

MAY  
2025

# The Bridge

The Monthly Newsletter for FBC Franklinton



## "THE BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH IN MAY"

Dear Church Family,  
As we step into the beautiful month of May, our hearts are filled with gratitude for the many ways God is working in and through His people. The signs of spring remind us of new life, renewal, and the faithful promises of God, who makes all things new in His perfect time (*Ecclesiastes 3:11*). Just as the earth blossoms, so too does the body of Christ; growing, thriving, and bearing fruit.

This month, we take special time to honor and reflect on the vital role of the family within the life of the church. And on Mother's Day, we lift up the gift of mothers, those who have shaped our lives with love, sacrifice, and faith.

The Scriptures speak often of godly women who nurtured their families and followed the Lord with faith and courage. *Proverbs 31:28-30* paints a beautiful picture: "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 'Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all.' Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." On this Mother's Day, we thank God for the mothers in our lives. Biological mothers, spiritual mothers, grandmothers, and all women who have poured themselves into the next generation. We see in them the reflection of Christ's love, nurturing and compassionate, yet strong and steadfast.

May is also a time for us as a church to recommit ourselves to building up the body of Christ through community, discipleship, and service. *Hebrews 10:24-25* reminds us: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together... but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Let us continue to gather faithfully, worship joyfully, and serve selflessly, because the church is not a building, but a people on mission together. As we celebrate mothers, graduates, and all the blessings God brings in this season, may our hearts stay anchored in His Word and open to His Spirit. Thank you for being a part of this loving church family.

With joy and love in Christ,

*Dr. Jake*

**FREE EVENT**

**AGES PK 4-6TH GRADE**

**MAGNIFIED!**  
PSALM 54:3

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
DISCOVER THE BIGNESS OF GOD IN THE SMALLEST OF THINGS

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US**

**JUNE 2 - JUNE 6**  
**8:30 A.M.-12:00 P.M.**

**950 SELF STREET FRANKLINTON, LA**

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FRANKLINTON**  
**REGISTER ONLINE!**

**FAMILY FREEDOM SUNDAY**  
**JULY 6TH, 2025**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**FAMILY RETREAT DAY &  
4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION  
AT HUNT BRANCH LAKE**



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# Senior Adult Ministry

SAM



REV. JOEY MILLER, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF PASTORAL CARE



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." – I Peter 1:3

## WHAT A BLESSED EASTER WEEKEND

Every year, thousands of people climb a mountain in the Italian Alps, passing the "stations of the cross" to stand at an outdoor crucifix. One tourist noticed a little trail that led beyond the cross. He fought through the rough thicket and, to his surprise, came upon another station, one that symbolized the empty tomb. It was neglected. The brush had grown up around it. Almost everyone had gone as far as the cross, but there they stopped.

Perhaps far too many of us struggle daily with the weight of the cross trying in our own strength to deny self and too few of us live each day in the power of the empty tomb. The truth is real every day of our lives – Jesus is risen, and He gives us the hope and help to overcome each and every day. Peter said we have a living hope through the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. May we live each day in that living hope, not just at Easter. What a blessed Easter weekend we had with the Carry the Cross and the Easter Worship Services. We had 325 people from our community for the walk with the cross on Good Friday and around 110 from our community gathered early Resurrection Morning for the Mile Branch Easter Sunrise Service.

Our morning Easter services also had great attendances and blessed worship. But when we think of this month, this Sunday, and the rest of the year, let us remember that every Sunday is a resurrection Sunday, and every day is a resurrection day. Have a great resurrection day!

*-Joey Miller*

## SENIOR ADULT SUNDAY: MAY 18th

Once a year we have a special Sunday to honor our senior adults and express our gratitude for their faithful service to the Lord and His church. This special Sunday will be May 18th. Our Senior Adult worship service will take place at 8:15 am. We ask that all senior adults please attend that service. Then our deacons and wives will treat our senior adults to lunch in the Family Life Center following the Sunday School hour.

## OCTOBER BRANSON TRIP

Get ready for a great time of fellowship and fun as we take in the beauty of Arkansas and Missouri as well as some great shows. This year we will see The Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs as well as The David Show at the Sight and Sound Theatre and other wonderful shows in Branson. The dates for our trip are October 6-10. Flyers are available at church, or you may call to have one emailed to you. Deposits are due May 15th and you may register and pay at the church office.

