

Sunday Small Groups is to
TEACH the Bible to change lives
REACH the lost with the Good
News of Jesus Christ and
CARE for people through prayer,
ministry and fellowship.



08-17-2025
Attendance: 265
Visitors: 13
Enrollment: 502

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Please submit your reservation
by noon Tuesday before the
meal on Wednesday.

NAME _____

Wednesday, August 27

5:15 pm to 6:00 pm

Fried or Baked Fish, Hush
Puppies, Cole Slaw, & Fries
Alternate Choice: Chicken
Tenders & Fries

_____ Regular meal plate

\$5.00 per plate

_____ Chicken tenders & fries

\$3.00 per plate

_____ Yearly reservation

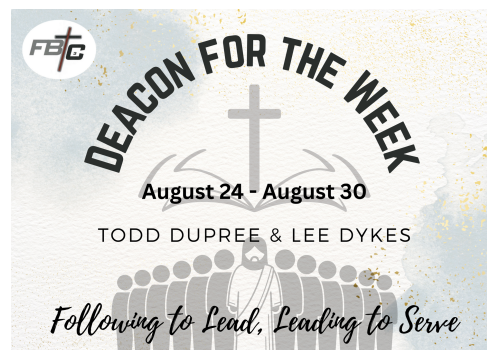
_____ I prefer to make
reservations on a weekly basis.

**Payment is expected for
cancellations after Tuesday,
12:00 pm.**

Adult Bible Study

Option 1
4:30 Sanctuary
Small Group
Singing/Prayer/
Bible Study

Option 2
5:30 Adult Small Group
Scripture Studies
Conference Room



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Sunday, August 24

8:30 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

9:45 am Sunday Morning Small Groups

11:00 am Worship Service (Sanctuary)

4:30 pm Bible Drills (Children's Department)

4:30 pm Sanctuary Small Group (Sanctuary)

5:30 pm Adult Bible Study (Conference Room)

5:30 Awana (Upstairs Children's Department)

Wednesday, August 27

5:30 pm Youth Pizza & Fellowship (Summit)

6:30 pm First Kids Music & Missions (Multipurpose Room)

6:30 pm Adult Prayer & Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)

6:30 pm Adult Choir Practice (Choir Room)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
101 South Second Street
Cochran, GA 31014-6806

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Permit Pd.
Permit No. 2
Cochran, GA 31014

TITLE FIRST LAST

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE ZIP

First Baptist Church Cochran
August 20, 2025
Vol. 62, No. 31



Consider
the lilies
and how they
grow...
MATTHEW 6:28



**But seek first his kingdom and his
righteousness, and all these things
will be given to you as
well. Therefore do not worry about
tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry
about itself. Each day has enough
trouble of its own.**

Have you ever heard the phrase, “I’m throwing down the gauntlet?” Today the phrase “throw down the gauntlet” means to challenge or confront someone, but in its earliest use it wasn’t meant as a metaphor, but was a physical action intended to issue a formal challenge to a duel. The word itself comes from the French word “gantelet,” and referred to the heavy, armored gloves worn by medieval knights. In an age when chivalry and personal honor were paramount, throwing a gauntlet at the feet of an enemy or opponent was considered a grave insult that could only be answered with personal combat, and the offended party was expected to “take up the gauntlet” to acknowledge and accept the challenge.

So consider this newsletter article my personal gauntlet and know that I’m throwing my gauntlet down at your feet; not because you are my enemy or opponent but because you are my brothers and sisters. Yes, I mean to challenge and confront you — but not for the purpose of initiating a physical confrontation or duel. I’m challenging you to face up to that dreaded relational issue that is socked away in your soul like a 55 gallon leaky drum of toxic waste.

I’m certain that almost every person reading this article is harboring a fractured relationship that has yet to be set right and as a result is quietly leaking anger or resentment or vengefulness or bitterness into the tender fibers of their heart. I’m also certain you have your reasons for choosing to ignore the splintered relationship: “I was in the right, he/she was in the wrong” or “He/she is going to have to take the first step and ask for forgiveness before I forgive” or “I’m too ashamed to address the issue after so much time has passed” or “It’s best to let sleeping dogs lie” or “What if she/he is unwilling to forgive me?” Whatever your rationale, know that someone somewhere has already used the same reasoning to avoid the issue of resolving relational conflict and has suffered greatly from the poison steadily oozing into their heart.

The Bible says “Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.” (Hebrews 12:14/15) Forgiveness is found at the core of living in peace with another human being. Seeking forgiveness and offering forgiveness is one of the unmistakable birthmarks of the new life we have in Christ. 2 Corinthians 5:19 reminds us “For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people’s sins against them. And He gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation.” There is no moment in life when we more closely resemble Jesus than when we choose to set right a fractured relationship, when we apply the healing balm of the Cross to the wounds we’ve incurred in our personal relationships.

The forgiveness Christ offers is neither deserved nor earned nor triggered by any appropriate human behavior (Romans 5:8-10); the healing forgiveness we have received from Christ is complete, unconditional, and permanent. Christ was absolutely “in the right” yet He came to us offering reconciliation; Christ was absolutely “in the right” but He was willing to assume the debt of our misdeeds in order to set right the relationship between God and man. Jesus desires that we follow His example of forgiveness by bringing the same forgiveness into the broken relationships of our lives.

Will you take up the gauntlet? Renounce your rationales, excuses, and refuse to allow another day to pass without taking your first halting step to reconciling that fractured relationship. Yep, it’ll be tough going in the beginning. There may be tears. You will sense how desperately you need the Holy Spirit to strengthen you. But reconciliation will lead you to peace; you will notice the absence of persistent heartache; and you will know the pleasure of your Father. It’s worth it!! Take up the gauntlet.

Mark Twain once said, “Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.” Ask your Father for courage to address the toxicity of broken relationships in your life. Grace & peace, love you. PK. *(Originally published 3/12/2019)*

