



MISSISSIPPI FREE WILL BAPTISTS



MESSENGER UPDATE

January 27, 2026

For Christ We Strive in 2025

THE MISSISSIPPI ASSOCIATION OF FREE WILL BAPTISTS

[Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists \(msfwb.org\)](http://Mississippi State Association of Free Will Baptists (msfwb.org))

msafwb22@gmail.com text at (662)213-0231

NORTH MISSISSIPPI FREE WILL BAPTISTS HIT BY ICE / SNOWSTORM



Most of our congregations across North Mississippi cancelled or the Pastors did a Facebook or YouTube for Sunday service times. A list of the congregations across North Mississippi and their service status was posted on Mississippi State Association

of Free Will Baptist. Many are still without electricity or just have had it restored. We are thankful for the many utility workers who braved the cold and danger working long tiring hours. Eight Day of Hope, headquartered in Tupelo, is providing hot lunches in seral spots in the area hit by storm, Fern. Continue to pray for, and assist when possible, those who in need as recovery will continue for some time.



LAST CHANCE -TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

We always look to the readers of the MESSENGER to join in and give us a "Slogan"! It's time for the year 2026's slogan and we need your participation.

Send an email to msafwb22@gmail.com or text it to 662-213-0231. Our Executive Board will choose the slogan, and a gift card will be awarded to the person whose slogan was selected.



CROSSWALK – NEW ALBANY

Greetings to you from your state mission project at Crosswalk Free Will Baptist Church in New Albany, MS.

The ice storm hit Union County (as well as many others) very hard. We are still without electricity at the church as well as our home. Some of our members are without power also. There is no damage to the church building so far. We do have trees down on the parking lot.

All services at Crosswalk FWBC are cancelled until further notice.

Our prayers are with you! Please pray for us. God bless you and stay safe.

Pastor Thomas and Lisa Loyd

HISPANIC MINISTRY- Rick Bowling



Please continue to pray for and support Brother Rick Bowling and the Hispanic Ministry. Mississippi Free Will Baptist's partnership is positively impacting many families, and your continued involvement is essential to its success and service within the Hispanic community.

Dr. Rufo Gomez is doing. a awesome work in Middle Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, Mexico, Honduras and now he is looking for a family to go to Iowa. We have a few churches without pastors who are open to opening a Hispanic Ministry. Pray for this situation that God would provide the family to go to Iowa and doors opened for a place for them to meet. A lot of Hispanics have never heard the Word .

Thanks Mississippi for doing your part in the Kingdom of God!!



- **PREACHER FELLOWSHIP** – Monday, February 2nd @ 10:30 AM at Beech Springs FWB Church. Pastor Michael Hutton will bring our devotion.
- **THE NEMSFWB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** – meets Monday, February 9, 2026 @ 6:30 PM at Beech Springs FWB Church.
- **MSAFWB GENERAL BOARD MEETING** – Tuesday, February 10, 2026 @ 9:30AM @ Beech Springs FWB Church
- **LITTLE BROWN CREEK FWB ASSN.** – February 28, 2026 hosted by luka FWB Church.

- **NORTHEAST MS ASSOCIATION OF FWB** will meet on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at Springdale FWB Church. Dr. Rich Dilling is host Pastor.
- **SOUTH MS ASSOCIATION MEETING** was rescheduled – **March 21, 2026** @ Gulf Coast FWB Church
- **2026 MSAFWB ANNUAL MEETING** will be held April 17 & 18, 2026. The meeting will be hosted by the Beech Springs Free Will Baptist Church at Tupelo.
- **ALABAMA CHILDREN'S HOME DONUT DASH 2026**-Be on the lookout for a Save the Date for our annual Donut Dash 5K, which will take place earlier than in previous years. More details are coming soon!
- **MORGANWOOD YOUTH CAMPS:**
 - **Teen Week –** May 30th – June 5th
 - **Junior Week-** June 7- 12th
 - **Elementary Week –** June 14th – 17th
 - **June One Day Camp** June 18 or 19



1. **Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church** (South MS Association) 2626 Union Road Richton, MS 39476 Contact Justin Walley 803 Umpqua Road Richton MS 39476 (601) 525-6357

2. **Bethlehem Free Will Baptist Church** - Pontotoc, MS, looking for bi-vocational Youth Pastor- Contact Pastor Mike Ratliff @ 662-871-8791
3. **Bethel Free Will Baptist Church** 200 Freewill Church Rd, Richton, MS 39476 (South Mississippi FWB Association) Contact: Brother Joel Garner 62 Phillips Nursery Rd. Richton, MS 39476 Ph. 601 964-0049
4. **Antioch Free Will Baptist Church** (Little Brown Creek Association) – Brother Russell Clouse is serving as interim Pastor.
5. **White Hill Free Will Baptist Church** (NE MS Assn.) 3702 Clarkston Rd. Eupora, MS 38744– contact: Donna Fowler @ (662) 263-7809



Your Connection-Starter:

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D6 FAMILY MINISTRY





MARILYN SUMERFORD RECEIVES AWARD

Marilyn Sumerford is Executive Director at Access Family Health Services, Inc. located in Smithville, Mississippi.

Marilyn is an active member of the Pearce Chapel Free Will Baptist Church at Smithville where Re. John Johnson is church Pastor. Her husband serves as a Deacon. Marilyn is a Sunday School Teacher there.

As the CEO, Marilyn, recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Mississippi legislative reception in Jackson.

Someone said in a FB post, “Keeping this one quiet was no small feat, especially from someone who is usually the first to know everything”. It was further stated, “She was genuinely surprised, which made the moment even more meaningful. Having her husband and daughter there with her was the kind of full-circle moment that emphasized why this effort matters”.

It was further stated, “Marilyn is deserving of this recognition. Marilyn’s leadership has shaped Access Family Health in ways that go far beyond strategy or operations. Her vision, steadiness, and unwavering commitment to our mission has built an organization rooted in purpose, trust, and service to our communities”.

We are incredibly fortunate to be led by someone who not only sees what is possible, but consistently brings people together to make it real. The award was a powerful reminder of the leadership guiding this organization and the example she sets.

Information taken from a post on FB by one of Marilyn’s co-workers



WELCH WELCOME DAYS

March 26–27, 2026

**A 24-hour visit to campus for 9-12 grade as well as undergrad transfers.
Parents and sponsors are encouraged to attend!**

Who Should Attend –

- High school students and college transfer students
- Parents are encouraged to come as well

Purpose of the Event

- Designed to give visitors a firsthand experience of life at Welch College
- Helps students make an informed college decision through an immersive campus visit

What Visitors Will Experience

- Sit in on real classes
- Attend chapel
- Tour the campus
- Eat in the cafeteria

- Stay overnight in the dorms
- Participate in special events on Thursday and Friday
- Interact with current students and faculty
- Learn about financial aid and the admissions process

Cost

- The entire weekend is **free**
- Meals, lodging, and event access are all included
- Advance registration is required

Registration

- Separate registration links for students and parents/sponsors
- Registration closes the Sunday before the event



We would like to share your event in the UPDATE!

Send information to:

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