



FIRST THINGS FIRST

First Baptist Church, Pontotoc, MS

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Clay Stegall-
Associate Pastor

Justin Cobb-
Minister of Youth

Danielle Davis-
Minister of Children

Zach Keller / Mickey Gentry- Ministers of Music

Volume 6 No. 6

Dr. Ken Hester, Pastor

June 2025

Parson to Person

Black Hawk Down is a 2002 movie about the real life U.S. Army operation gone bad. What started out as a mission to capture the Somalia war-lord, Mohamed Farrah Aidid, ended up being a rescue mission for troops and the downed pilot of a Black Hawk helicopter. Perhaps, you remember the event or seen the movie.

Emily Compagno, in her book *Under His Wings: How Faith on the Front Lines has Protected American Troops*, writes:

On October 3, Jeff's squad was tasked with rescuing Private First Class Todd Blackburn, who fell while attempting to fast-rope from a Black Hawk helicopter. Two Black Hawks were shot down by members of the Somali National Alliance. During the fifteen hour raging battle, eighteen soldiers were killed, including two Delta Force operatives. Devastated Americans, and others around the world, were further horrified when footage emerged of a dead U.S. Soldier's body being dragged through the streets by terrorists. What had been a peacekeeping mission turned into the Battle of Mogadishu.

One of the men that lived through that event was Sergeant Jeff Struecker, squad leader assigned to Task Force Ranger of the U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment. Jeff has gone on record as saying that he was 100 percent certain that he was going to die. Jeff said, "Way too many bad guys, way too many bullets."

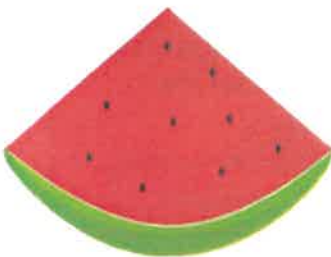
Sergeant Struecker eventually led his group, though badly shot up, back to the base. Sgt. Struecker said that when he got back to the base, his buddies grabbed him and hugged him. Sgt. Struecker couldn't believe anybody made it out alive.

In the immediate aftermath, Sgt. Struecker faced questions from other guys as to how he was able to remain so calm during the battle. Sergeant Jeff Struecker's answer was profound and simple, "I was terrified at first, then I remembered what Jesus said to His Father: "Yet not my will, but Yours be done." You see, when Jeff Struecker was a teenager, someone shared the Gospel with him and he trusted Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Jeff began a committed relationship with Jesus then and was disciplined along the way. So, the morning before Jeff Struecker went into battle, his regular morning devotion was about when Jesus prayed at the Garden of Gethsemane, "Yet not my will, but Yours be done." God knew not only what Jeff Struecker was going to need for his own peace, but so that others would not die in battle.

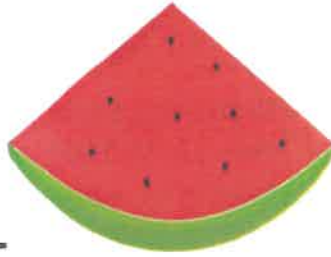
Sergeant Struecker ended up sharing his faith with his fellow Rangers. Struecker told them when you have your eternity secure, you can focus on what you need to focus on. And the time to settle that question is not while you are under fire. Many of those who were in the Battle of Mogadishu ended up accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Jeff Struecker eventually surrendered into the ministry and became a Chaplain in the U.S. Army taking care of Rangers. He knows combat and he knows the Lord, which made him a perfect fit for the Chaplaincy of the Ranger Regiment. He is now retired from the Army.

