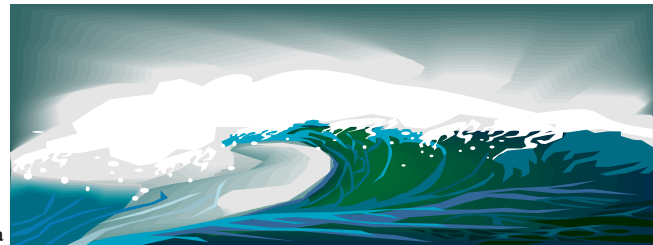




September 2026
The 160th Anniversary Edition
Anchor

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



Ready for Another 160 Years

The Scriptures tell us in Ecclesiastes 3:1 (KJV), *“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”* This reminds us that as the end of summer draws near, we find ourselves on the cusp of a beautiful transition. We can already feel the cooler mornings as Labor Day approaches. Labor Day is a day of rest for many people. We are reminded of the importance of rest and the value of the work we are called to do. This is not just about our professions or jobs, but in the life of our faith and in our church. September ushers in a season of harvest, and as we look around our church family, we have so much to be thankful for as we approach a truly historic milestone of serving our community 160 years. This year is our season of harvest to celebrate our church, her legacy, and those who have supported and taken care of her over all these years.

First, I cannot express how deeply honored I am to serve as your pastor during this celebration. Standing at the helm of our congregation as we approach our 160th anniversary, I am humbled to be only one of the 27 pastors who have had the privilege of leading this church throughout our long history. It is truly a joy to walk alongside each of you as we celebrate the legacy of those who laid the foundation for our church, and look toward the future that God is building through our hands and hearts.

First Baptist Church of Ravenswood will technically reach our 160th anniversary this November. However, with the uncertainty of West Virginia weather in November, we decided to host our celebration a couple of months early. For over a century and a half, the FBC congregation has been a beacon of hope, a place of refuge, and a witness to the transforming power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To honor this legacy, we are hosting our 160th Anniversary and Homecoming Celebration on Saturday and Sunday, September 12th and 13th. I want every one of you to be a part of it.

The celebration begins that Saturday at Noon with a day of pure, old-fashioned fun. We are hosting a block party and picnic designed to bring the young and old together. We'll have inflatables for the kids, a dunk tank, and corn hole games in the courtyard. We will have some indoor activities like a dessert auction for charity, and have some playing cards and board games, for those who wish to stay inside out of the hotter temperatures. We are even bringing back some classic fun for the courtyard that includes watermelon seed-spitting and watermelon eating contests! Our Men's Fellowship will take turns at the grill, serving up hamburgers and hot dogs, and we ask that everyone else brings a favorite covered dish of their choice to share. It will be a relaxing time for all to laugh, play, and enjoy the fellowship that makes this church a family. The event will run until 5:00, and culminate with an old fashioned hymn sing in the sanctuary at about 4:30, as Abbi Woods takes us on a journey across the musical history of our church.

Then on Sunday, September 13th at 10:45, our focus shifts to reflection and worship. We are honored to have our former pastor, Rev. Kenneth Miller, who faithfully served FBC from 1993 to 2004 to deliver the sermon. During Ken's tenure, it was a wonderful time in our church history, when the church was often filled to capacity. We are excited to have Ken and his wife Allison with us, along with several of their family members. The service will include monologue

from Glen Stevens and a medley of music from Abby Woods, celebrating the hymns and songs that have echoed across our church throughout our long history.

Following the service, we will gather for a catered formal luncheon with turkey and the fixings. This will be a time to reminisce and share stories, hear historical proclamations about our celebration, learn a little about our history, and see a hand-sewn quilt that was made nearly 100 years ago in this church as a Women's Circle Project. Above all, we will generally reflect on God's faithfulness in the church. We will conclude the afternoon by sealing personal items into a 40-year wooden time capsule created by Ron Starkey. Each family in our church will place a packet that has been provided into the box as we depart that ceremony. This box will be locked with the key discarded, and then it will be displayed prominently in the church. This time capsule will be a gift from our present congregation to the future congregation at FBC during our 200th anniversary in 2066.

As we prepare for this weekend, I am reminded of Winston Churchill's words: "The farther backward you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see"; For our church, we seek to honor those who came before us, and it is our responsibility to steward this legacy well into the future. As more and more churches close every year, we must protect our church. Moving into the future does not have to be scary. We must embrace those days with certainty, not in ourselves, but in Christ. For you and I, we must always commit ourselves to protecting our church and the legacy of our friends and family that has made our church so special over all these years. I think of every minister who stood in this pulpit, and how message after message resonated and drew people closer to God in their own time of need. I think of people both young and old, who called FBC home, for many years, crossing generation after generation. Some of you here in our church now, grew up in this church. All of this together, is what the author of Hebrews reminded us of when he said, ***"Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith"*** (Hebrews 13:7). We are better people today, because of the work that has occurred in this church with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Let us remember this anniversary celebration is not just for those currently in the pews, but it is for everyone who has ever called FBC home. If you know someone who has been away for a season, for whatever reason, please reach out to them. Invite them back. Tell them that their seat is waiting and that we are a better church when they are here.

