

SEPTEMBER 2021
Vol. 63 No. 9

The Messenger



FROM THE PASTOR

Christians are missing the greatest opportunity in our lifetime to be salt and light, and to share the hope we have in Jesus Christ.

In the 1500s our ‘father in reformation’ wrote this during the Bubonic Plague:

“I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I will fumigate, purify the air, administer medicine, and take medicine. I shall avoid places and persons where my presences is not needed in order to

not become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others, and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me. But I have done what he has expected of me, and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others. If my neighbor needs me, however, I shall not avoid place or person, but will go freely. This is a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God.” – Martin Luther

Psalm 56:3 says; “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”

The world does not know how to trust. Christian disciples do because we have put our trust for eternal salvation and for our present day in Jesus’ hands. Since it looks like this pandemic may be with us for a while, it seems to me that the church can either add to the misery, or we can bring a message of “faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13).

How? By caring for our church family and our lost neighbors. Do an act of service by writing an encouraging card, sending a text, or making a phone call. Pray for the sick. Take a meal to a family where sickness has been present. Pray for families who are spending lots of time confined together. Value people’s fears never mock them. Can you imagine facing these days without Jesus? Instead of spending most of your time on social media, focus on staying connected to our Lord. Watch the series “The Chosen”, a historical drama based on the life of Jesus with your family. (watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen)

Think of creative and appropriate ways to share your hope in Jesus with people who don’t know how to trust. God has placed us in this season of world history so that we can be His ambassadors. Be an Ambassador for Christ and for Christ alone.

Blessings,

Don

First Baptist
OXFORD

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[fbcxford](https://www.facebook.com/fbcxford) [@fbcxford](https://www.instagram.com/fbcxford) [@fbcxford](https://www.youtube.com/fbcxford) [firstbaptistoxford](https://www.youtube.com/fbcxford)

September

gotofirst.org/sunday
for schedule updates & Bible Study options

SEPTEMBER 1

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom
- 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth

SEPTEMBER 3

- 1 p.m. Outreach

SEPTEMBER 5

- 8 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School

SEPTEMBER 6

Labor Day

church office closed

SEPTEMBER 8

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 4 p.m. GriefShare
- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting online
- 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth

SEPTEMBER 11

Youth Football Parking Fundraiser

SEPTEMBER 12

Remembering 9/11 during worship services

- 8 a.m. Worship Service
- 9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. College Ministry Lunch in the Christian Life Center
- 4 p.m. Awana
- 5 p.m. Life U
- 5 p.m. DLife Groups
- 6 p.m. Church wide Ice Cream Fellowship

SEPTEMBER 14

- 5:30 p.m. Outreach

Remembering 9/11

Sunday, September 12

during morning worship services

Guest Speaker Ken Valentine

Retired Secret Service Agent



Valentine received the Distinguished Service Award from President George W. Bush for his actions at the White House on September 11, 2001.

*former Special Agent in Oxford from 2006-2009

First Responders are invited to all services.

SEPTEMBER 15

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 4 p.m. GriefShare
- 5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
- 6 p.m. KidZone for Preschool & Children
- 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth
- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting
- 6 p.m. Men's Bible Study
- 6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
- 6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 7 p.m. Band Rehearsal

GRIEF SHARE®

**Wednesdays at 4 p.m.
beginning September 8**

next to the Fellowship Hall.
Contact Barbara Wright
at 662-801-1874 for more info.
gotofirst.org/grief

Our Family

SEPTEMBER 16

6 p.m. Thrive Jr. Orientation on Zoom
6:30 p.m. Women's Ministry Book Club

SEPTEMBER 17

1 p.m. Outreach

SEPTEMBER 18

Youth Football Parking Fundraiser

SEPTEMBER 19

8 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
4 p.m. Awana
4:30 p.m. Youth grades 10-12 at the Zinc's
5 p.m. Life U
5 p.m. DLife Groups
6 p.m. Youth grades 7-9 in the CLC

SEPTEMBER 22

6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's Bible Study
4 p.m. GriefShare
5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
6 p.m. KidZone for Preschool & Children
6 p.m. Midweek for Youth
6 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6 p.m. Men's Bible Study
6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7 p.m. Band Rehearsal

SEPTEMBER 25

7:30 a.m. Men's Ministry Workday
5 p.m. Youth at Beth Fitt's house

SEPTEMBER 26

8 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
4 p.m. Awana
4:30 p.m. Youth grades 10-12 at the Zinc's
5 p.m. Life U
5 p.m. DLife Groups
6 p.m. Youth grades 7-9 in the CLC

Budget August 2021

Budget	\$204,594.12
Building	\$2,665.00
Designated	\$15,822.64
Total	\$223,081.76

Deacons of the Week

Aug. 29- Larry Little, Mike Tomes,

Sept. 4 Craig Kirkendall

Sept. 5-11 Jason Woodard, Steven Russell, Derrell Doss

Sept. 12-18 Dave Miller, Daniel Denton, Kevin Bain

Sept. 19-25 Lanny Shackelford, Tom Dawson, Gary Carter

Sept. 26- Brad Golmon, Thomas Herrington, Paul Hale
Oct. 2

New Members in August

Max Lomax, Sage McNamara

Our Sympathy

To Mrs. Johnnie Gillespie after the passing of her husband Mr. Norman Gillespie.

