



FIRST THINGS FIRST

First Baptist Church, Pontotoc, MS
31 West Washington St.

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Rev. Clay Stegall-
Associate Pastor

Justin Cobb-
Minister of Youth

Danielle Davis-
Minister of Children

Zach Keller / Mickey Gentry-Worship Leaders

Volume 5 No. 1

Dr. Ken Hester, Pastor

January 2024

Parson to Person

*But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and His righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.*

Matthew 6:33

"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." That's a pretty demanding phrase, especially at the new year. That said, it is probably a phrase we need to hear at the new year.

We've probably all got our list of things-to-do for 2024. Lose weight. Take that trip. Get out of debt. Get into shape. Read more. Retire. Whatever.

First things first. Seek the Kingdom of God. I think that would start with praying. Praying is easy. Praying is just talking to God. You can talk to God anywhere. I was just talking today with a man who said he loves to get on his bush-hog and pray. We agreed that praying can happen in a deer stand, on a drive, or working outside. I find that the more I pray about my daily events, the more I look for God and His activity in my daily events and the more I see Him in my daily events.

We don't have to pray pretty prayers. I've heard some beautiful prayers. I used to think that I had to sound like those. I just decided to pray like I talk. Now, I talk to God like I am talking to one I truly respect. But I talk, just talk.

I usually begin with thanking Him for listening to my prayer. I may also tell Him what I really appreciate about Him, like His truthfulness, His grace, His mercy, etc. Then I apologize for the sins I have committed. Then I talk through my situation. I ask for His help. Then I close with these words: "In Jesus's name I pray. Amen."

I also think that reading God's Word is important. I know a number of people will be trying to read the Bible all the way through in a year's time. I mean, that's cool and all. I would rather you read some, even if it's just a little, every day in a systematic way. For example, how about reading a chapter a day. There is a total of 1,189 chapters in the Bible. There are 929 chapters in the Old Testament and 260 chapters in the New Testament. It would take you 3 years and 3 months to read every chapter in the Bible. Some of you may want to make a commitment to read the New Testament this year.

I also think church attendance is important. When I talk about coming to church, I am talking about getting involved in a Bible Study Group that we have here on Sunday morning. I've heard many people call that Sunday School. I've also heard people call it "class" or "life group" or "Bible Study group." Whatever you call it, getting together with a group of people is essentially important to the Kingdom of God. Getting together to talk about the things of God is important to the Kingdom of God. The Lord never intended for us to walk through this world alone. Look, none of us are perfect. Us, church folk, understand our need for The Savior more than anybody. Get involved with a group.

2024 will have a lot in it. Some of it will be fantastic. Some of it will be crazy. We all will have successes. We will all struggle. With all that is in front of us, let us all seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Striving forward,
Ken

HAPPY NEW YEAR



January 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 NATIONAL BUFFET DAY	3 PASSION CONFERENCE IN ATLANTA, GA	4 NATIONAL SPAGHETTI DAY	5	6 NATIONAL CUDDLE UP DAY
7 4:00pm GREIFSHARE begins in gym	8	9 NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY	10 Leg Quarters, Boneless chkn Potatoes Green beans Salad bar Kids: Hot Dogs	11	12	13
14	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16 12:00pm Senior Adult Luncheon	17 Spaghetti w. Meatballs, Chicken strips, Corn, Salad bar Kids: same	18	19 RECESS	20
21 3:30pm Deacon's Meeting	22 NATIONAL BLONDE BROWNIE DAY	23	24 Pork Loin, Potatoes w/ gravy, Corn on cob, Salad bar Kids: Hot Dogs	25	26 NATIONAL SPOUSES DAY	27 NATIONAL CHOCOLATE CAKE DAY
28 7:00am Brotherhood Breakfast 1:30-3:00pm Bridal Tea for Lydia Ulrich	29	30	31 Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Salad bar Kids: Sliders			

VITAL SIGNS

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Sunday School Total.....461
First Day Worship.....292 (20)
11:00am Worship.....173 (19)
Total.....465 (39)

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Sunday School Total.....478
First Day Worship.....334 (14)
11:00am Worship.....160 (14)
Total.....494 (28)

