

AUGUST, 2024
VOL. XXVIII, NO. 8

The MESSENGER

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From Your Pastor

I am tempted to say we are living in unprecedented times. The political arena seems more divided than ever. A failed assassination attempt, followed by what feels like mass confusion and political pressure to eliminate the other Presidential candidate, fuels more conspiracy theories than cornbread recipes in a Baptist cookbook. The cost and availability of everyday items are affecting every household. Our foreign adversaries seem to be lurking in the shadows. Boarders are imaginary, but the standards, which in the past united Americans are more like barbed-wire these days. Common sense is a foreign currency with little to no value in the market of reasonable conversation. People cannot (or at least will not) answer the simplest of questions: "What is a woman?" A man is the best women's swimmer? Wait ... what? If we had known that sooner, I could have been the "Dennis-Rodman-Rebounder" in all of Blue Mountain College women's basketball history! A man is still required to make a baby, but has long since been dismissed as a requirement to raise a child. No, the government will help support that. Not long ago, I met a 32-year-old grandmother. That should not be! Not so long ago, the government told us all to stay home from church. Some are never coming back. We have entire so-called Christian denominations that have gone so far off the rail that their proclamations are nothing less than blasphemy. Wearing a robe with a high-jacked-rainbow-stole-around-the-neck, with a manmade title of "Reverend" in front of one's name and a proverbial educational alphabet after your name does NOT make someone a "minister."

To identify God as a transgender woman who LOVES the very actions for which our HOLY GOD judged and destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah takes more salt than Lot's wife could serve up! So, yes, I am tempted to say we are living in unprecedented times. However, I choose NOT to fall to that temptation. The fear and shutter in our soul, which we could easily allow to rule our emotions, has always been a favorite tool of our adversary – the Evil One. Think of Adam & Eve's first night after being cast outside of the garden. They surely felt undone. Although they were safe and dry, think of the haunting screams Noah and his family heard after the door was closed on the Ark and the tumult and storm raised them off the moorings. What a confusing day at Babel when language became a barrier so great it made people move away from their neighbors. Imagine how betrayed and hated Joseph felt as he walked away from his brothers in chains on a caravan heading to Egypt and hundreds of other nights he sat in prison for NOT compromising with Potiphar's wife. Need I go through the entire Bible? Neither is the temptation to be uncertain only common to our spiritual heritage. It is true about our national heritage as well. April 15th is commonly associated with a bad day, known as "Tax Day." But it carried a much greater weight in 1865. At 7:22 A.M. President Abraham Lincoln was pronounced dead. Think of where our country stood on that day and the days that followed and yet, here we are. God has never relinquished His throne, nor will He ever. It almost seems that Charles Dickens lives among us because of his famous words, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolish-

ness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair" (A Tale of Two Cities). If left to man, foolishness, disbelief, darkness, and despair whisper about the valley of the shadow without hope. BUT GOD ... I've read the end of the book. Do not despair! I end with Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true ... honest ... just ... pure ... lovely ... of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."

Your Pastor and friend,

Bro. Dale

Ladies,
Make plans now to attend the **first annual Fall Ladies Banquet on Tuesday, September 24, from 6:00 - 8:30**, in the fellowship hall. There will be door prizes, dinner, books, Life Bead Jewelry, and Bible Study all for **\$10.00!** Sign up outside the fellowship hall. This special night will be led by Pam Pegram. Pam is a faith-based Leadership and Personal Growth Coach. She believes that we are all called to rise up and lead. Pam is the co-founder of Engage for More podcast whose mission is the help you engage and experience the "more" Jesus came to offer. Pam is the best-selling author of Saved by Grace, Now What? which walks us through how to stop practicing religion and start developing an intimate relationship with Jesus. (More about Pam in the next Messenger!) You will definitely want to attend this special Women's Ministry Night!

GINGER'S NOTES

Worshipping like Jesus

As we go about our daily lives we should always be focusing on Jesus and studying the Bible to become imitators of Jesus Christ. When we study Him and trace His character, we learn to pattern our lives after His and become imitators of Him. Jesus is our perfect model of worship! He lived every day in perfect harmony, obedience, and surrender to the Father. Every aspect of Jesus' life was an act of worship! He is the object of our worship AND the example of how to worship. We glorify God by becoming more and more like the greatest worshipper who ever lived, Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:1-2 tells us, "Therefore be imitators of God and walk in love."

WORSHIP CHOIR has resumed regular rehearsals! We meet on Wednesday nights at 6:00 in the choir room. We will be starting Christmas Music very soon.