## NURSING HOME WORSHIP SERVICES

THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO BLESS THE RESIDENTS OF OUR NURSING HOMES BY JOINING THEM FOR WORSHIP AND EXTENDING THE MINISTRY OF THE LOVE OF JESUS. PLEASE NOTE THE DATES BELOW FOR OUR MAY SERVICES:

**GOOD SAMARITAN** –  
MONDAY, MAY 5 @ 3:00 P.M.  
**FAIR CITY REHAB** –  
MONDAY, MAY 19 @ 3:00 P.M.



## Branson Missouri

### FBC SAM Branson Trip

Join this exciting trip and bring a friend!

Travel on a luxury bus with Bus Supply Charters

4 nights lodging in at Stone Castle Hotel in Branson

Meals in Branson included

Great shows including:

- David at Sight and Sound
- The Great Passion Play in Eureka Springs
- Clay Cooper's Country Express
- Hughes Brothers
- New South Gospel

**Trip price:**

- Single occupancy - \$1040 per person
- Double occupancy - \$857 per person
- Triple occupancy - \$790 per person
- Quad occupancy - \$748 per person

Register at the FBC Church Office  
Deposit of \$200 due – May 15  
Final payment due – August 15

See Back for Itinerary

Sign-up

(985) 859-3427 fbc.joeymiller@gmail.com



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# FBC Student Ministry



BRO. DRAKE WESTMORELAND- NEXT GEN PASTOR



## DISCIPLING A GENERATION THAT KNOWS CHRIST AND MAKES HIM KNOWN.

What's up, FBC fam!  
Man, God's been showing out lately! It's been awesome to see how faithful He's been to our church these past few months. Easter with y'all was incredible. Such a good time to reflect and just worship together. I hope you had the chance to share that John 3:16 love with someone, even if it was just a quick convo or invite.

Just because Easter's over doesn't mean the message stops. The resurrection is still everything — it's the core of our faith. So let's keep chasing after Jesus this spring and stay solid in those spiritual disciplines. Keep showing up, digging in, and trusting Him. Let's stay connected, stay real, and keep making moves for the Kingdom. Much love,

-Drake Westmoreland

Here's what's coming up — go ahead and save these dates:

**JUL 17** What's Coming Up

- 🍵 Girls Par-Tea – May 18th  
(Bring your tea game. Pinkies out.)
- 🏊 Pool Party – May 23rd  
(Cannonballs are encouraged. Modest swimwear, folks.)
- 🔥 Camp Fuego – June 9th–13th  
(Jesus, bonfires, and maybe one too many s'mores.)
- 🌐 Mission Night – June 22nd  
(Let's serve, worship, and maybe eat pizza. Not in that order.)
- ✈️ Honduras Trip – July 7th–13th  
(Pray now. Pack later.)

**POOL Party** **FBC STUDENTS**



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# FBC Student Ministry



BRO. DRAKE WESTMORELAND- NEXT GEN PASTOR



DISCIPLING A GENERATION THAT KNOWS CHRIST  
AND MAKES HIM KNOWN.

# POOL

Free Entry  
Free Food

05  
23

Games - Food - Drink - Music

42184 Copperhead Rd, Franklinton, LA

5:00 PM  
Friday, May 23rd

# PARTY



**FUEGO 25'**

## JUNE 9-13

"WAITLIST REGISTRATION IS OPEN"

FBC Student Ministry Presents

# GIRLS PAR-TEA

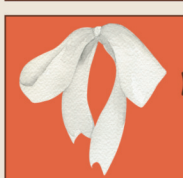
MAY 18  
@6PM



REFLECTION  
JOURNAL



CHARM  
PENS



BOOKMARK  
RIBBONS

BRING A  
FRIEND

FrankTown  
Nutrition



**FBC STUDENTS**  
FIRST BAPTIST FRANKLINTON

BIBLE READING PLAN

## THE WORD

*With FBC Students*

STEPS TO JOIN

1. Scan the QR Code or click the link in our bio.
2. Set "FBC Franklinton Students" as your church.
3. Join the "Everyday: Growing in Faith" reading plan.
4. Turn on notifications for "FBC Franklinton Students."
5. Start reading through the plan!



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# FBC KIDS Ministry



KELLY MCELVEEN, DIRECTOR OF FBC PLAYSCHOOL, CHILDREN'S AND PRESCHOOL MINISTRY



## Raising a generation that knows Christ AND MAKES HIM KNOWN.

Well, we've blinked and another school year is coming to an end! So, let's go ahead and lay out some summer events, you'll want to take note of!

