

Church members discuss the most powerful memories at First Baptist Church at the Visioning Session on September 14.



Volume 82 Issue 19

September 21, 2025

From the Pastor...

Our first Visioning/Spiritual Discernment Session last Sunday was a blast. It was so energizing to hear folks share their stories of meaningful moments at First Baptist Church. From those meaningful moments, we harvested a list of values our church shares.

We start with our values, because we want to carry those forward in anything we do. Four of our top values were, demonstrating love, doing missions, caring with compassion, and investing in children and youth.

The post-it notes we used are still on the wall in the Family Life Center Fellowship Hall. I hope you will go read these. I also invite you to add your meaningful moment and value it represents. Materials and instructions are there for you.

We will always hold our core values, but visioning and spiritual discernment also call us to be open to new ways of expressing these. Since I'm an older guy who doesn't always like change, I decided to lead the way.

I've been a little afraid of using artificial intelligence, but I decided to risk trying it. The chart you see is a word-cloud created by Microsoft 365 Copilot. Not a bad visual of how our historic values can be demonstrated in a new way!



Schedule

Sunday, September 21

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

11:15 After Worship Sunday School

Monday, September 22

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, September 24

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 Wond. Wed. After-School Program

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Music & Missions, Youth on Mission,
Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, September 25

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, September 28

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

1:15 After Worship Sunday School

Monday, September 29

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, October 1

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 Wond. Wed. After-School Program

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Music & Missions, Youth on Mission,
Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, October 2

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Happy Birthday

October 1

Renee Gilliam

October 2

Mia Acosta

James Foushee

Jimmy Webb

Rebecca West

October 3

Carol Hunter

October 5

Nelson Granade

October 7

Rose Leonard

October 9

Hazel Crouch

Mary Alice Lowrance

October 13

Teresa Earp

Wilma McNiel

October 14

Nan Johnson

Vonnie Jordan

October 16

Franklin Ivey

Carolyn Saddler

Matthew Waugh

October 19

Crystal Beale

Phil Johnston

Nancy Hughes

October 22

Shirley Brendle

Jan Petree

Beth Webb

October 23

Rex Card

Lisa Houston

James McNiel

October 25

Judy Horney

October 27

Ginny Devine

October 28

Pam Potter

October 30

Sam Buckner

Jody Parlier

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
Mrs. Kristina Kyles.....Children's Ministry Associate / Preschool Director
Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions
Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
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Spiritual Statistics

	9/7	9/14
In Person	202	167
Live Stream	20	16
Sunday School	85	72

Financial Statistics

	September	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	62,687.00	811,013.00
Budget Receipts	62,121.00	798,089.00
Goals Not Met	(566.00)	(12,924.00)

A Message from Minister of Missions Elizabeth Kilby

I feel like I am about to sing Partridge in a Pear Tree as we count down and reflect on all the amazing things that have happened in missions recently.

- 150+ served within our clothes closet
- 150+ cans of meat for food pantries
- 150+ boxes of mac & cheese for food pantries
- 150+ high fives given at NB Mills
- 150 items for kids donated to clothes closet
- 132 cases of food donated for food pantry
- 100 hygiene bags for PowerCross
- 100 notes of encouragement to our schools
- 75+ pieces of medical equipment donated to make room for more
- 50 hygiene for the detention center
- 50 hygiene bags to Iredell Christian Ministries
- 50 hygiene bags to Yokefellow Ministries
- 47 snack bags for our local school
- 37 sets of sheets for Fifth Street Ministries
- 31 bags of food collected for food pantries
- 6 dump loads of debris cleaned out of yards
- 5 stocked laundry baskets of supplies for residents rehoused from Brookwood Inn.
- 5 gallon bucket of paint painted at Boys & Girls club
- 4 boxes of school supplies for our partner school.
- 3 days of work at Black Mountain Children's home
- 1 dump truck full of mulch spread

We have had such a full and busy year. There is more that should be added to the list. This does not include an ounce of the countless items, dollars and prayers that have gone into disaster relief and recovery. Thank you for making this and so much more possible.

Elizabeth Kilby

During their time of Missions on Wednesday, September 10, the children prepared food bags for our Clothes Closet. This mission project is part of our 150th Anniversary Celebration.





Announcements

Dried, Silk, & Artificial Flowers Needed

Do you have dried, silk, or artificial flowers you no longer want? Please bring them to Jerry Campbell or leave your donations on the pew near the portico driveway. Jerry is creating floral arrangements with the re-purposed flowers for the Household Items room in our Clothes Closet. Our shoppers really appreciate a touch of beauty for their homes. Vases are not needed. Thank you!

Trunk or Treat



Sunday, October 26
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.



Children of all ages are invited for a fun evening of trunk or treating. Please let Melissa know if you'd like to decorate your trunk. We will need LOTS of candy.

Visioning Session - Sunday, September 14, 2025

