



the MESSENGER

July /// 2026

NEWS INSIDE

Page 2

First Thoughts:
When Personal
Weakness Leads to
Spiritual Power

Page 3

Worship and Music,
VBS Highlights

Page 4

Student Ministry,
Children's Ministry

Page 5

Calendar

Page 6

Birthdays, Welcome
New Members

Page 7

FBC Dandridge
Happenings



**Behold
THE CROSS**

AUGUST 28-29, 2026
Lift your eyes. Fix your gaze. Behold the cross.

Ladies, please join us for a meaningful weekend of worship, teaching, and reflection as we gather to behold the beauty and power of the cross.

Find more info here

Save the Date! | August 28-29 2026 Behold Women's Conference Carson Springs Conference Center

Lift your eyes. Fix your gaze. Behold the Cross.

Join women of all ages for two days of worship, biblical teaching, encouragement, and Christ-centered fellowship as we turn our hearts and attention to the beauty and hope found in the cross of Christ. For more information and to register today visit www.beholdwomensconference.com



FIRST THOUGHTS

When Personal Weakness Leads to Spiritual Power

Few people desire weakness. It's definitely not a characteristic that most would celebrate. When was the last time someone applied for a job and listed their weaknesses on their résumé? Could you imagine the backlash the Tennessee football coaches would receive if they made the decision to play the slowest and weakest athletes this fall? How many people on social media are eager to make posts about their failures and struggles for the whole world to see? Probably not many, if any at all. Personal weakness is not an item on many wish lists.

In the currency of our world, success is generally found among those who are the strongest and brightest, the most wealthy, beautiful, athletic, and popular. If we want to achieve more than others, we must shed our weaknesses and clothe ourselves with personal strength. Weakness is viewed as something to overcome, not something to embrace. But it's this negative view of weakness that makes the apostle Paul's words sound so bizarre and backwards.

"I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities...for when I am weak, then I am strong" (2 Cor. 12:10).

Wait, did the translators render this verse correctly? Is that what Paul really meant to say? Was he being serious when he said that personal weakness leads to an increase in spiritual strength? As backwards as it sounds, the answer is yes. But why is this the case?

The greatest hinderance to spiritual power is pride. It's the feeling in our heart that we know what is best, that we have everything under control, that through our own strength and training we can do whatever we want, that we're more talented and needed than others, that the rules don't apply to our lives, and that we deserve better treatment and more praise than those around us. In essence, pride is the self-sufficient spirit that blinds us from seeing our need for Christ, never sensing that we need his help or guidance. Such an attitude is why the Bible teaches that *"God opposes the proud"* (James 4:6), that *"pride comes before the fall"* (Prov. 16:18), and that *"pride leads to disgrace"* (Prov. 11:2). Pride is spiritually

dangerous and debilitating, and it drains the spiritual power out of our lives.

So, when Paul confesses that his personal weaknesses led to spiritual power, he's not saying that Jesus rewards those who are weak simply because they are weak and he feels sorry for them. The reason Paul learned to embrace his weaknesses is because in these moments he became way more dependent on Jesus and less dependent on self. The humility that was produced through his sorrows, troubles, temptations, and other difficulties dismantled his pride, allowing the power of Christ to rest upon him. Therefore, he could say, *"When I am weak, then I am strong."* James captures this principle when he says that *"God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble"* (James 4:6). You see, weakness in itself doesn't make us strong, but it leads us to turn to the One who is truly strong.

My prayer is that you would learn to see your personal weaknesses from this perspective. Whenever you are feeling weak, inadequate, or overwhelmed, confess that to Jesus and ask him to give you strength. Give up on yourself and turn to the Lord. Remember Jesus' promise, *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness"* (2 Cor. 12:9). That's how personal weakness leads to spiritual power.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Justin

VBS 2026



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Wednesday Night July Schedule

- July 1 - NO Weds. Night Activities
- July 8 - *NO Adult Choir Rehearsal
- July 15 - 6:30 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal
- July 22 - 6:30 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal
- July 29 - 6:30 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal



STUDENT MINISTRY



July 1

No Wednesday Night

July 5

FBC Students Swim and Grill

4:30 PM @ the Cook's pool.

July 8, 15, 22

Youth Wednesday Nights

July 29

-Breakfast for JCHS Football Team
provided through FBC Student Ministry.

-Student Ministry Preview Night.

