



Holding on to Hope in Challenging Times

Greeting in the name of Jesus,

Life is full of uncertainties and challenges, but Romans 12:12 offers us a powerful reminder: “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” This verse encourages us to cultivate three key virtues—hope, patience, and faithfulness—as we navigate life's ups and downs.

Be Joyful in Hope

Hope is the anchor of our soul. No matter what circumstances we face, hope points us to a future beyond our present struggles. To be joyful in hope means choosing to focus on the promises that God has for us, even when things feel overwhelming. It’s a choice to find joy in knowing that brighter days are ahead, even if they are not visible in the present moment.

Patient in Affliction

Affliction and hardship are inevitable, but patience enables us to endure them with grace. Patience doesn't mean pretending everything is perfect; rather, it's the inner strength that comes from trusting God's timing. When we choose to be patient during trials, we allow space for growth and for God to work in ways we may not yet understand. I often remind my self that it is going to happen in God’s time not mine, if it is within His will.


Faithful in Prayer

Prayer is our lifeline to God. It is through prayer that we express our deepest concerns, seek guidance, and find peace. To be faithful in prayer is to remain consistent, not only in good times but especially when life feels hardest. Through prayer, we build a deeper relationship with God and are reminded that we are never alone in our struggles.

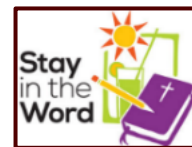
Finally, I want to encourage everyone to exercise your right to vote but regardless of the outcome remember God is still in control. Therefore, let’s remember that hope, patience, and faithfulness are our companions in

both good and difficult times. When we live out this scripture, we reflect God's love, trusting that He is at work in all things—even the afflictions we cannot yet see beyond.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor P. J. Johnson

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|---|--|---|
|  | <p><i>The Power Of Prayer</i></p> | <p>Prayer for Peace <i>The Prayer of St. Francis</i></p> |
|---|--|---|

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; To be understood as to understand; To be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; It is in pardoning that we are pardoned; And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY – 7 PM – ZOOM

Meeting ID: 826 0194 1303

Passcode: 13800

Call in number: 1-301-715 8592 US (Washington DC) or
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 9:45 AM

In Person or via Conference Call
Conference Call Phone Number: 267-807-9605 *

Access code: 731 353 453#

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Coming Together for Bible Study

The FBCM Women's Ministry hosted a Women's Bible Study event on Saturday, May 18, 2024 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. The guest speaker for the morning was Dr. Eleanor Morris, author of the book **"When GOD Speaks."** This well attended intriguing presentation from Dr. Morris offered the participants the opportunity to learn how we should listen to God when he speaks to us. "When listening to the voice of God we must have Faith, Time and Patience."

Boxed lunches were enjoyed and Ms. Lynell Johnson demonstrated the art of "Finger Knitting."



Celebrating Mother's Day 2024

The woman to be admired and praised is the woman who lives in the fear of God. Give her everything she deserves! Adorn her life with praises!

Proverbs 31:30-31 (The Message)



Remembering Fallen Military Personnel

On Sunday May 26, 2024, FBCM celebrated Memorial Day by remembering our courageous service members who served in our country's armed

forces and sacrificed their lives during their time of service in the military. Deacon Willie Ransom was the worship leader for the special morning service. Mr. Charles Talley, Past 11th District Commander of the American Legion Department of Virginia was the guest speaker.

At the end of the service, Mr. Ronald Robinson facilitated the ringing of the bell seven times in honor of fallen soldiers and taps were played. Deaconess Clarice Woolridge crafted special and unique floral designs for the pulpit to mark the occasion.



Celebrating 17 years of Pastoring at FBCM

On Sunday, June 2, 2024, Reverend Pernell J. Johnson and the first family celebrated 17 years of pastor and people of FBCM. The theme for this year's anniversary celebration was "Celebrating the Goodness of GOD!" and the scripture for the day was "Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name; make known among the nations what he has done. ²Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts." Psalm 105:1-2 (NIV). The preached word was delivered by Dr. Jim Hamacher, Former Executive Director of the Middle District Association.

