

VITAL SIGNS

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Sunday School Total.....491
First Day Worship.....398 (27)
11:00am Worship.....138 (15)
Total.....536 (42)

Sunday, October 12, 2025

Sunday School Total.....430
First Day Worship.....320 (18)
11:00am Worship.....170 (12)
Total.....490 (30)

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Sunday School Total.....477
First Day Worship.....363 (20)
11:00am Worship.....165 (13)
Total.....528 (33)

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Sunday School Total.....398
First Day Worship.....299 (23)
11:00am Worship.....150 (15)
Total.....449 (38)

OCTOBER 2025 BUSINESS MTNG

Budget YTD.....\$1,071,711.18
Received YTD.....\$1,037,589.44

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Season of Prayer for
International Missions
Nov. 30-Dec. 7

Offering Goal:
\$20,000.00

Welcome to our new members...



Linda Yielding

Scott, Mallory,
Miles & Willow
Emison



Emma Baldwin

11:00am USHERS for NOVEMBER 2025
(* indicates prayer door)

November 2-

*Micah Grubbs, Dee Atkins,
Mike Bowen, Freddy Bridgman,
Richie Chrestman, Phillip Cox

November 9-

*Ben Howard, Jay Hughes,
Matt Koon, Wally Henry,
Joe Brown, Scott Emison

November 16-

*Eddy Taylor, Carey McMullan,
Ross Montgomery, Steve Montgomery,
Kevin Morrow, Justin Moss

November 23-

*Rickey Littlejohn, David Ray,
Jay Reeder, Pete Reeder,
Clark Sexton, Gavin Spradling

November 30-

*Mark Crenshaw, George Stegall,
Jody Stringer, Jay Russell,
Randy Todd, Bryan Warren

***If you are unable to fulfill your duty
as usher, please contact the head usher
or find someone to fill in for you.

DEACONS ON CALL for NOVEMBER 2025

November 2-

Mark Griffith
Ben Ashley
Richie Chrestman

November 9-

Kevin Morrow
Terry Wood
George Rutledge

November 16-

Ellis Reeder
Billy Montgomery
Sam Gibbs

November 23-

Jody Stringer
Josh Purdon
Glenn Gillen

November 30-

Eddy Taylor
Buddy Montgomery
Benjamin Hill



First Baptist Church
31 W. Washington Street
Pontotoc, MS 388

November 2025

BUILDING THE KINGDOM WIDE AND DEEP

11/2/25

Bring a friend/family
to Sunday School and church

ENGAGE Pontotoc

DEACONS MEETING
(to go over 2026 budget)
Sunday, November 2
at 3:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall



DEACONS MEETING
Sunday, November 16
at 3:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall



2026 Budget Presentation
Sunday, November 9 at 5:00pm
in the Sanctuary.
2026 Budget Vote
Wednesday, November 12 at 6:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall

You are invited to a Bridal Shower
honoring
Miss Lindsey Claire Shirley,
Bride-elect of Justin Scott
on Sunday, November 16
from 1:30-3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.
Justin & Lindsay Claire are registered at
Amazon, City Mercantile & Pure Bliss



FEEDING OF THE 5,000
Thursday, November 20, 2025
We need volunteers to make
sweet potato casseroles & desserts.
We need people to help deliver
meals to homes, volunteer time to
help prepare the food,
and monetary donations to help
with the cost.
Please pick up pans & new recipes
in the church office and
sweet potatoes will be outside of
the

BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST
Sunday, November 23, at
7:30am
in the Fellowship Hall



Hanging of the Green
Join us at 5:00pm in the Sanctuary
on Sunday, Nov. 30 as we decorate
our Sanctuary for the
Christmas season.



Senior Adults

Fall Trip to Branson, MO
November 3-6, 2025

There will be no Senior Adult
Luncheon in November.
See you in December for our
Dirty Santa Luncheon!



FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER MENU FOR NOVEMBER

November 5- Lasagna, Kitty's church house
salad, garlic bread, dessert

November 12- Thanksgiving meal, salad bar,
Pies

November 19- No meal due to F5K

November 26- No meal due to Thanksgiving

Come enjoy coffee and donuts at
First Day hosted by FBC YTH
on Sunday, Nov. 2.

