



September 24, 2025

“Test everything, hold fast to what is true.” 1 Thessalonians 5:21

In Acts 17 Paul stated that the Bereans were more noble than the Thessalonians because they examined the Scriptures to see if what was being taught was accurate. This past week has shown us the importance of this very concept. One person in South Africa sent millions around the world into either panic or exultation saying that God told him in a dream that the rapture would occur on September 23rd. There have been reports of people selling property and preparing things for those that will be left behind.

As you’ve probably noticed we’re all still here. The reason is that Jesus plainly states in Matthew 24:36, “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone.” September 23rd will join a long list of wrong predictions. Be certain that Jesus will return to carry His followers home, but it will not be on any day predicted by man. Jesus urges His believers to be constantly ready and live with expectant urgency.

In His Service,

Matt

SPOTLIGHT:

Committee Chairs: Please remember to reserve rooms for meetings with Karen in the church office.

Church Office hours:

- 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Mondays through Thursday
- 8:30 pm – 12:30 pm Fridays

Committee Chairs: Budget season is fast approaching! The Finance Committee has set a deadline of October 15th for all 2026 budget requests. Please email Gail in the church office (financial@fbcjefferson.org) to see your 2025 YTD spending, or to send your financial requests. The church office will then forward all requests to the Finance Committee.

Preschool Hours: School is back in session! The FBCJ Preschool will be in session **from 8: 00 am - 1:00 pm each day** for older students beginning this school year. Please do not enter the preschool facility (upstairs or downstairs) during their operating hours. If you have an **urgent** need, please ring the doorbell under the portico and ask for Katie Fulcher (director). She will meet you at the door and will gladly escort you to your destination. Katie's presence with you will indicate to the staff and students that it is ok for you to be in the building for a short time. Thank you so much for helping keep our preschool safe and honoring our preschool protocol.



WE NEED PICTURES: We are looking for photos of the AWESOME things happening at FBC Jefferson to include on the front of each week's bulletin. We'd love to have enough to change the photos weekly! Almost everyone carries a cellphone with a camera these days – pull out that phone and take pics at your gatherings! Then send them to Karen at admin@fbcjefferson.org – or you can text them to her.

THIS WEEK IN THE CHURCH:

Wednesday, September 24th:

- 10:00 am – Faithful Followers Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30 pm – Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 pm – Wednesday Night Bible Study (Fellowship Hall); Choir Practice (Choir Room); Connect Run/Walk (Adult II SS Classroom); Children in Action (CiA) (Educational Building); Student Ministry Bible Study (Student Center); Salt & Light (Adult I SS Classroom)

Thursday, September 25th:

- 6:00 pm – Cabinet Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, September 28th:

- 10:00 am – Sunday School
- 11:00 am – Worship Service
- 4:00 pm – Men's Ministry Cookout at Ariails' home

Wednesday, October 1st:

- 10:00 am – Faithful Followers Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30 pm – Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 pm – Wednesday Night Bible Study (Fellowship Hall); Choir Practice (Choir Room); Connect Run/Walk (Adult II SS Classroom); Children in Action (CiA) (Educational Building); Student Ministry Bible Study (Student Center)

PRAYER CONCERNS: The list of prayer concerns can be found at the end of this newsletter.

MINISTRY & MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:

Adult Choir: The Adult Choir rehearses each Wednesday in the choir room across from the Children's Suite at 6:00 pm to prepare for each Sunday's anthem. If you enjoy singing, please join us.

Children's Ministry: In Season



Children In Action:

September 24th: Game Night



SEPTEMBER: READY, SET, ALOHA!

MISSIONARY: Erik and Danni Naylor of Maui, Hawaii →→

Ready, Set, let's Go... to Hawaii and meet Erik and Dani Naylor, who share and show the love and hope of Jesus in Lahaina, Hawaii, especially following the devastating 2023 Maui Wildfires. Children will also be encouraged through the example of Paul and



Silas sharing and showing the love and hope of Jesus. While participating in numerous activities, related to both Hawaiian culture and how they share the hope of Jesus with friends.

Mission Project: Disaster Relief Backpacks.... More info to come.

Badge: READY, SET, SHARE

Children will use post cards as an opportunity to tell people about Jesus and invite them to Children in Action or church on Sunday.

College/Young Adults (CYA): Our college and young adult ministry meets weekly in a home group format, open to all 18–25-year-olds. For more information, please contact Ben at (803)341-7191 or bhall@fbcjefferson.org.