As we look toward the future, we do so with hearts full of anticipation. While many of us will probably be in heaven when the time capsule is opened 40 years down the road, we trust that every item in that box, demonstrates our love and commitment to our Lord, to each other, and to sustaining our church for each generation ahead. Our mission remains as vital as ever. We must always be about reaching out, inviting in, and growing in Christ together. May these 160 years be merely a foundation for the great work God has in store for us in the years to come. I look forward to celebrating with each of you September 12th and 13th.

In His service,

Pastor Toby



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

Get a chance to say HOWDY to our past pastors.

Hear an FBC monologue by our own thespian—*Glen Stevens*

Special Music and Speakers

Catered Meal following the morning worship on Sunday

Visitors from the Past



Rev. Ron Stoner (1973-1984) and his wife **Jan** will be coming on Sunday to share memories of their time at First Baptist.

Come say 'hello' and welcome them back.



Rev. Kenneth Miller (1993-2004) and his wife Allison, daughter Mallory and granddaughter Lorelei will be attending on Sunday.

Pastor Ken will give the message that morning.

Please come out and share our love with this family.



Rev. Mark Gerstell (2011-2018) and his wife Susan will be here to celebrate to activities with us.

We are blessed to have them be a part of our congregation every Sunday as faithful members.

More from the Past



Youth Pastor Rick Garavaglia (Youth Pastor 2001-2005) and his wife Tracy will be joining in the activities.

Give them a 'howdy' when you



Pastor Anthony Pratt (Youth Pastor 2006-2011) and wife Margaret and children Nat, Abigail and Emily will be here on Saturday for the activities and fun during the picnic.

Be sure to give them a big hug and welcome them.



Pastor Ethan Tawney (Youth Pastor 2024-2025) and wife Zoë will come back for a visit for our 16th anniversary.

It'll be great to see them and let them know we love them.

Sending Hello from Afar



Rev. Jon Villers (2005-2010) and wife Koreen will not be able to join us due to their schedule but sends best wishes to all.



Rev. Michael Halley (1970-1973) and wife Carmen have church commitments in Suffolk, VA and cannot join us.

Michael is sending a message for the dinner on Sunday.

Sprucing up outside



Susan & Mick Price touch up the curbs



Dave Lehew makes the columns like new again!

Thanks to all who have helped FBC shine!

Just looking around..



Welcome back ***Peggy Cole Brooks!*** She was visiting friends and family in August. Smiles abound on Sunday morning!



FBC joins others to lift up prayer for the schools.

Helping with Fun and Food!



We raised \$1,500+ for our shoe box ministry packing party this fall. That was a lot of hot dogs and desserts!!!
Thank you Church family.



Singing Praises to the Lord!



Peggy Patterson, Susan West's sister, blest us with song while visiting.

Not only can Dave Lehew paint, he can also sing. Thank you for sharing your talent!



Little Jocelyn Lawson joins her momma Sami to sing to the Lord.

She proves you're never too little to praise God!

Elijah!



Play

and



Dinner



Celebrating a Baptism



We thank the Lord for the salvation and witness of *Camden Guthrie* as he follows Jesus in baptism.

Welcome to FBC!



Welcome with love our new members - The Porter family
Paul, Mandy and Peyton
Little Charlotte is with mom.

Baby Dedication



John Wagoner and Grayce Livingston presented their little child Charlotte Jae Wagoner to the church for dedication to the Lord.

Let us pray for this family as they guide her in the ways of Jesus.

Extended family comes forward to promise to help guide Charlotte in learning about Jesus.



Pastor Grandpa sends up prayers for this little one during her dedication.

Teacher Recognition

*Spreading
the love of
Jesus is a
big mission.*



*Thank you for
your dedication to
teaching God's
Word.*



& Promotion Sunday



Many Thanks to Deb Lyons, FBC Sunday School Superintendent for recognizing the teachers in our church.

Deb also gave out certificates to those Sunday School students who have moved up.

Hannah Wagoner and Conner Ritchie have been promoted from the Senior High class to the Young Adults.

Women's Sunday



On September 20, Women's Sunday will take place with a special speaker. ***Katie Ferrell Woods*** will bring an uplifting message to our congregation.

Katie is the Scholarship Program Officer of The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation. She is also a writer and artist. Katie is married to Taylor Woods and they live in Charleston.

Plan to come out to welcome Katie to our service that morning.

