



first baptist church
CHATTANOOGA GATEWAY

A place to be. A place to serve.

August 26, 2026

401 Gateway Ave., Chattanooga, TN 37402

423.265.2257

www.fbcchattanooga.org

Worship Care Workers

August 30

for babies, toddlers, & preschoolers

Debbie & Jim Hamilton

Tiffany Cofer



Deacon Greeters

1. Mandy Pickett
2. Sean Pickett



Worship at First

Streamed and in-person

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Sunday School / Bible Study 9:30AM

10:50AM

SONGS OF COMMUNITY

GRADY WORLEY, PIANO

11:00AM

Dr. Thomas Quisenberry

Exodus 3:1-15

Modern Miracles

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for next SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- * Churchwide Worship at Dogwood, 11:00AM (NO Sunday School or other activities at 401 Gateway)
- * Covered-Dish Lunch at Dogwood, 12:15PM (Bring your favorite covered-dishes to share with everyone.)

The church bus will be available for transportation from our parking lot downtown to and from the Lodge.

Please contact the church office (423.265.2257) by Tuesday, September 1, if you need a ride on the bus.

FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Church Family,

Throughout the summer, as you gathered for conversations and listening sessions across our church community, one theme emerged with remarkable clarity, children, youth, and young families matter deeply to the future of First Baptist Chattanooga.

You spoke passionately about the ways the church shaped your own lives—the people who invested in you, the lessons you learned, the foundations of faith that were formed, and the relationships that helped you become Christian leaders and more faithful disciples. Many of you recognized that the ministries we currently offer to children and youth may be smaller than they have been in the past, but you also affirmed that these ministries remain places where children and young people experience God's love, learn to include and welcome others, and discover that they are valued not only by this congregation but by God.

There was a strong consensus that we need to strengthen our ministries with children, youth, and families. At the same time, you spoke honestly about the realities we face. Our numbers are smaller. Our financial resources are limited. Our location presents challenges. And we recognize that ministering effectively to children, youth, and families in all three areas may be difficult within our current structure. (continued on p.3)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
CHATTANOOGA

Chapel Series

A concert series highlighting
local musicians.



King of Glory, King of Peace

ETHAN MCGRATH

Organist, Pianist, Composer

The concert will be in the Sanctuary.

SUNDAY August 30 | 3 PM

FBC SANCTUARY 401 Gateway Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37402

Church Family Concerns

(Updated from prayer requests and by office staff; not listed in order of priority)

Folks all over the world without food, water, shelter, safety
Those affected by the recent earthquakes in Colombia, Venezuela, et al
Those affected by destructive storms (Hawaii, et al) and wildfires
Those affected by acts of deportation

Local, state, and national elections

Local folks in housing without functioning air conditioning

David Daley

Iris Daniels

Ed Fitch

Pollye Gross

Linda Hardison

Sandy Hood

Brenda Hooper

Barbara Koller

Don & Tommy Manning

Wilbourne Markham

Family of Carol Martin

Lynne Mayfield

Barbara Nolen

Heather Osteen

Melissa Phillips

Cissy Rash

Sue Sisson

Annette Spinks

Imogene Stone

Penny Tullock

Family of Virginia Wagon

Sharon Wilkins

Tom Williams, Sr.

Barry and his grandparents

Billie Jean, Rose Thomas's sister-in-law

Carlinda, Cordelle Terrell's friend

Larry Ford, Angie Ward's uncle

Doris Heath, Grady Worley's cousin

Anthony Henderson's father, Ronald (Anthony, FBC custodian)

