



July 8, 2026

What Will We Do With Our Freedom?

As America prepares to celebrate 250 years of independence, we are reminded that freedom is both a gift and a responsibility. When our nation gained its independence, the question was not only, "Are we free?" but also, "What will we do with this freedom?" Freedom was never meant to be wasted, taken for granted, or used selfishly. It was meant to be stewarded well.

The same is true for every believer in Christ. Through salvation, Jesus has set us free from the power of sin and death. We are no longer slaves to sin, no longer bound by guilt, and no longer without hope. But Christian freedom also comes with a question: What will we do with it?

The Bible reminds us, "It was for freedom that Christ set us free" (Galatians 5:1). Our freedom in Christ is not permission to live however we want. It is the power to live as God has called us to live. We are free to love, free to serve, free to forgive, free to obey, and free to point others to the Savior who has set us free.

As we thank God for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, may we be even more grateful for the greater freedom we have in Jesus Christ. And may we use that freedom faithfully, for the glory of God and the good of others.

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

Funeral Arrangements for Greg and Cheryl Broussard: Visitation will be held on Friday, July 10th from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm at Evans Funeral Home. Funeral services will be held 2:00 pm Saturday, July 11, 2026 at First Baptist Church Jefferson, with Dr. Matt Long and Dr. Mark Hearn officiating. Burial to follow at Woodbine Cemetery.

FBC Jefferson Shirts and tumblers sale continues: If you have already ordered a shirt or cup, they are ready for pickup in the church office or by contacting Matt. If you would like a shirt but have not yet signed up, please use the link below to fill out the Google Form. There is a picture of the shirt on the form, and a ladies' cut of the shirt is available. The shirts are \$22 and can be paid for in the church office. If you signed up previously, there is no need to complete this form.



The graphic features two blue polo shirts and a white tumbler, all with the FBC Jefferson logo. The text 'MENS' & LADIES' CUT SHIRTS AVAILABLE!' is prominently displayed. Below this, a white box contains the text 'FBC SHIRTS AND TUMBLERS ARE FOR SALE!' followed by 'SHIRTS - \$22' and 'TUMBLERS - \$10 (WHITE OR BLUE)'. At the bottom, a dark blue button with an envelope icon says 'CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO PLACE AN ORDER.' The background is blue with white crosses and a dotted pattern.

MENS' & LADIES' CUT SHIRTS AVAILABLE!

FBC SHIRTS AND TUMBLERS ARE FOR SALE!

SHIRTS - \$22

TUMBLERS - \$10
(WHITE OR BLUE)

CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO PLACE AN ORDER.

NOTE: Tumblers are still available for \$10 each! Call the church office for more information.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJrNOVApyj0Qz61NnEhK0et3GrjltNjP3Svno2VpokD33ypQ/viewform>

Church Bus Fund Update – We're Almost There!

Help us reach our goal!



As of July 7, 2026:
\$105,933.41 Raised
ONLY \$25,066.59
needed to reach our
goal!



Make your additional contributions towards the bus fund today!

Praise God for His faithfulness and for the incredible generosity of our church family! Thanks to your faithful giving, we have now replenished almost \$106,000 of the funds used to purchase our church bus. We have just \$25,000 remaining to reach our goal!

This bus is already making a difference by transporting children, students, and senior adults as they grow in their faith and serve others. Every gift helps us restore these ministry funds so they are available for future opportunities.

Would you prayerfully consider making a special gift to the Bus Fund? Together, we can cross the finish line and celebrate God's provision through the generosity of His people.

Amount Remaining to Reach Our Goal: \$25,066.59

NOTICE: Sunday, July 19th is the **FINAL** day to submit a veteran picture and information for the November Veteran's celebration. Please send pics to admin@fbcjefferson.org along with the veteran information sheet.

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, July 8th:

- 6:00 pm – Wednesday Night Bible Study; Summer Fun at the Treehouse; Connect Run/Walk Group

Sunday, July 12th:

- 8:30 am – Administrative Board Meeting
- 10:00 am – Sunday School
- 11:00 am – Worship Service

Tuesday, July 14th:

- 9:00 am – Art Camp
- 7:00 pm – College Gathering

Wednesday, July 15th:

- 6:00 pm – Wednesday Night Bible Study; Summer Fun at the Treehouse; Connect Run/Walk Group

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: We always need volunteers to help in the Children's Ministry! If you'd like to help, please contact Teresa Wood at children@fbcjefferson.org, or call the church office at 706-367-8332.

July Sunday School: THEME: We Are Family: Nothing brings a family together—or stirs up some friendly drama—like a family game night! Just like in games, family life can have its own ups and downs, whether it's with our given or chosen families. In this 4-week series, kids will explore how Abraham's family navigated challenges and blessings while learning how we can care for our families, serve them well, and remember that we're all part of God's family. As they do, kids will learn that **we can believe God's promises, we can pray for our families, we can trust God to provide, and we're all welcome in God's family.**



BIG IDEA: We can pray for our families.