### Week of May 4<sup>th</sup>: Volunteer Appreciation

It would be next to impossible to do ministry effectively without the many volunteers who pour into your children each week. I hope you'll find some time this week to intentionally reach out to those Sunday School teachers and Wednesday Night volunteers and let them know how much they are appreciated!

### Sunday, May 11<sup>th</sup>: Mother's Day - No Wee Worship, No Sunday Night Activities

### Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.: End-of-School Fun Night

Join us as we celebrate the end of another successful school year! There will be a jump, games, and lots of outdoor play!

### Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>: Last Team KID, BLAST, and Half Notes/Joyful Noise Choirs till August

Beginning June 11<sup>th</sup>, we'll switch to a new Wednesday night schedule for the summer!

### Sunday, June 1<sup>st</sup>: No Wee Worship (10:45 a.m.), VBS Kick-Off (6:00 p.m.)

### Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 a.m. – 12n: Magnified VBS, Completed PK4 – Completed 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

We hope you'll join us daily as we discover the bigness of God in the smallest of things! Our mission project includes collecting non-perishable food items for the Washington Parish Food Bank and money for Spice Road Ministries in Italy. This year's mission challenge promises to sting just a bit! Sign up today at [www.fbcfranklinton.org](http://www.fbcfranklinton.org)!

Completed PK4 – Completed K: Team **YELLOW**  
Completed 1<sup>st</sup> – Completed 2<sup>nd</sup>: Team **GREEN**  
Completed 3<sup>rd</sup> – Completed 4<sup>th</sup>: Team **BLUE**  
Completed 5<sup>th</sup> – Completed 6<sup>th</sup>: Team **RED**

### Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>: No Wednesday Night Activities

#### Wee Worship Volunteers

May 4: Kelly McElveen

May 11: Mother's Day - No Wee Worship

May 18: Brenna Rawls

May 25: Kelli Brumfield

### Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>:

#### Summer Midweek Schedule Begins

During the months of June and July, unless otherwise noted, our summer schedule will look like this:

5:30 pm: FBC Kids Eat!

Dinners will vary and will be provided free of charge to children.

6:00 pm: Made to Magnify God Summer Sessions

Each week, in two large group sessions – one for Preschoolers and one for Grades 1-6, kids will dive deeper into our VBS content with engaging lessons, fun crafts & interactive games!

### Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>: Father's Day - No Wee Worship, No Sunday Night Activities

### Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>: Preschool I Love Tuesday

Children in our Preschool Dept. will have an I Love Tuesday just for them! We are tentatively planning to go to Humpty Jump in Columbia, MS. Each preschooler will need an adult chaperone. More details will be sent out as details are finalized – cost is expected to be about \$20. Sign up with Mrs. Kelly by June 3<sup>rd</sup> by emailing her at [fbc.kids@fbcfranklinton.org](mailto:fbc.kids@fbcfranklinton.org).

### Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>: CentriKid I Love Tuesday

Children attending CentriKid camp are invited to spend the morning prepping for camp! There is no cost. We will meet in the Family Life Center at 10 am, lunch is provided. Come planning to get messy – you'll definitely want to bring a towel! Sign up with Mrs. Kelly by June 10<sup>th</sup> by emailing her at [fbc.kids@fbcfranklinton.org](mailto:fbc.kids@fbcfranklinton.org).

### Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>: Family Fifth Sunday, No Wee Worship

### Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> – Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>: CentriKid at Timber Creek Camp, Pulaski, MS

Details will be sent home for each child attending.

### Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>: No Wednesday Night Activities

### Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>: Family Fun Night at Hunt Branch Lakes. Check out the June Bridge for more details!

### Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>: Elementary I Love Tuesday

Children in grades 1 - 6 will have an I Love Tuesday just for them! We are tentatively planning to go to Fun World in Tylertown, MS. Each child will need a completed Student Emergency Card on file to attend. More details will be sent out as details are finalized – cost is expected to be about \$20. Sign up with Mrs. Kelly by June 24<sup>th</sup> by emailing her at [fbc.kids@fbcfranklinton.org](mailto:fbc.kids@fbcfranklinton.org).

### Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>: FBC Kids I Love Tuesday

FBC Kids of all ages\* are invited to join us as we head to Honey Island for a swamp tour! Cost is \$15 for kids and \$25 for adults. Plan to bring a picnic lunch (and probably sunscreen and bug spray, too!). Sign up with Mrs. Kelly by July 1<sup>st</sup> by emailing her at [fbc.kids@fbcfranklinton.org](mailto:fbc.kids@fbcfranklinton.org). More specific details will be provided once you have signed up. This trip will be limited to the first 50 people to sign up.

