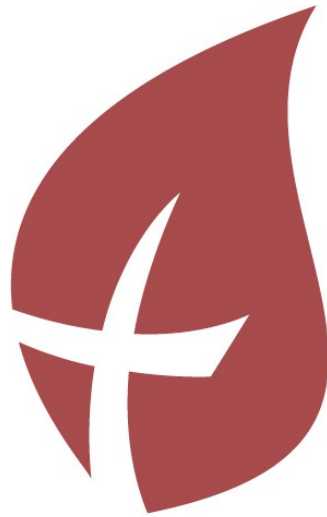


Sunday Morning Worship

October 4, 2026



**FIRSTBAPTIST
CHURCH
UPPERMARLBORO**

7415 SW Crain Highway, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

301-952-0117 :: www.fbcum.org :: fbcum@firstbaptistum.com

Order of Worship

October 4, 2026

Welcome & Announcements

Silent Prayer

Call to Worship — Psalm 1

Song — Psalm One

Song — Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

Scripture Reading — Ezekiel 36:22-28

Pastoral Prayer

Song — Jesus, I Come (Out of My Bondage)

Prayer of Thanks

Worship Through Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Message — Zach Schlegel

“Beware of Hypocrisy”

Luke 11:37-12:12

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Song — Where Shall I Be?

Benediction

Comfort Rooms: To help accommodate families with small children and individuals with special needs or medical conditions, a live video feed of the worship service is available in rooms 116, 117/118, 119, 120-125.

Visitors & Guests: Stop by the Welcome Desk for church information and to receive a welcome packet.

Call to Worship — Psalm 1 (ESV)

- ¹ Blessed is the man
 who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
 nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
² but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and on his law he meditates day and night.
- ³ He is like a tree
 planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
 and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.
- ⁴ The wicked are not so,
 but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
- ⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish.

Psalm One

Mike Rogers

Verse 1:

Happy is he with cautious feet
he's choosing God's way over the broad way
'cause he fears his king
His great delight, by day and by night—
to make all of God's word the source of his labors
for all of his life.

Chorus:

There is a way and an end to every man.
On that last day, when Jesus stands
at God's right hand,
He'll gather the righteous
and cast down the wicked
who can't bear to stand.
This is the way, and this is the end of every man.

Verse 2:

Blessed is he – faith like the tree
planted near water that nourishes onward
and stays ever green.
All of his life bears fruit in time,
while hopes of the wicked
are tossed by the world's winds
revealing their blight.

Bridge:

So lift up your eyes and walk in the light.
Look to the Savior, who delights
To show you the way all of your days.
Do not grow weary. Hold your gaze.
Follow the saints long on the way
walking with Jesus by faith.
He won't deceive. He won't forsake.
Blessed is the path He has ordained.

Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

Jennie Wilson

Verse 1:

Time is filled with swift transition,
naught of earth unmoved can stand;
Build your hopes on things eternal,
hold to God's unchanging hand!

Chorus:

Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand!
Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand!
Build your hopes on things eternal,
hold to God's unchanging hand!

Verse 2:

Trust in Him who will not leave you,
whatsoever years may bring;
If by earthly friends forsaken,
still more closely to Him cling.

Verse 3:

Covet not this world's vain riches
that so rapidly decay;
Seek to gain the heav'nly treasures,
they will never pass away!

Verse 4:

When your journey is completed,
if to God you have been true,
fair and bright the home in glory,
your enraptured soul will view!

