

# First Thoughts...

This month marks the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of our country—it’s also being called the *semiquincentennial* anniversary. It’s an incredible milestone to celebrate and offers another opportunity to think about our freedoms.

This nation has been blessed in so many ways, and Baptists have taken a leading role especially in the area of religious freedom.

Baptists have been champions of religious liberty from our beginnings as a denomination. Historically, we have been on the forefront as advocates for the separation of church and state.

In his classic work “Four Fragile Freedoms,” Walter Shurden put it this way: “RELIGIOUS FREEDOM is the historic Baptist affirmation of freedom OF religion, freedom FOR religion, and freedom FROM religion, insisting that Ceasar is not Christ and Christ is not Ceasar.”

One of the most significant presentations of this Baptist principle came during a sermon on May 16, 1920 from the east steps of the National Capitol Building. Dr. George Truett, pastor of FBC Dallas, said that Jesus’ word about rendering to Caesar what was Caesar’s and unto God what is God’s is one of “the most revolutionary and history making utterances that ever fell from those lips divine. That utterance, once for all, marked the divorcement of church and state.”

Baptists have had many disagreements (to put it mildly) through the years. But, it’s important to celebrate our heritage as it relates to freedom of religion. Freedom of religion is a founding principle of our nation. We should remember that faith must be free, it cannot be coerced.

On a related note, Baptists have affirmed the freedom of the local church. I’m grateful our church recognizes this through our mission endeavors, ministries, and selection of God-called men and women to be deacons and ministerial staff. Through our voluntary cooperation with associational, state, and national Baptist entities, we still maintain and practice local church autonomy.

We’re in the middle of the summer and folks are taking advantage of the time for much needed breaks from their routines. For this reason we won’t be having Adult Bible Study/Prayer Meeting in July.

The month of July is also an important time for family and vacations, especially before school kicks off again. But, let’s remember that the work of the church continues and maintain our faithfulness in our prayers and financial support of our church’s mission and ministries.

Pastor Danny

**5 Year Anniversary!**  
Marlon Smith has served as our 1st Service Music Director for 5 years on July 21, 2026. Please take time to thank him for his service at FBC!

(pictured with his son, Declan)



**Youth Ignite**  
Summer gatherings may vary week to week, please stay tuned.



**Youth Ignite Fall Kick Off**  
Wednesday, August 12  
5:30 p.m.  
Messy Games!



If you would like to volunteer as a youth leader, please contact Kris.

**Youth Fundraiser**  
Tidal Wave Car Wash Tickets are available for \$15.00 (\$30 value) each in the church office. Proceeds will benefit the Youth Designated Fund.



**LifeGroup**  
Sundays 9:30a.m.  
FLC, Level 2  
Led by: Kris Hicks

**FBC Kids**  
Fall Kick Off is Wednesday, August 12.  
Watch for more details in the August Friendly Guide.



**Kids Church**  
Sundays during the 10:40 a.m. Service in the Church Library (next to the nursery) for Age 3 - Grade 5.



## PBC KIDS SUMMER POP-UP EVENTS

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
July 08 Sweet P’s Snowball Shack  
July 15 Chunky Monkey (Clinton)  
July 22 Lake Front Splash Pad  
A Pop-Up Event is a family event where FBC Kids throws a party somewhere around town! These events will last approx. 1 hour.

**LifeGroup Promotion**  
Sunday, August 2  
Kids and Youth will promote to their new classes and Bibles will be presented to those going into 1st grade and 6th grade. They will visit new classes the last 10 mins of class.

7th Annual  
**Anderson County Community Resource Fair**  
**The More We Know**  
**The More Love We Show**  
Sunday, August 16  
12:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
Family Life Center, Gym  
Find the resources you need!  
Eat free lunch while learning about the wonderful services taking place in our community!  
Helping agencies and ministries will set up tables with info and freebies. Children’s activities will also be provided.