Parents of upcoming 6th graders are invited to join their student from 6:00-7:15 PM in the Student Room to preview the Student ministry before Promotion Sunday.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Summer Breakout - Wednesdays, 6 PM

Summer Wednesday nights are going to be excellent midweek breaks for your kids to come, grow in Christ, and have a blast with their friends! Food will be provided, so come have good clean summer fun at the church!



FirstKids Pool Party - Wednesday, July 22, 6:30-8:30 PM

There's no better way to close out the Summer than with a pool party! Join us at the Jefferson City Outdoor Pool for a night of relaxation, snacks, and fun! Children under 6 years old will need a parent or guardian to stay with them, although all parents are welcome to stay if they wish! Sign-up soon to let us know that you are coming!

JULY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Jun - 28	Jun - 29	Jun - 30	Jul - 1	Jul - 2	Jul - 3	Jul - 4
			OFFSITE 9:30a - 10:50a Jefferson Park	10a - 11a Ladies Legacy Fitness Group	ALL DAY Church Office Closed ALL DAY Independence Day observed	ALL DAY Independence Day-Church Office Closed ALL DAY Independence Day
Jul - 5	Jul - 6	Jul - 7	Jul - 8	Jul - 9	Jul - 10	Jul - 11
9:15a - 10:15a Bible Fellowship 10:30a - 11:45a Morning Worship Service OFFSITE 4:30p - 6:30p FBC Students Swim & Grill	9a - 10a Staff Meeting		OFFSITE 9:30a - 10:50a Jefferson Park 6p - 7p Adult Bible Study 6p - 7:15p FirstKids 6p - 7:15p FBCD Students	10a - 11a Ladies Legacy Fitness Group	9a - 11a Quilting Group-FAITH Fellowship	
Jul - 12	Jul - 13	Jul - 14	Jul - 15	Jul - 16	Jul - 17	Jul - 18
9:15a - 10:15a Bible Fellowship 10:30a - 11:45a Morning Worship Service 11:45a - 12:45p Deacon Meeting 5p - 6p Dive! Ladies Bible Study	9a - 10a Staff Meeting		OFFSITE 9:30a - 10:50a Jefferson Park 6p - 7p Adult Bible Study 6p - 7:15p FirstKids 6p - 7:15p FBCD Students 6:30p - 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal	10a - 11a Ladies Legacy Fitness Group		
Jul - 19	Jul - 20	Jul - 21	Jul - 22	Jul - 23	Jul - 24	Jul - 25
9:15a - 10:15a Bible Fellowship 10:30a - 11:45a Morning Worship Service	9a - 10a Staff Meeting		OFFSITE 9:30a - 10:50a Jefferson Park 6p - 7p Adult Bible Study 6p - 7:15p FBCD Students 6:30p - 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal OFFSITE 6:30p - 8:30p FirstKids Pool Party at Jefferson City Outdoor Pool	10a - 11a Ladies Legacy Fitness Group	9a - 11a Quilting Group-FAITH Fellowship OFFSITE 5:30p - 7:30p Golf Scramble at Patriot Hills	
Jul - 26	Jul - 27	Jul - 28	Jul - 29	Jul - 30	Jul - 31	Aug - 1
9:15a - 10:15a Bible Fellowship 10:30a - 11:45a Morning Worship Service	9a - 10a Staff Meeting		OFFSITE 9:30a - 10:50a Jefferson Park 6p - 7p Adult Bible Study 6p - 7:15p FirstKids 6p - 7:15p FBCD Students 6:30p - 7:30p Adult Choir Rehearsal	10a - 11a Ladies Legacy Fitness Group		

JULY BIRTHDAYS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Silas Hanks
6/7/2026



Garry & Jan Weaver
6/7/2026



Emma Angela
6/21/2026



Carter Meek
6/21/2026

FBC DANDRIDGE HAPPENINGS



School Supply Drive

Appalachian Ministries of the Smokies is collecting school supplies for their annual giveaway on July 30. Drop off donations in the bins in the Welcome Center and at the Church Office by Sunday, July 19. You can also donate \$30 to purchase and fill a backpack. Contact Karrie Foust at 865-475-5611 or kfoust@cn.edu for more information or to volunteer with the distribution event.

