



FIRST THOUGHTS

Opening the Door of Evangelism

Sharing the gospel isn't always easy. As believers, we've all been in those situations where we know the person we are talking to needs to hear about Jesus, but we just can't bring ourselves to have that conversation. The reasons are many. Sometimes we fear what they might think of us. Other times we feel intimidated by the questions they might ask, not wanting to be stuck without an answer. We also struggle with those that we feel might be "too lost" to be saved, thinking that they won't listen to a single word we're saying and our efforts are useless. But outside of these issues, one of the most difficult barriers that I've experienced is how to shift an ordinary conversation into a gospel conversation without being awkward, clumsy, or forced. In other words, it's learning to transition to the topic of Jesus in a way that's natural and effective. That's no easy task.

One of the best helps that I've received recently came from the book that we are working through on Wednesday evenings called, "Sharing the Gospel." In chapter three, Tony Payne describes how believers need to be "everyday ambassadors" for Christ, which means that we need to represent Jesus whenever and wherever we are, regardless of who we are around. However, he notes, "We often feel a bit strange injecting the topic of Christianity into our everyday chat with friends" (46). I think most of us identify with this issue. We want people to know about Jesus, but for some reason we hesitate to mention anything related to our faith in our conversations with others. Payne explains that we often "self-censor" our talk about God.

“We often feel a bit strange injecting the topic of Christianity into our everyday chat with friends.”

"When we are with our Christian friends, we often talk quite naturally about the parts of the Bible we're reading, or what God is doing in our lives, or what happened at Bible study last Wednesday. We discuss things we would like to pray for each other, and so on. Jesus is a normal part of our conversation, because he is the central person in our lives. But in our secular world, we often speak a different language - perhaps because

of awkwardness, or fear, or simply because God doesn't have prime place in our hearts and minds. We self-censor, we edit Christianity and Jesus and church out of our conversation." (47-48).

Do you find yourself "self-censoring" details about your relationship with God in the presence of others? In other words, rather than mentioning where you go to church, or what you've recently learned in the Bible, or how God has blessed you during a time of need, you simply avoid bringing up those aspects about your life during a normal conversation. But according to Payne, mentioning these details can provide a natural way to shift a conversation to Jesus. Consider the following examples:

- When someone asks us what we did over the weekend, instead of omitting any mention of church we can talk about the fascinating Bible talk we heard that raised an interesting issue.
- When we're talking about what we did last night, we can mention that we went to Bible study like we do every Tuesday night.
- When someone asks us about our plans for the future in some area, we can say that we are praying about it and that, God willing, we hope to do ... this or that.
- When someone shares a struggle or hardship in their life, we can offer to pray for them.

There are many other ways that we can inject normal details about our walk with the Lord that will open the door to a deeper discussion about Jesus. Let's pray for God to give us the boldness and confidence to mention the ordinary happenings of our spiritual lives with those who need the hope of the gospel.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Pastor Justin

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Worship Notes

Worship Notes is a brief devotion, published weekly, to prepare us for corporate worship.

Each week has a focus on the scripture and theology behind the worship songs for the week, some meditations on the way the service was designed, and samples of the songs we will sing together, giving particular emphasis to new or unfamiliar music.

Find Worship Notes on our weekly eBulletin, our social media accounts or on the website:

<https://www.fbcdandridge.org/worship-notes>



Children and Your Families

Thank you for taking a trip with us through hundreds of years of rich history and testimonies in song as we searched to find *The Greatest Hymn on Earth!*

BILINGUAL CHURCH PLANT

Quick Update from Pastor Waldhys

I think Scripture mandates believers to think about the societal arena in which they live. God pushes Christians to think beyond their own self-interest to engage with those around them, beginning with those in their congregations and moving outward henceforth. Jesus' atoning work on the cross naturally leads us to think about not only our standing before God but also about our neighbor's standing before God. Listen to these glorious truths. Peter writes that "He himself bore our sins in His body on the tree" (1 Pet. 2:24); Paul said that "He canceled your record of debt that stood against you, nailing it to the cross" (Col. 2:14); Isaiah wrote, "He was pierced for our transgressions" (Isa. 53:5). And He did all of this in obedience to the Father for anyone who would call upon His name.

