



# FBC Monthly Encourager

Volume IV, No. 8 August 2025

## Trusting God In the Face of Worry

### Matthew 6:27-34

Worry is a universal human experience. Whether it's concern over finances, health, relationships, or the future, anxiety often feels like a persistent companion. But Jesus, in His Sermon on the Mount, gently and clearly reminds us of a profound truth: *worry is powerless*. It cannot add to our lives—it only steals from them.

Jesus asks a rhetorical question in verse 27, “*Which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life?*” The obvious answer is none of us. This simple truth exposes our illusion of control and calls us to something better—*trust in the sovereign care of our Heavenly Father*.

This passage urges us to surrender anxiety not only emotionally but also theologically. We rely not on fate or chance but on a personal God who knows our needs before we ask (v. 32), who provides for the birds and lilies, and who pledges to care for His children even more.

Our Heavenly Father governs all creation, yet He is deeply involved in the lives of His people. Therefore, Jesus’ words are not an invitation to laziness or irresponsibility but a call to faith-filled obedience. We are urged to “seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (v. 33), trusting that as we prioritize God's rule and His values, He will faithfully provide what we need.

To seek God’s kingdom means orienting every part of life—our work, family, finances, and future - under His lordship. This is not a call to do more, but to live with an unshakable conviction that Christ reigns, and that His purposes are worth more than temporal security.

In verse 34, Jesus urges us not to worry about tomorrow. We believe that every day is a gift from God and that the Christian life is lived out daily in the power of the Holy Spirit. Tomorrow belongs to the Lord; our responsibility is to trust and obey Him today.

What specific worries are weighing you down? What truths about your heavenly Father’s character from this passage can help you trust Him more fully, and how can you actively pursue God’s kingdom in areas of worry?

*Abiding in Christ,  
Pastor Jason Pounds*

# Senior Adult



What's the Buzz?



Saturday, September 6th

We will have a hop on the bus night out to the Farmhouse Restaurant in Etowah on Saturday, September 6th. Let's do our best to fill up the bus and enjoy a great night of fellowship, food and Gospel music. The Big Creek Singers will be the featured that night. Please contact Angie in the church office to let us know you would like to reserve a spot on the bus!



Thursday, October 23

The senior adult ministry will be enjoying a train ride on the Hiwassee Loop to see the beautiful Fall colors. We will depart the church campus at 11:30 and have lunch in Etowah before getting on the train at 1:30. The train returns around 6:00 PM. Cost for the trip is \$50 per person. I would like to order the tickets for this trip by the end of July as the Fall dates fill up very quickly. This trip is a wonderful fellowship opportunity and is a very relaxing journey down the Hiwassee river gorge.

Wednesday Bible Study Returns on  
August 13th. 11:00 in the fellowship hall.

We will be going through the final study of the Characters Bible study series and then in October we will start a study in the book of Romans.



# *Worship* MINISTRY

## *Ensembles and Choir Practice Return on Sunday, August 3!*

*All groups will be meeting for a joint rehearsal at 5:00 PM in the choir room. Come and join us as we start a new season of ministry to our church!*

## *Brandon Lake in Concert Thursday, October 16th Knoxville, Tn*

*I would like to take a group to see this concert. Tickets are around \$70.00 a piece and are going fast. Please contact me ASAP if you would like to hop on the bus for this powerful night of worship!*



# *Worship* MINISTRY

## *Fall Ministry Kick Off Dinner!* *Saturday, August 9th at 6:00 PM* *Church Fellowship Hall*

I am incredibly thankful for all of the volunteers that help with the worship ministry throughout the year! It has been a busy summer with Worship Academy meeting each Wednesday evening and a huge week of Music and Arts Camp along with the week to week responsibility of providing worship music for our Sunday services. None of this happens without volunteers that are willing to give of their time and talents to equip the next generation of worshipers and to ensure that our services each Sunday are filled with Spirit led worship that is Gospel rich and Christ centered.

If you are a current member of the worship ministry in any area...choir, ensemble, Joy Choir, children's choir, sound and media or would be interested in joining any of these aspects of the worship ministry at FBC you are invited to come to this kick off dinner! This will be a time to bless and thank those who have been a part of the worship ministry and an opportunity for new members to join in! Childcare will be provided! PLEASE REGISTER by scanning the QR code below or you can hit the link that will be on the church community Facebook page.





# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

It has been an incredible summer! Hard to believe, but it is already time for fall semester! 😊  
Listed below are all the important dates coming up.



## "Lettuce Taco Bout Jesus" Fall Kickoff

Wednesday, August 13 from 4:45-7:30pm

There will be a free walking taco bar for supper. Children may then explore the different activities being offered this fall and sign up for them. After sign ups, they may get their bracelet from the Awana table and go to the bounce houses.



## Children's Missions

Each Sunday at 5:00pm beginning August 17. Classes are held on the Children's Wing.



## Children's Choirs

1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade choir will begin at 5:30pm starting August 20 and will be held in the Pairs and Spares SS Class across from the office. PreK/K prodigees choir will begin at 5:45pm beginning August 20 and will be held in the PreK/K SS Class.



## Awana Clubs

Awana Clubs will begin at 6:15pm starting August 20. Registration will be just inside the doors of the children's wing for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade and outside the PreK/K class for birth to PreK.. The beginning and ending Awana ceremonies will be in the Awana room, first room on the right coming in the children's wing.



If your child(ren) are not already attending Sunday School, now would be a great time to start them. We have classes for Birth to 8<sup>th</sup> grade on the Children's Wing and 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades downstairs.

If you would like to go ahead and get your children registered, scan the code. They will still need to sign up for activities on August 13, but you will have the paperwork done.





# FBC Missions News

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## MISSIONS REPORT

For many years First Baptist has been doing different ministries at our Community Center at Valley Park. We have had Sunday School, after school tutoring and fun days, worship services and singing, along with cookouts. A lot of the activities stopped because of COVID, and with those who were volunteering having to stop after many years.

This ministry at Valley Park began several years ago, as our church was on a mission trip to South Dakota. Our members decided that we had a mission field here in Sweetwater

I want to say thanks to those who served there throughout the years.

Our Sassy Sisters and the Embrace group are still doing different activities there.

I would like for us to start having Sunday School there again. This can be done on a rotation, where you don't have to go each week. So we have decided to start the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month beginning in August. I am not asking you to do something that I wasn't not willing to do myself, so my wife and I will be starting this at first, and others have agreed to go with us. We hope to have others to step up and take one week a month to teach.

Talk to your Sunday School class, this would be a great ministry for your class. Talk with your small group, your friends, to see what other activities that that we can do.

Please contact me about this mission opportunity to serve.

Phil Roy  
Mission Director

**THERE IS A MISSION FIELD  
JUST DOWN THE STREET  
IN SWEETWATER**

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# A NOTE FROM YOUR FBC BUILDING COMMITTEE

## *Building Committee Update*

July 28, 2025

Dear Beloved Congregation,

As we approach the final stages of our exciting building design, we want to keep all church members informed and engaged with our progress. This initiative marks a significant step forward in expanding our facilities to better serve our congregation and the greater community.

Currently, we are in the phase of reviewing and finalizing our diagrammatic designs, which serve as a visual representation of the new facilities. These diagrams are crucial for understanding the spatial dynamics of the new construction and how each area will serve our needs. We have been working closely with a talented team of architects who have been integral in translating our vision into practical and achievable plans.

Exciting times are ahead as we are also moving into the civil engineering phase of our building project for the Church Congregation! The civil engineering team will bring their expertise in land use, structural integrity, and safety codes to ensure that our new building is not only aesthetically pleasing but also functional and safe for all members.

We can't wait to see the plans come together and witness the transformation of our ideas into a tangible reality. Our team is dedicated to ensuring that every detail is carefully crafted to meet our congregation's needs.

We are also reminding everyone about the fundraising aspect of this campaign. The financial support from our congregation makes this project possible. If you haven't yet had the chance to contribute, please consider making a donation; every gift, no matter the size, plays a vital role in bringing our vision to fruition.

Let us celebrate the progress we've made together and look forward to the wonderful opportunities this new building will bring. It is an exciting time in the life of our church as we prepare to expand our facilities to better serve our community both now and in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and involvement in this transformative journey.

