

THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 2025

On November 2, before the next Messenger is published, we will celebrate All Saints' Sunday. The Saints of the church, historically speaking, are, most simply put, those people whom we assume are already in the nearer presence of God. Over the years the process by which one is named a Saint has become more formalized and ritualized. And now, there are people whom are known as Saints. St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Patrick, St. Nicholas, among many, many others.



Many of these Saints have specific days on which they are remembered and celebrated: St. Patrick – March 17, St. Andrew – November 30, St. Nicholas – December 6, St. Peter and St. Paul share a date – June 29. The practice of honoring Saints goes all the way back to at least the year 100 A.D. Remember, there were no Christians until around 30-33 A.D. So within one lifetime, the gathered communities of faith had begun to remember, honor, and celebrate Christians who had died.

This unregulated honoring of Saints continued for nearly 300 years, when, following the Great Persecution of the first decade of the fourth century, there were too many martyrs to assign a day to each of them. So the church sought to find a way to honor all of the saints, and so birthed All Saints' Day more than 1,600 years ago.

At First Baptist, we celebrate All Saints' Sunday as a part of our worship on the first Sunday in November. During the service, we will call the names of those who have been a significant part of this family of faith who have, since the last All Saints' Day, passed into the nearer presence of God. As we call their names and remember them, and their impact on our lives and the life of this community of faith, we will light a candle when each name is called, and we will join our hearts and voices in saying, "Thanks be to God!"

All of this, a beautiful and sobering reminder that one day, it will be some other saints of the church, who will call each of our names, and remember, honor, and celebrate our lives. And so, on Sunday, November 2, we will celebrate those who have gone before us, those who are already gathered in the nearer presence of God. For them we give thanks. We remember the lives they lived. We celebrate the ways that they have shaped and influenced us as individuals and as a community of faith. We honor these saints and all the saints. Thanks be to God.

HYMN HIGHLIGHT

By Nenetta Measels, Minister of Music and Worship

When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

Matthew 17:8

“Where there is no vision the people perish” (Prov. 29:18). No generation has proven this scripture true more than this one. Our church family has recently gone through four Dawnings sessions of revisioning our identity and ministry with the Dawnings Leadership Team’s and God’s guidance. We may sometimes feel that we’re in a period of darkness without hope. God can help us see ourselves. Once this happens our entire outlook can be altered. Life will have a new purpose. People will have a new value. The future will have a new optimism because Christ will be our vision. “Be Thou My Vision”, written by Mary E. Byrne in 1905 with the version in our hymnal by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, with a traditional Irish melody, appears in at least 145 hymnals.* May this be our prayer as we look only to Jesus for our vision:

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul’s shelter, and Thou my high tower,
Raise Thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always:
Thou and thou only first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heav’n’s Sun!
Heart of my heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

*The Worshiping Church: A Hymnal, Worship Leader’s Edition,
Hope Publishing Co., 1991

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Operational Budget Income & Expense through September 2025

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 09/30/2025) = \$1,458.10

	June	July	August	September
Income	\$32,731.23	\$30,071.78	\$31,611.78	\$23,162.03
Expenses	\$28,467.20	\$38,650.21	\$29,197.57	\$25,745.53
Net	\$4,264.03	(\$8,578.43)	\$2,414.21	(\$2,583.50)
YTD	\$8,835.37	\$256.94	\$2,671.15	\$87.65

ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
September 7	32	84
September 14	45	74
September 21	48	95
September 28	43	95

DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

- October 6:** Leon Shoemaker/Peggy Dalton/Major Treadway
October 13: Carolyn Blevins/Jim Wilson/Chad Hartsock
October 20: Susan Garber/Karen Smith/Nenette Measels
October 27: Peggy Dalton/Betty Watkins/Major Treadway

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Bethany Davenport, Chair, Children and Youth Committee

FALL



with **First Jeff Kids**

SEP
28
AFTER CHURCH
Lunch/like
Panther Creek
State Park




OCT
1
5:45 PM
Ride & Roll
Location: TBD

OCT
15
5:45 PM
Bonfire
Home of the
Treadways



OCT
19
3:00 PM
One Knox
Covenant
Health Park

OCT
26
4:00-5:30 PM
Trunk-or-Treat
FBC Jeff



NOV
16
5:00 PM
Friends-giving
FBC Jeff

NOV
19
6:00 PM
Churchwide Thanksgiving
FBC Jeff



**TRUNK
•OR•
TREAT**

FBC JEFFERSON CITY
OCTOBER 26TH
4:00-5:30

CANDY
GAMES AND PRIZES
S'MORES
FACE PAINTING



A Blessing for Being

Wherever you find yourself right now,
whether at work, or at home,
or in one of the countless other places,
remember that God calls you to “Be still and know that I am God.”

Despite the schedules and the busyness of today,
may the peace of God cover you
like clouds blanket a mountain.

God calls you to
“Be still and know that I am.”

Amidst your comings and goings, may you pause
long enough for your lungs to fill with good, deep breath.

Remember to
“Be still and know.”

May you make the time to
find God in the quiet.
“Be still.”

Stop what you are doing and just “Be.”

*Biblical Blessings, Prayers of the People, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

WOMEN'S RETREAT

NOVEMBER 7-9 • SEVIERVILLE, TN

The focus of this retreat is to grow our relationships with one another.
Much of the weekend is intentionally unstructured.

- GROUP SESSIONS
- SHARED MEALS
- BOARD GAMES
- BONFIRE
- MOVIES
- HIKING
- READING
- HOT TUB
- RESTING

Scholarships available!

Accommodations:

Bunk beds & shared queen/king beds in a 4,000 sq ft house. There are limited spots for overnight stay, so sign up early!



\$100 *

(\$50 for Saturday only)

**register by October 1*

After October 1: \$115 for the weekend, or \$60 for Saturday only

Contact **Susan Garber** with questions, for scholarships, or to sign up!

865-621-1120
SusanGarber@gmail.com

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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