However, how the church engages in the societal sphere is diametrically opposed to how the world thinks about and works in this arena. Man without Christ sees the government as a savior, bringing in utopia through government policies that address social ills; the church sees Christ as Savior, ushering in true utopia through His

blood shed on the cross. We work to comfort the widow, the orphan, the poor precisely because we were all of those spiritually. And now we are not by His grace. We work to alleviate the societal effects of sin, knowing that the most important effect man needs to address is his hard heart towards God, which separates him from God. Christ is the remedy to heal that malady. The truths about Jesus' atoning work propels us forward.

On May 4, Verdad en Amor and FBCD will work with Remote Area Medical (RAM) to provide free medical services to those in need in our community. Services will be provided for the uninsured, underinsured, and those who cannot afford to pay. We are not only looking to meet physical needs but also spiritual needs. We hope to engage with people about their spiritual condition by offering to pray with them, sharing with them the gospel message, and inviting them to church. Please be praying for those who will volunteer that day. Pray for our medical doctors, nurses, translators, security team, cooking team, and many others. Our desire is for Christ to be glorified by sharing the gospel message with others.

STUDENT MINISTRY

LIFE GROUPS

Hinchey Life Group | Tuesdays from 6-8pm

Ogle Life Group | May 5 from 6-8pm



Help Prepare for Beach Week

As we prepare for our Beach Week the first week of June, I want to invite you to support our students in 2 ways:

1. **Pray** | We will have a prayer guide available that we would love for you to use to cover this week in prayer.
2. **Give** | You can donate a Sam's or Walmart gift card to help offset the cost of food for the week.

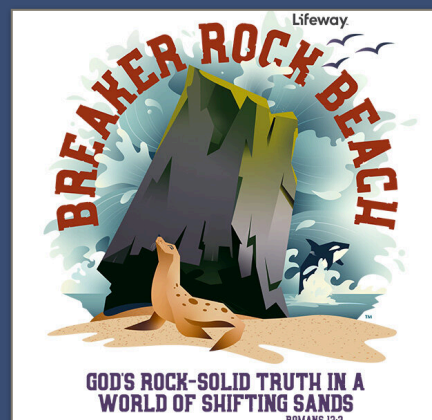
Contact Pastor Josh with questions and to get more information!



Starting this June!

This summer our students will GO share the love of Jesus and the gospel through various service projects, mission nights and other avenues.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



BREAKER ROCK BEACH - VBS 2024!

Save the Date! June 10th-14th we're going to spend a week at First Baptist Dandridge's finest beach learning about how to cling to God's unchanging, unshakable truth! It's the best week of the year and you won't want to miss it! REGISTRATION IS OPEN!



We're kicking off the Summer on May 22nd with good food and good times! Your kids aren't going to want to miss out as we start our Summer Ministries in style with our own version of the Olympic Games! All our Wednesdays in the summer start at 6:00 PM.



MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr - 28	Apr - 29	Apr - 30	May - 1	May - 2	May - 3	May - 4
			4:30p - 5:30p First - Weds. Night Dinner 5:30p - 7p First - FirstKids 6p - 7p First - Adult Bible Study 6p - 7p First - FBCD Students 6:30p - 7:30p First - Adult Choir Rehearsal			
May - 5	May - 6	May - 7	May - 8	May - 9	May - 10	May - 11
9:15a - 10:15a First - Bible Fellowship 10:30a - 11:45a First - Morning Worship Service 11:45a - 12:45p First - Deacon Meeting 4p - 5p First - Adult Bible Fellowship Teacher Meeting 5p - 6p First - Women's Theology Study		6p - 7p First - Prayer Meeting OFFSITE 6p - 8p Student Life Group- Hinchev OFFSITE 7p - 8p Bilingual Bible Study	4:30p - 5:30p First - Weds. Night Dinner 5:30p - 7p First - FirstKids 6p - 7p First - Adult Bible Study 6p - 7p First - FBCD Students 6:30p - 7:30p First - Adult Choir Rehearsal			
May - 12	May - 13	May - 14	May - 15	May - 16	May - 17	May - 18
9:15a - 10:15a First - Bible Fellowship 10:30a - 11:45a First - Morning Worship with Baby Dedication	9a - 10a First - Staff Meeting	6p - 7p First - Prayer Meeting OFFSITE 6p - 8p Student Life Group- Hinchev OFFSITE 7p - 8p Bilingual Bible Study	4:30p - 5:30p First - Weds. Night Dinner 5:30p - 7p First - FirstKids 6p - 6:30p First - RA/GA Recognition 6p - 7p First - Adult Bible Study 6p - 7p First - FBCD Students 6:30p - 7:30p First - Adult Choir Rehearsal			10a - 12p First - VBS Training
May - 19	May - 20	May - 21	May - 22	May - 23	May - 24	May - 25
9:15a - 10:15a First - Bible Fellowship 10:30a - 11:45a First - Morning Worship Service 11:45a - 1p First - Senior Sending Celebration 4p - 5p First - Women's Prayer Group 5p - 6p First - Women on Mission OFFSITE 6p - 8p First - Student Life Group-Ogle	9a - 10a First - Staff Meeting	ALL DAY First - Jeff. Co. Schools Last Day 6p - 7p First - Prayer Meeting OFFSITE 6p - 8p Student Life Group- Hinchev OFFSITE 7p - 8p Bilingual Bible Study	4:30p - 5:30p First - Weds. Night Dinner 5:30p - 7p First - FirstKids 6p - 7p First - Adult Bible Study 6p - 7p First - FBCD Students 6:30p - 7:30p First - Adult Choir Rehearsal		ALL DAY First - Lakeway Schools Last Day & Graduation	
May - 26	May - 27	May - 28	May - 29	May - 30	May - 31	Jun - 1
9:15a - 10:15a First - Bible Fellowship 10:30a - 11:45a First - Morning Worship Service	ALL DAY Memorial Day	6p - 7p First - Prayer Meeting OFFSITE 7p - 8p Bilingual Bible Study	4:30p - 5:30p First - Weds. Night Dinner 6p - 7p First - Adult Bible Study 6p - 7p First - FBCD Students 6:30p - 7:30p First - Adult Choir Rehearsal		OFFSITE 5p - 9p FBC Dandridge Golf Scramble	

MAY BIRTHDAYS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Tom, Amanda &
Allison Snowden
4/7/2024



Gerald Hodges
4/14/2024

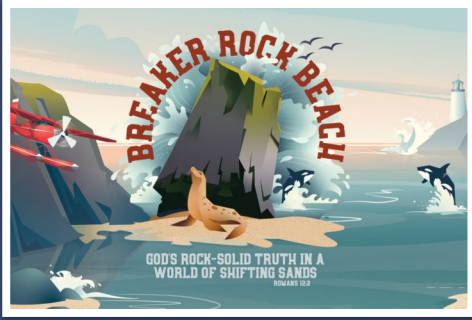


Paisley Roberts
4/14/2024



Theresa Jeans &
Caden Bivens
4/21/2024

FBC DANDRIDGE HAPPENINGS



VBS Training

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 10-14, 9 AM - noon. There will be a training session for **ALL VOLUNTEERS** on Saturday, **May 18** from 10 AM - noon in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in serving and have not signed up, please contact Pastor Joe in the Church Office.



50 in 50 Outreach

We will resume our Sunday afternoon outreach program on **May 19** at 4:00 PM in Room 216. After a time of prayer and instructions, we will go out in groups of two or more and try to reach 50 homes in 50 minutes with gospel-centered conversations. For more information, contact Pastor Cory at cory@fbcdandridge.org or call the Church Office at 865-397-3940.

Baby Dedication

If your family would like to participate in this service on Mother's Day (May 12), please contact the Church Office and email your child's name, date of birth, and a picture of your child to lauren@fbcdandridge.org by Monday, **May 6**.