Scripture Reading — Ezekiel 36:22-28 (ESV)

²² "Therefore say to the house of Israel, Thus says the Lord GOD: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. ²³ And I will vindicate the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, and which you have profaned among them. And the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Lord GOD, when through you I vindicate my holiness before their eyes. ²⁴ I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. ²⁵ I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. ²⁸ You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Jesus, I Come (Out of My Bondage)

William T. Sleeper | Jason Brown | Mike Rogers

Verse 1:

Out of my bondage sorrow and night
Jesus I come
Into Thy freedom gladness and light
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of my sickness and into Thy health
Out of my want and into Thy wealth
Out of my sin and into thyself
Jesus I come to Thee
Jesus I come to Thee

Verse 2:

Out of my shameful failure and loss
Jesus I come
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm
Out of distress to jubilant psalm
Jesus I come to Thee
Jesus I come to Thee

Verse 3:

Out of unrest and arrogant pride
Jesus I come
Into Thy blessed will to abide
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love
Out of despair to glories above
Upward for e're on wings like a dove
Jesus I come to Thee
Jesus I come to Thee

Verse 4:

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb
Jesus I come
Into the joy and light of Thy home
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of the depths of ruin untold
Into Your peace, Your sheltering hold
Ever Thy glorious face to behold
Jesus I come to Thee
Jesus I come to Thee

Sermon Notes :: “Beware of Hypocrisy :: Luke 11:37-12:12

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## Church Covenant

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Having, as we trust, been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to Him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully renew our covenant with each other.

We will engage in assembling ourselves together while praying for one another. We will strive for and promote the spiritual growth and advancement of the church by; sustaining worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; contributing cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

As a body of believers, we agree to maintain family and personal devotions, to educate our children in the Christian faith, and to seek the salvation of our family and acquaintances. We will seek to avoid all practices or speech which bring unwarranted harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith.

We will walk together in Christian love by faithfully caring for, watching over, and admonishing one another as occasions may require. In conflict, we will seek to follow Christ's example of reconciliation without delay. We will always strive to be humble and courteous in our speech and slow to take offense. We agree that should we leave this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with a like-minded church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Where Shall I Be?

Charles Jones

Chorus:

O where shall I be
When the first trumpet sounds,
O where shall I be
When it sounds so loud?
When it sounds so loud
As to wake up the dead,
O where shall I be
When it sounds?

Verse 1:

When judgement day is drawing nigh,
Where shall I be?
When God the works of men shall try,
Where shall I be?
When east and west the fire shall roll,
Where shall I be?
How will it be with my poor soul;
Where shall i be?

Verse 2:

When wicked men His wrath shall see,
Where shall I be?
And to the rocks and mountains flee,
Where shall I be?
When hills and mountains flee away,
Where shall I be?
When all the works of man decay,
Where shall I be?

Verse 3:

When heaven and earth
As some great scroll,
Where shall I be?
Shall from God's holy presence roll,
Where shall I be?
When all the saints
Redeemed shall stand,
Where shall I be?
Forever blest at God's right hand
Where shall I be?

Verse 4:

All trouble done, all conflict past,
Where shall I be?
Our enemy o'ercome at last,
Where shall I be?
When Christ shall reign
From shore to shore,
Where shall I be?
And peace abide forever more,
Where shall I be?

This Week at First Baptist Church

Sunday, October 4

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes
10:00 AM Sunday Worship w/ Lord's Supper
6:00 PM Youth Night

Monday, October 5

Tuesday, October 6

10:30 AM Tuesday Ladies Bible Study
12:30 PM Praying and Crocheting

Wednesday, October 7

6:30 PM Church Prayer Meeting

Thursday, October 8

Friday, October 9

Saturday, October 10

Sunday, October 11

9:00 AM DiscipleLIFE classes
10:00 AM Sunday Worship

Upcoming Events at First Baptist Church

Saturday, October 18 :: 3-5pm — Children's Harvest Party

Sunday, November 8 — Starting Point Seminar following worship

Starting Point is the first step for anyone interested in becoming a church member or simply finding out more about who we are and what we believe here at FBCUM

Friday, November 13 & Saturday, November 14 - Men's Retreat - Save the Date

Location Camp Wabanna

Sunday, November 29 — First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 13 — Church Members Meeting following worship

Ministry Spotlight

“Ministry Spotlight” highlights church ministries and programs at FBC Upper Marlboro. We hope you’ll consider how you can pray for and support these ministry efforts. Pick up a copy of “Places to Serve” in the magazine racks near the exits for information on all the church ministries.