Jeff Hudson, Chase Shiflett's dad

Maria Johnson

Nancy & Jim Lewis, Doug Lewis's sister-in-law & brother

Teresa Longer, Sandra & Charlie Longer's daughter-in-law

Mark McGowan, Steve Yantis's friend

Holly Harris Misirly, Sharon & Emily Tousek's relative

Pat Moses, Lynn Strong's mother

Martha Patterson, Cheryl McAfee's sister-in-law

Kelby & Jordan Proctor

Ron Renegar, Brenda Underwood's friend

Lance Robbins, Tom McCullough's friend

Rick Rushworth, the Markham's friend

Charlotte Slaughter, the Markham's friend

Jerry Spinks, Leroy Spinks's brother

Cindy Storey, Carol Prevost's friend

Gara Strong, Rodney Strong's sister-in-law

Cathy Suarez, Rusty Rouse's friend

Lynn & Allen Welton, Wilbourne Markham's relatives

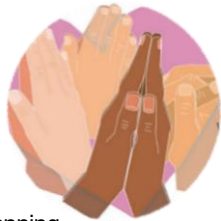
Tim Young, Jim Blentlinger's friend

Hospitalized

Gail Spitler – Memorial Hixson

Recently Discharged

Dan Johnson



FINANCE REPORT

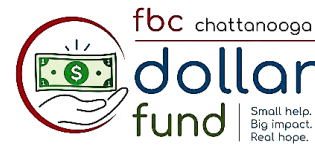
(for August 26, 2026)

MTD Receipts	\$ 59,975.72
MTD Expenses	\$ 64,417.69
MTD Deficit/Excess	-\$ 4,441.97
YTD Receipts	\$572,613.45
YTD Expenses	\$796,095.31
YTD Deficit	-\$223,481.86



With this QR code, you can donate to our budget, pay for event tickets, give to a mission opportunity, and more. Please contact the church office with any questions.

During August, we are collecting \$1 bills as part of our offering to be used to help fund items needed by our community not covered by our CARES fund. Last Sunday, we received \$196 for a current total of \$746. We encourage you to place your dollar bills in the offering baskets as they are passed during Worship.



Helping our neighbors in need with small essentials that make a big difference.



Our congregation partners with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and CBF of Tennessee. cbf.net



NOTE-WORTHY FRIENDS

(They'd love a note from you.)

Jody Stanford
6705 Ballard Dr #307
Chattanooga, TN 37421

Imogene Stone
1775 Generations Way
Ooltewah, TN 37363

Mollie Vannoy
2760 Northpoint Blvd #226
Hixson, TN 37343

SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Tyler Cain, Jamie Fitch, Matthew Hellier
Coty Kissinger, Michael Land
Virginia Condry Ledman, Keith Mays
Sydney McDougal, Nathan Skidmore

SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 26

5:30 pm Bring Your Own Supper Fellowship Hall

Babies / Toddlers / Preschoolers

5:45 pm Childcare E106

6:30 pm Preschool Music & Missions E107

Children (K-5th grade)

6:15 pm Children's Choir E111

7:00 pm Gym Time Gym

Youth

6:15 pm Youth Gathering Youth Area

7:00 pm Gym Time Gym

Adults

6:15 pm Epiphanies E217

Conversation about: Are Most People Good?

Humankind by Rutger Bregman

Facilitated by Jessie Weaver

6:15 pm Midweek Study FH

Behold the Beauty of the Lord by Henri Nouwen

Encountering 4 Pieces of Art, Plus Other Works

Facilitated by Thomas Quisenberry



Aug. 25 Emme Clark
Aug. 28 Ford Cofer
Sandra Longer
Frances Marandi
Aug. 29 Martha Eaves
Aug. 31 Lyn Harris
Sept. 4 David Varnell
Sept. 5 Allison Gord
Sept. 8 Emily Laseter
Kaitlyn Sepulveda
Sept. 10 Caleb Quisenberry
Caroline Smith

(From Our Pastor, continued from p.1)

Yet, alongside those challenges, there was something even stronger: hope.

You expressed a desire for our ministries not simply to survive, but to flourish—to create meaningful opportunities for the children and young people who are part of our church today while building a strong foundation for the years ahead.

Because of what we heard from you, we believe now is the time to begin addressing these needs thoughtfully, prayerfully, and together.

We are therefore forming a Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Task Force. This group will take the hopes, concerns, ideas, and dreams you shared during our listening sessions and consider them alongside the realities of our current congregation, staffing, financial resources, facilities, and ministry needs. The task force will explore what is possible and consider the personnel and ministry structures that could best serve our children, youth, and families both now and into the future.

We do not yet know exactly what the final plan will look like. We do not know what changes may be recommended, what resources will be required, or how quickly everything could be implemented. Those are questions the task force will prayerfully and carefully consider.

What we do know is this: we have heard you. We recognize the need. And we believe this is something we must address together.

