our young people and the Kingdom of God, knowing that many lives are changed and many children come to know Christ each year through these ministries.

We currently have three adult small groups meeting at the church, and there is still time to become involved. Our newest women's daytime Bible study meets each Monday at 10:00 a.m.

In addition, First Baptist is offering two *What Baptists Believe* classes for those who want to deepen their understanding of our faith. With more than 20 participants enrolled, classes meet on Mondays at 5:00 p.m. and Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m., allowing you to choose the time that best fits your schedule. This six-week study is now halfway completed. We pray that this class will strengthen believers, welcome new members into our church family, and perhaps even lead to baptisms in the months ahead.

We have also launched another six-week Christians with Coffee small group on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. During this series, we are discussing Matt Chandler's teaching, *Becoming More Like Jesus*. Each session includes a 20-minute video, group discussion, Scripture reading, coffee, and desserts. It is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith while enjoying fellowship together.

I also want to thank Deb Lyons, our Sunday School Superintendent, along with our entire Sunday School team, for supporting participation in these various small groups, even though they meet outside of Sunday mornings. Our Sunday School ministry has graciously provided educational materials for these groups as part of its mission to teach people about Christ. The Bible reminds us of the importance of growing in our knowledge of God and His will for our lives. Psalm 119:105 says, ***"Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."*** Earlier in that same chapter, we are reminded that when we know God's word, we can hide it in our hearts so that we might not sin against Him. We remember what the Bible says.

To that end, may we never lose sight of God's hand upon our lives and upon our nation. This Sunday at 10:45 a.m., we will honor America's birthday during our worship service, and I will share a timely message about the importance of the Christian work ethic. As Winston Churchill once said, *"All the great things are simple, and many can be expressed in a single word: freedom, justice, honor, duty, mercy and hope."* Those words remind me of the America I love. You could have been born in a country where food and clean water is scarce. You could have been born in a country where you did not have the right to worship the one true God. You could have been born in a country where disease is rampant. Instead, for whatever reason, God placed you here, in America. That alone is a blessing, and worth celebrating.

Go ahead, and invite someone to join you at church this summer. Your invitation may be exactly what they have been waiting for.

In His Service,

Pastor Toby



Happy Fourth of July



Be safe and enjoy!

Father's Day 2026



CAMP COWEN 2026 SUMMER SCHEDULE

APRIL 17-19 WOMEN'S CAMP	APRIL 26 COWEN SUNDAY	MAY 8-9 SUMMER KICKOFF	MAY 29-31 COLLEGE WEEKEND
JUNE 5-7 YOUNGER MIDDLE (GRADES 2-4)	JUNE 7-13 JUNIOR HIGH 1 (GRADES 7-9)	JUNE 14-20 JUNIOR 1 (GRADES 5-6)	JUNE 21-27 HIGH SCHOOL 1 (GRADES 9-12)
JUNE 28 - JULY 4 JUNIOR 2 (GRADES 5-6)	JULY 5-11 JUNIOR HIGH 2 (GRADES 7-9)	JULY 12-18 HIGH SCHOOL 2 (GRADES 9-12)	JULY 24-27 FAMILY CAMP (ALL AGES)
JULY 28-31 OLDER MIDDLE (GRADES 3-5)	JULY 31 - AUGUST 2 ABMEN & BOYS (ALL AGES)	LEARN MORE AT CAMPCOWEN.ORG	

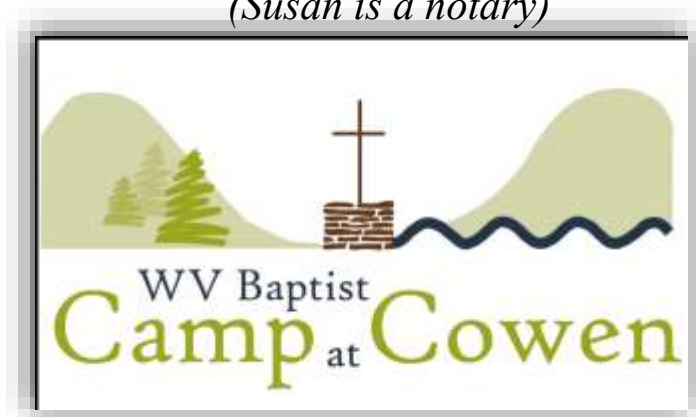
Where people meet Jesus and grow as His disciples in a community of faith.

Souls are saved! Relationships with God are renewed! Friendships are made! Enjoyment and fellowship daily!

Help your child grow in Christ. Consider sending them to Camp Cowen.

Registration forms are on the bulletin board outside the office. FBC will pay for your child's registration.

Contact the office today!
(Susan is a notary)



This and That at FBC



Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Kerry Wines



Kacie Johnson helps
lead worship song



Welcome Molly Elaine Mize
(Ben & Christie's Granddaughter)



Welcome Virginia Lou Ritchie
(Roberta Miller's
Great Grand daughter)

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2026





More outreach!



