



125 Sedgefield Street
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

November 2025

First Baptist Family,

As I'm sure you've noticed, there's a bit of a rhythm to church life. We have busy months and busy seasons, and we have months and seasons in which things slow down a little bit. November is one of those months in which we're able to slow down, catch our breaths, and prepare for what we know will be a busy December. Consequently, we don't have as much planned this month (though our choir is busy getting ready for their cantata and our children are busy getting ready for their Christmas program). Still, there are still a few things I want to bring to your attention.

First, I want to let you know about Sunday, November 2. That Sunday we will have our All Saints recognition. As most of you know, that is the Sunday we light candles and remember all the saints of this church that have gone on to glory in the past year. It promises to be a somber and meaningful service. **That Sunday we will also be serving communion in worship. And we will have Family Breakfast that morning before Sunday School.** Altogether, it promises to be a nice, full day, so please be sure to be here.

During the month of November, I'm also starting a new sermon series entitled "Singing the Songs of Thanksgiving." In this series I'm going to do something I don't do very often – preach on the Psalms. As you might imagine, I'm also going to focus on the theme of thankfulness throughout the month, so I hope that you will join us.

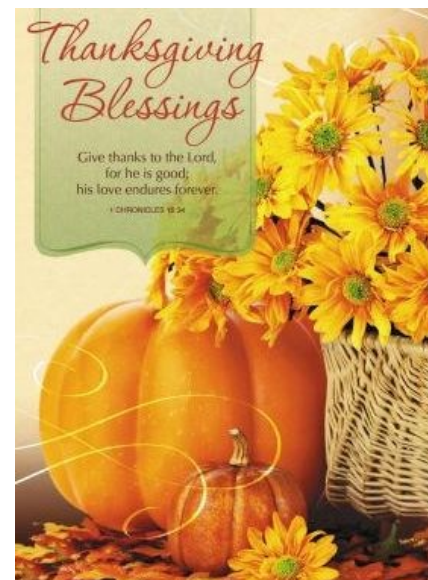
Finally, Advent begins in November this year. Sunday, November 30 is the first Sunday of Advent, and we will be having our modified Hanging of the Greens service that day. We'll also begin lighting the candles of Advent that Sunday. The church will be decorated beautifully. We'll begin singing some of your favorite seasonal hymns. All in all, it promises to be a wonderful start to one of everybody's favorite times of year, so don't miss it.

Of course, during the month of November it's hard not to think about all that you have to be thankful for. Whether it's a warm home as the weather gets cooler or reliable transportation or a job that you can tolerate even if you

don't outright love it, we all have plenty to be thankful for – and that's before we get to things like friends and family. We've all been blessed in more ways that we can count. And I think that it is good for us spiritually to reflect on all the ways in which God has blessed us. When we start to really think about it, we just might be surprised by how much God has given us. Looking back and counting our blessings do two things for us. First, they help give us proper perspective. We're all inundated with bad news everywhere we look, and counting our blessings lets us know that things aren't quite as dire as we're sometimes led to believe. It shifts our focus from what we don't have to what we do. Second, looking back and counting our blessings encourage us to look for the ways in which God is still active and at work in our lives and in the world today. It reminds us that God isn't just confined to the past or to some nebulous future, but that God is out and about here and now making all heaven break loose. And both of those things are extremely healthy for us spiritually. So, before you start your Thanksgiving to-do list or you start planning the route you're going to take to visit friends and family, take some time to look back and count your blessings. Take some time to be thankful. Not only will you be glad that you did, but it's one of the most spiritually healthy things you can do.