Connect Run/Walk Group: Connect Run/Walk Group meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. Connect is for anyone interested in running/walking with others to grow and improve spiritually and physically, and to follow the teachings of the Lord. We will have a small devotion, prayer concerns, and praises. Join us and run/walk with others, bring a friend for our Christian fellowship. We will support you physically, mentally, and spiritually while walking, running, and sometimes trotting. We will run/walk the rolling scenic hills of Jefferson on different routes. Bring a friend. We have water and Gatorade waiting for you afterwards.

Connect Run/Walk Upcoming events:

September 24th – 6:00 pm - Adult II SS Classroom

October 1st – 6:00 pm – TBA

October 8th – 6:00 pm - TBA

Get your name on the Connect Run/Walk Group email list – contact Barbara Gooch by email (bgooch02@yahoo.com).

Cookbook Project Update: An exciting update – THE COOKBOOKS HAVE ARRIVED and are available for purchase!

1. The cost of the books, a 3-ring binder with our church pictured on the cover - \$25.00
2. Order forms can be found in the church office and the vestibule.
3. You may pay with cash or check **AT THE TIME YOU ORDER.**
4. All orders will be handled and recorded through Karen in the church office. **ORDER THROUGH KAREN ONLY.**

A special “thank you” to everyone who has contributed and assembled this project. Remember all proceeds will go directly toward the purchase of a new church vehicle – SO MAKE YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST AND GIFT THE COOKBOOK TO ALL YOUR SPECIAL FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

Faithful Followers Bible Study: Faithful Followers Bible Study meets each Wednesday at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. If you can join us or know of a friend or family member who would like to experience this journey and engage in great Christian fellowship, please contact Mary Ann Brooks, 615-643-4880, mabstitches@yahoo.com.

Food Drive: Over the past year, our Food Bank at the church has been very busy. There has been a steady increase in the number of families needing to utilize the Food Bank each month. Because of this, our food bank supply of food decreases much more quickly than in the past.

The Morning Glory Circle of the WMU will be holding a churchwide Food Drive for the remainder of August thru November to collect food items to help fill our food bank shelves until the Turkey Can Run.

There will be marked donation boxes placed around the church campus for donations to be dropped off. Please grab a couple of extra items to donate the next time you are at the store to put in a donation box. All donations are greatly appreciated!

Below is just a short list of some of the items the food bank could use if you are able to help with a donation.

Cereal

Instant Grits

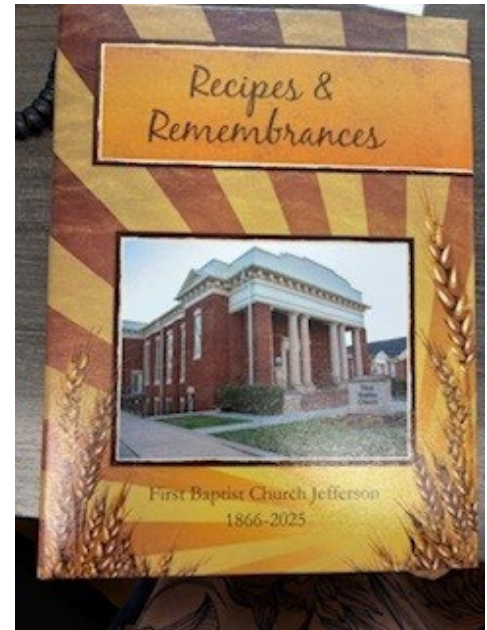
Fruit Snacks

Ramen Noodles

Beefaroni or SpaghettiOs

Soup

Vienna Sausages



Canned Vegetables

Dry Beans

Instant Mashed Potatoes

Thank you so much in advance for any donations. If you have any questions at all, please call Debbie Emory at 813-994-5714.

Mary Martha Circle: Mary Martha Circle's next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 7th at 3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Meals on Wheels: We need volunteers to help deliver Meals on Wheels November 2025 – February 2026! If you or your Sunday School Class, women's circle, or civic organization would like to help deliver on Wednesdays in November through February, please contact Barbara Gooch at 706-654-7731, or email her at bgooch02@yahoo.com. The Jackson County Senior Center depends on our help to deliver to the seniors in our community who are in need on Wednesdays, so please, if you can deliver one of these dates, please let Barbara know!