Blessings,

Daryl G. West

*Chairman - Building Committee*

Sweetwater First Baptist Church

303 Wright St, Sweetwater, TN 37874

(423) 271-7181 cell





# FINISH THE Vision

## Capital Campaign

2,646 0%



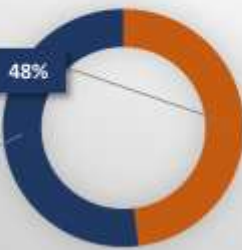
3 Year Goal:  
\$1.2 Million

Commitment:  
\$1,197,354

1,200,000 100%

## Offerings Year to Date

07/27/2025



52%

3 Year Goal:  
\$1.2 Million

Offerings YTD:  
\$631,785.86



## Awana Helper Training

Wednesday, August 6 @ 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.



**The FBC Children and Youth want your cans!!**



We are still collecting TIN vegetable cans that have been rinsed out and the labels removed along with any kind of ALUMINUM drink cans!

**\*\*Please separate your TIN Cans from your ALUMINUM cans and place in separate bags PLEASE. The recycling place won't take them if there not separated! Thank you so much!**

**Thank you for helping the FBC Children & Youth as they take ownership and responsibility in the Finish the Vision Campaign.**





## Men's Ministry Camping Trip

October 10 - 11, 2025

Come and bring the boys for a time of fellowship, games, and fun on our new property. We will begin setting up Friday afternoon and plan on departure Saturday afternoon. Bring your tents or small RV, chairs, and outdoor games. Porta Potty's will be onsite. Signup in the Vestibule.



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Wednesday, August 6th @ 6:30pm

YOUTH Back to School Bash



We will have Messy Game Competitions!

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DNOW/Make It Matter, August 29th-31st, 2025 at Fairview Baptist

DNOW Student Registration Cost is \$50.00!



## *Women's Gathering*

*August 16, 2025*

*11:00am - 2:00pm*

## *Lambert's Barn*

Lunch, Worship, Testimonies, &  
Keynote Speaker

Resilient Faith: Persevering through  
every season

\*Register by placing \$20 in an envelope  
with your name & Embrace on it & turn in  
to the office or offering plate

**\*Deadline to Register is August 10th!**



### Deacon Nominees for 2025/2026



Brian Bean



Tony Carroll



Stephen Powers



Josh Ramsey



Dylan Ridgell



Gabe Russell



## Desserts Needed!



FOR RENEW RECOVERY MONDAY NIGHTS AT 6:00 PM, **PLEASE**  
**HAVE DESSERTS TO CHURCH BY 5:30 PM.** PLEASE SIGN-UP AT  
THE CONNECT CENTER. ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT LORETTA  
NAPIER @ 423-999-0947.

*Thank you!*





## GOSPEL ABOVE ALL



This new eight-session Bible study will give you a fresh perspective on the supremacy of the gospel over the trappings and temptations of modern life.

[LifeWay.com/GospelAboveAll](http://LifeWay.com/GospelAboveAll)

Men's Bible Study Class

Wednesday Evenings : 6:30 - 7:30pm  
Room 305  
August 6 - September 24, 2025



8-SESSION BIBLE STUDY

LETTERS OF HOPE FROM REVELATION

# we over me

Whitney Capps

**New Women's Bible Study on Wednesday  
Nights starting August 13, 2025 at 6:30 pm  
in the Cornerstone Classroom.**

### Overview

It's easy to get frustrated with the local church—we see the people in the pews up close, both their beauty and blemishes. But God has a purpose and a plan that He uniquely accomplishes in and through the church, and He wants you to be part of it.

In the opening 3 chapters of Revelation, we find a wake-up call directed toward 7 churches and discover the truth of God's desire for the church. Over 9 sessions, challenge your perspective and embrace your part in helping the church fulfill its calling.





*Our Mission: Spreading the light of Jesus by loving one another and glorifying God.*

*Our Vision: Engage in inspiring worship encourage spiritual growth, reach youth an young families, witness to the unsaved and minister to the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of member and non-members.*

### **Contact Us**

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423-337-3533**

**Website:  
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