Donuts & coffee will be available in the
foyer of the Worship Center.
Donations are gladly accepted and will go towards
summer camp expenses.





FIRST THINGS FIRST

First Baptist Church, Pontotoc, MS

31 West Washington St.

662-489-1346 fbc@fbcpontotoc.org

Clay Stegall-
Associate Pastor

Justin Cobb-
Minister of Youth

Danielle Davis-
Minister of Children

Zach Keller / Mickey Gentry- Ministers of Music

Volume 6 No. 11

Dr. Ken Hester, Pastor

November 2025

Parson to Person

Thanksgiving is here. It's more than just a day, It's good for you. It's right up thee with taking your vitamins, your daily medications, drinking water, eating right, and exercising.

According to fullfocus.com, expressing gratitude reduces stress, sustains relationships, and improves health. How does it improve health? Expressing gratitude helps us sleep better and controls our blood pressure.

How does expressing gratefulness do all of that? Gratitude regulates the sympathetic nervous system. The limbic system is the part of the brain that is responsible for all emotional experiences. It consists of the thalamus, hypothalamus, amygdale, hippocampus, and cingulated gyrus. Studies have shown that the hippocampus and amygdale, the two main sites regulating emotions, memory, and bodily functioning, get activated with feelings of gratitude (Wong et al., 2018). This part of the brain includes reward pathways and the hypothalamus, which can boost serotonin and activate the brain stem to produce dopamine, improving mood and making us feel good (Zahn et al., 2008).

According to Calm.com, gratitude has at least six benefits:

1. Helps us notice the positive in life.
2. Reminds us of what is truly important.
3. Encourages us to live in the present.
4. Reduces comparison. When we are appreciative for what we have, we become less envious of what others have.
5. Boosts our mood.
6. Strengthens our relationships around us. Everybody appreciates a good "thank you," especially when it is unexpected and sincere.

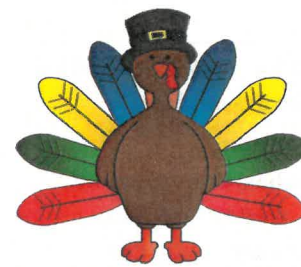
As I look out at this country, we could use a little gratitude adjustment right now. We have become all to accustomed to pointing out the wrong and negative. I, for one, am grateful for the time out. Let's pause, and take a look around and express what we are grateful for.

I Thessalonians 5:18 says, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Now, for us as believers, this puts us in a Divine situation. You see, gratitude is a command for us. Not only is it a command, it is a choice.

I am not saying that life is not hard. I'm not denying the tragedies, constant struggles, the grief, the ailments, the pains, the hurts, the injustices, and the complications of life. What I think the Lord is saying to us, as the redeemed, even in the midst of great stress, we have some things we can be thankful for. Perhaps, the greater the stress, the greater the need to express thanks, even though we don't feel like it.

I think this is also telling us, the redeemed, that choosing to be bitter, may be emotionally legitimate, but it is also a choice. We have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. And the hurts of this world, though real and potentially life-altering, have no say-so on our eternity.

Hopefully thankful,
BroKen



November 2025



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|----------------------------------|-----|---|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 ENGAGE Pontotoc Coffee & Donuts 3:30pm Deacons Mtg (2026 Budget) | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| | SENIOR ADULT TRIP TO BRANSON, MO | | | | | |
| 9 5:00pm 2026 Budget Presentation in Sanctuary | 10 | 11 | 12 6:30pm 2026 Budget Vote in FH | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Operation Christmas Child Boxes due 1:30-3:0pm Bridal Tea for Lindsey Claire Shirley 3:30pm Deacons Mtg | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 FEEDING of the 5,000 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 7:30am Brotherhood Breakfast 5:00pm HANGING of the GREEN 30 | 24 | 25 | 26 OFFICE CLOSED at 12:00pm | 27 OFFICE CLOSED | 28 OFFICE CLOSED | 29 |