



August 12, 2026

One of the great gifts God gives us through the church is the gift of fellowship. Church is more than a place we attend. It is a family in which we share life together.

Sometimes fellowship happens around a Bible study or during a worship service, but often it happens in much simpler ways. It happens around a table while sharing a meal. It happens through chats in the hallway, an unhurried conversation after church, or a phone call to check on someone who needs a friend. Fellowship grows when we take time to listen and show genuine concern.

Acts 2 describes the early church as a people who were devoted not only to the apostles' teaching and prayer, but also to fellowship and breaking bread together. They understood that following Christ was never intended to be done alone.

In a busy world, it is easy to rush in and out, speak only to the people we already know, and miss opportunities to build meaningful relationships. But some of the most important ministry we do may simply be sitting across the table from someone, sharing a laugh, asking how they are doing, and caring enough to listen to the answer.

So take advantage of the opportunities we have to fellowship together. Come to the meal. Start the conversation. Meet someone new. Display genuine concern for each other.

With all that said, Wednesday Night Meals start back tonight. Hope to see you there.

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



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.

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

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJrNOVApy0Qz61NnEhK0et3GrJltnJp3Svno2VpokD33ypQ/viewform>

Church Bus Fund Update – We're Almost There!

Praise God for His faithfulness and for the incredible generosity of our church family! Thanks to your faithful giving, we have now replenished more than \$108,600 of the funds used to purchase our church bus. We have less than \$23,000 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.

Help us reach our goal!



As of August 10, 2026:
\$108,657.63 Raised
ONLY \$22,642.37
needed to reach our
goal!



Make your additional contributions towards the bus fund today!

Amount Remaining to Reach Our Goal: \$22,342.37

Spark Conference:

A promotional poster for the Spark Conference. The background is dark grey with yellow wavy lines on the sides. The word "SPARK" is in large, bold, white letters, with "CONFERENCE" in smaller white letters below it. Below that, "Mark Your Calendar" is written in a yellow cursive font. Underneath is "Northeast Region" in a white sans-serif font. At the bottom, "McConnell Memorial Baptist Church" and "Hiawassee" are in yellow, and "August 30, 2026" is in white. A QR code is on the left side.

SPARK
CONFERENCE

Mark Your Calendar

Northeast Region

McConnell Memorial Baptist Church
Hiawassee
August 30, 2026

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, August 12th:

- 5:30 pm – Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 pm – Wednesday Night Bible Study; Connect Run/Walk Group (Adult II SS Classroom); Choir (Choir Room); Summer Fun at the Treehouse (Ed Building); Student Bible Study (Student Center)

Thursday, August 13th:

- 6:30 pm – Cabinet Meeting (Church Office)

Sunday, August 16th:

- 10:00 am – Sunday School
- 11:00 am – Worship Service
- 5:00 pm – Deacons Meeting
- 5:30 pm – Student Gathering (Student Center)

Tuesday, August 18th:

- 7:00 pm – College Gathering

Wednesday, August 19th:

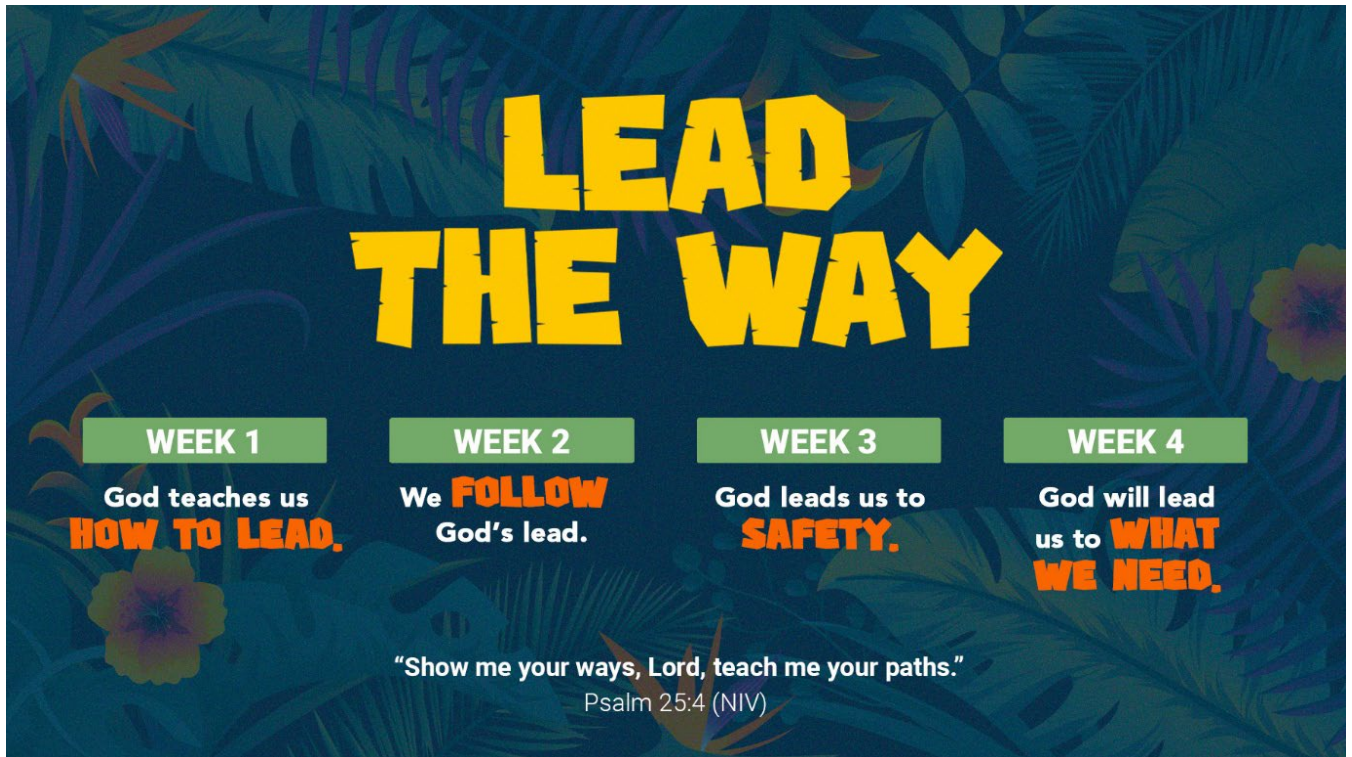
- 5:30 pm – Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 pm – Wednesday Night Bible Study; Connect Run/Walk Group (Adult II SS Classroom); Choir (Choir Room); Summer Fun at the Treehouse (Ed Building); Student Bible Study (Student Center)

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: 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.



August Sunday School: THEME: *Lead the Way*: In the jungle, every day is an unpredictable adventure! But to safely navigate the vines, animals, and tricky terrain, we'll need a guide to help lead us. This four-week series follows the life of Moses and his journey to leading the Israelites out of Egypt. Through his story, we'll discover how **God teaches us how to lead**, and learn how to **follow God's lead** as **God leads us to safety** and **to what we need**.

BIG IDEA: God leads us to safety.

BIBLE: Exodus 13:17—15:21; Psalm 91

MEMORY VERSE: "Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths." Psalm 25:4 (NIV)

THIS WEEK: This week, kids see how God helped Moses lead the Israelites out of Egypt and through the Red Sea. Some adventures feel like there's no way out—but God always makes a way. This week, it looks like the Israelites are trapped. But Moses leads the Israelites out of Egypt, and God parts the Red Sea so they can escape safely. Even when things look impossible, **God leads us to safety**.

Summer Fun at the Treehouse – Wednesday, August 12th at 6:00 pm – GAME NIGHT!!

