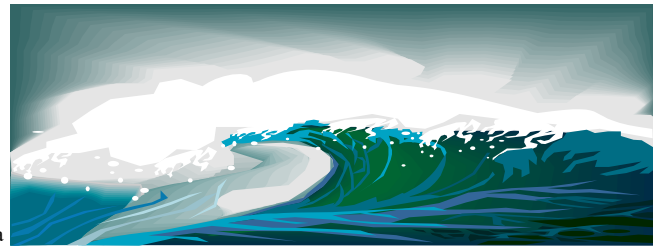




The *August 2026* Anchor

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



Encouragement Is Important Inside and Outside of the Church

Chances are you have heard the expression that we all need a little encouragement from time to time, and that is certainly true for church people as well. Believers need encouragement. When we find ourselves living in a world where sin abounds and evil lurks, we often think, "Help me, Lord, just get through the day."

It was really no different in Paul's day. The new life for believers as followers of Christ was not easy. People were persecuted. Some tried to bring pagan rituals into the church, while others wanted to mix Christian worship with pagan traditions. Paul warned against doing that. He was not only condemning the practice, but he was also encouraging believers to remain faithful and true to the Lord. Paul gives many simple words of encouragement to believers.

Here are five of them that we can look to and apply to our lives both inside and outside of the church. First, we read in 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 that Paul tells believers to stay strong in the faith. He reminds them not only to "stand firm," but also to "be courageous." He did this so believers would not give in to their frustrations or aggravations and simply give up.

Second, Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 that we, as believers, have a responsibility to help our brothers and sisters in their walk with Christ. How do we do this? He tells us to keep encouraging one another. Christians should build one another up with kind words, hope, and reassurance.

Third, Paul tells the church not to worry. Instead, he says to pray. In Philippians 4:6-7, Paul teaches believers to bring their stress and anxiety to God and trust Him for peace. We should never run from God during difficult times but instead run to Him.

Fourth, as believers, Paul says we must rejoice in the Lord (Philippians 4:4). When you and I remain joyful in the Lord, we acknowledge the wonderful truth that Jesus is with us no matter what we face.

Lastly, believers must keep going and continue pressing on, even when life is hard and sometimes unfair. In Philippians 4:13, Paul reminds us that we can endure all things, not by our own strength, but because Jesus is with us. He is the One who gives us strength. Knowing that encourages us as believers both inside and outside of the church. So many times we forget that believers need encouragement.

The world may think we always have it together, and we often walk into church looking as though we do not have a care in the world. But behind the façade, we have worries, burdens, and concerns just like everyone else. I would argue that the devil comes after believers even harder than unbelievers because he seeks to turn our eyes away from God's magnificence and omnipotence and focus them instead on the problems of this world.

Even faithful believers who are active in church can find their faith weakened when life becomes difficult or when they watch those they love suffer. That is when we need the love and support of other believers who will remind us that we are loved by the King of Kings and that what we are going through is only temporary.

Believers can carry such heavy burdens that they simply lose their desire to attend church. They still love Jesus, but they become spiritually drained. So what should we do? Those who are not walking through the desolate valley spiritually at that moment should rally around those who are. These believers, who have been absent from the church for a while, may feel helpless, discouraged, depressed, or simply want to withdraw and struggle alone. God would never want us to forget or ignore them. What would he want? He would want us to be all hands on deck, reaching out in love and offering support.

This is another reason we, as believers, should remain vigilant, watchful, and ready to reach out to those who have not been to church in a while. You may be the very voice God is sending to remind them that He loves them and that their church family loves them, too.

I encourage you during the month of August to look around. Is someone missing who used to attend church? They may be struggling. They may be depressed. They may be carrying burdens that you and I know nothing about.

Send a card. Send a text. Leave a voicemail. Better yet, stop by for a visit and simply say, "We've missed you." We must remember that this old world can be discouraging. It is full of pressure and is not always kind to people of faith and their families. That can be a tremendous burden to bear.

Yet God is gracious and merciful, and He helps us walk through every valley. Romans 15:4-5 serves as a wonderful encouragement for believers to remain hopeful and continue obeying God. As we do, we help others do the same. That Scripture says, "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." It goes on to say, "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had..." Isn't that beautiful? It reminds us that we are called to be encouragers. One day, you and I will need encouragement too. So let us look around and ask ourselves, "Who may I encourage today in the faith?"

Much love, and enjoy the warmth of August.

In His Service,

Pastor Toby

Trustees on the Move!

The first 6 months have been busy around the church. We just want to give everyone an update on what's been completed and what's in the works.