Men's Ministry Fall Cookout: The Men's Ministry is planning a cookout for all men of the church on Sunday, September 28th from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at the home of Keith & Diane Ariail, 3385 Lyle Field Rd, Jefferson. Men, we look forward to seeing you there! If you are going to the cookout, please call or text Diane Ariail at 706-654-0472 and let her know – she needs a headcount so there will be enough food. Thanks!



Missions Committee: FBCJ will be participating in “Halloween in Jefferson” on Saturday, October 11th! Contact Teresa Fleming (706-367-8332) if you’d like to volunteer to help decorate or serve food that day!

Salt & Light: Salt and Light will meet tonight at 6:00 pm in the Adult I Sunday School Class.

Student Ministry: Our student ministry meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am and Sunday afternoons from 5:30-7:00 pm, open to all 6th-12th graders. For more information, please contact Ben at (803)341-7191 or bhall@fbcjefferson.org.



Turkey Can Run: See the flyer at the end of this newsletter for more details! Also – if you’d like to volunteer to help, contact Keith Ariail at

Wednesday Night Meal: Menu for September 24th: Breakfast Casserole, Fruit, Biscuits, Dessert, Drinks.

Menu for October 1st: Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, Dessert, Drinks.

Call Karen in the church office to add your family’s name to the weekly list!

The church gathers each Wednesday to share fellowship over a meal, address the church’s prayer concerns and study the Bible. If you are interested in participating in the meal, please note the following:

- The cost for each meal is \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (11 years old and younger). The cost for families is capped at \$25.00.
- If you are not on the permanent list and plan to eat, please call Karen in the church office by each Monday by noon.

- If you are on the permanent list and can't make it this Wednesday, please call Karen in the church office for your name to be struck for the week and the church does not incur unnecessary costs.

WMU Meetings: If you are not a member of a WMU group and would like to join us, please contact DeMaris Gurley at 706-540-0866. She will direct you to the WMU group that best fits your schedule.

Deacons of the Week:

Week of September 21, 2025: Steve Ross and Steven Hix

Week of September 28, 2025: Charles Oliver and Fred Gurley

Opening and Closing: Charlene Barber

Greeters and Ushers: Steve Ross and Tom Emory

NUMBERS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

- Sunday School Attendance: 123
- Worship Attendance: 147
- Nursery Attendance: 13
- WORSHIP TOTAL: 160
- Offering: \$7,760.77

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

- Previous services can be viewed [here](#).
- You can live stream Sunday Combined Service here: [11:00 am](#)



17th Annual 5K Turkey Can Run/Walk

Thanksgiving 2025 (November 27)
at 8am

Start line at First Baptist Church of Jefferson
246 Washington St.

Register Now

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER
AND ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION

ENTRY FEE:
\$15 AND 15
CANNED
GOODS



FBC
JEFFERSON



5 WAYS TO TITHE

Online at www.pushpay.com



Online at www.fbcjefferson.com



Mail/drop by a check to the FBCJ office



Drop into the offering plate on Sunday



Drop your tithe/offering into the offering
box in the vestibule.





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Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Thomas Durrence
Jerry Elliott
Fred Glass
Martha Gunter
Harold Harbin
Vernell Hix

Ezra King
Jane Kinney
Donna Martin
Merle Milburn
Jimmy Mock
Phil Thurmond

Homebound, Assisted Living, Etc.

Dianne Brooks
Glenn Bullock
Dan Edgar
Helen Gunnels
Tim Harris
Raye Dean Jackson

Eudene Johnson
Connie Peebles (Rehab in Athens – NO visitors)
Jack Purcell
Raynelle Sims
Helen Whitlock

Friends & Family

Anni Arlidge (The Hopkins' granddaughter)
Alex Farmer (Sandra Farmer's son)
Barry Farmer (Sandra Farmer's husband)
Dominic Haines (broken neck at the state wrestling
tournament)

Joseph Martin (Joe & Donna Martins' son)
John Parks
Matt Pugh (Local man with cancer)
Anne Ross (Tim Coogler's mom)
Tyler Truelove (Diane and Keith Ariails' son)

We Share in Sorrow with

David & Vicki White, in the death of her mother, Joy Bowden

Additional Requests

Our Ministry Team and Their Families
Our Church-sponsored Missionaries
Our Local Veterans
Our Church Leadership & Staff
Texas Flood Victims and Their Families