Fall Children's Rally

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

Saturday, November 7, 2026

At Parchment Valley in the Greenlee Activities Center



The Unexpected Grace of Jesus

2026 Children's Fall Rally
Parchment Valley Conference Center
Ripley, WV

JESUS IS FULL OF SURPRISES!

When Jesus throws a party, He defies all expectations. Sinners are befriended, strays are celebrated, and rebellious failures are embraced. In a house full of uninvited guests, the best seats are reserved for those least deserving.

Kids will learn

- ⇒ Jesus has unexpected grace for unexpected people
- ⇒ Jesus wants us to share His unexpected grace with everyone
- ⇒ God's grace is so surprising that it can be hard to deal with
- ⇒ God's grace is so surprising that it can be hard to deal with
- ⇒ Everyone is invited to the unexpected grace of Jesus.

COST: \$15.00 (if postmarked by October 13th) **\$28** (if postmarked after October 13th 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

CHILDREN'S NEEDS for
FLOOD VICTIMS IN WESTON

*New Children's Toys
New Children's Books or
Walmart Gift Cards
Books A Million Gift Cards*

T-shirts:

PRE-SALE ONLY
T-shirts WILL NOT
be for sale at the
Rally. Cost \$12.00
each and must be
pre-ordered and
pre-paid by
October 13th.



CHURCH _____ ASSOCIATION _____

Fall Children's Rally

Saturday, November 7, 2026

OFFICE USE ONLY: Date _____
Check Number (s) _____
Amount Paid \$ _____ Balance \$ _____



Greenlee Activities Center, Parchment Valley
Conference Center - Ripley, WV

REGISTRATION

Complete this sheet and send along with check(s) payable to WVBC.
Mail to: Fall Children's Rally, PO Box 1019, Parkersburg, WV 26102

CHILDREN

Name	Grade	Photo	Permission	Name	Grade	Photo	Permission
1. _____	_____	Yes	No	9. _____	_____	Yes	No
2. _____	_____	Yes	No	10. _____	_____	Yes	No
3. _____	_____	Yes	No	11. _____	_____	Yes	No
4. _____	_____	Yes	No	12. _____	_____	Yes	No
5. _____	_____	Yes	No	13. _____	_____	Yes	No
6. _____	_____	Yes	No	14. _____	_____	Yes	No
7. _____	_____	Yes	No	15. _____	_____	Yes	No
8. _____	_____	Yes	No	16. _____	_____	Yes	No

ADULTS

(At least one adult from your church must be with your children throughout the day.
One adult is required for every 10 children)

1. _____ 3. _____
2. _____ 4. _____

Early registrations (postmarked no later than October 13th)

Number of participants _____ x \$15 = _____

Late registrations (postmarked after October 13th)

Number of participants _____ x \$28 = _____

T-shirts MUST be
pre-ordered and money MUST be
included with your registration
fee by October 13th.

T-shirts: Please mark how many you would like of each of the following sizes: (\$12 each)

Youth Small (6/8) _____ Youth Medium (10/12) _____ Youth Large (14/16) _____

Adult Sm. _____ Adult Med. _____ Adult Lg. _____ Adult XL _____ Adult XXL _____

IN ORDER TO RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION, PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR COMPLETE EMAIL ADDRESS

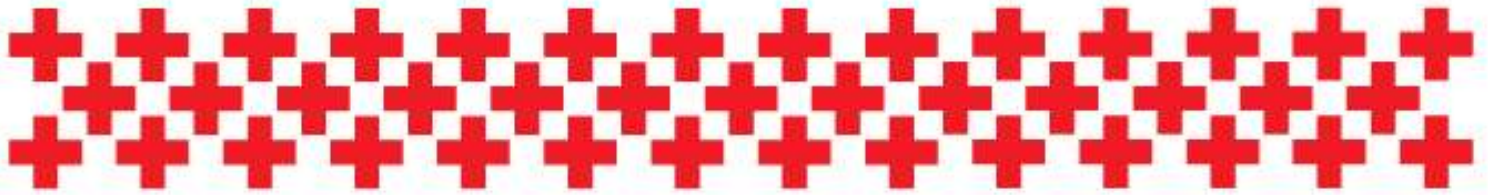
CONTACT PERSON _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____ EVENING PHONE _____

Please note special meal requests or food allergies: _____

American Red Cross



Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood.
Help save lives.

Give blood.

Blood Drive **First Baptist Church** **Fellowship Hall**

215 Ann Street
Ravenswood, WV

Monday, October 5
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.