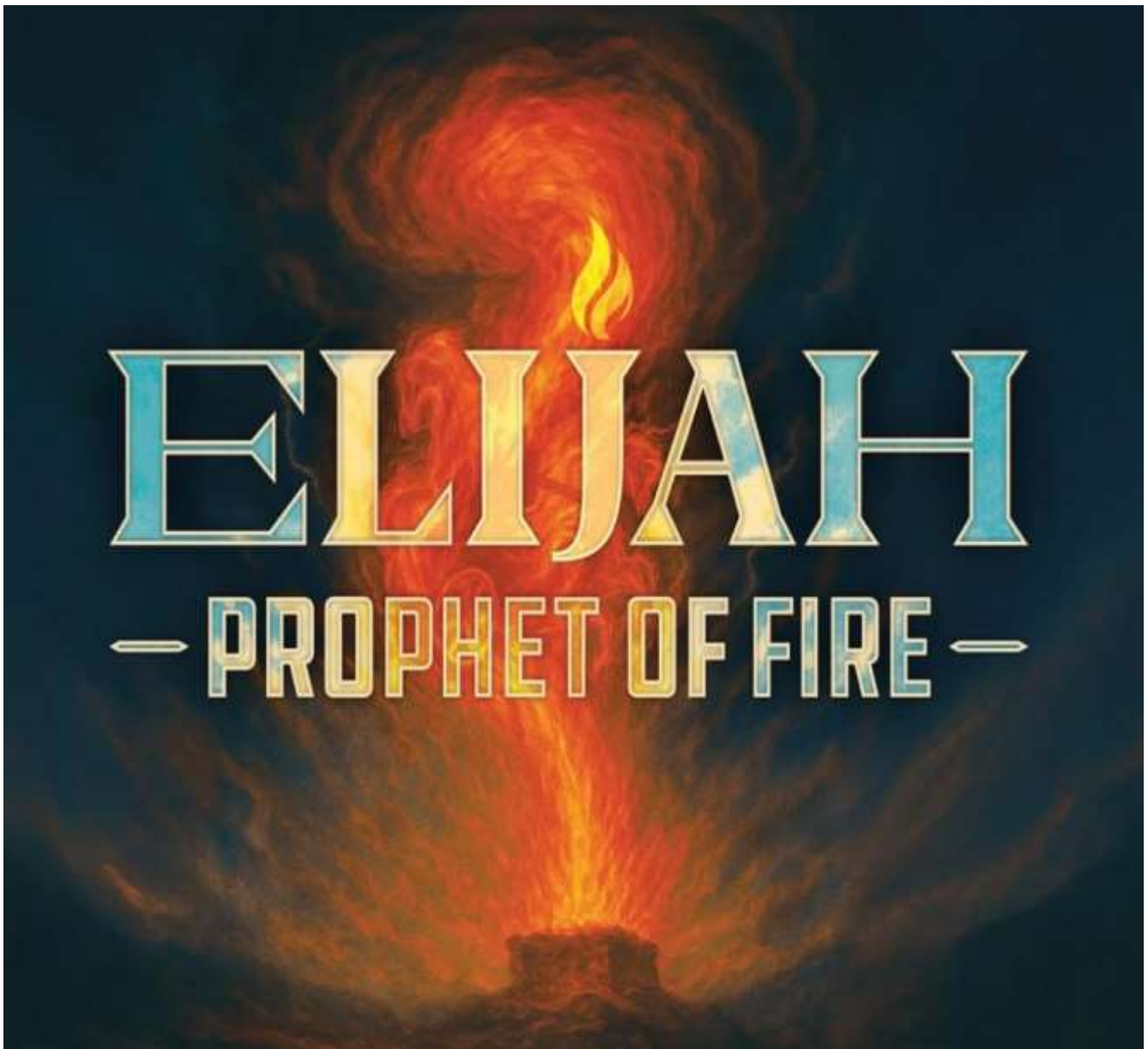
3Ps fun in the Park!



**Clean Parking! The before and after
our paved lot.**



The Faith to Flourish women's bible study
Monday at 10:00



**We are going to see Elijah—Prophet of Fire
on Saturday, August 29 at the Ohio Star Theatre**

Tickets are \$70 and includes lunch buffet, show, and bus transportation.

If interested, please contact Kristi King. If writing a check, make it out to
FBC with Elijah in the memo but give it to Kristi.

If you need help with cost, please contact Kristi or the office.

Tickets are non-refundable and due by August 2.



American Red Cross

donate
BLOOD save a life

Our Red Cross Blood Drive will be in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, August 3 from noon to 5:00. We have 45 time slots to fill. Sign up today!