The task force's goal will be to bring a proposal to the congregation in the coming months that offers a thoughtful path forward for our ministries with children, youth, and families. That proposal will seek to honor both our hopes for the future and the realities of where we are today.

This will not be the work of a few people on behalf of the congregation. Ultimately, it will be work we undertake together. The task force will help us explore the possibilities, but the future of these ministries belongs to all of us.

We have been reminded that the church has a powerful role in forming the faith of the next generation. Many of us are here today because someone, somewhere along the way, invested in us. Someone taught us. Someone welcomed us. Someone believed in us. Someone helped us discover that we were loved by God.

Now it is our turn.

Let us enter this season with open hearts, honest conversations, courageous imagination, and trust in God's guidance. We may not know exactly where this journey will lead, but we can be confident that seeking the best way to serve children, youth, and families is faithful work.

We have recognized a need. Now, together, we will prayerfully seek the way forward.

Thomas Quisenberry
Pastor, FBC Chattanooga

Wednesday Evening Childcare: Songs, Stories & Play

Parents! While you head to Epiphanies, Midweek Study, or just to enjoy some quiet time to yourself, we've got your little one covered! From 5:45–7:30PM, our little friends (ages 2 and under) will enjoy songs, storytime, and playtime with our caring team. Preschoolers (age 3-preK) will join us except for when they're having their Music and Missions time just across the hall. Whether you're in a group, studying, or savoring the silence — we are here for you!



ON THE CALENDAR, AUG. 27 – SEPT. 9

Thursday, August 27

Shower Ministry 2:00PM

Saturday, August 29

F4: Chatt Town Cool Down 11:00AM

Sunday, August 30

Sunday School/Bible Study 9:30AM

Fellowship Time/Library Open 10:30AM

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 10:40AM

Songs of Community 10:50AM

Worship 11:00AM

CKC: Back 2 School Party 12:30PM

Ethan McGrath Concert 3:00PM

Youth Choir Rehearsal 4:30PM

Youth Supper 5:30PM

Youth Bible Study 6:00PM

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00PM

Tuesday, September 1

Prayer Shawl Ministry Group 10:00AM

Wednesday, September 2

Master's Mats Group 10:00AM

FBC Serves at the CHATT Foundation 11:00AM

Fellowship Time (BYOF) 5:30PM

Preschool Music/Missions 6:15PM

Children's Choir 6:15PM

Youth Gathering 6:15PM

Epiphanies (study/discussion/action) 6:15PM

Midweek Study (Pastor led) 6:15PM

Gym Time (School-age kids & youth) 7:00PM

Friday, September 4

Family Camp at Dogwood

Saturday, September 5

Family Camp at Dogwood

Sunday, September 6

Family Camp at Dogwood

Worship at Dogwood Lodge 11:00AM

Churchwide Covered-Dish Lunch 12:15PM

Monday, September 7

Church Office Closed – Labor Day

Family Camp at Dogwood

Tuesday, September 8

Prayer Shawl Ministry Group 10:00AM

Lunch & Learn 11:00AM

Moving Forward Chattanooga Classes 5:30PM

Tuesday Book Group 6:00PM

Finance Committee Mtg (via Zoom) 7:00PM

Wednesday, September 9

Master's Mats Group 10:00AM

Fellowship Time (BYOF) 5:30PM

Preschool Music/Missions 6:15PM

Children's Choir 6:15PM

Youth Gathering 6:15PM

Epiphanies (study/discussion/action) 6:15PM

Midweek Study (Pastor led) 6:15PM

Gym Time (School-age kids & youth) 7:00PM

House & Grounds Cmte Meeting 7:15PM

Personnel Committee Meeting 7:15PM

FBC Ministerial & Office Support Staff

Dr. Thomas Quisenberry	Senior Pastor	
Rev. Jeff Parker	Minister of Music & Worship	
Rev. Kelly Kunf	Interim Minister of Youth & Children	
David Daley	Facilities Supervisor	423.648.2548
Lila Knauth	Financial Associate	423.648.2547
Patty Spells	Church Administrative Assistant	423.265.2257
Lizzie Alford	Education Administrative Ass't	423.648.2542
Frances Marandi	Music Administrative Assistant	423.648.2543