The anniversary celebration for Pastor Johnson included gifts of appreciation presented at the end of the service followed by an enjoyable meal and fellowship.



Community Outreach – Packing Summer Meals for Children



Members and friends of the Women's Ministry packed summer breakfast and lunch meals for children as part of the Chesterfield County Food Bank's "Kids Summer Food Program". The packing took place on May 21 and June 11 at Journey Christian Center. Over the two days and two and a half hours of packing, the 15 volunteers filled just over 1,050 bags with food items.



The Women's Ministry also organized a food drive and collected food items to support this valuable community initiative to aid youth this summer.



School Supplies for Local Youth

For the 2024-25 school year, the Youth and Young Adult Ministry organized a school supplies drive for distribution to FBCM youth. Because of the large volume of supplies donated by the congregation, the ministry was able to donate supplies to a local school for their students in need of school materials.



*Pastor Johnson,
As you add another year to your life,
may your spirit be renewed and your faith
deepened.
Happy Birthday!*

Celebrating Women's Day 2024



The women of First Baptist Church celebrated Women's Day on Sunday, June 30 during the 11:00a.m. worship service. Evangelist Dr. Angela R. Curtis, founder of ARC International Ministries, served as guest preacher. Evangelist Curtis delivered a mighty spirit filled message using Proverbs 11:16 entitled "Everyone Is Gifted."



During the program, the following four ladies were honored as "Women of the Year for 2024:" Ms. Jazmine Allen, Jada Palmer Moore, Jordan Palmer, and Ms. Allison Smith.



Following the service the Women's Ministry hosted a "high tea" in the church fellowship hall where a light lunch of sandwiches and desserts were enjoyed by the congregation.



For this special service, FBCM women wore hats in the spirit of solidarity.

The Midlothian Community Honors Its History



A Midlothian Community Reunion was held on Saturday, July 20, 2024 in the historic Midlothian Elementary School to celebrate the rich history of this community. Individuals from across the U.S. returned to the area for a day of fun, food and fellowship that highlighted historic displays, music, games, tours and children's activities.



*You do not just wake up and become a butterfly.
Growth is a process.
Give yourself grace to become that butterfly!*

Sunday School Institute 2024

The Sunday School Union of Chesterfield County and Vicinity sponsored its annual Sunday School Institute (SSUI) July 15-17, 2024. This three-day biblical and gospel music learning experience was hosted by First Baptist Church and took place in the church and the Lifelong Learning Institute. This year's theme was "Bridging the Gap, Let's Do It!" The scripture used by the Institute was Acts 2:17-18 and Psalm 71:18.



The institute offered classes for all age groups and held lively lectures, discussions, and activities which made the institute a success. This successful event was coordinated by First Lady Lisa Johnson of First Baptist Church of Midlothian, SSUI Chairperson and Deaconess Joan Ligon of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, SSUI Co-Chairperson.



Institute Presenters: Deacon Michele Neblett (Mt. Sinai Baptist Church), Sister Alexandria Quales (Baptist General Convention Youth Ministry Leader and Author), and Rev. Dr. William H. Whitaker, II, Director of Clergy Ministry and Leadership Development, Baptist General Convention)

Vacation Bible School 2024 – "Leading Others Through Biblical Examples"

First Baptist Church of Midlothian held its annual Vacation Bible School August 5-9. The evening classes and activities were available for persons ranging from preschoolers to adults and were centered around the theme "Leading Others Through Biblical Examples." The classes were inspired by biblical leaders and discussions took place on how those leaders decided to lead out loud. Those in attendance learned how to be better verbal advocate leaders for others. Vacation Bible School provided an opportunity for the congregation as well as people from the community, particularly youth and teens, to spend time in bible study and interacting through meaningful discussions. Time was also spent in music/dance class and crafts.



Ms. Audrey Ross organized Vacation Bible School and the following individuals contributed as teachers: Mr. Anthony Otey, Mrs. Sonia Davenport, and Mrs. Shawnda Randall. Music and Movement was taught by Mrs. Evelyn Woodward-Johnson and Arts and Crafts by Mrs. Sonia Davenport.