Children’s Ministry

Pam Jensen — Children’s Ministry Coordinator

The Children’s Ministry is a program of the church that encompasses several areas: ChildLIFE, DiscipleLIFE, Awana, and VBS. Each Sunday morning our Children’s DiscipleLIFE classes begin at 9am for babies through sixth grade. Followed by ChildLIFE at 10am Babies thru Pre-K4. Excited children arrive with their parents and are checked-in to join their classmates and teachers to explore the word of God.

During the academic year from September through May, we provide the Awana program on Wednesday nights. During the summer we also have our VBS (Vacation Bible School) week. Each of these programs keep our children immersed in the word of God and brings encouragement through memorizing scripture and working through materials that brings scripture to life. There is truly nothing more rewarding than to see how children respond when they actually gain understanding in God’s word. Our mission is to ensure that the gospel is heard. Today, however, our main emphasis will be on the Children’s DiscipleLIFE and Awana Clubs.

Children’s DiscipleLIFE: Children in DiscipleLIFE have a great opportunity to hear the gospel read and reinforced with activities that will enhance their understanding of God’s word. Teachers are equipped and prepared with everything needed to effectively lead the lesson. All of the visual supports whether posters or videos are provided to reinforce the lesson along with guided activities which makes learning fun. This multi-layered approach enhances the learning experience for all children.



Children are also encouraged to share with their parents what they learned in their classes by showing and telling the story behind their completed class work. This will also reinforce learning about the Lord and His word. When parents invest time in these conversations, it sends a message to their child that this is important. DiscipleLIFE desires to be supportive to parents as they disciple their children.

Ministry Spotlight



Awana Clubs: The Awana club program began last month and will continue until May 2026, meets on Wednesdays from 6:30pm-8pm and follows the academic year for children from PreK 3-Sixth grade. The children are assigned to Awana clubs by age/grade: (Cubbies - PreK 3-4); (Sparks - K-2 Grade); (Truth and Training (T&T) - 3rd –6th Grade). In two hours, children are challenged to learn God’s word, share their memorized scripture verses, and engage in game time.

They are learning how to focus and apply Bible principles to life situations and to develop sports-manship. *Children earn badges for their vests and points that can prove to be very profitable. **Ask club members how they earn points and what they can do with them.***

The Awana clubs leaders are given the curriculum and suggestions which provide children with instruction, guided activities and games. Leaders enjoy watching children grow in their knowledge of Christ.

As the Ministry Administrator, I find that children will bring so much to their pursuit of learning when they are encouraged to seek it. Our leaders share the same enthusiasm and zeal to find more of God’s treasures in His word. My goal is to facilitate this and keep all of our children safe. We have developed child protective policies and administer background checks. If you are a church member seeking to serve in any Children’s Ministry area, please contact our leaders: **Awana (Commander Ronnie Sweetman); Children’s**



DiscipleLIFE (Pam Jensen); or you may also contact the church office: fbcum@firstbaptistum.com; 301-952-0117; or use the QR code (on the back of this bulletin.) Please continue to pray for the Children’s Ministry.

Praying with First Baptist Church

A Prayer Guide for the week of October 4

Prayer of the week:

Consider using the Apostle Paul's prayer from the book of Colossians 1:9-10 as a springboard for your own prayer time this week. This is a great prayer to use as you pray through the church directory for your church family this week.

⁹...we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

We recognize our need for God's help in all the areas of our lives. The categories and requests listed below are intentional ways to pray for each other as a church family. For help in knowing how and what to pray for, look up the Scripture included with each item.

