

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

P O Box 386
302 N EE Wallace Blvd
Ferriday, LA 71334

318.757.4524

318.757.7729 fax

www.FerridayFBC.com

[www.facebook.com/
firstbaptistchurchferriday](http://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchferriday)



When We Meet:

Sundays

9:15a Sunday School
10:30a Worship

Wednesdays

6:00p Prayer Meeting
AWANA
Youth Study

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

MISSION

STATEMENT

To make disciples of
all people by sharing
the Good News of
Jesus, starting in
Ferriday.

The VOICE

NOVEMBER 2020

FROM OUR PASTOR

Gratitude Brings Victory (Source - The Urban Alternative)

Jesus then took the loaves, and having given thanks, He distributed to those who were seated; likewise also of the fish as much as they wanted. - John 6:11

Satan can't bear to hear us thank God for something He has given or allowed. Words of praise and thanksgiving lifted through song or prayer deeply disturb him. Yet we're commanded to praise the Lord even in times of spiritual darkness - even when it seems as though the enemy has blown out all the candles of hope.

Everyone agrees that this can be difficult at times. Instead of praising and singing words of adoration to our Father, we find ourselves crying out to Him and asking why a trial is happening to us.

Jesus understands your dilemma. He knows your heart and how it hurts. He also knows that the enemy seeks only to discourage you so you will give up, quit, and throw in the towel. This is my word to you: Do not do it. Ask your heavenly Father to help you praise Him, especially when you feel as though you can't utter a single word of thanksgiving.

In the book of John, Jesus looked up and saw the multitude of people that had gathered to hear Him speak. He knew that each one had deep needs. First, they were in need of a Savior. Second, they were in dire need of hope. These are still mankind's deepest needs today, and only the Savior has the ability to provide for each one.

Before the food was distributed, Jesus noticed that Philip was calculating how much it would cost to feed such a large group of people. God doesn't use human calculations to work out the details of life. Even though life may seem out of sorts, try praising Him, and He will supply every need you have.

What are you most grateful to have? It could be the very area that the enemy wants to attack, but through thanksgiving and praise, you can withstand and silence his assault.

During this season of Thanksgiving, be sure to take time and thank the LORD for all the blessings He has provided for you!

Love you ALL!

Bro. Thomas



**Don't forget to turn your
clocks back one hour be-
fore you go to bed Satur-
day Oct. 31st!
And remember to change
the batteries in your smoke
detectors, too!**

FROM OUR YOUTH PASTOR

October Ministry at FBC Ferriday began with such excitement and momentum. We had our church clean-up day on Saturday, October 3rd, and Sunday worship October 4th had the most people back in our sanctuary (74) since our first Covid shut-down back in March. Who would have thought that after that October 4th that our church would be hit so hard by this never ending virus. Many active members and ministers got Covid, with various symptoms for each person, some getting very sick and being hospitalized and some having very hard to tell symptoms. At this writing we still have a few in the hospital that need our prayers. The bottom line is that God is still in control and is healing people and our church.

We are opening back up and our church has been cleaned and sanitized. We are going to be even more careful and desire for our people to return to Sunday School and worship again as well as to Wednesday night. A key verse comes to mind that we all can lean on at this time in our country and church.

Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV) **28** Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke up on you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." This is an echo of the 1st Beatitude. This is an open invitation to all of us, but the only ones who will respond to the invitation are those who are burdened by their own spiritual bankruptcy and the weight of trying to save ourselves by keeping the law. The stubbornness of humanity's sinful rebellion is such that without a sovereignly-bestowed spiritual awakening, all sinners refuse to acknowledge the depth of spiritual poverty. That is why, as Jesus says in verse 27, our salvation is the sovereign work of God.

Many of us have been affected by this virus in many ways. We want things "back to normal" in all areas of our lives. One thing that does not need to return to normal may be our casual Christianity that keeps us from fully committing our lives to serving God in His Church and outside the Church walls. Our doors to the church facilities closed again October 5th. The opportunity to gather for worship in-person closed again. A lot has transpired over the past 7 1/2 months, but now we are opening back up again. Now it is time to return to in-person gathered worship. Though this statement is admittedly not theologically precise, it is time to "return to church." Why is it important to get back in the habit of regular and faithful attendance? Why should those connected to a local congregation make a new commitment to attend as regularly as possible? Here are five reasons.

1. **The Bible mandates we gather for worship.** The writer of Hebrews is unequivocal: "And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near" (Hebrews 10:25, NLT). Gathering for worship is not an optional activity. It is not an occasional activity. It is an ongoing and regular commitment.
2. **The Bible emphasizes the importance of the local church.** Think about it. After the four gospels, almost all of the New Testament is about the local church or directed to the local church. Throughout the New Testament different local congregations met together and worshipped together. It is simply what believers do.
3. **When we gather together, we encourage each other.** I adjusted okay to streaming services and Zoom community groups, but did not like meeting youth that way. I readily admit I did not get or give the same level of encouragement as those times when we were physically present with each other. Look at Hebrews 10:25 again. The act of gathering is an act of encouragement. Many have gotten used to watching services online and for some with health concerns may still need to, but many of us are healthy and need to be back in God's house. Children need to be a part of the fellowship again.
4. **When we gather together, we encourage our pastors.** The encouragement of one another includes the encouragement of our pastors. They desperately need it. You cannot know the challenges of a pastor and other staff unless you have been one or are one. The stress and responsibilities they have had during the pandemic have been especially challenging. The world acts surprised when a pastor takes his life. Sadly, I know the depths of pain many pastors feel. There are plenty of critics and discouragers for pastors and other staff. I pray that many people will return to the in-person gatherings with new levels of commitment. Our pastors and staff will be greatly encouraged.
5. **We grow spiritually when we commit to faithful attendance.** We grow as a believer in Christ when we have a committed prayer life. We grow when we are committed to read Scripture daily. We grow when we share our faith regularly. We grow when we serve in ministry. And we grow when we commit to attend worship services faithfully. That attendance is a spiritual discipline. It is a vital and necessary act toward greater spiritual maturity.