May God bless all of troops,
Bro. Ken



JUNE 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NATIONAL SAY SOMETHING NICE DAY -----VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL from 6:00pm-8:30pm-----	2	3	4	5	6 NATIONAL DONUT DAY	7 NATIONAL CHOCOLATE ICE CREAM DAY
8	9	10 NATIONAL PIZZA DAY	11 6:00pm Parent's Meeting for youth/children camps	12 NATIONAL MOVIE NIGHT	13	14
15	16	17 NATIONAL ICED TEA DAY	18 NATIONAL SUSHI DAY	19	20 NATIONAL TAKE A ROAD TRIP DAY	21
22 1:30-3:00pm Bridal Tea for Audrey Hamill 3:30pm Deacons Mtg	23	24	25	26 NATIONAL WORK FROM HOME DAY	27	28
29 11:00am Patriotic Service in Sanctuary 5:00pm Baptism/Supper	30					

VITAL SIGNS

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Sunday School Total.....458
First Day Worship.....369 (19)
11:00am Worship.....185 (14)
Total.....554 (33)

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Sunday School Total.....451
First Day Worship.....396 (17)
11:00am Worship.....299 (13)
Total.....695 (30)

Sunday, May 18, 2025

Sunday School Total.....441
First Day Worship.....318 (21)
11:00am Worship.....140 (11)
Total.....458 (32)

Sunday, May 25, 2025

Sunday School Total.....411
First Day Worship.....327 (17)
11:00am Worship.....163
Total.....490 (17)

MAY 2025 BUSINESS MTNG

Budget YTD.....\$476,316.08
Received YTD.....\$439,278.82

Welcome to our new members...



Hayes Malone
with Maddy Angle

Barkley & Margaret
Falkner,
Hatleigh, Tripp,
& Lakelyn



Mark & Misty
Holley

Our Very Newest...

Congratulations to Josh, Olivia, & Willa Rose Purdon on the newest addition to their family, Sophia Blake Purdon



Senior Adults

Join us in the Fellowship Hall
for lunch on Monday, June 16
at 12:00pm.
Bring a side dish and join us!



NEW ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Sam & Emily Gibbs will be starting a new Sunday School class for adult couples on Sunday, June 1. This class will be located on the 3rd floor of the Sanctuary building to the left of the elevator.

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

June 1-

*Micah Grubbs, Wally Henry,
Rickey Hill, Jay Hughes,
Matt Koon, Carey McMullan

June 8-

*Rickey Littlejohn, Pete Reeder,
Justin Moss, Jay Reeder,
Jay Russell, Ellis Reeder

June 15-

*Ben Howard, Clark Sexton,
George Stegall, Bryan Warren,
Dee Atkins, Joe Austin

June 22-

*Steve Montgomery, Mike Bowen,
Freddy Bridgman, Richie Chrestman,
Phillip Cox, Roger Gentry

June 29-

*Randy Todd, Sam Dowdy,
Howard Hill, Chase Jefcoat,
Kevin Morrow, Jody Stringer

***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 JUNE 2025

June 1

Josh Purdon
Jim Long
Chad Anthony

June 8

Buddy Montgomery
Benjamin Hill
Kevin Koehler

June 15

Kyle Walker
Scott Hatcher
Chase Jefcoat

June 22

Larry Young
Tommy Wood
Glenn Gillen

June 29

Ben Ashley
Richie Chrestman
Neal Anderson



First Baptist Church
31 W. Washington Street
Pontotoc, MS 38863

JUNE 2025

BUILDING THE KINGDOM WIDE AND DEEP



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Sunday, June 1-Wednesday, June 4
6:00pm-8:30pm
Theme: True North
Ages: Finished Kindergarten-6th grade

Don't Forget!!

If your child/youth are going to summer camp this year, please make plans to attend this meeting on Wed, June 11 at 6:00pm.

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP June 16-20

Please bring in your final payment if you still have a balance.
Any questions, contact Justin Cobb

BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST
Sunday, June 22 at 7:00am
in the Fellowship Hall



DEACONS MEETING
Sunday, June 22
at 3:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall

PRAY IN THE WORSHIP CENTER

If you/your family would like to pray over the new Worship Center (former Family Life Center), it will be open beginning Sunday, June 1. We will also have Sharpies available to write a prayer/verse on the floor before the new floor covering is put down.



CHILDREN'S CAMP June 22-26

If you've not paid your final payment, please do so ASAP!
For questions, call Danielle Davis



Join us in the Sanctuary at 11:00am on Sunday, June 29 as we honor the great men and women who have served and still are serving our country.



GENERATE