Ongoing prayer items in the life of our church:

- Pray for opportunities and boldness to share the gospel with loved ones (Matt. 28:19)
- Pray for conversions (John 3:3, Acts 16:14)
- Pray for the children of our church to hear and understand the gospel and be saved. (Luke 8:8)
- Pray for the preaching of God's word – for faithfulness, fruitfulness, and God's glory (2 Tim. 4:2, 1 Cor. 2:4-5, Isa. 55:10-11)
- Pray for increased one to one discipleship relationships in our church family (Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray for unity in our diversity both on Sunday and through the week (Rom. 15:13, Eph 4:2-3)
- Pray for continued growth and joy in the gospel (1 Cor. 15:1-5, 2 Pet. 1:12)
- Pray for growth in holiness, hatred of sin and growth in humility (Prov. 8:13, 1 Pet. 1:14-16)
- Pray for honest, loving relationships in our church (Col. 3:12-13, James 5:16)
- Pray for families: marriages to thrive, parents to teach/love/discipline carefully, and children to obey (Eph. 5:22-6:4)
- Pray that giving would be faithful, joyful, consistent, and sacrificial (2 Cor. 8:9)

Prayer items outside our church:

- Pray for fruitful ministry in other gospel-proclaiming churches in our area. (Rom. 15:20, 1 Cor. 16:1-3, Matt. 28:19-20)
- Pray that our elected officials would fear God, seek His wisdom, have integrity, humility, and work together for the good of society and not self. (1 Tim. 2:1-2, Rom. 13:1-7)
- Pray that God would bring a swift end to wars going on throughout the world and establish peace. Pray for protection and care for the many refugees fleeing to safety. Pray that those impacted would trust in God in the midst of their suffering. (Ps. 139:23-24)

- Pray for the persecuted church in Cuba as they seek to follow Christ in an intimidating and hostile environment. Pray for courage, wisdom, and protection as they navigate governmental controls and surveillance. Give churches favor with the authorities and provide them with all they need to grow in faith, number, and influence in their communities. . (1 Peter 1:3-7; 1 Thes 4:13; Ps. 2)
- Pray for those effected by recent natural disasters (flash floods at Nepal-China border, wildfires in western USA, and others). Seeing the fragility of this life, pray that many would look to God for eternal hope. Pray for safety and diligence of emergency response personnel as they work to preserve life. Pray for leaders to make wise decisions. Pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones. (Ps 46:1-2; John 14:27; Is 43:2)
- Pray for our ministry partners locally and around the world—Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware (BCM/D), North American Mission Board (NAMB) and International Mission Board (IMB). Pray especially for those we have direct partnerships with: Jeremy McClain (Mercy of Christ Fellowship Church, DC), Joel Kurz (The Garden Church, Baltimore), Daniel and Brandy Spandler-Davison (Bangkok City Baptist Church, Thailand), and Tommie van der Walt (Imprint, South Africa). Pray the gospel would flourish and churches would be planted and strengthened through their work. Pray God would supply their needs. (Ps 93:4, Col. 1:5-6, 1 Pet. 4:12-17)

Particular prayer items in the life of our church:

- Praise God for making us members of one body, fellow heirs, fellow citizens, and partakers of God's great promises. (Eph 2:19; 3:6)
- Pray we would practice humility as we help one another endure in faith (1 Pt 5:5)
- Pray for members of our church who are homebound due to illness—for physical healing and unfailing hope in God. Pray also for those in our church who are caretakers—for strength, patience, and love. (2 Cor 4:16; Gal 6:9-10)
- Pray we would care more about God's opinion of us than the praise of man. (Pr 29:25; 14:26)
- Pray that our church family would not grow weary of doing good. Pray that we would live and interact with one another in a way that reveals God's steadfast love and mercy to the world. (Gal 6:9)
- Pray that we know a profound contentment no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in – a contentment from knowing God is our help. (Heb. 13:5-6)
- Pray God would guard our church from fear, anxiety, and disunity. Pray that we would trust that God is good and be assured that He is in control. (John 13:34-35)
- Pray that God would help us comprehend his good design for the church and center our lives around it for the sake of his glory being made known. (Eph 3:10; 3:21)
- The following individuals have expressed particular prayer concerns:

Joyce Amaker, Marjorie Griffin, Jackie Jones, Eileen Kessler, Tyrone Moorehead (death of father)

[Consult the church directory for a list of homebound members who are unable to attend.]