Look it Up Bible Trivia Part 1:

Do you know the answers to the following questions? The answers will not be provided. Instead, the location in the Bible is provided for you to look it up!!

1. In Joseph's dream, how many stars bowed down to him – 3, 7, 10, 11, or 12? (Gen 37:9)
2. What relative of John the Baptist was Jesus? (Luke 1:36)
3. After Jesus fed the 5,000 people, how did he get across the first portion of the sea of Galilee? (John 6:19)
4. What insect was the writer of Proverbs talking about when he said: "Consider her ways and be wise."? (Prov 6:6)
5. What was the name of the garden where Jesus often went to pray? (Matt 26:36)

Faith Fellowship & Fun



The Youth and Young Adult Ministry hosted fun filled activities following morning worship service on Sunday, July 14. On this Youth and Young Adult Sunday, after morning service a cookout style lunch was served, and exciting fun activities were available. A bouncy house, games, cotton candy, ice cream offered a wonderful opportunity for our youth, young adults, as well as the entire congregation, to enjoy fellowshiping with one another.



Honors and Recognition



Congratulations to **Ms. Delores Taylor** on being selected as one of three 2024 Mega Mentor School Liaisons of the Year during the Excellence Awards and Recognition Celebration on May 23, 2024. The Mega Mentors Program is currently in 12 Chesterfield County schools and Ms. Taylor has mentored at Falling Creek Middle School for six years.



Congratulations to **Veronica Etheridge** on receiving five 1st place Blue Ribbons at the Chesterfield County Fair this summer in the category of Arts and Crafts. She obtained special awards for “Best in Show for Ceramics” and a “Special Award” for the use of materials in Arts and Crafts.



Look it Up Bible Trivia Part 2:

Do you know the answers to the following questions? The answers will NOT be provided. Instead, the location in the Bible is provided for you to look it up!!

6. According to Luke 10:27, we should love God with all our heart, soul, mind and what else? (Luke 10:27)
7. What did Jesus say cannot add one hour to your life? (Matt 6:27)
8. Who had a dream of seven fat and seven lean cows? (Gen 41:1-4)
9. Who was Adam and Eve’s third son? (Gen 4:25)
10. How many braids did Samson have in his hair? (Judges 16:19)

Observing Homecoming and Revival 2024

On Sunday, July 21 celebrated Homecoming 2024 during the morning worship service. The theme for this year was “Suited Up for Battle” and scripture was Ephesians 6:11-18.

Elder Michael Coleman, Sr. of Zion Apostolic in Petersburg served as our guest minister. Elder Coleman blessed us tremendously with a moving sermon entitled “Are You Hungry” using the scripture from Luke 15: 11-17. Deacon Anderson Edlow masterfully served as worship leader for both the homecoming and revival services.



Our one-night inspirational revival service was held on Tuesday, July 23. This evening service featured Rev. Tracie A. Daniels, Pastor of Saint Mark Baptist Church of Maidens, VA. as the guest minister. The title of the sermon delivered by Rev. Daniels to renew our spirit was “You Can’t Touch This” and she used the homecoming scripture Ephesians 6:11-18. The FBCM Youth and Young Adult Choir served for this occasion.

If life were predictable it would cease to be life, and be without flavor.
~ Eleanor Roosevelt



Some days are bad and some are good, but all are precious opportunities.
~ Unknown

Teeing Off in 2024

After being postponed for four years, the annual Master’s/Major Charles A. Ransom Memorial Golf Tournament returned in 2024. On Friday, August 2 the tournament took place at Lake Chesdin Golf Course with 19 registered teams and 68 players. This year the tournament attracted participants from the community as well as from across the state and included two all-female teams.

