

VITAL SIGNS

Sunday, August 3, 2025

Sunday School Total.....531  
First Day Worship.....492 (25)  
11:00am Worship.....143 (13)  
Total.....635 (38)

Sunday, August 10, 2025

Sunday School Total.....496  
First Day Worship.....430 (26)  
11:00am Worship.....165 (15)  
Total.....595 (41)

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Sunday School Total.....502  
First Day Worship.....420 (24)  
11:00am Worship.....140 (0)  
Total.....560 (24)

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Sunday School Total.....503  
First Day Worship.....423 (22)  
11:00am Worship.....127 (10)  
Total.....550 (32)

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Sunday School Total.....445  
First Day Worship.....370 (30)  
11:00am Worship.....137 (18)  
Total.....507 (48)

AUGUST 2025 BUSINESS MTNG

Budget YTD.....\$833,553.14  
Received YTD.....\$791,547.38

Senior Adults

Join us at the Gateway Pavilion  
on Monday, September 22  
at 12:00pm for grilled  
hamburgers and hotdogs!  
Bring a side dish to share with  
everyone and come enjoy good  
food and fellowship!



Welcome to our new members...



The Blanchards  
John Scott,  
Krista & Chance



Hailey Treece  
and  
Dean Mohr



The Gentrys  
Adam, Audrey,  
Lola & Rhett



Jeanette Simmons

FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER MENU FOR SEPTEMBER

- Sept. 3- Meatloaf, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Rolls, Salad Bar, Dessert  
Sept. 10- Chicken Pot Pie, Salad Bar, Dessert  
Sept. 17- Pulled Pork, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Salad Bar, Dessert  
Sept. 24- Hard/Soft Shell Tacos, Chips, Queso

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

September 7-

\*Eddy Taylor, Dee Atkins,  
Mike Bowen, Freddy Bridgman,  
Phillip Cox, Roger Gentry

September 14-

\*Richie Chrestman, Jay Hughes,  
Matt Koon, Rickey Littlejohn,  
Carey McMullan, Justin Moss

September 21-

\*Wally Henry, David Ray,  
Jay Reeder, Ellis Reeder,  
Jay Russell, Clark Sexton

September 28-

\*Ben Howard, George Stegall,  
Bryan Warren, Joe Brown,  
Mark Crenshaw, Micah Grubbs

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

Margaret Lackey  
Season of Prayer for State Missions  
September 7-13, 2025  
FBC goal: \$3,500

DEACONS ON CALL  
for SEPTEMBER 2025

September 7

Craig Downing  
Larry Young  
Tommy Wood

September 14

Mark Griffith  
Ben Ashley  
Richie Chrestman

September 21

Kevin Morrow  
Terry Wood  
George Rutledge

September 28

Ellis Reeder  
Billy Montgomery  
Sam Gibbs



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

September 2025

BUILDING THE KINGDOM WIDE AND DEEP

The Prayer Dare

Our new Fall Bible Study, **The Prayer Dare**, is being  
held in the Sanctuary on Wednesday evenings at  
6:30pm. This study is led by Clay & Jeri Ann Stegall.

Please be patient with us...  
Construction on our old  
Education Building is set to  
begin on September 15.

CENTRIKID SUMMER CAMP

(for children 3rd-6th grade)  
June 21-25, 2026

If your child plans to attend  
children's camp this summer,  
sign-ups are now open!  
A deposit of \$125 is due no  
later than Sept. 7. If you have  
any question, please contact  
Danielle Davis.

Join us in the Sanctuary on  
Sunday, September 7 at 5:00pm as  
we celebrate by Baptism.  
Everyone is invited to dinner in the  
Fellowship Hall immediately following!



SENIOR ADULT FALL TRIP

November 3-6, 2025

If you would like to go to Branson, MO  
with our Senior Adults, please come by  
the office and sign up by Sept. 12.  
A deposit of \$75 is due when you sign up.