(To submit a prayer request, please use the Prayer Request Card available in the sanctuary and drop them in the offering basket or contact the Prayer Room at 301-952-8877.)

Announcements

1. **Church Prayer Meeting THIS Wednesday, Oct 7, at 6:30pm.** Come early at 5:30pm for a simple meal and fellowship. Contact John and Jess Almy if you'd like to help with the meal.

2. **Operation Christmas Child.** Today following the worship service in room 115 the boxes are available for pick-up. These boxes are to be filled with gifts for boys or girls, ages of 2-14. Please remember that all recipients of these boxes will hear the gospel. Feel free to return your box as soon as they are completed or no later than Nov. 8, 2026. If you have any questions please visit the table in the Fellowship Hall today or visit room 115. Thank you!

3. **Young Adult Gathering :: Oct 17 at 5pm :: Home of Zach and Katie Schlegel.** Young Adults are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshments. Contact Tre Fields for more info or questions.

4. **Children's Harvest Party :: Sunday, Oct 18, 3-5pm.** Grades K-6 and their families are invited to a fun afternoon of games, snacks, prizes, and crafts at the church. See the bulletin insert for more info.

5. **Men's Retreat :: November 13-14 at Camp Wabanna :: Registration is Open.** This year's FBCUM men's retreat is a chance to step away from the noise, stand shoulder to shoulder with other brothers in Christ, and honestly pursue the freedom, accountability, and godly manhood that flow from surrendering every part of our lives to Christ. \$80/person includes 3 meals and over-night lodging. Scholarships available. Scan the QR code for more info and to register.



6. **Interested in Church Membership? Attend Starting Point :: November 9 after worship.**

Starting Point is a seminar-style meeting following the worship service open to anyone interested in joining our church family or simply learning more about who we are and what we believe. Approximately 12-2:30pm. A light lunch will be served. Register by contacting the church office or using the digital communication card below.

7. **Giving.** We thank God for the faithful giving of our church family that sustains the gospel ministry here at FBC Upper Marlboro. As a reminder, there are three ways you can give:

- **online:** click the link or scan the QR code,
- **in-person:** designated boxes in the church foyer or during the worship service,
- **by mail:** send to the church office.



Digital Communication Card

Are you interested in receiving more information about the church, meeting with a pastor, or sharing a prayer need? Scan the QR code to fill in our digital communication card and someone will follow up with you. You're always welcome to contact the church office: 301-952-0117.



The Gospel of Luke: Confidence about Jesus

[Luke 11:37-12:12](#)

“Beware of Hypocrisy”—October 4, 2026



Introduction

[Luke 9:53](#) tells us that the Samaritan people rejected Jesus because He “set His face toward Jerusalem.” He was on His way to Jerusalem to pay the price for sin – the mission for which He came. From Chapters 9 – 19, you see a record of Jesus’ journey to teach all of us about discipleship. In doing so, Jesus calls people, and some will trust Him. Others will reject Him. As the kingdom of God grows, it does so amid adversity. There are those who do not want adversity in their life. What is the danger? How can you avoid it, so you do not make a shipwreck of your life? When the heat and pressures come, will you continue to follow, trusting Jesus?

Jesus, in His mercy, called out the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. One of the dangers that can derail your life is hypocrisy. Hypocrisy leads to living a double life – who you are on the inside and who you are on the outside. The whole body must be full of light. ([vs. 36](#)) Jesus demands integrity. You must be the same person inside as you are outside. How?