F4 FAMILIES, FUN, FAITH, FELLOWSHIP

For families with babies – 2nd graders.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29
 Meet at the Coolidge Park Fountain
 Free Event!!

foam slide, yard games, sprinkler run,
 bike obstacle course, puppets,
 free carousel, food trucks, and more

11:00AM – 1:00PM. Look for Kelly.
 Questions? kelly@fbcchattanooga.org or 561.252.2969



Cool Kids Collective
 3rd–5th graders

BACK TO SCHOOL PARTY

Sunday, August 30
 12:30–2:30pm

Meet in the Children's Hangout Room (E109) for pizza, chips, and frozen treat lunch. Please bring \$5 for lunch. Meet new friends, celebrate the school year, share a devotional time.

Questions? Contact Kelly: 561.252.2969 or kelly@fbcchattanooga.org

Master's Mats Group

We have an opportunity to help our Shower Ministry in a unique way: **making sleeping mats** that can be used to keep out the damp and soften the hard ground. The mats are hand woven or crocheted from clean, (previously used) **plastic grocery bags** which have been cut into strips. **You are welcome to join with a group of workers each Wednesday from 10:00-noon in E217.** We especially need folks with scissors who are willing to cut bags. If you have questions or are interested in helping, call Jane Everett (706.224.2908).



Deacon Selection 2027

- Sunday, August 16: Forms available for Deacon nominations
- Sunday, September 13: Nominations end at 12:15PM
- Wednesday, November 4, 6:15PM: Deacon Ordination Council, if needed, followed by ratification by the Deacon Council of the slate of deacons for 2027-2029
- Thursday, November 5: Final slate emailed to church members
- Sunday, November 8: Church affirmation of deacons for 2027-29
- Sunday, November 15: Ordination of new deacons and blessing of all deacons.

Work has begun on the budget for 2027 and the Committee on Committees is working as well. Plan to say "yes" when asked to serve!

Family Camp at Dogwood Lodge

Friday - Monday, September 4–7



FOR RESERVATIONS:
 Call Lizzie Alford at 423.648.2542
 or email lizzie@fbcchattanooga.org

Use of the Lodge: \$15/person/night.
 Tents: \$15/person/night (max \$30/night/family).
 RV spots: \$30/RV/night.
 Get away from it all and enjoy the serenity and community of our church camp!

Our August Habitat for Humanity workday was confined by the heat wave to the Habitat warehouse, but we were able to use the shelter, supplemented by several large fans to pre-build the support beams for a porch to be installed later. In addition, we cut trim to wrap porch support columns to avoid having to do that at a future job site. We were joined in the warehouse by Diane Barnes, a duPont retiree who has volunteered with Habitat for 30 years. For the past 20 years, she has designed the floor plans for new home constructions. This includes the details of each wall section, i.e. location, size, supports, window and door framing, etc. In addition, she and her husband inspect and mark the wall studs to ensure all bow in the same direction to prevent wavy walls. All wall segments are assembled in the warehouse and transported to the job site in the sequence required for installation. There are many volunteers involved in constructing a Habitat home. The best way to find out how you can help is to come try it! If you are willing to participate one day a month, contact Jim McAfee (423.802.5011).



FBC CHATTANOOGA AND THE IRONMAN CHATTANOOGA RACE

Gratefully, we have been given notice ahead of time that the Ironman Chattanooga race taking place on Sunday, September 27, will have all roads leading to FBC Chattanooga blocked for that morning. Since we have that information, we can plan our time of worship and also be present to cheer on racers.

* We will have

Worship in the Chapel on Saturday evening, September 26, at 5:00PM.

*We will NOT have

Sunday School or Worship at 401 Gateway Avenue on Sunday morning, **September 27** (due to streets being closed for Ironman Chattanooga).

*We will have

a group cheering on racers on the 26th. Due to road closures, **you must arrive** in our front parking lot off 6th Street **between 7:30-8:00AM** and be prepared to **stay until 11:00AM**. We may not pass anything out, but we can encourage and cheer the racers. **Bring your noise makers!**

*We will have

our regular Sunday evening youth activities and choir rehearsals on **September 27**. Roads will be accessible by then.