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

- Parking lot paved and striped
- Pressure washed the church and fellowship hall
- Sanctuary doors painted and repaired
- Connie's Sunday school room painted and wall patched
- New kitchen faucet in Apt. B
- New AC unit in apartment B
- Carpet and pad removed from parsonage and floor prepped for new flooring
- New LVT flooring installed in first floor of parsonage
- Parsonage walls prepped for painting.
- Camera installed over sanctuary doors
- Fellowship hall kitchen painted and tile backsplash installed
- Upstairs storage rooms decluttered and organized

UPCOMING PROJECTS:

- Doors to office
- Door closer on side doors
- Gods Cadet room painted
- Flat roof replaced
- Columns painted

Most of these projects were planned but some were and are out of necessity. Some were completed by the trustees, some by volunteers from the church and some performed by outside contractors.



Flat Roof Repair



Great Youth Trip!!





Mark your calendar for a weekend of fun!
Picnic, inflatables, games, and more

A sign up to purchase an Anniversary Tee Shirts will be available soon.

Get a chance to say HOWDY to our past pastors.

Here an FBC monologue by our own thespian Glen Stevens

Special Music and Speakers

New Year! New Look!



God's Cadets is Changing!



Meet Christian Kids Club!!





2026 Spiritual Growth Retreat

KNOCK AT GOD'S DOOR

REVELATION 3:20

Speaker

Cecily Thompson

Worship by

Sara & Brian
McClure



September 18-20, 2026 at Parchment Valley Conference Center

Registration opens Saturday, August 1st

Registration closes Monday, September 4, 2026

If filling out a form and paying by check, make checks payable to AB Women's Ministries of WV and mail with registration form to: Carrie J. Gasaway, 451 22nd Street, Dunbar, WV 25064

American Baptist Women's Ministries of WV
Spiritual Growth Retreat – Just Knock at God's Door

Parchment Valley Conference Center (Hill Hall) – Ripley, WV

September 18-20, 2026

Registrations must be received by Monday, September 4, 2026

Registration form and fees needed for **each** person registering.

Spiritual Growth Retreat Package

Includes registration fee, two nights lodging, Saturday meals, and Sunday breakfast.

Lodges: () **Double** Occupancy - \$142.00/per person, roommate listed below.

() Double Occupancy - \$142.00/per person, will accept assigned roommate.

() Triple (3) or quadruple (4) \$132.00/per person, roommates listed below.

To take advantage of this price, at least 3 per room is required. It is essential to share a bed and must be pre-arranged.

****** Three (3) handicapped rooms are available. Please indicate on this form if needed-- includes handrails on toilets, tubs, and walk-in showers.

Air Conditioned Cabin (Dorm) Rooms:

() \$122.00 per person (bring your own linens and towels)

Cabin room sleeps 12 people, 6 single-size bunk beds.

.....Roommates listed below or on an attached sheet.

Check-in begins at 6:00 pm on Friday evening and 8:30 am on Saturday morning.

Registration Options:

() \$35.00 Registration Fee

() \$ 9.00 Saturday Breakfast

() \$ 9.00 Saturday Lunch

() \$ 9.00 Saturday Dinner

() \$ 9.00 Sunday Breakfast

() \$25.00 Bunkhouse/Dorm (per person)

Bring your own towels and linens.

() \$30.00 One night's lodging, 3-4 to a room

() \$35.00 One night's lodging, double occupancy

_____ Total

Walk-ins are welcome. However, meals cannot be assured.

Mail registration forms, including fees, to:

Carrie J. Gasaway

451 22nd Street

Dunbar, WV 25064

panda112260.cj@gmail.com

Phone: 304.552.3760

****Make checks payable to AB Women's Ministries of WV***

Please bring your Bible.

Please print legibly.

Name _____ Phone _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip Code _____

Church _____ Association _____

Roommate (s) _____ Email _____

Dietary Needs _____ Handicap Needs _____

Hey there, come to the fair!



Pigs and Bunnies!



FBC fellas in 4H

Our guys worked hard at 4H this year. And now it's fair time.

Great Job!

Connor Wyant
Gabe Harpold
Beckett Wyant
Liam Harpold

Happenings at FBC!

Camp Cowen
Max Pistelli Connor Wyant



Souls are Saved!!

Welcome
Camden Guthrie



Making beds for Sleep
in Heavenly Peace

Jim Frazier
Jon Moore
Connor Wyant
Jane Moore
Hannah Wagoner
Peyton Porter



Sweet songs of Miss
Emrie Johnson



Delivering the donation from VBS
Ella Pistelli and Max Pistelli

World Mission Offering



Sarah McCloy
Japan



Rhonda Reed
Bolivia



Debbie & Keith Myers
Mexico

Our WV missionaries now serving around the world.

Your donations will help with their work in the far reaches.

Saving souls for the Lord!

Please consider the amount you can give. Make checks to FBC
with WMO in the memo.

