

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2024

FROM MAJOR TREADWAY

“Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and unto God the things that are God’s.”

These familiar words from Jesus were first spoken in response to a question about paying taxes. But they seem a good reminder to keep us grounded in the month of October. Though it may be hard to imagine, October is set to be marked by even more political advertising and reporting than we have yet seen, all leading to election day.



And this is where Jesus’ comment regarding what is Caesar’s and what is God’s can help us. We can consider our resources (finances, time, energy, effort) and how we might appropriately render unto Caesar and God that which belongs to each. We might also consider how our political engagement fits in – up to and including our votes.

However, as we consider our faith, we do not need to render it to the coming election, no matter how many commercials, billboards, yard signs, and bumper stickers might try to convince us otherwise.

That is not to say that the coming election is not important. It is. And we should give it its due. Yet, no candidate on the ballot is our God. And this I think is the point of how Jesus responded to those asking about taxes.

Yes, taxes and elections are important. Give them the attention and energy they deserve. They are also not all that is important. In the month ahead, let’s be mindful of our attention, our time, our energy, and our resources. Let’s try to ensure that in all these things, and in all the others, we render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and render unto God the things that are God’s.



HYMN HIGHLIGHT

By Nenette Measels, Minister of Music and Worship

On November 3, we will observe All Saints Day. As we worship we praise God for those saints mentioned in the Bible and in church history who fought the good fight, remained faithful, and now shine in glory as saints of God. We also remember those who personally influenced our lives—ministers, teachers, family, friends, and acquaintances. One meaningful tradition of our church is to remember the lives of those of our church family who we have lost by death this past year. The hymn “For All the Saints”, #567, *Celebrating Grace Hymnal*, voices our tribute:

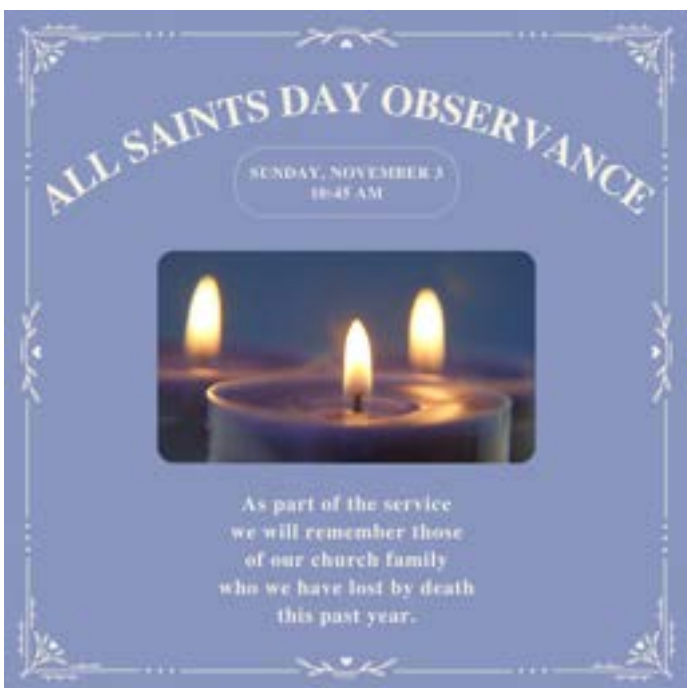
1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

2 Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

4 And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

5 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
in praise of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia!



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Operational Budget Income & Expense through August 2024

Items of Interest

- **Online Giving** is simple and convenient, and you do not have to set up a Realm account to give online. Visit: <https://onrealm.org/fbcjeff/give/now> to initiate an online gift today!
- **Designated Benevolence Fund total** (as of 9/25/2024) = **\$30.94**

	May	June	July	August
Income	\$34,189.65	\$42,785.32	\$23,359.78	\$35,984.25
Expenses	\$27,692.35	\$28,930.09	\$43,992.67	\$28,986.53
Net	\$6,497.30	\$13,855.23	\$20,632.89	\$6,997.72
YTD	\$7,757.00	\$21,362.23	\$863.20	\$7,860.92

ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
September 1	50	98
September 8	48	88
September 15	Churchwide Event	101
September 22	42	102
September 29	50	98

DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

October 6: Leon Shoemaker & Peggy Dalton/Chad Hartsock

October 13: Carolyn Blevins & Jim Wilson/Nenette Measels

October 20: Susan Garber & Ken Morton/Major Treadway

October 27: Mel Hawkins & Betty Watkins/Chad Hartsock



YOUTH MINISTRY

By Chad Hartsock, Minister for Students

FBCJC YOUTH

Fall Retreat

10/12 - 10/14

Great Smoky Mountains



Church Ministries Meeting

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

In the Fellowship Hall immediately following the Worship service.

Lunch will be provided!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Bethany Davenport, Chair, Children and Youth Committee



Join us for our annual Trunk-or-Treat!

This is always a fun and festive time for our church and community. We hope you'll bring friends, family, and neighbors to celebrate!

Want to help? Here's what we need...

TRUNKS: It's our goal to have 20 trunks this year. Decorate your trunk and hand out candy!

Game runners: Volunteer to run a game and hand out prizes!

Candy: Drop off your candy donations in the bins by the covered entrance or in the foyer.

Volunteers: It's always helpful to have extra hands during the event. Volunteer to greet guests, refill trunks with candy, take pictures, etc!

Contact Bethany or anyone on the Children and Youth Team with your questions!

Support those affected by Hurricane Helene:

- Give to FBC Erwin Disaster Response Fund at www.erwinfirst.org
- Give to CBF Global Disaster Response Fund at www.classy.org/give/144748



SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

9:30am Sunday Bible Studies
10:45am Worship Service

CONTACT INFO

(865) 475-3826; (865) 262-9026 (Fax)
Church Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Find us at www.fbcjeff.org or follow us online on *Facebook* and *YouTube*

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