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Sunday School Total.....401
First Day Worship.....269 (24)
11:00am Worship.....311 (25)
Total.....580 (49)

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Sunday School Total.....403
First Day Worship.....341 (20)
11:00am Worship.....176 (15)
Total.....517 (35)

DECEMBER 2023 BUSINESS MTNG

Budget YTD.....\$1,465,071.96
Received YTD.....\$1,221,826.76

Welcome to our new members-

Ian & Fay McGregor



**We also want to
welcome our very newest-**

**Maelyn Jewel Davis,
daughter of Blake & Abby Davis**

**Braden Brooks Lunn,
son of Braden & Taylor Lunn**

**Briley Grey Montgomery,
daughter of Nic & Amanda
Montgomery**

Hey FirstKids and parents!

I hope you all had a wonderful
Christmas and break! I sure am glad to be
returning to Wednesday nights on January 10!
Come join us for dinner and then stick around
for choir, Mission Friends, R.A.s, G.A.s,
and Fusion!!

See you soon!
Mrs. Danielle

FBC YTH

Greetings from the 3rd floor!
We have a great group headed to
Atlanta, GA for Passion 2024 on
January 3-5.

Please pray for safe travels!
Our regular Wednesday nights will
start back on January 10 at 6:00pm.
I hope to see y'all on the 10th!
J.Cobb

**11:00am USHERS
for January 2024**

(* indicates prayer door)

January 7

*Mark Crenshaw, Steve Montgomery,
Jay Reeder, Pete Reeder,
Clark Sexton, George Stegall

January 14

*Mark Griffith, Randy Todd,
Bryan Warren, Dee Atkins,
Joe Austin, Mike Bowen

January 21

*Kevin Morrow, Tim Burchfield,
Richie Chrestman, Phillip Cox,
Keith Davis, Roger Gentry

January 28

*Ellis Reeder, Wally Henry,
Rickey Hill, Ben Howard,
Jay Hughes, Ricky Littlejohn

Head Usher for January is
Mark Crenshaw—662-418-6245

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

**DEACONS ON CALL
for JANUARY 2024**

January 7-

Benjamin Hill
Kevin Koehler
Jody Stringer

January 14-

George Rutledge
Jerry Robbins
Eddy Taylor

January 21-

Tommy Wood
Jim Long
Mark Vandiver

January 28-

Richie Chrestman
Neal Anderson
Craig Downing



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

January 2024

BUILDING THE KINGDOM WIDE AND DEEP

Happy 24th anniversary
at First Baptist Church,
Bro. Ken!
God sure has blessed us
through your leadership
here.
Thank you for everything!

Please pick up your Christmas cards
from the GA post office
by next Sunday.
If they aren't picked up,
we will discard them.



**DEACONS MEETING
Sunday, January 21
at 3:30pm
in the Fellowship Hall**

Our church office will be closed
Monday, January 1
and
Monday, January 15

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES are ready to be picked up!
If you go to First Day,
please look on the table against the kitchen wall for yours.
If you go to 11:00am service,
please look in the hallway across from the restrooms for yours.
If you can't find yours, please let Chess know.
If you've never been issued offering envelopes,
please let Chess know.

**BROTHERHOOD
BREAKFAST
Sunday, Jan. 28
at 7:00am
In the Fellowship Hall**



MEN'S BREAKFAST

GRIEF SHARE
will begin Sunday, January 7 at
4:00pm in the church gym.
GriefShare is a 13 week program
that offers help and encouragement
after the death of a loved one.
For more info, see Pat Benjamin.

rCESS
Friday, January 19 in the
Fellowship Hall.
To volunteer, please contact
Danielle Davis or Emmie Chavers



You are invited to a Bridal Tea
honoring
Miss Lydia Ulrich,
Bride-elect of Kyle Walker,
on Sunday, January 28, 2024
from 1:30pm-3:00pm
in the Fellowship Hall.

Senior Adults

Join us on
Tuesday, January 16 at
12:00pm in the Fellowship Hall
for lunch!
Bring a side dish to share!