Sermon Outline

1. Look in the mirror and beware of hypocrisy. 11:37-12:1
2. Look to God and overcome hypocrisy. 12:2-12

Read & Discuss

1. Read 11:37 – 12:1

Here, Jesus was in the house of a Pharisee who was astonished that Jesus did not wash His hands. The washing of the hands here was ceremonial or traditional. It was a ritual that, in not doing so, shocked the Pharisee. Jesus took the opportunity to point out that he and the other religious leaders were more concerned with what they looked like on the outside than who they really were on the inside. You may think of the Pharisees as villains, but they were the religious elite – well-respected and well thought of in the Jewish community. They knew scripture. That was what people saw on the outside. Jesus saw their heart which was full of greed and wickedness. Jesus’ point is that God made all of you, and He demands all of you. He does not want a divided person. He wants integrity. Yet hypocrisy is obsessed with outward appearances shaping what is to be loved and desired.

Giving is a part of worship. It is an act of faithfulness. It should not be done as a show. The Pharisees were tithing for show. They wanted to be noticed, but they neglected justice. The effects of hypocrisy spread like a disease. As Jesus rebuked them, He was referring to the law about ceremonial uncleanness. If a person touched a dead body, they would be unclean for seven days. Jesus told the Pharisees that their hearts were like a smelling, rotting corpse, contaminating the people that they were trying to lead. Their lives normalized sin. If the Pharisees were doing or not doing something, the perception was that it was okay for the people too. Do you have a position of authority or influence? In the church? At home? At work? Be careful how you lead. Be careful how you live. Hypocrisy spreads and leads to destruction.

Jesus was lovingly exposing hypocrisy, yet they felt insulted. Biblical love is not defined by what feels good or your desires. It is defined by what does good and helps another person become more like Jesus and less like the world. Love is more than empty sentimentality. ([Proverbs 27:5-6](#)) Jesus spoke to them in the way that He did because He loved them. He wanted them to change.

Hypocrisy builds a system of value based on performance. The Pharisees and lawyers were legalists, loading down the people with laws that they could not bear. The people were weary, miserable, and scared. If you live a performance-based life, it leads to comparison and competition. You may wonder if you have ever done enough. The Pharisees and lawyers looked down on those who could not keep the rules. God’s word, rightly taught, brings Godly conviction. Legalism keeps people from hearing the Gospel of grace through faith.

When a hypocrite is exposed, they become violently defensive. When God’s word came from a prophet in the Old Testament, the people often did not like what they heard, so they killed the prophet. The Pharisees insisted that they honored the Old Testament prophets, but that meant nothing if they refused to listen to Jesus. Their response just proved that Jesus was right about them. (Vs. 53) They were lying in wait to catch Him. They were not humble or teachable; they became defensive. They wanted to extinguish the Light to protect their honor.

There are two types of hypocrisy – the empty religion of the Pharisees and professing faith in Christ and being

ashamed of that faith. You may love Jesus but hide your faith from the world. You must beware. Do you see hypocrisy in yourself? Are you leading a double life? Are you ruled by what others think? When the light of God's word exposes your sin, are you defensive? Do you wallow in self-pity when you are not perceived in the way you want to be perceived?

A healthy "eye" lets light in. ([vs. 34](#)) Given the choice between a hard truth or hearing flattering complements of an algorithm on Facebook or AI, what would you choose? You can use social media and AI but be careful. Surround yourself with real people who you can see, hear, and trust and who love you enough to tell you the truth. Be teachable, humble, and listen. It might lead you to life.

2. Read 12:2-12

Look at [verse 41](#). Do you want to be cleansed from your hypocrisy? Your alms refer to your gifts – your tithes. Jesus said to give from within – from your heart. Look at [verse 39](#). What is inside of you? To give alms from within, you need to stop lying and be honest. Sincerely, truly turn from your sin. Stop hiding. Give to God your wickedness. **That** is repentance. Admit and confess your sin. Jesus called people to true repentance.

You cannot hide. Sometimes you may sin and nothing happens. You think you missed the consequences. Jesus points out that in the final judgment, EVERYTHING will be revealed. You will have to give an account for every wicked thought, every harsh word, every bitter attitude, every self-serving act, and every lie. You can come into the light now and be cleansed by Jesus, the sinless Son of God who willingly went to the cross to die for sin, and on the third day, He rose victorious.