Praying for healthier days for our Church.

Upcoming Youth Ministry Events

Sunday Nov 15 9:15 a.m. - Youth Breakfast Sunday School. Youth/parents bring a little breakfast food and a friend as we meet all together for a lesson.

Wednesday Nov 18 5:30-7:15 p.m. - Youth Wednesday Night Special Dress up night. Will have food and dress can be Disney characters, bible characters, 80's or 50's look, check with Bro. Dan. NO SCARY or musically offensive artists please. Prizes for best dressed 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. Will have lesson, too.

Wednesday Nov 25 - No Youth Wednesday Night Thanksgiving week!

Youth/Parent/Leader Christmas Party 2020 will happen in December!

May we give thanks to God each and every day and praise His name and be thankful for so many blessings, even with all that is going on in this country. God is still in control, even after this election. Happy Thanksgiving BC Ferriday!

Psalm 100:4 - Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!

**Because of Jesus,
Bro. Dan**

FROM OUR MUSIC MINISTER

Shalom!!

The Hebrew word for peace. Got any? Want any? I can only speak for me, but my heart is screaming for it right now. I want peace in the midst of these storms. I think about our friends along the gulf coast of Louisiana and how discouraging it has to be to never finish repairs from one storm before your life is staring down the barrels of another equally devastating storm on the horizon. Such times lead us to despair, and potentially cause us to lose hope.

I'm starting my 4th week with Covid and am essentially cut off from outside help until the precious "negative" assessment is finally mine. It would be easy to despair...except for Peace that is mine because of hope in Jesus. Scripture tells us that Jesus doesn't promise to remove the storm but to "ride it out with us", giving HIS peace to sustain us. There is no one or nothing in this world that can give it. Only Jesus. I am grateful for His peace, His presence, and His provision in these storms. Thank you Jesus for always being with me regardless of my circumstances.

What's to become of our music ministry? That's going to pretty much depend on how you answer these next two questions.

1) What do you want it to be going forward?

2) What are YOU willing to do/give up/commit to to help us be the worshipping church God has called us to be?

We ARE starting again very soon. You in?

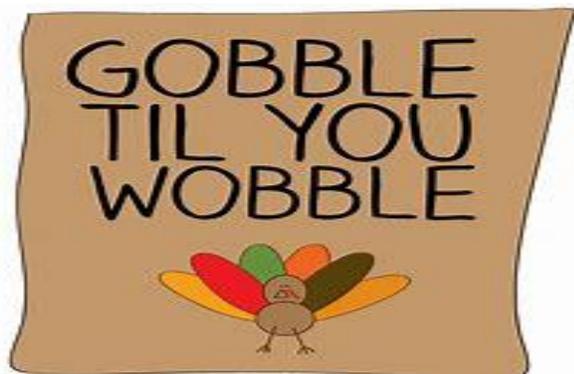
Love you all,

Butch

I was just cleared to resume life and will see you in church on November 1st!!!

FINANCES AS OF OCTOBER 2020

Spent YTD: \$165,386
 Budget Giving YTD: \$208,579



SS Nursery

Worship Service Nursery

Nov 1	Amber Jones	Jamie Hargis; Kara Worsham; Emily Merrill
Nov 8	Sarah Tyler	Sharon LaRavia; Susan Price; Linda Wiley
Nov 15	Rivers Ater	Rebecca Foster; Kimmie Wike; Peggy Wood
Nov 22	Amber Jones	Cheryl Colvin; Freda Williams; Diane Sass
Nov 29	Sarah Tyler	Sylvia Johns; Mary C. Blaylock; Hazel Goodwin

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6:00p Prayer Meeting
AWANA
Youth Bible Study



**Sunday School Classes
Resume on November 8th!**

DEACONS FOR NOVEMBER

- NOV 1 Nobby Walters 501-250-6419 or 501-270-0454
Wayne Roberts 318-437-7072
NOV 8 Bill Beasley 601-807-5237 or 318-757-4307
Robbie Hargis 318-719-5881
NOV 15 Bill Colvin 601-870-9681 or 318-757-7309
Roy Lance 318-201-0540
NOV 22 Dallas Batey 318-623-4730
Mark Welch 318-452-7999
NOV 29 Nobby Walters 501-250-6419 or 501-270-0454
Wayne Roberts 318-437-7072

DUTY SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

MONEY COUNTER

- NOV 1 - Sonny Jones
NOV 8 - Randy Maxwell
NOV 15 - Bill Beasley
NOV 22 - Nobby Walters
NOV 29 - Eddie Crow

BUILDING PATROL

- Bill Beasley
Terry Harvey
Roy Lance
Bill Colvin
Billy Freeman

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nov 1 - Ann Burley | Nov 21 - Kathy Knight |
| Nov 4 - Hadlee Young | Linda Wilson |
| Nov 6 - Tina Gaston | Nov 22 - Jordyn Jackson |
| Nov 7 - Dan Merrill | Nov 24 - Madison Wilson |
| Nov 8 - Erin Jackson | Nov 25 - Jimmy Finley |
| Leslie Wooten | Nov 26 - Layne Washington |
| Nov 9 - Mary Ann Adams | Megan Wike |
| Nov 15 - Bill Beasley | Nov 29 - Derrell Jackson |
| Nov 18 - Randy Maxwell | Nov 30 - Doug Wike |
| Jenny Gibson | Jamie Hargis |