\*Preschoolers will need their own chaperone to attend.

### Tuesday, July 29<sup>th</sup>:

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell I Love Tuesday

Our soon-to-be 7<sup>th</sup> graders will have their own day of fun in the sun at Serengeti Springs...but no passport needed as we will be going to the one in Hattiesburg! There is no cost for admission or lunch. Kids will want to wear a church-appropriate swimsuit under their clothes, bring a towel, sunscreen, spending money, and a change of clothes. Sign up with Mrs. Kelly by July 15<sup>th</sup> by emailing her at [fbc.kids@fbcfranklinton.org](mailto:fbc.kids@fbcfranklinton.org).

### Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>: Promotion Sunday

All children grades PK3 and up will officially be in their new grade level. New 1<sup>st</sup> Graders and new 7<sup>th</sup> Graders will be recognized in one of the morning services and receive a new Bible.

And, last, but certainly not least,

### Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5:30 pm – 7 pm: Back-to-School Celebration

It's all fun and games till summer is over...or is it? School may be back in session, but we'll have an evening of fun and games to help celebrate the start of something new!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old one has passed away, and seem, the new has come!" – 2 Corinthians 5:17 - Kelly McElveen



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**FBC KIDS VBS**



SIERRA SMITH, VBS DIRECTOR AND OFFICE MANAGER

Hello FBC Family,

We're just **four** weeks away from the most exciting evangelistic event of the year — VBS! I can hardly wait to see all that God is going to do in and through our church during this special week!

I want to start by thanking each of you for your prayers and support so far. Please continue to pray: For our volunteers, for our church, and especially for the children who will be attending. Let's ask God to begin preparing hearts and minds, both young and old, to receive His Word and grow deeper in their walk with Christ.

Here are a few important updates and opportunities to get involved:

★ **Volunteer Break Area:**

Back by Popular Demand — Our Volunteer Refreshment Area!

Our Volunteer Table was such a hit last year that we're bringing it back again! A big thank you to all the Sunday School classes who helped sponsor it — your generosity truly made a difference. This special space gives our volunteers a chance to take a quick break, enjoy a few snacks, and recharge. If you'd like to support VBS in this way again this year, we're asking each Sunday School class to consider sponsoring one day (Monday-Friday). Sponsoring includes bringing paper goods, utensils, drinks, and snacks for your chosen day. It's a simple but meaningful way to bless and encourage our incredible VBS team, including our awesome youth helpers who give so much throughout the week! Please sign up through your Sunday School class if you're able to help.

👕 **T-Shirt Distribution Help (VBS Kick-Off):**

I need 2–3 volunteers to help distribute shirts to those who pre-registered.

☀️ **VBS Opportunities to Serve:**

We're still in need of two more volunteers to help with our Outdoor Track — a vital part of the VBS experience where kids get to move, play, and enjoy the sunshine! We're also looking for one or two tents to help provide some much-needed shade in those outdoor areas.

In addition, we have a few exciting teaching opportunities available! We're looking for enthusiastic individuals to lead sessions in:

- 🛖 Handbells: a fun, hands-on way for kids to make a joyful noise.
- 🗣️ Sign Language: help kids learn to communicate in new and meaningful ways!

If any of these sound like something you'd love to be part of, or if you know someone who would, please reach out! We'd love to have you on the team!

📣 **Help Spread the Word:**

We need folks to assist with advertising and promoting VBS — both online and in the community.

🙏 **Prayer Walk Volunteers:**

We're looking for volunteers willing to do a prayer walk through the church and classrooms the week before VBS. This is such an important ministry — covering our space in prayer is essential!

🎨 **Decorating Help (Memorial Day @ 9:00 a.m.):**

If you love decorating or just want to lend a hand, I'll be at the church all day on Memorial Day, setting everything up. Come whenever you're able! The decorations aren't the heart of VBS, but they help create a special, unforgettable atmosphere for the kids, full of joy, wonder, and the love of Christ.

If you're interested in helping in any of these areas, please don't hesitate to call or email me. I'd love to get you plugged in!