To Mr. John Burchfield after the passing of his mother, Mrs. Patricia Ann Burchfield.

SEPTEMBER 29

6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's Bible Study
4 p.m. GriefShare
5 p.m. Fellowship Meal
6 p.m. KidZone for Preschool & Children
6 p.m. Midweek for Youth
6 p.m. Prayer Meeting
6 p.m. Men's Bible Study
6 p.m. Women's Explorer's Bible Study
6 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7 p.m. Band Rehearsal

Discipleship

SUNDAY SCHOOL

New Sunday School Classes beginning September 12!

Men's Under 40 Class

led by Steve Hurdle and Keith Scruggs will meet at 9:15 a.m.
in room 305.

20's Class for Grad/Law/Young Professionals

led by Jeff Holeman will meet at 9:15 a.m. in room 309

Adult Sunday School Leader Training Fellowship

RESCHEDULED: November 7

6-7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

OUTREACH

September 3 and 17. 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

September 14. 5:30 p.m. in the Atrium.

SAVE THE DATES:

The Great FBC Oxford Name That Tune Challenge!

October 10 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Men vs. Ladies Trivia Challenge!

November 14 at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall



FBC LIBRARY Open Sundays 9-11 a.m.
and Wednesdays 5-7 p.m.

Online Catalog available at gotofirst.org/library

• Search the entire catalog • Reserve and renew books

**Check out our display
of Christy Award winners
during September.**

*The Christy Award acknowledges
the value and impact of the novel
of faith in contemporary culture.*



SUNDAY EVENINGS @ FBC OXFORD

kicks off September 12!

4-6 p.m. AWANA for 2 years-6th grade

5-6 p.m. DLife Groups. *Sign up before Sept. 5 at gotofirst.org/dlife/*

5-6 p.m. Life University. Preschool care provided.



■ **MEN: Growing in Godliness** Room 303
Led by Don Gann and Tyler Stacy

■ **WOMEN: Boundaries for Kids** Room 312
Led by Melinda Gann

■ **COED Bible Book Study: Hebrews** Room 309
Led by Jim Propes



*Church wide
Ice Cream Fellowship*

Sunday, September 12

6 p.m. on the church lawn

Bring your ice cream and desserts.

(Rain plan in the Fellowship Hall).

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ FBC OXFORD

coming back September 15!

5:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper Adults \$5

Youth \$5, K-6th graders \$4. Preschool and under eat free.

College students eat free. Immediate family group pays a max of \$15.

6 p.m. Explorers Bible Study

6 p.m. Bible Book Study: Hebrews

6 p.m. Prayer Meeting

6 p.m. Midweek for Youth on the 3rd Floor

6 p.m. FBC Oxford KidZone. Preschoolers in the Preschool area and K-6th graders in the CLC. Check in begins at 5:50 pm. Pick up kids at 7:01 pm



HURRICANE IDA RELIEF

You may give toward the Hurricane Ida recovery effort through First Baptist Church Oxford. We are partnering with First Baptist Norco, Louisiana to help meet needs in their community. Please designate 'Disaster Relief' on your contribution.

Our plan is to help with building supplies for those repairing their homes. The FBC Oxford Missions Team will approve disbursement of funds.

MEN'S MINISTRY NEWS

mm@gotofirst.org

SATURDAY WORKDAY: SEPTEMBER 25

Email mm@gotofirst.org to sign up!

Meet at the Christian Life Center at 7:30 a.m.

Links Connections

FBC Oxford Ministry to
the Links Apartments

BIBLE STUDY Sundays at 5 p.m. Bldg. 28, Apt. 7

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Craft Night Sept. 13 at 6 p.m., Bldg. 28, Apt. 7

Links International Ladies

Wednesdays at 1 p.m., Bldg. 28, Apt. 7

For international women at the Links and Greens.

Join us for a time of conversation and crafts.

Email lynndyfurdle@gmail.com for more information about any of these ministry opportunities.



linksconnections • Check out volunteer opportunities at gotofirst.org/links

Missions

Oaxaca Construction Trip.
October 17-22.

OAXACA

Building a storage building for Oaxaca Christian School.
Please contact Jeff Holeman if you are interested.

