

# the KEY

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 366 • Mendenhall, MS 39114  
Phone: 601-847-2488  
www.fbcmendenhall.org



### FBC CHURCH STAFF

#### Ministers:

Dr. Joe Wiggins, Pastor  
Rev. Ian Richardson, Interim Music Minister  
Mrs. MeShay Franklin, Children's Minister

#### Ministry Assistants:

Miss Sue Nell McMillan  
Mrs. Kim Brewer  
Mrs. Coni Jolly  
Mrs. Sheri Warren

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Volume XXXIII, No. 43

Dr. Joe Wiggins, Pastor

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

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### ***From the Pastor*** \_\_\_\_\_

Dear church family,

When I was a little boy, I looked forward to October for one major reason - Halloween! I liked to go shopping for a new costume to wear. I enjoyed watching the Charlie Brown special about the Great Pumpkin on television. I even looked forward to putting up the Halloween decorations. But most of all, I looked forward to going trick-or-treating and getting candy.

In recent years, many people have become critical of Halloween. They claim it is a pagan holiday and many of the traditions and practices associated with Halloween began with the rituals of false religions. Well, they are exactly right! But there are also traditions associated with Christmas and Easter that were parts of ancient superstitions and beliefs. But Halloween has taken the fall and many Christians do not even recognize it as a special day on the calendar.

These days, fewer children go trick-or-treating. I believe that speaks more of the times we live in than the aversion to celebrating any traditions associated with Halloween. I knew practically every family that lived in our neighborhood. My parents didn't worry about me going door-to-door and accepting candy from our neighbors. But those days are gone and today we recognize the dangers of letting our kids loose on the streets after dark.

So, should Christians celebrate Halloween? Well, Halloween is a holiday that celebrates fear. From jack-o-lanterns, witches, ghosts and goblins to dressing up in frightening costumes, Halloween is a day for scary things. It is a holiday that creates a climate of fear. In 2 Timothy 1:7, Paul writes, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind".

But when we keep our kids home because we believe celebrating Halloween is contrary to what the Bible teaches, most children don't understand. They just know they're missing out on fun and bag full of candy! But we can provide an alternative. October 31 is just another day on the calendar. So rather than let the devil use it for his wicked purposes, let's take it back and use it to honor and glorify God. First Baptist Church will once again be hosting our Fall Festival on October 30th. There will be food, games and, of course, candy for children of all ages. They can even dress up in costumes, as long as they're not scary. I'll be there with my family and I hope to see you there too. Let's make this season a time to "hallow Him" who died for us and celebrate the sweet fellowship we enjoy as Christians!

God Bless You,  
Bro. Joe

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### **NURSERY**

#### **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27**

Tyler and Leslie O'Neal – (Babies)  
Joseph and Ancy Rushing -- (2's & 3's)

#### ***Children's Church***

Stacie and Cindy Sullivan

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### **TECHNOLOGY**

Sound .....Jason Wallace  
Camera ..... Steve Byrd  
Projector AM..... Wayne Hilton  
Projector PM.....Sheri Warren

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### **DEACON OF THE WEEK**

October 27 – November 2  
Robby Sullivan and James Crain  
**Security** – October 27  
Eddie Clardy and Gary Cline

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## VITAL STATISTICS

**OCTOBER 20, 2024**

BIBLE STUDY ATTENDANCE.....	235
In House.....	182
Homebound.....	20
Shelter.....	0
Bedford.....	18
Strong River.....	15
DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING.....	58
BUDGET OFFERING.....	\$ 12,467.00
DISASTER RELIEF.....	\$ 10.00
FBCCHILDCARE.....	\$ 1,300.00
MISCELLANEOUS.....	\$ 200.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 13,977.00
REQUIREMENT.....	\$ 801,222.00
RECEIPTS (41).....	\$ 897,215.03
OVER BUDGET.....	\$ 95,993.03

### IN THE HOSPITAL

**Blair Batson**

Ava Katherine Patterson

### BUSINESS MEETING

Wednesday, October 23 – 6:30 p.m.

### BUDGET PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Sunday, October 27  
following evening worship service



### Each Sunday

OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP

Sunday School.....	9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship.....	10:30 a.m.
Discipleship Training.....	5:00 p.m.
Evening Worship.....	6:00 p.m.



Sunday, October 27 – 7:30 a.m.  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER



Wednesday, October 30  
6:00 p.m. – Family Life Center  
Bring your favorite Chili recipe!  
Candy donations needed – bags of  
individually wrapped candy!

## Christian Sympathy to...

Zilpha (ZZ) Smith and family in the death of her nephew, Michael Ford.

Anita East and family in the death of her uncle, Mike Hardy.

## Thank You!

Thank you to all the FBC members, staff, daycare staff, and youth group for all you did for my son Ayden's funeral. Thank you for allowing the family to hold the service there, for the flowers sent and those that fed the family afterwards.

My family appreciates all of you and thanks you for all that you did. The church and daycare hold a special place in my heart.

Thanks always,  
Noel Acy



### CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.  
Discipleship Groups  
5:45 p.m. each Sunday



Shoobox item donations may be brought to church office (boxes placed outside office)

PACK YOUR SHOEBOXES NOW if you choose and bring to church office. Collection will be in November!



## The Key

First Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 366 • Mendenhall, MS 39114

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization  
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Mendenhall, MS 39114



### BIBLE STUDY AND DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Bible Study Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.

Discipleship Groups – Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

### Discipleship Training – All Ages!!

Sunday evenings – 5:00 p.m.

“Which Team are You On?” – Jentezen Franklin (Oct. 27)

### PRAY FOR OUR SEARCH COMMITTEES

**YOUTH:** Josh Pierce, Chairman – Candice Wolken -- Amanda Broadhead  
Melissa Anderson -- Chad Bradley – Blake Byrd – William Emrich  
Alternates: Kristin Wall and Terry Williamson

**MUSIC:** Ross Walton – Maurice Gaskin – Max Ponder – Todd Sullivan  
Dixie Everett – Marbeth Gray – Judy Lee – Alternate: Delwyn Pruett