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 is invited. Perfect place to safely run/walk with others.

Connect Run/Walk Upcoming events:

August 12th - 6:00 pm – Adult II SS Classroom

August 19th - 6:00 pm – Adult II SS Classroom

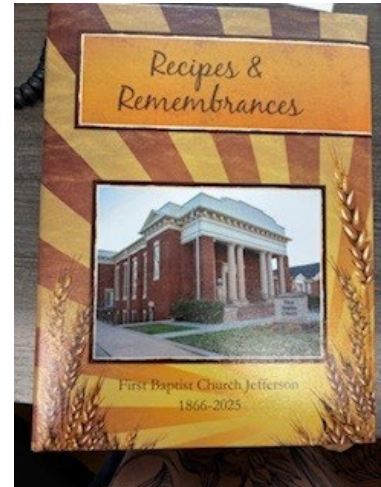
August 26th - 6:00 pm – Adult II SS Classroom

September 2nd - 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 will begin meeting again on Wednesday, September 2nd at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Meal on Wheels: Schedule by month:

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!

Men's Ministry: The Men's Ministry will begin having a Bible study on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm. The first meeting will be on Sep. 1st. We invite all men to come and enjoy this time of study and fellowship.

Student Ministry: Our student ministry meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am and Sunday afternoons from 5:30-7:00 pm, as well as 6:00 pm on Wednesday evenings for Bible Study, all open to 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.



18th Annual Turkey CAN Run 5K: Thanksgiving morning is just around the corner, and that means it's almost time for the 18th Annual Turkey CAN Run 5K!

Over the years, the Turkey CAN Run has become a wonderful Thanksgiving tradition for our church and community. Each year, runners, walkers, volunteers, sponsors, and families come together for a morning filled with fun and fellowship—all while supporting the FBC Jefferson Community Food Bank.

Last year was an incredible year for the race, with over 1,400 registered participants and more than 16,000 canned goods collected! We are so thankful for the tremendous support our community continues to show, and we are excited to see what God will do through this year's event.

The Turkey CAN Run is about much more than crossing a finish line. Every registration, donation, canned good, sponsorship, and volunteer hour helps our Food Bank serve individuals and families in our community who need a helping hand.

As we prepare for our 18th year, we hope you'll make the Turkey CAN Run part of your Thanksgiving tradition. Whether you run, walk, volunteer, sponsor, donate, or simply cheer everyone on, there is a place for you!

Come start Thanksgiving Day with us as we run with a purpose, serve our community, and help fill the shelves of the FBC Jefferson Community Food Bank!

Wednesday Night Meal: MENU FOR AUGUST 12, 2026: Hot Dogs, Chili, Slaw, Chips, Baked Beans, Ice Cream, Drinks.

MENU FOR AUGUST 19, 2026: Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Chips, 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 August 9, 2026: Steve Ross and Christopher Howard

Week of August 16, 2026: Ken Hall and Fred Gurley

Opening and Closing: Greg Laughinghouse

Greeters and Ushers: Greg Keith and Joey Blackstock

NUMBERS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026

- Sunday School Attendance: 126
- Worship Attendance: 169
- Nursery Attendance: 10
- WORSHIP TOTAL: 179
- Offering: \$15,638.60

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.



August 12, 2026

Ongoing Prayer Concerns

Dean Andrews
Diane Ariail
Tom Fore
Ezra King

Jane Kinney
Nancy McGhee

Homebound, Assisted Living, Etc.

Dianne Brooks
Glenn Bullock
Dan Edgar
Fred Glass
Tim Harris

Raye Dean Jackson
Eudene Johnson
Jack Purcell
Raynelle Sims
Helen Whitlock

Friends & Family

Alex Farmer (Sandra Farmer's son)
Barry Farmer (Sandra Farmer's husband)

Charles & Leasia Fleming (Teresa Fleming's in-laws)

Additional Requests

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