First Baptist Church
31 West Washington Street
662-489-1346 fbc@pontotoc.org

Clay Stegall, Associate Pastor
Justin Cobb, Minister of Youth
Danielle Davis, Minister of Children
Zach Keller/Mickey Gentry, Ministers of Music
Dr. Ken Hester, Pastor

Parson to Person

Carving the pumpkin was a big deal when I was a kid. Daddy brought home a pumpkin and cut off the top. Then came the gross part. He scooped out the "guts" of the pumpkin. Then he drew a face on the pumpkin and used a knife to cut out the triangled eyes and triangled nose. Then he cut a great big snaggled tooth smile. Then he put a candle in it. That thing glowed from the inside out. The whole event was particularly special for us four kids. My childhood jack-o'-lanterns are awesome memories.

People have been making jack-o'-lanterns at Halloween for centuries. One version of the practice may have originated from an Irish legend that was started in the early 1600's. This made-up, centuries-old story first appeared in print in the 1800's about a man nicknamed "Stingy Jack." According to the story, Stingy Jack played a trick on Satan. And at the same time, God wouldn't allow such a trickster into heaven. So, once Stingy Jack died, God sent Jack off into the dark night with only a burning coal to light his way. Jack put the coal into a carved-out turnip and has been roaming the Earth with it ever since. The Irish began to refer to this ghostly figure as "Jack of the Lantern," and then, simply "Jack O'Lantern."

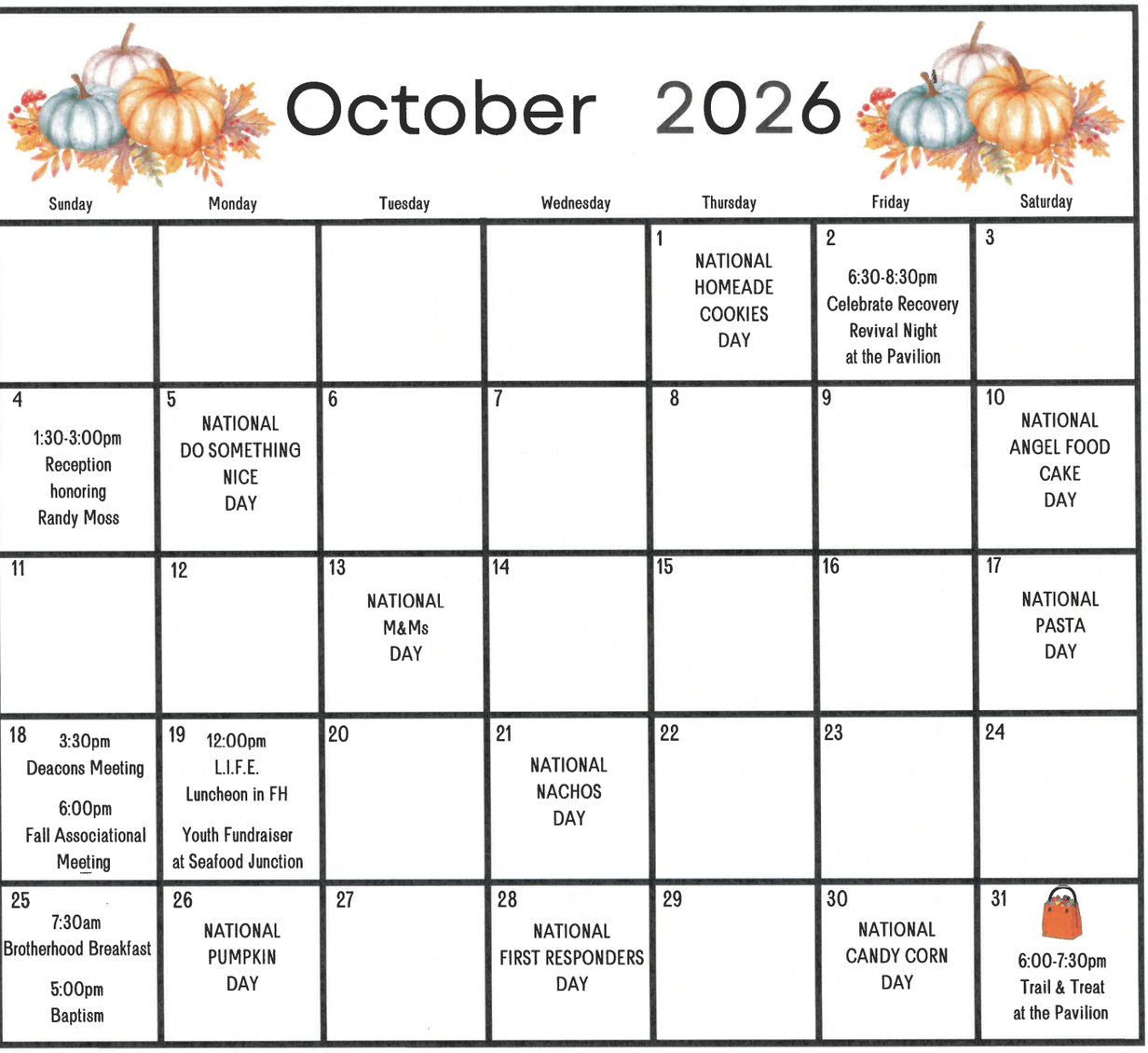
Way back then in Ireland and Scotland, people were very superstitious and believed all kinds of crazy things not in the Scriptures. Because of this belief in this totally false story, they began to make their own versions of Jack's lanterns by carving scary faces into turnips and placing them into windows or near doors to supposedly frighten away Stingy Jack and other wandering evil spirits. In England, large beets were used. Then these Europeans started to migrate to the United States in the 1840's due to the great potato famine in Ireland. And those Irish immigrants brought their vegetable-carving traditions with them. When these immigrants arrived in America, they wanted to celebrate Halloween like they did back in the old country. But here in America they found that the new world's (America's)crop that was much larger and easier to carve than their root vegetables of back in the old country. They were particularly fond of the winter squash, the most famous of which is a pumpkin. They carved scary faces into the pumpkins and placed a candle in it, just like my dad did.

