



THE LIGHT

VOLUME 75 | ISSUE 9 | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ray Cameron 9/4	Brenda Marchi 9/14
Clover Hensley 9/6	Nancy Thompson 9/15
Robert Walton 9/6	Nicholas Hill 9/16
Richard Lucier 9/10	Robert Gavin 9/18
Doug Napier 9/11	Harold Crump 9/27
Levi Sweeney 9/11	Brenda Patteson 9/28
Tiffany Halliday 9/13	Tom Patteson 9/28
	Sherry Williams 9/29

ATTENDANCE

August 2: 79
August 9: 93
August 16: 80
August 23: 90
August 30: 91

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Marlin & Coleen Dixon || 9/12
Lisa and Tim Oliver || 9/18
James & Janice Neitzey || 9/23

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook Followers: 560
YouTube Subscribers: 102

Michael's MUSINGS

King Solomon (traditionally credited with writing the book of Ecclesiastes), opined in Chapter 3, verse 1: *"For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven."* When I learned recently that E. Wilson Morrison (EWM) Elementary School had suffered structural damage, and would need to be closed, my heart sank. Like many in our community, this news has been dealt with like the death of a close longtime friend. My (now 24-year-old) son, Alan, attended EWM. I have had the joy of being part of that beautiful family in one way or another for well over twenty years. I remember being told, even over twenty years ago, that EWM was the school that was "forgotten in time."

This came back to me when FBC member and husband of former FBC pastor Christy shared these exact words when he and I started the Early Act Club at EWM many years ago. The decline was obvious. The lack of attention given to the school, the needs, and many would argue the students, was in wide open view. Despite this, minimal attention was given, while (it appeared) plenty was given to other younger schools in the county. Now, what once stood as a testament to modern education in the early to mid-1900's, now sits empty, quite possibly never to be used again.

The sadness which I feel about this matter will take some time to manage. Not because a building may very well come down, nor that

(perhaps) her time had finally come; But what has been perceived by many as (many would argue) purposeful and willful neglect, perhaps allowing a completely unnecessary death to occur in plain view, because the true victims were the most easily forgotten in our community.

Yes, to everything there is a season. Buildings come and buildings go. Yet, let us not be like others and forget the beautiful children, faculty and staff that once roamed those halls, because it is so convenient. Those children are our immediate neighbors. One of those children attends our church. Several members of our church are alumni of EWM. Your pastor completed the final four of his thirty-four years in education there. We remain to share our memories. There will always be a season to love them, especially the children. I would strongly disagree that there is "ever" a season to hate a child, or those who have dedicated their lives to helping children.

Former abolitionist, great orator, freed slave and former U.S. Minister to Haiti, Frederick Douglas, eloquently opined: "It is easier to build strong children, than to repair broken men." Let us not fall into the trap which some in our community have, with respect to personal comfort over the care of God's most vulnerable. Let us always seek ways to "build" each other, and the children of our community up. God is, indeed, watching.

Peace and Blessings,
Michael





We had a wonderful Sunday service on August 23rd with our musically talented Praise Team accompanied by a few special musicians: Steve Jenkins was on guitar, Daniel Smith on the drums and Tim Metz on piano. Thank you to our Director of Music Ministries, Bob Wilson, for organizing and always doing such a great job being at the helm of our music ministry at First Baptist Church.

Praise Team Practice Update - New rehearsal day/time: The Praise Team will rehearse on the stage, close to the parking lot with no stairs on **Tuesdays from 6-7PM**. Sunday rehearsals are only on the days the Praise Team is singing at the service. **The Sunday rehearsal on 9/13 is at 10-10:30AM** in the former choir room, near the restrooms.



The First Baptist Children recently constructed their own children's garden at the church with a sunflower plant that began indoors – along with pumpkins and wildflowers. Thank you, Beth Vaught, our Director of Children's Ministries, for being such a wonderful inspiration to our children.



BACKPACK PROGRAM



The Warren County Backpack Program is now officially distributing food to kids in schools. We are restocking our shelves and your contributions are greatly appreciated. Here is a list of items that we use on a regular basis:

- Vienna sausages
- Small-canned beanie weenies
- Nab crackers
- Oatmeal and individual sized cereal boxes
- Pop-Tarts
- Granola bars
- Microwavable ravioli/pasta
- Potato chips, pretzels and goldfish crackers
- Cookies and Rice Krispie Treats
- Raisins, fruit cups and applesauce
- Pudding and yogurt
- Little Debbie Cakes
- Ramen Noodles

Please contact Karen Joyner for any questions via email: karenjoyner@gmail.com or phone call/text: (540-535-6120).

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this ministry that is vital to our county's children!

NEW FRIENDS TOGETHER

Now that summer vacation time is over, New Friends Together will start up again and meet on September 15th at Brickhouse Bar & Grill at 11:30 AM. We will gather for a casual Dutch-treat lunch and fellowship on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. This is a great way to meet new friends and get to know each other better. Any member, or friend of a member, is always welcome to join the group. Please let Kathy P. Napier know if you will be there on Sept. 15th by calling or texting 540-622-378.



WARREN COUNTY FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

On Sunday 8/30, Nathan Barron (Warren County Fellowship of Christian Athletes Coordinator) was our guest speaker for our 11AM worship service. Prior to the service, Nathan also presented to our Ministry Council and church members about the specifics of this ministry, and the opportunities in which we, here at First Baptist Church, might be interested in collaborating, to include a question and answer period.