This is a great time to join choir!

YOUTH CHOIR rehearsals resumed July 28. We welcome our upcoming 7th graders and any student who would like to join us! We will be rehearsing every Sunday afternoon in August. On August 4 we will be going to Calvary Baptist at 6:00 to join their community singing.

STUDENT-LED NIGHT OF WORSHIP will be Sunday night, August 11 at 6:00. It will feature our Youth Choir and a Youth Praise Band led by Samuel Hollis. Dalton Turnipseed will be our speaker for the night. We will follow this service with a finger food fellowship. Please make your plans to attend and invite others.

Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir and Orchestra auditions will be held here at FBC on Saturday, September 14 from 1:30-4:00. The tour will be

June 9-16, 2025. Students interested in auditioning need to see me ASAP to prepare and get your paper work in!

HAND BELLS – watch for rehearsal times in September for Adults, Youth and Children's hand bell groups! If you are not currently playing and are interested in playing, let me know.

He keeps me singing!

Blood Drive

Thursday, August 29
4:00-6:30 p.m.

Sign up outside the fellowship hall.

CONGRATULATIONS to *Marley Glusenkamp and Stance Henderson on the birth of their daughter, McCully June (MJ), June 27. Her proud grandparents are Todd and Lee Ann Glusenkamp. Also to Stanley and Claire Spradling on the birth of their grandson, James Douglas Dalrymple III (Trey), July 18. His parents are Jase and Anna Claire Dalrymple.*



Act Like Your Life Depends On It From "The Last Arrow" by Erwin Raphael McManus

"You need to act like your life depends on it, because it's never just your life involved. You need to never settle for less because the world desperately needs everything you can bring to the table. If you want to live a simple life, that's a beautiful thing. If you want to use it as an excuse to live beneath your God-given capacity, that is negligence.

"We do not help the world by choosing to be less or do less; we help the world by choosing to be more and give more. There is no virtue in being given 10 talents but choosing to be satisfied with living as if we had only one talent.

"I wonder how many of us will find ourselves in a conversation with the Creator of the universe asking us, "Why did you settle for less? Why did you allow your weaknesses to define who you are? Why didn't you act as if your life depended on it? Why did you give up on life? Why did you give up on me?"

"A leper is more powerful than a king if the leper is stepping into the life God created him to live and the king is not. And though they seem to live in completely different worlds, the leper and the king are connected. We are all connected. We feel this interconnection when someone else's life affects our live, and we feel it when someone else's choices directly affect our choices, but more often than not we underestimate how our lives affect the lives of others."

2 Corinthians 12:15 "I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls."

August 4 - Pop Up Sunday
August 7 - Wednesday Night Activities Resume

Children's Worship

Preschool Worship

- 4 - Michelle Williamson/Ann Holt
- 11 - Joedee and Leslie Robinson
- 18 - Hannah Weston/Shanna Ferrell
- 25 - Farrah and Madison Honea

Children's Church

- 4 - Does not meet
- 11 - Jade and Farrah Honea
- 18 - Jade and Casey Berry
- 25 - Jade and Shanna Ferrell

Welcome New Members!!



By Baptism:
Luke Funderburg



By Letter:
Red and Phyliss Moore

THANK YOU NOTES have been received from Jimmy Clark and family, and from the Warren and Swindol families.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Jimmy Clark and Caroline Warrington and families in the death of Judy Clark, July 1.

First Students

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, since He who promised is faithful.
Hebrews 10:24

Church family,

We have officially made it through the summer month, and a new school year is here. We have had a full and very eventful summer, but it has been a great season of growth in the lives of our students that I am thankful to have been able to witness. As we move into another school year, my hope is that the spirit of our students would continue to be excited about doing the work of the ministry by spreading the name of Jesus. In order to help our students in that, I will again need some help with our Wednesday night small groups.

We will kick off **small groups** again starting on August 7th and will continue to move through our Jesus

Studies that we began last year. If you are interested in being a small group leader or helping with our student ministry in any way, please feel free to reach out to me. My desire is for our students to have as many positive adult influences in their lives as possible while simultaneously sharing the gospel with them each week.

For all of you softball fans out there, we would love for you to come and support our **FBC softball team** in the adult co-ed league throughout the month of August. We will play two days each week between Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. We have several church members, including several of our youth, that are participating on this year's team. Below will be a list of the dates and times that we will be playing if you would like to come and support! As we get back into the school year, there will certainly be many more activities to look forward to and more opportunities to serve with our students, so please be in prayer for our

student ministry as always!