This coming Halloween, we will have our tradition of handing out candy to masses on the Tanglefoot trail. Many of those kids will be bringing a plastic bucket that looks like a Jack-o'-lantern. We will also be inviting them to church.

The very next day will be our high attendance Sunday School day.

It's a great tradition,

BroKen



Welcome to our new members...



Kilie Edwards



Brittany Hill

What's Happening this Month...

FEEDING of the 5,000
November 19, 2026
F5K rec'd: $
F5K needed: $12,000

MEETING
Deacons Meeting
Sunday, October 18 at 3:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Brotherhood Breakfast
Sunday, October 25 at 7:30am
in the Fellowship Hall

Join us as we celebrate with Believer's Baptism on Sunday, October 25 at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary. Those joining by baptism are Harli Hodge, Scooter Boyette, Logan & Skye Poland. Join us in the Fellowship Hall afterwards for a fellowship meal!

CELEBRATE RECOVERY REVIVAL
Friday, October 2 from 6:30-8:30pm
at the Gateway Pavilion
FBC Pontotoc and Celebrate Recovery presents a night of fellowship, worship, music and special guests.
Key note speaker is Chris Payne.
Food trucks will be available at 5:00pm

Pontotoc County Baptist Associational Meeting
Sunday, October 18 at 6:00pm
here, at FBC, in the Sanctuary

L.I.F.E. LUNCHEON
Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Monday, October 19 at 12:00pm for our monthly fellowship!
We will be hearing from our Election Commissioners regarding the upcoming election!
Bring a side dish and join us!

TRAIL and TREAT
We are hosting our annual Trail & Treat at the Gateway Pavilion on Saturday, October 31 from 6:00-7:30pm.
If you would like to decorate a table and hand out candy, please let Danielle Davis know or sign up at the table in the Fellowship Hall.
Candy donations are needed for this event!
Drop off any donations at the church office.

You are invited to a reception honoring Randy Moss on Sunday, October 4 from 1:30pm-3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
Randy has served our church for over 30 years. Come show Randy your appreciation of him and his service.

SEAFOOD JUNCTION FUNDRAISER
Our youth are hosting their annual SFJ fundraiser on Monday, October 19 from 5:00-7:00pm at Seafood Junction.
Tickets are $15 each and can be purchased from any FBC youth or at the door.
Menu includes your choice of Cold Boiled Shrimp, Fish or Chicken, Fries, Hushpuppies, Slaw, Dessert & Drink

Bus Pick-up & Drop-off Rotation for October
October 4-
Zeb Collums
October 11-
Whitt Gillespie
October 18-
Chris Grubbs
October 25-
Chad Anthony

VITAL SIGNS

Sunday, September 6, 2026
Sunday School Total.....400
First Day Worship.....328 (17)
11:00am Worship.....162(18)

Sunday, September 13, 2026
Sunday School Total.....488
First Day Worship.....316 (20)
11:00am Worship.....134 (14)

Sunday, September 20, 2026
Sunday School Total.....416
First Day Worship.....336 (24)
11:00am Worship.....164 (13)

Sunday, September 27, 2026
Sunday School Total.....460
First Day Worship.....347 (22)
11:00am Worship.....153 (18)

SEPT. 2026 BUISNESS MEETING
Budget YTD.....$990,903.17
Received YTD....$951,749.15

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER MENU:

Wed, October 7-
Spaghetti, Green Beans, Rolls, Salad Bar, Dessert

Wed, October 14-
FALL BREAK
NO MEAL

Wed, October 21-
Pot Roast, Vegetables, Rolls, Salad Bar, Dessert

Wed, October 28-
Lasagna, Church House Salad, Garlic Bread, Salad Bar, Dessert

DEACONS ON CALL for OCTOBER 2026

October 4-
Kevin Koehler
Jody Stringer
Josh Purdon

October 11-
Jim Long
Eddy Taylor
Buddy Montgomery

October 18-
Jerry Robbins
Mark Vandiver
Kyle Walker

October 25-
Neal Anderson
Craig Downing
Larry Young

11:00am USHERS for October 2026
(* indicates prayer door)

October 4-
*Mark Griffith, Jimmy Pollard, Logan Poland, Jay Reeder, Pete Reeder, Clark Sexton

October 11-
*Ellis Reeder, George Stegall, Brent Spears, Jeb Todd, Bryan Warren, Joe Austin

October 18-
*Eddy Taylor, Randy Todd, Jimmy Ball, Tyler Hodge, Wally Henry, Matt Koon

October 25-
*Sam Dowdy, Mike Bowen, Rick Burgett, Jay Hughes, Joe Austin, Buddy Montgomery

**If you are unable to usher, please find someone to take your place.