"I thought this was a good idea"

5K RUN

26 SEPTEMBER 2026

Break out your wind breakers, sweat bands, good vibes and join us for our 1st Annual "I thought this was a good idea" 5K to support Hope & Rest Temporary Shelter.

We want to bring some laughter and joy and in some cases sweat and tears

This 5K will have encouraging messages along the way, there will be some up hills and some down hills, you will get to see the beautiful river and enjoy some beautiful scenery.

Goodie bags to those who register, 50 Cent beer tickets for those 21 and up, and trophies for everyone.... *just kidding just the top peeps.*

Shirts/tanks will be available to purchase during registration

Register at:
<https://runsignup.com/Race/VA/FrontRoyal/IThoughtThisWasAGoodIdea5K>



Sponsored by:

 
Patton's Windows & Doors LLC

CONCERT OF OLD AMERICAN SONGS, CLASSICAL, COUNTRY & FROM FILM

Mark your calendars and come listen to the amazing voice of soprano Dr. Melissa Chavez with Andrew Wood on piano on **Sunday, October 25th @ 6:00PM** here at First Baptist Church. Free admission for all and a Freewill Offering will be received. For those wishing to give an offering in advance, an offering plate will be at the Sanctuary doors for your convenience. If paying by check, please make a payable to First Baptist Church and notate it with "OCT SING."



YOU CAN GIVE ONLINE!

For those who wish to give but don't have cash or want to do away with checks, you can give online! Our QR code will be on the back of every worship guide and in every newsletter starting now!

You can give to multiple categories including Tithing/Budget offering, Missions, our Capital Campaign, Love offerings and more.

Scan the QR code below with your phone to give now and thank you for your contribution!



BUDGET RECEIPTS

Month of June 2026

General Funds: \$15,915.00

Occupancy Use: \$5,350.00

Month of July 2026

General Funds: \$12,860.51

Occupancy Use: \$3,374.00

SEPTEMBER MISSION OFFERING SPOTLIGHT

The Ministry Council voted to designate E. Wilson Morrison Elementary School as the Mission of the Month for September. Recent structural damage to the building has required all classes to relocate to other county school buildings.

Emergency supplies are needed because entry into the damaged building is restricted and most of the materials remain inside. FBC saw the need and stepped up to help.

Warren Coalition
KICKBALL GAME
10 AM SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

DONATE ONLINE
TO ROOT FOR
YOUR FAVORITE
TEAM!

TEAM RECOVERY
VS
TEAM LAW

R.E. MASON FIELD
905 STADIUM DRIVE, FRONT ROYAL, VA 22630

JOIN US FOR A PICNIC
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE GAME AT
SHELTER 5 IN LIONS PARK NEAR
FANTASYLAND. RSVP REQUIRED.

SPONSORED BY:

ClearHorizon
Trauma and Counseling Group
Behavioral Health Services

SEPTEMBER
WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS
OPENING/CLOSING

John Hensley / Robert Gavin

SCRIPTURE READERS

September 6

Karen Joyner

September 13

Sally Kilpatrick

September 20

Christine Mahoney

September 27

John Hensley

OFFERTORY PRAYER FOR SEPTEMBER

TBD



OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

<http://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistFrontRoyal>

OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL

<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstBaptistChurchOfFrontRoyal>

STAFF AND LAY LEADERS

Rev. Michael S. Williams, Senior Pastor

Rev. Doug Frazier, Associated Pastor

Rev. Dennis Griffin, Associated Pastor

Rev. Al Woods, Associated Pastor

Mary Anne Biggs, Leadership Council Chair

John Hensley, Deacon Chair

Cathy Sakalauckas, Ministry Council Chair

Joanne Hensley, Church Clerk

Karen Joyner, Lay Chaplain Leader

Bob Wilson, Director of Music Ministries

Beth Vaught, Director of Children's Ministries

Shelley Scott, Daycare Director

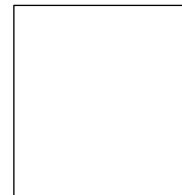
Coleen Dixon, Administrative Assistant

LITTLE ANGELS DAYCARE

The children enjoyed some end of summer fun at the Warren County Fair recently



First Baptist Church
 Fourteen West 1st Street
 Front Royal, VA 22630-2636
 CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



FBC CHURCH EVENTS - SEPTEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
		1.	2. Wed. Dinner 5:30PM	3.	4.	5.
6. Men's Bible Study 10AM Women's Bible Study 10A Children's Sunday School – 10 AM Sunday Worship 11AM	7. Labor Day – Church Office Closed	8.	9. FBC Feeding our Neighbors – 5:00PM Wed. Dinner 5:30PM	10.	11.	12.
13. Men's Bible Study 10AM Women's Bible Study 10A Children's Sunday School – 10AM Sunday Worship 11AM Deacons Meeting – 12PM	14.	15. New Friends Together – 1130AM at The Brickhouse Bar & Grill FBC Feeding our Neighbors – 5:00PM Leadership Council Mtg – 5:30PM Ministry Council Mtg – 6:30PM	16. Wed. Dinner 5:30PM	17.	18.	19.
20. Men's Bible Study 10AM Women's Bible Study 10A Children's Sunday School – 10AM Sunday Worship 11AM	21.	22.	23. FBC Feeding our Neighbors – 5:00PM Wed. Dinner 5:30PM	24.	25.	26.
27. Men's Bible Study 10AM Women's Bible Study 10A Children's Sunday School – 10AM Sunday Worship 11AM	28.	29.	30. FBC Feeding our Neighbors – 5:00PM Wed. Dinner 5:30PM			