- Joseph

FBC Softball Schedule

Tuesday, July 30, 5:45 pm Field #2
vs. Double Trouble

Thursday, August 1, 5:45 pm Field #2
vs. Camels 2

Monday, August 5, 5:45 PM Field #2
vs. Double Trouble

Tuesday, August 6, 5:45 PM Field #4
vs. Camels 1

Tuesday, August 13, 5:45 PM Field #4
vs. Yokohama

Thursday, August 15, 5:45 PM Field #2
vs. Double Trouble

Saturday, August 17, Playoff Tournament

Any groups (deacons, women's ministry, men's ministry, missions, small groups, committees, choirs, ensembles, children, youth, and adults) who are planning events or meetings in September must email or call Kelli with dates, times, and details by August 21. (fbcwpkelli@gmail.com)



MORNING WORSHIP - 10:15 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:00 a.m.

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2	3 MEN'S MINISTRY FISH FRY 5:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall
4	Poppin' Up! Promotion Day in Sunday School Youth Choir - 5:00 pm	5	6	7 Supper - 5:00 p.m. Children's Choirs - 5:30 p.m. Children's Missions, Prayer Meeting, Youth Worship, Worship Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 p.m.	8	9	10
11	Wedding Shower for Lauren Billington & William Sartin 1:00-2:00 Student-led Night of Worship - 6:00 pm	12	13	14 Supper - 5:00 p.m. Children's Choirs - 5:30 p.m. Children's Missions, Prayer Meeting, Youth Worship, Worship Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 p.m.	15	16	17
18	Youth Choir - 5:00 pm	19	20 Joy Seitz WMU Meeting 10:00 a.m.	21 Supper - 5:00 p.m. Children's Choirs - 5:30 p.m. Children's Missions, Prayer Meeting, Youth Worship, Worship Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 p.m.	22	23	24
25	Special Offering for the Dream Center Youth Choir - 5:00 pm	26	27	28 Supper - 5:00 p.m. Children's Choirs - 5:30 p.m. Children's Missions, Prayer Meeting, Youth Worship, Worship Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 p.m.	29 Blood Drive Fellowship Hall	30	31



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

August 7

Taco Salad
Corn
Chips
Lemon Pie

August 21

Spaghetti
Green Beans
Salad
Garlic Bread
Brownie

August 14

BBQ Chicken
Lima Beans
Fried Squash
Roll
Yellow Cake/Choc.Icing

August 28

Hamburger
Fries
Brownie

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

	6/30	7/7	7/14	7/21
Sunday School	197	172	199	195
Morning Worship	280	265	294	297

BUDGET NEEDS

Average Weekly Budget Receipts for June
\$14,345.45
Weekly Budget Needs
\$21,945.92

NURSERY CALENDAR

August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
Mary Ann Briggs Terri Pierce Farrah Honea	Wesley Frost Taylor Frost Kimberly Allen	Shana Cliett Kaylee Cliett Kelli Mowry	Ann Holt Debbie Hargrove Rasheda Burnett

TITHES & OFFERINGS

June Online Giving

\$10,857.30

June Online ECM Deposits

\$19,089.38

June 30, 2024

Undesignated \$14,680.00
Reimbursements \$1,089.76
Child Care \$5,547.00
Total Operating \$21,316.76
Designated \$142.00
Total Deposit \$21,458.76

July 7, 2024

Undesignated \$15,511.60
Reimbursements \$391.48
Child Care \$5,407.50
Total Operating \$21,310.58
Designated \$77.00
Total Deposit \$21,387.58

July 14, 2024

Undesignated \$14,618.00
Child Care \$16,220.22
Total Operating \$30,838.22
Designated \$1,197.00
Total Deposit \$32,035.22

July 21, 2024

Undesignated \$9,520.00
Reimbursements \$15.00
Child Care \$5,234.16
Total Operating \$14,769.16
Designated \$412.00
Total Deposit \$15,181.16

GIVE UNTO THE LORD
the glory due unto
HIS NAME; WORSHIP
THE LORD IN
THE BEAUTY
of holiness.

...

Psalms 29:2

First Baptist Church

Rev. Dale Funderburg
Pastor

Ginger Fowler
Minister of Music

Joseph Blount
Minister of Students

Joedee Robinson
Minister of Children
and Family Ministry

Sarah Burton
ECM Director

Caroline Warrington
Children's Ministry Intern

Samuel Hollis
Music Ministry Intern