Are you pretending to be someone you are not? Acknowledging hypocrisy is important, but admitting you are a sinner is not hypocrisy. It is Christianity. Come to Jesus. He stands and invites you to come to Him. What secret do you have? Do not hold onto it, bring it into the light, and you will be cleansed and forgiven of sin. Come to Jesus TODAY.

Then, look to God to fear Him. The Pharisees wanted Jesus dead. The crowds are getting huge. The disciples were facing a temptation to fear people because of the persecution that may come. What pressure are you facing as a follower of Jesus? The solution is not to get rid of all fear. It is to replace that fear with the fear of God.

Do you often think about and tremble at the "what ifs?" The fear of God means to tremble before a holy God who cannot be domesticated. Taking His judgment seriously is important, but you must also take His love seriously. Do you know and understand just how much God loves you? Do you know and understand how precious you are to God? You are of more value than many insignificant sparrows. Run into His loving arms. The more you fear God, the less you will care about outward appearances and what others think. You will finally be free. People do not like to be judged. You may believe that your faith is between you and God. While your faith is personal, it is not private. You must acknowledge Jesus publicly. Pursue holiness but remember that sanctification is a gradual process.

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is not an accidental action. It is a settled, proud refusal to repent. If you continually and proudly push the Holy Spirit away, God may give you what you want. If your sin still bothers you and you feel convicted by the Spirit – PRAISE GOD. Act on it. Do not harden your heart. Come to God and confess sin. Trust Jesus, let Him cleanse you. Then, trust the Holy Spirit to lead you and give you the words you need to say when put on the spot to conform to this world. Jesus promises us that the Holy Spirit will teach you what to say at that very moment. Be prepared to defend your faith, but in the end, you do not trust your preparation. Trust God. He will take you all the way home.

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at www.fbcum.org.

Next week's sermon text: Luke 12:13-34 "Don't Be Anxious About Life"
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Family Guide for week of October 4th, 2026

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.



Suggestions on getting started:

- Decide on a time & place (breakfast, dinner, before bed, etc.)
- Start simple and short (ten minutes or less). Start with three things: 1) Read God's word, 2) Pray together and 3) Sing together. Scripture memory and catechism questions are *optional* if you have the time. Better to start small than bite off more than you can chew and give up.
- Be flexible. It doesn't need to look cookie-cutter similar for every family. Know yourself and know your kids: their personality, age, maturity, etc. [For younger kids consider starting with a good children's Bible like [The Big Picture Story Bible](#).]
- If you don't know the answer to a question someone has, don't act like you do! Say something like, "Great question, let me look into that." Study, ask a pastor or Christian friend and get back to them.
- Embrace the chaos. Kids are kids – don't expect it to be a perfect roundtable discussion with quiet, attentive children every time. Be patient and persistent. Patterns and habits help to set expectations over time.
- To learn more about family worship check out Donald Whitney's book (available at our church bookstall): [Family Worship: In the Bible, In History, and In Your Home](#).

Family Guide for week of October 4th, 2026

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.



Bible Intake: (Listening to God)

Day 1 – Romans 13:1-7

Day 2 – Romans 13:8-14

Day 3 – Romans 14:1-12

Day 4 – Romans 14:13-23

Day 5 – Romans 15:1-7

*Read Luke 12:13 – 34 in preparation for church on Sunday, October 11, 2026

Prayer: (Talking to God)

Pray about one thing you read in Scripture together.

Pray for a few church members on pg. 39 of our church directory. Pray for any specific needs of you and your family.

Thank God for meeting your needs.

Sing together

"Jesus, I Come" – Use the bulletin from Sunday.

Memory verses for the month

John 11:35 *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."*

Psalms 145:17 *The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and kind in all his works.*

Catechism question for the week¹

Question 12: What does God require in the ninth and tenth commandments?

Answer: Ninth, that we do not lie or deceive. Tenth, that we are content, not envying anyone.

¹ New City Catechism (<http://newcitycatechism.com/>)