



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

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Dr. Ken Hester, Pastor

October 2025

Parson to Person

The year was 2020. It was the year of COVID-19. The world was on lock-down. Supplies were scarce. I remember that stores limited the amount one could get, especially when it came to toilet paper. My goodness, how times have changed.

China started this whole thing back in 589 A.D. Well, that was the first time someone wrote about it. It wasn't until 1857 that Joseph Gayetty introduced what is considered modern toilet paper. It was the Scott Paper Company that began marketing toilet paper on a roll back in 1890. Admittedly, one's plumbing situation had a lot to do with their particular type of hygiene product they used. But at sometime in the 1950's and somewhere in the South a group of teenagers flung toilet paper into trees, probably after a football win. Thus began a fall tradition like no other. This may have come from Auburn, Alabama. Back before the Auburn Tigers had their games broadcast over the radio, one would telegraph the only establishment in Auburn that had a telegraph machine, Toomer's Drugs Pharmacy. When the employees found out that Auburn had won the game, they would throw ticker tape over their power lines. By the 1960's, Auburn fans began to roll the power lines and the trees outside the Pharmacy every time they won a football game. Such a fun thing could not be kept in one little Southern town.

Growing up we called it "rolling yards." When I went to seminary in Texas, they called it "TP-ing." In both places, flinging toilet paper into trees was reserved for Halloween. When I moved back to Mississippi in 1994, the entire month of October was rolling yard month. When I was pastor at Mantee, the parsonage got rolled so bad so many times that I just left the toilet paper there until I mowed the melted clumps in the Spring.

There is no specific law in Mississippi that makes the act of rolling someone's yard illegal. That said, one could be charged with harassment which, if found guilty, carries a \$500 fine and up to 90 days in jail. Also, one could be charged with trespassing which, if found guilty, carries a \$500 fine and up to 6 months in jail. Also, one could be charged with vandalism which, if found guilty, carries a \$1,000 fine, 12 months in jail, restitution, and a year probation.

And with all of the cameras out there- the cameras of the yard you are rolling, the cameras across the street, next door, and game cameras hidden in trees- the likelihood of being found guilty is pretty good. Also, your friends bragging will give it away.

I think it is fine to roll yards. If your child is going to roll yards, then you should expect your yard to get rolled without you getting mad. If your child is going to roll yards, then they should pick up the toilet paper out of your yard when it gets rolled.

I also think you should be careful whose yard you roll. Some people have a short fuse. They may be dealing with things you don't know about. They could press charges or worse. If you are going to roll yards, you need to roll yards of people that you like and who like you. Also, any vandalism is unacceptable. If you accidentally break something while rolling a yard, immediately notify the people and accept responsibility to fix what you broke.

It's October, y'all. It's October 2025. We no longer need to hoard toilet paper like we did in 2020. Be safe. Have fun.

Let the good time "roll,"
Broken



OCTOBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NATIONAL COFFEE with a COP DAY	2 NATIONAL SMARTIES DAY	3	4 NATIONAL PLAY OUTSIDE DAY
5 1:30-3:00pm Baby Shower For Amber Sims	6 5:00-7:00pm Seafood Junction Fundraiser	7 NATIONAL CHOCOLATE COVERED PRETZEL DAY	8	9	10	11 NATIONAL SAUSAGE PIZZA DAY
12	13 NATIONAL TRAIN YOUR BRAIN DAY	14 NATIONAL DESSERT DAY	15	16 NATIONAL BOSS'S DAY	17 NATIONAL PASTA DAY	18
19 3:30pm Deacons Mtg 5:00pm Living Water Interest Mtg	20 12:00pm Senior Adult Luncheon	21	22	23	24	25 NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY
26 7:30am Brotherhood Breakfast 2:00-4:00pm 90th Birthday Celebration 5:00pm F5K Meeting	27	28	29 Children's Community Helper Night Youth Tailgate Night	30	31 TRAIL or TREAT	

VITAL SIGNS

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Sunday School Total.....491
First Day Worship.....375 (29)
11:00am Worship.....136 (16)
Total.....513 (45)

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Sunday School Total.....498
First Day Worship.....382 (26)
11:00am Worship.....156 (10)
Total.....538 (36)

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Sunday School Total.....526
First Day Worship.....409 (18)
11:00am Worship.....153 (15)
Total.....562 (33)

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Sunday School Total.....485
First Day Worship.....437 (25)
11:00am Worship.....151 (16)
Total.....588 (41)

SEPTEMBER 2025 BUSINESS MTNG

Budget YTD.....\$952,632.16
Received YTD.....\$901,654.62

FEEDING OF THE 5,000 MEETING

We will have a F5K preparation meeting
on Sunday, October 26 at 5:00pm
in the Fellowship Hall.