# Guided Painting Night in the FLC

Thursday, August 20  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Led by Augusta Ridley  
Cost for Materials: \$25 per person  
RSVP to the Church Office by August 17.



Luke 12:27 “Consider how the wildflowers grow...”

## Women’s Conference FAVORED WOMEN



September 25-27  
Gatlinburg, TN  
Cost: \$299  
Deposit: \$75 due by July 15

Remaining Balance: \$224 due by September 1  
Includes Conference and 2 Nights Lodging  
Checks payable to First Baptist Church.

*The Theme is “All Things New” as 2 Corinthians 5:17 reminds us that we are all new creations in Christ! Join us for 3 days and 2 nights of powerful speakers and uplifting musicians! Scan the QR above to learn more about this*



**Pastor Danny** has a podcast called “Elisha’s Bears.” It’s about faith, the Bible, and the church in general. You can follow the podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcast and Amazon Music.



**Baptism Day!**  
Sunday, July 12  
10:40 a.m.  
Baptism Candidate: Erin Alderson

## Documentary Series & Discussion on the most timely topic affecting modern families.



**Sunday Nights**  
August 2, 9, 23, 30  
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Lower Auditorium  
8/2 The Social Dilemma  
8/9 Dr. Andrew Doan Lectures  
8/23 The Anxious Generation  
8/30 Can’t Look Away

Are you Worried About Internet Usage and its effect on our society, families, children, or minds? Should we be? The internet can be a life-changing tool for good or detriment, depending on how we hold it..



**Christian Sympathy**  
is extended to Blanche Miller,  
whose granddaughter, **Kelli Kent**,  
passed away June 6.

**It's A Boy!**



Congratulations to Avery and Kevin Hampton on the birth of a baby boy, **Bennett Brooks Hampton**, born on June 7. Also Congratulations to grandmother, Rebecca Pace and great grandmother, Joanna Hudson.

**Memorial Flowers**

The flowers in the baptistry on Sunday, July 5, are in loving memory of **Freda Widener's** birthday which was July 11, given by Gene and Sharon Widener and Family.

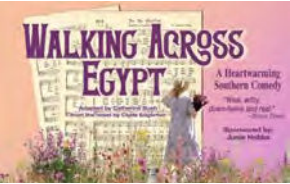
The flowers on the altar on Sunday, July 12, are in loving memory of **Wanda Abner's** birthday, July 14, given by the Abner Family.

The flowers on the altar Sunday, July 19 are in loving memory of **R.L. and Wilma Daugherty's** Wedding Anniversary which was July 16, given by Terri and Stuart Brabston and family.

The flowers in the baptistry, July 19, are in loving memory of **Steve Pyatt's** birthday, July 14, given by Lindy Pyatt and family.

***There will be no Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study in July. Stay tuned for a new study beginning in August.***

**Sundays in July**  
**8:30 a.m.** Family Life Center  
**9:30 a.m.** LifeGroups  
**10:40 a.m.** Sanctuary  
July 05 Galatians 5.1-6, 13  
July 12 2 Samuel 6.1-7  
July 19 Rev. Mike Aiken  
July 26 Rev. Amanda Taylor



**Encore Trip to Cumberland County Playhouse**

**Tuesday, July 21**

**COST: \$56.00**

Includes: lunch, ticket, and transportation (vans)

- Meet in the FBC Parking Lot at 10:15 a.m. (EST)
- Lunch at Cumberland County State Park Restaurant at 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (CT)
- Play is at 1:00 p.m. (CT)
- **RSVP by July 7** (hard deadline) to the Church Office 865-457-9353 or [katrina@fbclinton.org](mailto:katrina@fbclinton.org)

**Women's Book Club**

**July Book of the Month:**

**The Book Club for Troublesome**

**Women** by Marie Bostwick

**Tuesday, July 28 at 11:00 a.m.**

**(moved to 4th week for July only)**

FLC, Hearth Room

***Please contact Kay Hannah if you would like to attend.***

**Photography Group**

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, Monthly**

**6:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m.**

FLC - Hearth Room

**Spirit Sisters**

(Widows Support Group)