For His Honor & His Glory,

*Sierra Smith*

985.839.3427

[officemanager@fbcfranklinton.org](mailto:officemanager@fbcfranklinton.org)



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# FBC May Events



## Mothers Day BRUNCH

Come & Go Style

**Sunday, May 11th**

BETWEEN 9:15 - 10:15 A.M.  
THERE WILL ALSO BE A PHOTO  
STATION TO TAKE PHOTOS WITH  
YOUR FAMILY!



## VBS MISSIONS

Teams will compete in a Missions Competition by team. Pre-K and Kindergarteners are Team **YELLOW**, 1st & 2nd Graders are Team **GREEN**, 3rd & 4th Graders are Team **BLUE**, and 5th & 6th Graders are Team **RED**.

### Missions offerings are:

Non-perishable items to benefit our local Washington Parish Food Bank. (Mac-N-Cheese, Tuna, Sweet Peas, peanut butter, cereal, grits, etc.)

All Monetary Donations will go directly towards SPICE Road Missions in Italy.

**Offerings are accepted each morning during VBS drop-off.**

Ooooh, the suspense! 🍷 Looks like someone's in for a crunchy surprise!

### TEAM LEADERS:

- Mrs. Kelly (Yellow Team)
- Green Team Leader – still a mystery 🤔
- Mrs. Sierra (Blue Team)
- Bro. Drake (Red Team)

Only one brave soul will face the scorpion snack... and the answer lies in how much missions money/non-perishable items your team brings in throughout the week!

💰 The team that raises the most = their leader does NOT have to eat the scorpion

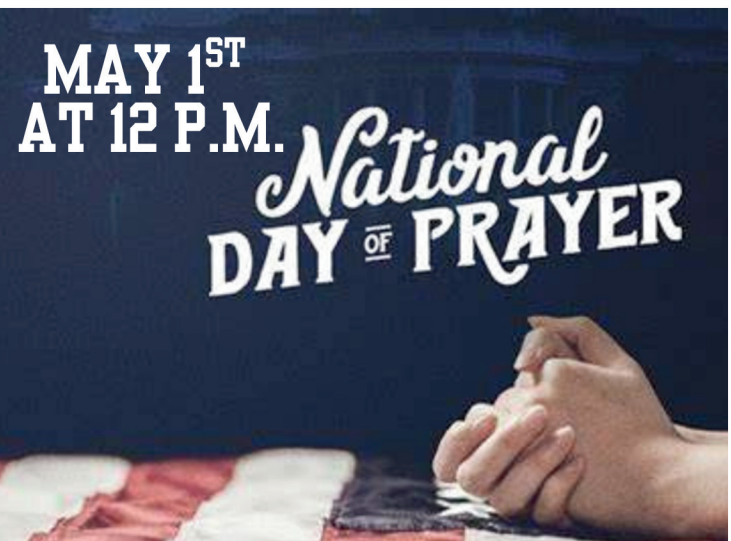
👤 The team that brings in the least... well, their leader better get ready...

So if you want to save your leader (or see someone take the crunchy challenge), bring those Missions offerings all week!

Who are you rooting for to take the bite? 😊



Senior Adult Sunday  
May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
8:15 a.m.- Worship  
9:30 a.m.- Sunday School  
10:45 a.m.- Senior Luncheon





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## FBC EVENTS



### WINGS COOKING CLASS:

*Sourdough Bread Class*

MAY 17TH AT 3:00 P.M.

IN THE FAMILY LIFE CENTER

COST \$25

BRING A JAR TO TAKE  
SOURDOUGH STARTER HOME IN!  
SIGN UP BY MAY 7TH



The church bus will be leaving at **3 p.m.** to see Chonda Pierce on **May 10th**. If anyone would like to ride with us, contact Leslie Westmoreland. If you didn't pre-order your tickets, tickets are still available online.

### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

*Franklinton*  
(985) 839-3427 OFFICE

### SERVICE TIMES

#### Sundays

#### Worship Services

8:15 a.m., 10:45 a.m. &  
6:00 p.m.

#### Bible Study

9:30 a.m.

#### Choir Practice

4:30 p.m.

#### Wednesdays

Wednesday Night Supper  
5:00 p.m.

#### Preschool, Children, Youth Activities

6:00 p.m.

#### Adult & Ladies Bible Studies

6:00 p.m.

#### Prayer Meeting

6:00 p.m.



CHECK OUT OUR  
WEBSITE AT

[WWW.FBCFRANKLINTON.ORG](http://WWW.FBCFRANKLINTON.ORG)

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
950 SELF STREET  
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