**Fall into the habit of donating! Get a \$15 e-gift card
when you come to give blood Sept. 21-Oct. 18.**

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

© 2025 The American National Red Cross | 418051-13-Field-4RW

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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 _____

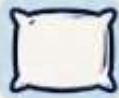
Dietary Needs _____ Handicap Needs _____

♡ ≡ Bedding Needed! ≡

PILLOWS, BLANKETS & GIRLS BED IN A BAG



HELP LOCAL KIDS SLEEP COMFORTABLY



NEW PILLOWS



THROW BLANKETS



TWIN GIRLS BED
SETS (BED IN A BAG)



DROP OFF OR SHIP TO:

Steve Westfall – WESTFALL INSURANCE
450 Church St. S | Ripley, WV 25271

304-532-8875



TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE SURE EVERY CHILD HAS
A WARM, COMFY PLACE TO SLEEP.



**Jon Moore will deliver what
you bring to the church.**



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 230 shoeboxes to advance the kingdom of God in countries around the world!

This Month we are collecting **WOW** 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:

Jump Ropes Frisbee
Stuffed Animals Slinky
Puzzles Fishing/Sewing Kit
Barbies/Toy Cars Bouncy Balls/Hackie Sack
Deflated Soccer Ball w/Pump Stickers
Play-Doh Puppets
Music Instruments (i.e. Harmonica, recorder, etc.)

WE CANNOT ACCEPT:



ANY war related items (i.e. toy soldiers, guns, camo, etc.)
ANY liquid (i.e. bubbles, home-made slime, etc.)
ANY gambling-related items (i.e. play money, dice, etc.)
ANY breakable items (porcelain dolls, glass figurines, etc.)

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

Focus on Sunday School:



160th Anniversary Celebration

I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, o Jerusalem. Psalm 122:1-2

Sunday, September 13 is a special day in the life of First Baptist Church of Ravenswood.

We will be celebrating our 160th year serving our Lord Jesus Christ, honoring His love to all the generations. The best way to start off is come to Sunday School.

Sunday School is where you learn more details about the stories of God's people—Moses from the bulrushes to the Promised Land; Noah from building the ark to the Tower of Babel; the destruction of Jerusalem; and, of course, the birth of Jesus to His resurrection from the grave. SS is an important part of learning in the church and we encourage you to come out every Sunday at 9:30 to be a part of it.

***Why not start this Sunday!
Come to Sunday School and learn.***

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

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

September Calendar

Sept 1 Trustee Meeting
Sept 6 No Evening Services Holiday
Sept 7 Labor Day Office Closed
Sept 8 Men's Fellowship
Sept 10 Wright Mission Circle
Sept 11 First Responders Day
Sept 12 **160th Anniversary Picnic Celebration**
Sept 13 **160th Anniversary Celebration and Dinner**
Sept 14 BOCE
Sept 15 Finance Committee
Sept 16 Anchor Articles due
Sept 18-20 ABWM Spiritual Growth Retreat
Sept 20 Women's Sunday—Special Speaker Katie Woods

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

September Birthdays



Janyce Watkins 9-1
Helen Frank 9-2
Perry Vintorini 9-2
Abbi Woods 9-7
Kristi King 9-7
Jim Frazier 9-9
Diana Staats 9-10
Tallulah Stevens 9-13
Alan Arrington 9-14
Philip Lyons 9-15
Angel Ritchie 9-16
Nathanael Flesher 9-17
Liam Davis 9-17
Gary Balser 9-19
Sami Lawson 9-19
Susan Price 9-25
Susan Gerstell 9-20
Jocelyn Lawson 9-22
Kathy Hudson 9-24
Susan Price 9-25
Sandy Confer 9-27
Cass Bennett 9-29

If your birthday is missing,
please let Susan know.

Bible Book of the Month September Amos



CommUnity Kitchen

Sept 05 **No CK Holiday**
Sept 12 **NO CK. Come to the Picnic**
Sept 19 **Teagan and the girls**
Sept 26 **Need Volunteer**

**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.



September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Mike & Angela Graham, Alli, Cara	2 Zack Graham	3 Jacob Graham	4 Shonda Harmon	5 Bill & Tammy Harpold, Gabe, Liam
6 Shane Harpold	7 Jo Hendricks	8 Kenley & Skylar Hickman, Reed	9 Destijane Hicks, Isaac	10 June Hicks	11 Mitchel & Sarah Hoffmann	12 Sandy Holcomb
13 Kathy Hudson	14 Paul & Peggy Jarvis	15 Margaret Johns	16 Ann Johnson	17 Torren Johnson Emrie, Kacie	18 Shealyn Johnson Emrie, Kacie	19 Helen Johnson
20 Jason & Leigh Ann Kerns, Mason, Logan	21 Matt & Kristi King, Landon	22 Randy & Sami Lawson, Jocelyn Trey	23 Burt & Deb Lyons	24 Rhonda Lyons	25 Peg Lyons	26 Darla Mahone
27 Talia Martinez	28 Richard & Phyllis Massey	29 Patti McCauley	30 Brad & Donna McCoy			

*“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” – **Philippians 1:6***