BIBLE: Genesis 18:20–33, 19:15–29; Psalm 65:1–8

MEMORY VERSE: Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love." — Ephesians 5:1–2a (NIV)

THIS WEEK: This week, kids hear how Abram asked God to spare Lot's family instead of rolling the dice. Game night starts off great until someone suddenly "forgets" the rules, and before you know it, it's game over! This week, we'll see how Abraham still cared for Lot and prayed for his safety, even after they parted ways. His story reminds us that a way to love our family is by talking to God about them because **we can pray for our families**.

Volunteers Needed for the following Children's Events:

- **July 14th Art Camp:** Activity Leaders and Group Leaders

SUMMER FUN AT THE TREEHOUSE:

July 8th: Bible Drills / Make your own Bird Feeder

July 15th: FBCJ Shut-In Flower Project

July 22nd: No Children's Activities- Gone to Centri-Kids Camp

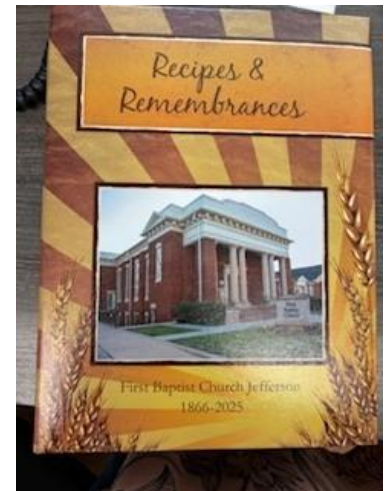
Connect Run/Walk Group: Connect Run/Walk Group meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. Connect is for anyone interested in running/walking with others to grow and improve spiritually and physically, and to follow the teachings of the Lord. We will have a small devotion, prayer concerns, and praises. 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. Everyone in our church and community are invited. Perfect place to safely run/walk with others.

Connect Run/Walk Upcoming events:

July 8th – 6:00 pm – Adult II SS Classroom
July 15th – 6:00 pm - Jefferson Track - meet inside track entrance on the visitor side bleachers
July 22nd – 6:00 pm – Adult II SS Classroom
July 29th - 6:00 pm – Adult II SS Classroom
August 5th – 6:00 pm - TBA

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

Cookbooks: Get your copy today before they are all gone – **FOREVER!** The FBC Jefferson Cookbook, “Recipes and Remembrances,” is still available for purchase in the church office! With over 450 homestyle Southern recipes, this cookbook is a STEAL at \$25.00! Stop by the church office to pick up your copy today. All proceeds go towards the church bus fund.



Faithful Followers: Our Faithful Followers Bible study has taken a break during the summer months but will resume after the beginning of the school year.

Food Bank: In June, the FBCJ Food Bank served the following in Jackson County:

- 173 families
- 620 people, including 218 under 18, 341 from the ages of 18 to 64; 61 people over the age of 65, and 11 new families.

Meal on Wheels: Schedule by month:

July: Student Ministry

August: 24:15 SS Class

September: Adult II SS Class

If you or your Sunday School Class, women's circle, or civic organization would like to help deliver on Wednesdays, 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!

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. If you or your SS group would like to host the student ministry for an event, please let the church office know. For more information, contact Josh at 478-456-1382.

STUDENT MINISTRY

TUBING *in Helen!*

FUN. FRIENDS. FAITH. FLOATS.

THURSDAY, JULY 16TH

LEAVING CHURCH AT 8:00 AM

PIZZA FOR LUNCH!

BRING **MODEST SWIMWEAR**, TOWEL, CHANGE OF CLOTHES, **SUNSCREEN** & SPENDING MONEY (IF NEEDED)
FOR MORE INFO CONTACT JOSH

FBC
JEFFERSON

STUDENTS

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 July 5, 2026: Ken Hall and Fred Gurley

Week of July 12, 2026: Tom Emory and Brian Ferguson

Opening and Closing: Jim Hix

Greeters and Ushers: Melvin Porter and Louise Koontz

NUMBERS FOR SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2026

- Sunday School Attendance: 82
- Worship Attendance: 132
- Nursery Attendance: 12
- WORSHIP TOTAL: 144
- Offering: \$4,186.50

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

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

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.





July 8, 2026

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Dean Andrews
Diane Ariail
Tom Fore
Ezra King

Jane Kinney
Nancy McGhee
Connie Peebles
GiGi Stamey

Homebound, Assisted Living, Etc.

Harold Andrews
Dianne Brooks
Glenn Bullock
Dan Edgar
Fred Glass
Tim Harris

Raye Dean Jackson
Eudene Johnson
Jack Purcell
Raynelle Sims
Helen Whitlock

Friends & Family

Anni Aldridge (The Hopkins' granddaughter)
Phyllis Brauw (Louise Koontz's loved one)
Alex Farmer (Sandra Farmer's son)
Barry Farmer (Sandra Farmer's husband)

Charles & Leasie Fleming (Teresa Fleming's in-laws)
Jeff Key (Katie Fulcher's dad)
James Vogt (Karen & JT Vogts' son)

We Share in Sorrow with

The family of Greg and Cheryl Broussard

Additional Requests

Our Ministry Team and Their Families
Our Church-sponsored Missionaries
All US Veterans
Our Church Leadership & Staff