Our goal is \$1800



You may also give to help with the WV flooding by
donating your check to FBC with WV Flooding in the
memo. This will be directed to help in our state.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Making Church Fun!

MAKING CHURCH FUN!



You heard of Jesus finding the Lost Sheep?! Fred and Richard had the kiddos coral all 100 'sheep' as they learned that Jesus Saves Souls.



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 **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**! 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:

Pencils
Crayons
Glue Sticks
Folders
Pencil Pouches
Watercolor Paint

Pens
Markers
Notebooks
Coloring Books
Safety Scissors
Pencil Sharpeners

WE CANNOT ACCEPT:

Liquid Glue
Anything reflecting currency (i.e.
Dollar wrapped pencils)
Liquid Paint



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:



Our Heritage of Faith

Our church is blessed to have people in our past that loved Jesus. Because of that love, we now have a church building and generations of people who have dedicated their lives to teaching others who come about the Bible.

2 Timothy 1:5 tells us - *I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.*

We draw strength from our knowledge that God loves us. That He gave Jesus to us for salvation and life forever in heaven.

John 3:16-17 - *For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

Each of us can carry on the truth of God's love by studying His Word and joining together each week for Sunday School, church and other activities throughout the week. This will keep each generation strong in faith.

Ephesians 4:3 - *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

Join with our church family as we learn, love and teach the generations to come about Jesus.

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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

August Calendar

Aug 1 World Mission Offering begins
Aug 3 Blood Drive; Trustee Meeting
Aug 9 Deaconess Meeting
Aug 10 BOCE
Aug 16 Good Hope Association Meeting
Aug 18 Financial Committee Meeting
Aug 23 Teachers Appreciation and Promotion Sunday
Hot Dog Fund Raiser for OCC Shoebox Ministry
Aug 25 Deacons Meeting

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

August Birthdays



Willow Stump—8/1
Jane Moore—8/3
Linda Yonker—8/3
Warner Stephens—8/8
Patti Calvert—8/8
Beau Bennett—8/11
Holly Palmer—8/11
Lincoln Ritchie—8/11
Donna McCoy—8/12
Mason Kerns—8/13
Nate King—8/13
Amy Starkey—8/15
Tanya Cole—8/20
Torren Johnson—8/22
Leigh Ann Kerns—8/26
Bill Harpold—8/31

**If your birthday is missing,
please let Susan know.**

Bible Book of the Month August Deuteronomy



CommUnity Kitchen

Aug 01 Need Volunteers
Aug 08 Burt Lyons
Aug 15 Kristi King
Aug 22 Need Volunteers
Aug 29 Calvary Baptist

**Please consider helping
with this ministry.
Call the office to sign up.**

CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

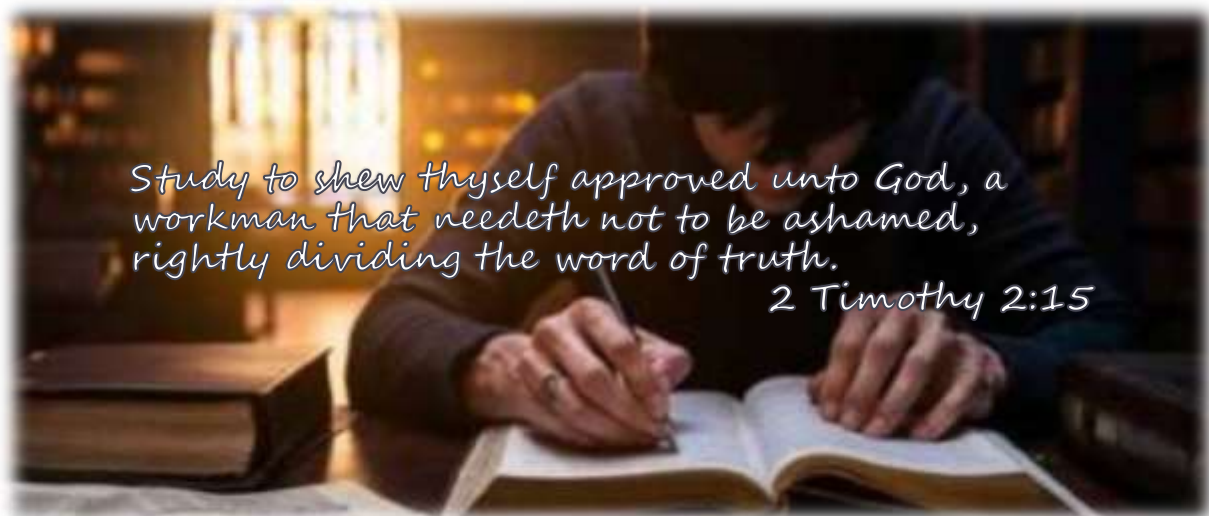
Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



August 2026



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



Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Timothy 2:15