Grace and Peace,

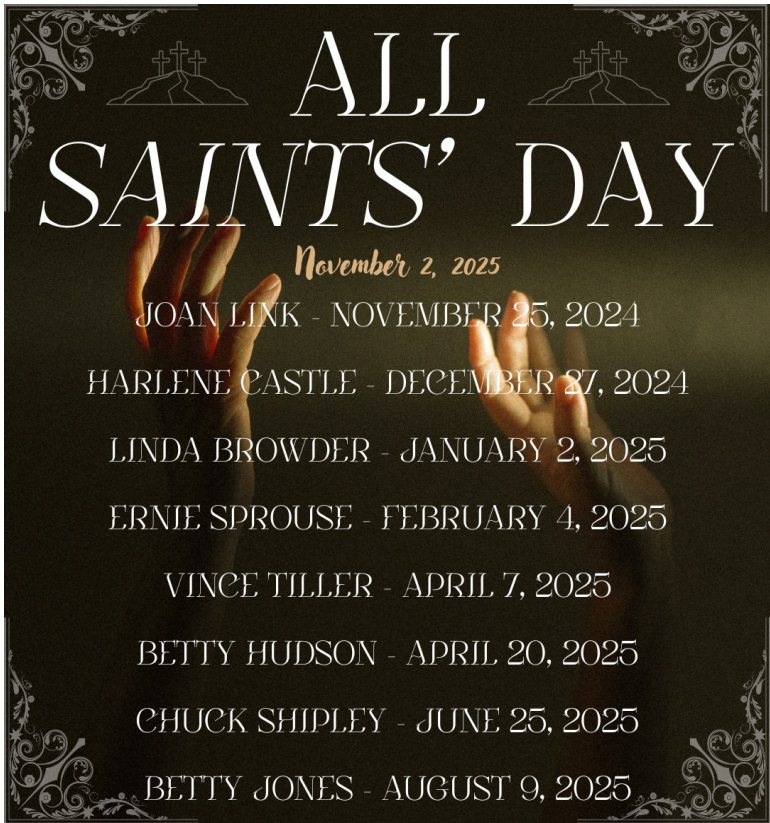
Kris



The CAPS, GLOVES, and SOCKS are very much appreciated by the people in our area trying to keep warm.
You can bring these items to the Hannah Classroom.
Gently used or new -which ever you have to donate.
Thank you for your thoughtfulness to our community.



Please keep in mind that socks are the number one clothing item that is needed by the un-housed community year round.
We are asking for extra donations of socks in order to offer them year round.



**GENTLE
MOVEMENT CLASS**

ROSSER HALL

EVERY FRIDAY

MORNING-9:00 A.M.

IT IS DESIGNED FOR ADULTS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES.
WE COMBINE SEATED AND STANDING EXERCISES TO IMPROVE BALANCE, STRENGTH, AND FLEXIBILITY.

EACH CLASS ENDS WITH A SHORT TIME FOR TEA AND CONVERSATION.

JOIN US FOR LAUGHTER AND MOVEMENT, IT'LL STRENGTHEN YOUR BODY AND LIFT YOUR SPIRITS.

WARMLY,
REV. ADRIENNE OSBORNE

**NO CLASS:
NOV. 7 & 28**



Greetings First Baptist Family!

“Be still and know that I am God.” Words from one of our most recent choir anthems and one of my favorite Bible verses! If you are like me it can be hard to be still. Not necessarily physically, but mentally too. There just always seems to be something to do, somewhere to go or something that needs my attention. I challenged the choir (and myself) to take a few moments and actually be still, quiet your mind and your body. Maybe before you go into the grocery store, or before your feet hit the floor in the morning or even while you are enjoying a cup of tea or coffee. Take a few moments and be still. Invite God into that moment and then go forward and be a reflector of His love and light to those you come in contact with.



Youth & Children News...



Youth Friendsgiving

November 20, 2025

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Details coming soon!

See Ben for more information

It's not too late to come to the practices!



KIDS & YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m.



November 7-9

Sevierville

Cost: \$200



Youth -FALL RETREAT-

See Ben for more information.

First Baptist Church of Bristol Staff

Dr. Kris Aaron	Senior Pastor	Ms. Marcine Robinette.....Parish Nurse
Rev. Ben Ondrak	Associate Pastor	Mrs. Emma Vance.....Ministry Asst. for Children
Mrs. Andrea Cottrill	Director of Music Ministries	Ms. Terri ThomasChurch Administrator
Mrs. Jackie Burnette	Pianist	and Financial Secretary
Mrs. Andrea Pennington	Organist	Ms. Niki Judy Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Adrienne Osborne	Ministry Intern	



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Website: www.fbcbristol.org
 You can also find us on Facebook.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

125 Sedgefield Street
 Bristol, VA 24201

Deacon of the Week for November

November 02	Bob Love
November 09	Roberta Yowell
November 16	Tom Makres
November 23	Chris Tipton
November 30	Eldon Wilson

November FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

November 01 & 02	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
November 08 & 09	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
November 15 & 16	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
November 22 & 23	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
November 29 & 30	Terri Thomas	(423) 963-7576