**1st Monday, Monthly, 6:00 p.m.**

FLC - Hearth Room

**3rd Monday, Monthly**

**Outing TBA**

**May Financial Summary**

|                               |           |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Budget Receipts               | \$119,476 |
| 2026 Receipts/Wkly Avg.       | \$ 35,338 |
| 2026 Weekly Budget Req.       | \$ 18,644 |
| Budget Expense                | \$ 77,648 |
| May (Deficit)/Income          | \$ 41,828 |
| 2026 Deficit (Deficit)/Income | \$200,654 |
| TOTAL May 31                  | \$242,482 |

**Special Called Business Mtg. Report**

The Finance Committee recommended that we amend the current fiscal year from 4/1/26—3/31/27 to 1/1/26 –12/31/26 and the current budget to be retroactive to 1/1/26 ending 12/31/26. ***The recommendation was approved in a vote by ballot on Sunday, June 7 in both services. The results were 112 yes and 1 no.***

**June Business Meeting Report**

The May Minutes and Financials were approved. The repair of the cast iron drain system in the basement/ Fellowship Hall Kitchen was approved. The letter request from South Clinton Baptist Church for **Dana Clark** was approved. Committee and deacon resignations were tabled until the July Business Meeting.

**Business Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 15**

**6:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium

**Towers Movie Night**

**Saturday, July 18**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Movie: The Soloist**

Popcorn & Drinks will be served.

**Towers Craft**

**Third Thursday, Monthly**

**2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

At the Towers

Led by Julia Spradling



**ONLINE GIVING**

Giving options to FBC Clinton include the offering envelope system (checks and cash), scanning the QR code (digital giving), or by setting up a recurring bank draft through the church office.

**Deacons' Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 14**

**5:30 p.m.**

Lower Auditorium

**CSC Distributions May 2026:**

211 Individuals served (100 Families)

57 Children, 93 Adults, 61 Seniors  
(3 weeks-CSC closed 5/26)

4580 Food Items (\$1202.31)

553 Clothing Items

63 Miscellaneous Items

**CSC Clothing Closet**

needs 2-3 more volunteers to substitute on Tues. afternoons from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. and sort through clothes on Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Call K.K. Meredith at 865-805-1752 if you can help.

THE FRIENDLY GUIDE • PO BOX 268 • CLINTON, TN • (865) 457-9353  
POSTMASTER: Please send change of address notices to The Friendly Guide  
PO Box 268, Clinton, TN 37717, Friendly Guide (USPS-210-520) published monthly  
by First Baptist Church, 225 North Main Street, Clinton, TN 37716. Periodical postage  
paid at Clinton, TN

IN THE  
*Heart* OF  
**CLINTON**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

**FRIENDLY GUIDE**

**JULY 2026**



**Donate Now through July 19**

Supplies can be dropped off at First Baptist Church in the Garden Room (Level 2) or FLC Lobby Desk.

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| - Binders – 1” and 2”        | - Expo Dry Erase Markers |
| - Copy Paper (White)         | - Sharpies (all colors)  |
| - Construction Paper         | - #2 Pencils             |
| - Scissors (child and adult) | - Pencil Top Erasers     |
| - Highlighters (all colors)  | - Large Pink Erasers     |
| - Crayola 24ct Crayons       | - Rubber Bands           |
| - Crayola Colored Pencils    | - Push Pins              |
| - Crayola 10ct Markers       |                          |



First Baptist Church is collecting supplies for the Education Foundation Teacher Supply Depot for Clinton City and Anderson County Schools. Teachers will be able to go the Teacher Depot and pick up supplies they need for their classrooms.

***Holiday Closings: The Church Office, Family Life Center and WEE Ministry will be closed on Friday, July 3.***