COMMUNITY HELPER NIGHT

Our children's ministries will have their
Annual Community Helper Night on
Wednesday, October 29 at 6:30pm.
*The parking lot in front of our Worship
Center will be closed to parking that night.

YOUTH TAILGATE NIGHT

Our youth will have a tailgate night on
Wednesday, October 29 beginning at 5:30pm.
Bring your favorite tailgating food to share
with everyone.
Justin will supply chicken strips and drinks!

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

October 5-

*Steve Montgomery, Joe Austin,
Mike Bowen, Freddy Bridgman,
Richie Chrestman, Phillip Cox

October 12-

*Randy Todd, Roger Gentry,
Adam Gentry, Wally Henry,
Ben Howard, Jay Hughes

October 19-

*Ellis Reeder, Matt Koon,
Rickey Littlejohn, Justin Moss,
Jay Reeder, Pete Reeder

October 26-

*Carey McMullan, Jay Russell,
Clark Sexton, Bryan Warren,
Phil Webb, Eddy Taylor

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



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

October 2025

BUILDING THE KINGDOM WIDE AND DEEP

11/2/25

ENGAGE Pontotoc

Coming in November...

ENGAGE PONTOTOC

You don't want to
miss this!

DEACONS ON CALL for OCTOBER 2025

October 5-

Jody Stringer
Josh Purdon
Glenn Gillen

October 12-

Eddy Taylor
Buddy Montgomery
Benjamin Hill

October 19-

Mark Vandiver
Kyle Walker
Scott Hatcher

October 26-

Craig Downing
Larry Young
Tommy Wood

Senior Adults

Join us in the Fellowship Hall
on Monday, October 20 at
12:00pm for a great lunch and
fellowship!
Special Guests will be Bro. Ken
and Danielle Davis.
Bring a side dish to share!



FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER MENU FOR OCTOBER

October 1- Spaghetti, Green Beans, Garlic
Bread, Salad Bar, Dessert
October 8- Roast, Carrots, Mashed Potatoes,
Rolls, Salad Bar, Dessert
October 15- Baked Potato Bar, Chicken
Tenders, Chili, Salad Bar, Dessert
October 22- Hamburgers & Hotdogs, Chips,
Salad Bar, Dessert
October 29- Vegetable Beef Soup, Salad Bar,
Cornbread, Dessert

It's A Girl!

You are invited to
a baby shower
honoring Mrs. Amber Sims
on Sunday, October 5 from
1:30-3:00pm in the
Fellowship Hall.



SEAFOOD JUNCTION FUNDRAISER

Let us serve you dinner!
Our youth are selling
SFJ tickets for our
annual fundraiser on
Monday, October 6 from 5-7pm.
Tickets are \$12 and can be
purchased from any youth going
to camp.
Plates include fried fish, chicken
or cold boil shrimp, fries, hush-
puppies, slaw and dessert.
Drinks are included
if you eat inside.
Take out plates are available.
Tips are appreciated!
100% of all tips go to the youth.



RAISING THE CROSS

There will be a cross dedication
ceremony on Sunday, October
19 at 3:00pm at the location of
our big white cross on HYW 76.

DEACONS MEETING
Sunday, October 19
at 3:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall



LIVING WATER INTEREST MEETING

If you are interested in going with
a team to serve with Living Water,
please plan to be at the interest
meeting on Sunday, October 19 at
5:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST
Sunday, October 26, at 7:30am
in the Fellowship Hall



You are invited to the
90th Birthday Celebration of
Mr. Billy Montgomery
on Sunday, October 26, 2025
from 2:00-4:00pm in the
Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church

90th

TRAIL or TREAT

Friday, October 31 from 6:00-7:30pm
Join us at the Tanglefoot Trail Pavilion for a fun
Halloween evening!
We are needing volunteers to set up tables and
give out candy to our trick or treaters! Tables will
be set up for you. All you need to do is decorate it.
If you would like to participate,
please let Danielle

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.