APPALACHIAN MINISTRIES OF THE SMOKIES

BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

JULY 30, 2026 | 9 A.M. – 3 P.M.
511 MUNICIPAL DRIVE, JEFFERSON CITY, TN 37760

SUPPLIES NEEDED BY JULY 24, 2026

• PENCILS	• COLORED PENCILS	• CRAYONS
• PAPER	• MARKERS	• SCISSORS
• BACKPACKS (17	• ERASERS	• HIGHLIGHTERS
INCHES OR LARGER	• BINDERS	• KLEENEX
FOR HIGH SCHOOL	• FOLDERS	• ETC.
STUDENTS)	• BINDERS 2" OR 3"	
• PENS	• EXPO MARKERS	
• RULERS		
• GLUE		

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF OR MAILED TO:
Appalachian Ministries of the Smokies
511 Municipal Drive, Jefferson City, TN 37760

A \$30 DONATION WILL FILL A BACKPACK
FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO VOLUNTEER CALL
865.475.5611 or kfoust@cn.edu



The event is open to any school age child in Jefferson, Cocke, or Grainger County. Please bring a piece of mail with a current address and a photo ID.

Your child must be present if possible and be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



Happy 4th of July!

There will be NO evening activities Wednesday, **July 1** and the Church Office will be closed Friday, **July 3**.

NO Wednesday Night Dinners - June & July

Our kitchen volunteers have been working diligently and will be taking the months of June & July off, so there will be NO Wednesday night dinners for these two months.

Growing Families Adult Bible Fellowship Class | Room 228

Our new Adult Bible Fellowship class, Growing Families, has moved! This class is designed specifically for couples in their 20s and 30s and provides a great opportunity to grow in your faith, strengthen your marriage, and build meaningful relationships with other couples in a similar stage of life. Together, we'll explore God's Word, encourage one another, and walk through life's joys and challenges side by side. Whether you're newly married, have young children, or are simply looking to get connected, this class is for you! This class is now meeting in Room 228.

Ladies Legacy Fitness | Weekly on Thursdays | 10:00 AM

Ladies, join us on Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Student Ministry Area for Ladies Legacy Fitness. Contact Wendy Ivens for more information at 865-850-3530.

Golf Scramble | July 24 | 5:30 PM

Join us on Friday, **July 24** at 5:30 PM at Patriot Hills for our Glorify, Grow & Go Golf Scramble. Signup at the Welcome Center Desk or by going to fbcdandridge.org.

Quilting Group - FAITH Fellowship | July 10 & 24 | 9:00 AM

The Quilting Group will meet at 9:00 AM on **July 10 & 24** in Room 216. Contact Debbie Murphy for more info at 863-838-2827.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Info

Our official campaign and collection won't begin for another few months but now is a good time to purchase school supplies and other items that might be on sale. A suggested packing list is always available online at www.samaritanspurse.org.

Online Sign Up Information

Have you asked the question, I wonder how to sign up for that event? To get the latest on the FBCD Event Sign Up information, simply click the following link, <https://fbcdandridge.typeform.com/signup> or scan the QR Code to take you directly to all the available events to get you signed up.





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH D A N D R I D G E

951 Hwy 92 S - PO Box 246
Dandridge, TN 37725

Current Resident or

General Information

Ministerial Staff:

Dr. Justin Terrell, Senior Pastor

justin@fbcdandridge.org

Rev. Cory Hammett, Pastor of Spiritual Growth & Missions

cory@fbcdandridge.org

Rev. Joel Ogle, Pastor of Worship & Counseling

joel@fbcdandridge.org

Dr. Trey Meek, Pastor of Youth & Families

trey@fbcdandridge.org

Rev. Joe Hanks, Pastor of Children & Families

joe@fbcdandridge.org

Support Staff:

Lauren Opeil, Ministry Assistant

lauren@fbcdandridge.org

Alicia Linsley, Ministry Assistant

alicia@fbcdandridge.org

Diane Marshall, Church Accountant

diane@fbcdandridge.org

Donna McDonald, Chef/Food Services

Michelle Johnson, Pianist

Susan Haas, Pianist

Jerry Price, Organist

Church Office: (865) 397-3940

Bible Fellowship Report Average Attendance

	May 2026	YTD
Preschool	24	22
Children	27	27
Youth	27	29
Adult	208	214
Offsite	0	0
Overall average	286	292

Worship Attendance Average for
May – TBD

Financial Report

	May 2026	YTD
Budget Fund Goal	\$155,375.85	\$683,653.74
Budget Receipts	\$117,998.61	\$620,585.64
Building Fund Receipts	7,845.40	26,955.40
Designated Receipts	18,658.11	130,108.28
Total Receipts	\$144,502.12	\$777,649.32