This event, which supports the church’s Capital Campaign, received monetary donations from corporate sponsors, the congregation, and the community. The following were sponsors for 2024:

| Gold | Bronze | |
|--|---|--|
| Altey Management Services, Inc. Miles Ahead Distribution, Inc. James River Equipment Company | MCS Services, Inc. James & Tresa Draper Robert & Charlotte Harris Don & Terrill Rainey | Willie & MarySue Ransom Garnett & Delores Taylor FBCM Greeks Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. |

The Golf Tournament Committee includes Trustee Don Rainey, Chairperson, Deacon Willie Ransom, Jennifer Jones, Toney Otey, James Draper, Gwen Byrd, and Delores Taylor. In addition, Cheryl Edlow, George Hobbs, and Loretta Otey were volunteers on the day of the tournament, helping to make the day a great success.



New Shoes for Back-To-School Ministry – Thanks for Another Successful Year!



With the support of the members and ministries of First Baptist Church of Midlothian, the FBCM Shoe Ministry collected and distributed 164 pairs of new shoes to local school children. First Baptist Midlothian, along with other churches and synagogues in the area distributed shoes from the Third Street Bethel A.M.E. Church in Richmond, VA location. This was a return to the way shoes were distributed pre-covid.

The FBCM Shoe Ministry has participated annually for the past 12 years in the “New Shoes for Back-to-School Ministry” which is sponsored by Metro Richmond Partnership of Churches under the direction of Rita Willis. The participating churches and synagogues provide new shoes to needy students at the beginning of each school year. The First Baptist Ministry members include, Mrs. Cheryl Edlow, Mrs. Kelli Poindexter, Ms. Gwen Byrd, Ms. Linda Porter Cole, and Mr. George Hobbs. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the 2024 shoe ministry distribution a success.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mid-Lothian Mines Day 2024

On Saturday, October 19 experience the early coal mining history during this annual event. Activities include guided trolley tours of the park, musical performances, coal mining and railroad exhibits, living history, and children's activities. The day's activities listed below are free and open to the public.

- ◆ 11 a.m. Event opens to the public
- ◆ 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Trolley Tours of First Baptist Church of Midlothian & Midlothian Elementary School to highlight African American history in Midlothian.
- ◆ 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Jonathan Austin, Juggling performances.
- ◆ 11:15 a.m., 2 p.m. Bagpipe performance by Pipe Major David Hinton.
- ◆ 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 1:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. Guided van tours of Mid-Lothian Mines Park.
- ◆ 12:00 p.m., 2:30 p.m. Press Gang music performances
- ◆ 1 p.m. Richmond Cadet Alumni Band performance

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Ministry will host their second Women's Bible Study of the year on Saturday, November 2, 2024 in the church fellowship hall. For information contact First Lady Lisa Johnson.

Salaried Positions at FBCM

Starting January 2024, the position of Church Treasurer will be available. Extensive training and onboarding will be provided by the Finance Committee. If you are interested in this position, contact Pastor Johnson, the Chairperson or Co-Chairperson of the Finance Committee for a position description and/or additional detailed information.

**DID YOU
KNOW?**

Do you know these surprising health facts?

<https://spectrumhealthcare.com/>

1. Drink something hot to cool down
2. Companionship is good for the heart
3. The strongest muscle in your body is
 - if you are referring to the muscle that can exert the most force, then your calf muscle,
 - if you want to find the muscle that can exert the most pressure, then the jaw muscle,
4. More than half your bones are located in your hands and feet
5. Your feet can give an early warning about serious health problems
6. Cold temperature can be good for your health
7. Bananas can help improve your mood
8. Optimism may help you live longer

Fourth Quarter Church Calendar

| October | November | December |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 – Clergy Appreciation Day • 13-19 – BGC Week of Prayer” • 19 – Fishing Trip to Deltaville, VA • 19 – Women’s Ministry: “Making Strides” Breast Cancer Walk <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>Cancer Awareness Month</i> <i>Clergy Appreciation Month</i> <i>Domestic Violence Awareness Month</i> </p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 – BGC Day of Social Action • 5 – Election Day • 7-9 – BGC Virtual Children’s and Youth Revival • 11 – Veteran’s Day (Monday) • 28 - Thanksgiving Day <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 10px;"> <i>Diabetes Awareness Month</i> </p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1, 8, 15, 22 – Advent • 15 – Virtual BGC Youth Lock - In • 25 – Christmas Day (Wednesday) • 29 – Sunday School Union |



Deadline to register to vote, or update an existing registration:

October 15, 2024

(Voters may register after this date, through Election Day, and vote using a provisional ballot)



Important Voter Registration Dates

Are you registered to vote?