Please consider giving the gift of life!

Call the office or log in to <https://www.redcross.org/sign-in.html>

Thank you



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RAVENSWOOD OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COLLECTION

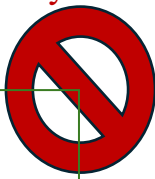
This month, we are kicking off our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Collection for our big packing party in November! Our goal this year is to collect 415 shoeboxes to advance the kingdom of God in countries around the world!

This Month we are collecting **CLOTHING** items! Please bring any items that you have to donate to the OCC bin located under the office window anytime during this month!!

Items we need:

Shirts	Pants
Socks	Undergarments
Flip Flops	Slippers
Scarves	Hats

WE CANNOT ACCEPT:



- Nothing depicting Police, EMS, Military, etc.
- No big or bulky items
- Nothing depicting currency or weapons

Have any Concerns or Questions please feel free to contact
Talía Martinez at 304-761-8255, Jordan Williams at 304-531-9076,
or Trudy Casto at 509-254-3308!

Focus on Sunday School:



Freedom in Christ

Everyday we have decisions to make about who we should obey or follow. This is at school, work, home, anywhere we go for recreation and more.

Sometimes, it may feel like we are slaves to the rules that are around us daily: You have to read the workbook and do the problems; you have to turn in the reports in time, clock in and out to get paid; you have to listen to moms and dads and do chores; you can't run by the pool, take up space in the playground; and more.

Satan would enslave us to addictions and actions for him that we may think are fun. He does that to draw us away from the Lord. It's a trap that Satan is good at setting. He does **not** care about us at all.

God gives us boundaries in our spirit life. But those boundaries are not to enslave us. They are for protection and guidance. He truly loves and cares for us. We can have a blessed life everyday by following Christ. ***For in Christ we are free indeed!***

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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

July Calendar

Jul 3 Office Closed Holiday
Jul 4 Independence Day—No CommUnity Kitchen
Jul 5 Junior High 2 Grades 7-9 Camp Cowen
Jul 6 Trustee Meeting; Faith to Flourish; What Is a Baptist?
Jul 7 What Is a Baptist?
Jul 8 Second Quarter Reports Due
Jul 12 Deaconess Meeting; High School 2 Camp Cowen
Jul 13 BOCE; Faith to Flourish; What Is a Baptist?
Jul 14 What Is a Baptist? Men's Fellowship
Jul 15 Second Quarter Business Meeting
Jul 16 Wright Mission Circle
Jul 20 Faith to Flourish; What Is a Baptist?
Jul 21 What Is a Baptist? Financial Meeting
Jul 24 Family Camp at Cowen
Jul 26 Ordination at Millcreek
Jul 27 Faith to Flourish; What Is a Baptist?
Jul 28 What Is a Baptist? Deacons Meeting; Older Midler grade 3-5 at Cowen

* Game Day weekly 1:00-3:00 (not on holidays) (check bulletins for day of week)

July Birthdays



Pastor Toby—7/1
Tammy Stump—7/3
Micah Arrington—7/4
Dena Williams—7/5
Christie Mize—7/5
Allen Palmer—7/5
Ginny Gandy—7/5
Sherry Dzierzanski—7/6
Charity Cummins—7/9
John Stephenson—7/12
Roger Rader—7/12
Jeff Flesher—7/16
Finley Donahue—7/16
Annabelle Flesher—7/19
Jordan Williams—7/19
Dale Vanderlaan—7/19
Carolyn Brown—7/21
Rilyn Stump—7/21
Ron Starkey—7/30
Jeanette Morgan—7/30

If your birthday is missing,

Bible Book of the Month July James



CommUnity Kitchen

July 4 No CK Holiday
July 11 Episcopal Church
July 18 Wright Mission Circle
July 25 Burt Lyons

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.



July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Phillip & Sherry Walker	2 Janyce Watkins	3 Megan Watkins	4 Sharon Weaver
5 Susan West	6 Sarah West	7 Danny & Kim Westmoreland	8 Dan & Amy Williams	9 Cara Williams, Marcus	10 Dave & Dena Williams	11 Jordan Williams
12 Jonathan Williams	13 Lucas & Samantha Willis, Silas	14 Kerry & Sharon Wines	15 Jennie Wise	16 Kevin & Abbi Woods	17 Geraldine Wright	18 Brandon & Ashlee Wyant, Connor, Beckett
19 Linda Yonker	20 Donna Allen	21 Alan & Gusta Arrington	22 Gary & Pam Balser	23 Doug & Janet Barbe	24 Doug & Debby Bashaw	25 Aaron & Melissa Bennett, Cass
26 Beau Bennett	27 Blake Bennett	28 Suzanne Bentz	29 Mike & Terry Bird	30 Debbie Boggs	31 Tony & Sarah Bennett	