You are invited to a  
Bridal Shower honoring  
Miss Rachel Starnes,  
bride-elect of Luke Hatcher,  
on Sunday, September 14 from  
1:30-3:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.  
Rachel & Luke are registered at  
Amazon, City Mercantile, Legacy  
@ Merle Norman and The Red Door



SAW YOU AT  
THE POLE  
for all 7th-12th  
graders on  
September 24  
at 6:30pm in  
our Worship  
Center



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

BROTHERHOOD BREAKFAST  
Sunday, September 28, at  
7:30am  
in the Fellowship Hall



Sunday School Tailgate  
Come be a part of one of our favorite  
events of the year!  
Sunday, September 28 at 5:00pm our  
Sunday School classes will bring their  
favorite tailgating foods for an evening  
of great food, fun & fellowship!

You are invited to a  
Bridal Shower honoring  
Miss Rene Rindik,  
bride-elect of Stephen Sexton,  
on Sunday, September 21  
from 1:30-3:00pm in the  
Fellowship Hall.  
Rene & Stephen are registered at  
The Red Door, City Mercantile  
and Zola.com







# 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. 9

Dr. Ken Hester, Pastor

September 2025

Parson to Person

Just 2 rules: Rule #1 - No manslaughter or murder. Rule #2 - Get the pig’s bladder to the marker, by any means possible. The challenge was another group trying to get the pig’s bladder to the opposite marker. The game is called Mob Ball, and it was played way back in the late 90’s. No. Way back. The late 1190’s.

In 1510 comes the next description of early football by Alexander Barclay, a Clergyman from the Southeast of England:

“They get the bladder and blowe it great and thin, with many beans and peason put within, It ratleth, shineth and soundeth clere and fayre, While it is throwen and caste up in the eyre, Each one contendeth and hath a great delite, with foote and hande the bladder for to smite, if it fall to the ground they lifte it up again... Overcometh the winter with driving the foote-ball.” (This was written 100 years before the KJV with its more ‘modern’ language.)

Such were the beginnings of our modern day American football. The first know American football game was held on November 6, 1869 between Rutgers and Princeton. Back then the rules and the scoring were really different. Football was a violent and dangerous sport. It was so dangerous that in 1905 there were 19 fatalities nationwide. President Theodore Roosevelt threatened to abolish the game if it didn’t make it safer. The rules were changed.

Other changes were coming. The forward pass was introduced in 1906. The University of Illinois had a band that played at halftime for the first time in 1907. Johnny Campbell was the first cheerleader back in 1898 at the University of Minnesota. Women soon came into cheerleading starting in 1923.

To me, football is best in small towns. That’s where the whole community gathers around a 1.32 acre plot of striped turf to cheer for their boys. There, children will dream of being a cheerleader, part of the band, or a player. There, children hope to get one of those toy footballs thrown into the stands by the cheerleaders when the home team scores. There, former players will easily recall how great they never actually were. The old men will share stories in laughter about how tough it was and the injuries they had that still haunt them today.

There’s an old Scottish poem anonymously written in the early 1600’s about what some called Mob Ball and others called Football. It’s about old players recounting their ball stories:

Bruised muscles and broken bones  
Discordant strife and futile blows  
Lamed in old age, then crippled withal  
These are the beauties of football

It’s still a beautiful game. Through the game of football I learned a great deal about commitment, endurance, patience, urgency, team work, accountability, culture, leadership, followship, and community. I also learned about prayer, and how to dance (but that’s another article.)

Play Ball!  
Ken



# SEPTEMBER 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 1:30-3:00pm Bridal Tea for Makenzie Phillips  5:00pm Baptism and Supper	8	9	10	11	12 Deadline to sign up for the Senior Adult Trip  ---- BODOCK FESTIVAL----	13
14 1:30-3:00pm Bridal Tea for Rachel Starnes  5:00pm All Committees Mtg in FH	15  Construction begins in old Ed Bldg	16	17	18	19	20
21 1:30-3:00pm Bridal Tea for Rene Rindik  3:30pm Deacons Mtg	22 12:00pm Senior Adult Cookout at the Pavilion	23	24 6:30pm Saw You At The Pole in Worship Center	25	26	27
28 7:30am Brotherhood Breakfast  5:00pm Sunday School Tailgate Night	29	30				