- ◆ Register to vote in Virginia online using the [Citizen Portal](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/) (https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/).

Do you want to vote early?

- ◆ First day of in-person early voting at your [local registrar's office](#): **Friday, September 20, 2024.**
- ◆ Voter registration offices open for early voting: **Saturday, October 26, 2024.**
- ◆ The last day of in-person early voting at your [local voter registration office](#): **Saturday, November 2, 2024** at 5:00 p.m.

Who is on the ballot?

- ◆ See who is on your ballot by viewing the [candidate lists](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/) (https://www.elections.virginia.gov/casting-a-ballot/candidate-list/).
 - President Candidates List
 - US Senate Candidates List
 - House of Representatives Candidates List
 - Local Candidates List

Do you need to vote using an absentee ballot or need a ballot mailed to you?

- ◆ Register to vote or apply for an absentee ballot online using the [Citizen Portal](https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/) (https://www.elections.virginia.gov/citizen-portal/).
- ◆ Deadline to apply for a ballot to be mailed to you: **October 25, 2024.** Your request must be received by your [local voter registration office](https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup) (https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation/PublicContactLookup) by 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

for the November 5, 2024 – Presidential Election in Chesterfield, Virginia

Early, in-person, drop box and curbside voting for Chesterfield County voters will be available at the location, dates, and hours listed below beginning Friday, September 20, and ending Saturday, November 2.

(Curbside Voting - for voters with a permanent or temporary disability or who are age 65 or older)

| EARLY VOTING – IN PERSON, DROP BOX, and CURBSIDE | |
|--|---|
| Central Library: <ul style="list-style-type: none">7051 Lucy Corr Blvd Chesterfield, VA 23832 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday-Friday, September 20 – November 1 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.Saturday, October 26, and Saturday, November 2 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. |
| Satellite Locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><u>Clover Hill Library</u>, 6701 Deer Run Drive, Midlothian, VA 23112<u>Ettrick-Matoaca Library</u>, 4501 River Road, South Chesterfield, VA 23803<u>LaPrade Library</u>, 9000 Hull Street Road, North Chesterfield, VA 23236<u>Meadowdale Library</u>, 4301 Meadowdale Boulevard, North Chesterfield, VA 23234<u>North Courthouse Road Library</u>, 325 Courthouse Road, North Chesterfield, VA 23236 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday-Friday, October 21 – November 1 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.October 26, and Saturday, November 2 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. |
| Drop Boxes A drop box will be available at the Office of the General Registrar (9848 Lori Road, Chesterfield, VA 23832): | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday-Friday, Friday, Sept. 20 through Friday, Nov. 1, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.Saturdays, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.Monday, Nov. 4, 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. |

Curbside Voting and Drop Boxes will be available at all polling locations on Election Day, November, 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Self-Care (<https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/>)

What does “self-care” mean? Researchers define self-care as what you do to stay healthy. It’s also what you do to care for any health problems you have, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or mental health disorders. It’s heart-healthy living. What parts of your self-care routine help your heart? Self-care for your heart is really self-care for your whole self. You can improve and protect your health overall when you:

- ✓ Get a daily dose of physical activity, such as a brisk, 30-minute walk.
- ✓ Cook meals that are low in sodium and unhealthy fats.
- ✓ Take your medications as prescribed and keep your medical appointments.
- ✓ Sleep 7-8 hours a night.
- ✓ Manage stress through, for example, meditation, yoga, a warm bath, or quiet time with a good book or funny movie.
- ✓ Try to reach or stay at a healthy weight by moving more and having snacks like fruits and veggies ready to grab when hunger hits.