Women's Theology Study

Ladies, please join us for our next class on Sunday, **May 5** at 5:00 PM in Room 216. We will cover chapters 15 & 16 of *Do You Believe?* by Paul David Tripp and discuss the doctrine of sin.

Women's Prayer Group and Women on Mission

Our last Women on Mission meeting of the year before summer will be on **May 19** at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall following the Women's Prayer Group meeting at 4:00 PM in the back of the Fellowship Hall. At this final meeting, you are encouraged to bring some snacks to share with one another! Please come to support both groups until the fall.

Mission Project

Thank you to our Women on Mission Group and friends who made and donated 59 t-shirt jump ropes for an upcoming South Africa mission trip. To God be the Glory!

Deacon Nominations

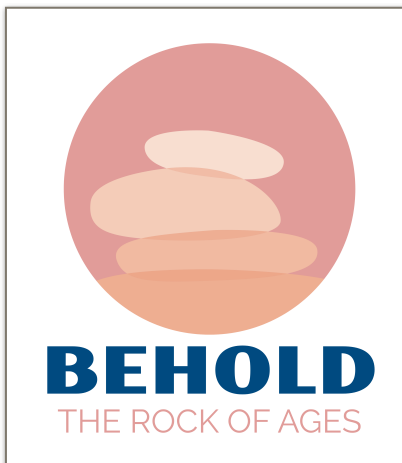
Included in this Messenger is an insert with deacon nomination information and ballots. Additional ballots are available at the Welcome Center desk and in the Church Office. **Please turn in your nominations by Friday, May 24.**

Appalachian Ministry of the Smokies Volunteer Meals

Each year Appalachian Ministry of the Smokies hosts volunteer teams who are working with their Home Repair Ministry. These teams spend the week working on a local home to make physical repairs and to make spiritual connections. FBC Dandridge is honored to host these teams for breakfast and dinner each day **Monday, May 27 - Thursday, May 31**. These meals will be hosted by various Sunday School classes but if you are not involved in a class and would like to help, you can volunteer to help cook or serve. To volunteer please contact Cory Hammett at cory@fbcdandridge.org.

FBC Dandridge Golf Scramble

Stop by and sign up in the Welcome Center or by going to <https://fbcdandridge.typeform.com/GolfScramble> for the scramble on Friday, **May 31** at 5:00 PM at Patriot Hills Golf Course. Cost is \$15 per person.



Behold Women's Conference

Ladies, please save the date for this year's Behold Women's Conference! We hope you will join us **August 23-24** at Carson Springs Conference Center in Newport as speakers Andrea Lennon and Emily Terrell guide us in beholding the Rock of Ages. More details coming soon!



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

951 Hwy 92 S - PO Box 246
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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
- Dr. Chris Headley, Pastor of Worship & Music
chris@fbcdandridge.org
- Rev. Waldhys Rodoli, Bilingual Church Pastor
waldhys@fbcdandridge.org
- Rev. Josh Ogle, Pastor of Students & Families
josh@fbcdandridge.org
- Rev. Joe Hanks, Pastor of Children & Families
joe@fbcdandridge.org

Support Staff:

- Lauren Opeil, Ministry Assistant
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- Alicia Linsley, Ministry Assistant
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- Diane Marshall, Church Accountant
diane@fbcdandridge.org
- Caine Jones, Maintenance & Grounds Manager
caine@fbcdandridge.org
- Jody Tatum, Custodian/Maintenance
- Donna McDonald, Chef/Food Services
- Kristel Headley & Michelle Johnson, Pianists
- Jerry Price, Organist

Church Office: (865) 397-3940

Bible Fellowship Report

Average Attendance

	<u>March 2024</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Preschool	10	16
Children	21	26
Youth	18	27
Adult	163	207
Offsite	0	0
Overall average	212	271

Worship Attendance Average for
March – TBD

Financial Report

	<u>March 2024</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Budget Fund Goal	\$142,069.60	\$369,380.96
Budget Receipts	\$144,989.62	\$384,464.62
Building Fund Receipts	4,605.00	11,911.00
Designated Receipts	<u>49,533.20</u>	<u>103,675.64</u>
Total Receipts	\$199,127.82	\$500,051.26