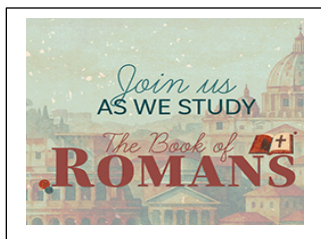


Growing the Family of God

Telling the Story

Serving the Community

Nurturing Believers



“A Season for Returning”

October has a way of slowing us down. The air cools, the leaves turn, and creation itself seems to whisper, “Pay attention.” Fall is a season of returning — returning to rhythms, returning to gratitude, returning to the Lord.

In Romans 2, Paul reminds us that God sees not only what is public, but what is hidden. He speaks of “the day when God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.” That isn’t meant to frighten believers — it’s meant to awaken us. God’s desire is not to expose us, but to restore us. Not to shame us, but to shape us.

And October is the perfect month to let Him do that.

As the trees release what they no longer need, we are invited to do the same. To let go of the grudges we’ve carried, the habits that drain us, the sins we’ve excused, and the burdens we were never meant to hold. God’s kindness is leading us toward repentance — not because He is harsh, but because He is good.

This month, I want to encourage you to slow down. Take a walk. Sit with Scripture. Pray with honesty. Ask the Lord to search your heart

and show you what He wants to heal. The God who sees our secrets is also the God who forgives them. He meets us with mercy, not condemnation.

As we move toward Thanksgiving season, let’s begin now — returning to the Lord with open hands and open hearts. May October be a month of renewal for you, your family, and our church.

In His Service, Pastor Gene

United in Christ
Together in Mission



world
mission
offering

**World Mission Offering
will be accepted on Sunday,
October 25, 2026.**

Board Minutes September 21, 2026

Adult Ministries:

Ruth Circle has successfully collected shoe boxes. Moving forward, Ruth Circle will also be collecting shoe boxes for Christmas.

Children/Youth: ABK is held on Wednesday's at 6:00pm, and ABK started with 19 children on the first Wednesday.

Facilities: Kreiling Roofing was hired for roofing repairs. A fan in the Gym was fixed, and some flooring repairs are needed for 2 of the Sunday School rooms.

Sunday School: August's average attendance was 17 with an Offering of \$19.00.

Moderator: Food Pantry- August brought 54 families with 134 people that were served with Love and Nourishment.

Stewardship: World Mission Offering is October 25, 2026.

Fellowship: *October 31st*—"Drive Thru Treats" from 4:30pm – 730pm. Also, candy donations will be accepted for this as well.

"The Gathering" is November 6, 7, 8.

Pastor Gene: The Ability Church is still meeting twice a month. Pastor Gene is handling the service temporarily due to the illness of the leader. The 6:00 pm worship service continues to meet weekly. We have been busy planning fall activities.

Thanksgiving Feast

November 22, 2026

Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us on November 22, 2026, for our annual Thanksgiving Feast following worship service.

Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, and beverages will be provided. Bring a dish to share and Everyone is Welcome!

Drive and Treat

On Saturday October 31st, we will be Hosting our annual 'Drive and Treat' on the circle drive in front of the Church. Come take a slow drive around the circle and 'Trick or Treat' from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm!

If you are interested in helping with this event, we need donations of bags of Halloween candy. Please see Harlin Dean for more information.

LUMOS

Performance

Feel the Warmth of
Every Note on
October 3rd during
the 6:30 pm and
8:30 pm
experience!



Date	Name
1	Roman Battleson
4	Darlene Garrett
5	Christian Waggoner
	Erick & Candace
9	McInerney
11	Brenda Dodd
11	Eric & Missy Hoover
16	Dean Easton
21	Joe Stanton
22	Julie Amdor
22	Ken Ferguson
23	Jackson Harder
23	Terry Stanton
25	Rick Golliday
27	Judy Leach
28	Erick McInerney
28	Emily Miller
29	Teri Newsome



Today as I write this, all the school-age kids are in full swing of classrooms, sports, clubs, etc. This is always a new adventure with a lot of ups and downs. As we prepare for the Fall and upcoming Winter programs, we ask for your prayers. Please remember that this is OUR ministry here at First Baptist Church and You have a part in it! We need your prayers and for those willing to stretch themselves, we need you. Please consider getting involved. It can be as simple as coming and helping serve snacks to the kids or monitoring them as they play.

ABK

ABK began on Wednesday September 9th. We will meet weekly on Wednesday at 6:00 pm. Remember that if school is canceled or dismissed early due to weather, ABK will be canceled.

Youth Group

The senior high youth group will continue to meet on Friday evenings when they are available. Times and dates will be announced in the bulletin or in the newsletter.

~Barb Tholen



Pastor Appreciation Month

“Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.” – Jeremiah 3:15

Did you know that October is Pastor Appreciation Month? We are blessed to have Pastor Gene with us, and this is the perfect time to let him know just how much we appreciate everything he does and the sacrifices he makes in his service here at FBC.

Bible Study Fellowship for Women Encounter God. Build Friendships

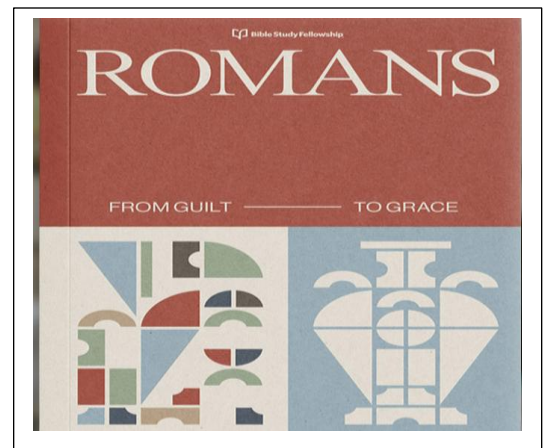
Who We Are

Bible Study Fellowship is a free, interdenominational, 30-week study for all ages and levels of Bible knowledge to explore God’s Word in community. We teach, train, and mobilize individuals to know and love God and others through His Word. Learn more at bsfinternational.org.

Romans

From Guilt to Grace

Romans speaks to our deepest struggles—doubt, pride, fear, and guilt—and leads us to God’s grace. Written for ordinary people, it offers real hope for real life. For those exploring faith, Romans reveals true freedom and unshakeable hope. For believers, it reminds us that the God who saves also transforms—moving us from striving to surrender, from fear to faith, and from guilt to grace.



**Prayer Chain Number
(815) 419-4454**

If you wish to receive prayer chain calls, please contact the church office at 815.842.4321 and request that your name and number be added to the list.