Oaxaca Medical Trip. February 17-22, 2022.

Medical/Dental Trip to southern Mexico.



ITALY

Italy Mission Trip. December 6-16.

This team will be involved in refugee ministry and college campus ministry in Rome, Italy. Contact Jeff Holeman if you sense a calling to join this team.

Mission House Offering Update!

Goal \$75,000. Given to date: \$1,000

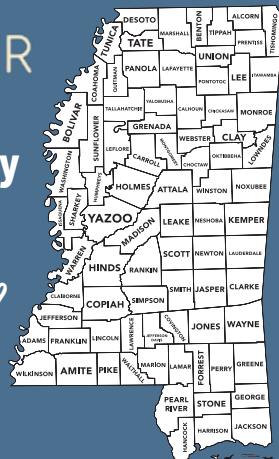
The Missions Committee and Properties Committee have begun work on transforming the former church office building into a residence for missionaries on stateside assignment. Much of the work will be done by volunteers from FBC Oxford and opportunities to help will be announced from time to time.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR
MISSISSIPPI

**During September: Margaret Lackey
Offering for Mississippi Missions!**

Can your family adopt a county for ministry?

FBC Oxford goal: \$8200
(\$100 for every county in Mississippi)





CHURCH WIDE OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT

October 1 at 7:30 p.m.

in the FBC memory garden.

Popcorn provided.

Bring chairs, blankets for the lawn.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS wmin@gotofirst.org

Monthly Book Club Thursday, September 16 at 6:30 p.m.

"The World that We Knew" by Alice Hoffman, available in the FBC Library. Email wmin@gotofirst.org for more information.

Pumpkin Painting and Panel Discussion

Enjoy a fall craft, dessert, and learn about traditions and daily rhythms to keep Christ at the center of your home.

Saturday, October 16

9:30-11:00 on the church lawn and in the Fellowship Hall
Preschool and childcare available. Cost is \$10.



RSVP by October 9 at gotofirst.org/wmin

PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S NEWS

AWANA begins Sunday, September 12!

Sundays 4-6 p.m. 2 years-6th grade

gotofirst.org/awana

for registration details.



FIRST KIDZONE

K-6th graders in the CLC and preschoolers in the Preschool area.
starts back Sept. 15!

Preschool & Children's Departments

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

October 15 • 6-9 p.m.

Sign up preschoolers with Jennifer at jwoodard@gotofirst.org and children with Whitney at wsimon@gotofirst.org



Kids Carnival & Trunk or Treat

October 31 • 3-5 p.m.
inflatables, games in the CLC, food, door prizes, and candy!

babydedication Nov. 7

Sign up with Jennifer (jwoodard@gotofirst.org)



Quality dance instruction in ballet, lyrical, jazz, contemporary and hip-hop for the purpose of praise and worship for 4 year olds-12th grade. Classes meet Mondays and Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall.

Schedule, fees, and registration details:
gotofirst.org/dance

New classes added for 4 year olds-2nd grade!

Classes will meet on Mondays

3-4 p.m. Creative Movement (4 year olds)

4-5 p.m. Ballet Basics (Kindergarten/ 1st grade)

5-6 p.m. Ballet/Jazz Fusion (1st/2nd grade)

Sept. 16 Thrive Jr. Parent Zoom orientation, 6 p.m.

Sept. 20 First Day of classes for Thrive Jr.

STUDENT NEWS [@Studentsgoto1st](https://twitter.com/Studentsgoto1st) [@studentsgotofirst](https://www.instagram.com/studentsgotofirst)



We will be working church parking lots for Ole Miss gamedays this season!

Sept. 11 Austin Peay / Kick-off @ 6:30pm

Sept. 18 Tulane / Kick-off @ 7pm

Youth boys will help with men's ministry workday

Sept. 25 • 7:30 a.m.-noon with lunch out to follow

Slip n Slide Kickball

Sept. 25 • 5-8 p.m. at Beth Fitt's house

Old Mtn. Adventures (Winona, MS / Fall Break)

Monday, October 11 Details to come!

FBC OXFORD STAFF

Rev. Don Gann, Senior Pastor
dgann@gotofirst.org

Dr. Robert Allen, Administrative Pastor
rallen@gotofirst.org

Jeff Holeman, Minister of Discipleship
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Dr. Louis Zinc, Student Pastor
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COLLEGE MINISTRY INTERNS

Sage McNamara Emily Smith
Kaitlyn Traylor

MUSIC MINISTRY INTERNS

McKenzi Massey Joanna Word

YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNS

JR Wilbanks Alyssa Lee

BUILDING

Maria Thompson W.C. Certion
Carl Pettis

How may we pray for you?

Scan the QR code and let us know.





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