Following God Prayerfully & Passionately
FBI FIRST BAPTIST INVERNESS

The First Baptist Good News

November 2026

FOLLOWING GOD PRAYERFULLY AND PASSIONATELY!

Hey Church,

For this month I wanted to share this testimony written by Kayla Mansfield, one of our youth leaders who wrote this after Camp SURGE, Youth Camp. We were blessed to have her with us and as I re-read this a few weeks ago, I was reminded of and encouraged by God's goodness in our youth ministry. I am sure you'll be blessed reading it, and maybe even challenged by some of her questions.

For His Kingdom,
Pastor Matt

First Baptist Church,

We are so deeply blessed to have Living Water. This week at camp, that truth wasn't just spoken, it was lived. It was pressed into us. The Lord peeled back the layers and showed us, with startling clarity, how utterly dependent we are on Him. He revealed the places in us that still need to remain, to abide, to stop striving and simply stay.

None of us are strong enough to carry the weight of everyone else's burdens. We aren't strong enough to carry our own. Our lives run deep and wide, carved by years and choices and loss and grace. Sometimes they are heavy. Sometimes they are grief-filled. Yet always, always they are laced with profound joy and with quiet miracles we almost miss unless we slow down to see.

When the youth were asked what they loved most about the week, nearly all of them gave the same answer: hearing and learning from God's word. Yes, they loved the worship that shook the walls; they loved the laughter, the late nights, the games, the friendships forged in a few short days. But what undid me, what moved me to tears more than once was watching brokenness laid bare right next to unshakable hope.

Living side by side does something to you... Schedules overlap, needs collide, space gets tight, and patience gets thin. The polish wears off fast. The things we usually keep tucked away, managed, presentable... They rise to the surface. And in that unfiltered living, the Lord brings a revelation of the heart.

It makes us stop and ask the questions that matter:

- Are we truly loving others as we love ourselves, or only when it's convenient?
- What are we doing with the idols that we let take root in the quiet corners of our hearts?
- Is our life ordered by God or have we subtly tried taking the pen from him?
- Can we speak truth to one another in love, not from a place of pride or anger, but from a place of deep care?
- Are we coming back to him each day, not out of duty, but out of desperation, to be made new? To trade our worn, stained rags for the garments of grace He delights to give?

My own thoughts don't carry weight. I am short on wisdom and understanding more often than I'd like to admit. But I know where to find it. I know the One who teaches me, patiently and persistently, to recognize His voice above the noise of the world and the noise in my own head. Do you know Him that closely? So close that He's with you on every errand, in every car line, during every load of laundry and dirty dish? So close that he's invited into every chaotic moment and every quiet one? Are you living for his glory alone? Not for applause, not for comfort, but for Him?

I was profoundly encouraged by these young people, by their hunger to know their Savior more. I watched them tackle fears with shaking hands and set jaws, climbing trees, and stepping onto roller coasters, bracing for slingshots, and taking paintballs with a grin and a few grimaces. But more than

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that, I watched them tackle the harder things, as they asked, introspective, soul-level questions; they served each other without being asked (most of the time at least); they opened parts of themselves before the group that most adults would guard for a lifetime. Some rested in fellowship because that is exactly where God had them for this season, and others jumped in fully, headlong, trusting the call when they couldn't see the landing. They are the generation that will lead others to Him. I believe it with everything in me. I pray their feet stay planted firmly in love and truth. I pray they remember that no failure, no misstep, no wandering can snatch them from His hand.

To the whole community who surrounded us, thank you! For the meals that appeared when we were spent; for the fun you helped create; for the prayers you whispered when we didn't even know we needed them, for the support that came in ways we saw and in a hundred ways we will never know this side of heaven. You were Christ's hands and feet to us.

And to every leader, words will always fall short of my gratitude. You lived out humility, grace, self-control and sacrificial love. I saw it! You packed up your whole families to be there. You juggled work duties and home stress and adult realities that didn't pause because camp started. You showed up through physical exhaustion and mental weariness, and you stood firm. You protected and shepherded every single one of these kids. You had the hard conversations. You refused to turn away from hard things. You reflected the light of Jesus when it could have been easier to dim it.

I am praying for each one of you by name! I am so thankful to God for surrounding me with you. You keep leading us back again and again to the well. The One that does not run dry.

In Him,
Kayla Mansfield

The Citrus Youth Educational Symphonic Orchestra will present a Veteran's Day Concert on Friday, November 13 at 7:00 pm in the First Baptist Inverness Sanctuary. All are invited to attend.



The Veterans Day flag display will be installed on Saturday, November 7 at 9:00 a.m. It usually takes about 1 to 1 ½ hours to complete. Doughnuts and cold water will be available. Please contact Joe Theroux in person or by calling or texting 352-464-0713 or Dallas Cerny at 352-572-1716 if you have questions or plan to attend.

Women's Ministry

Fellowship Worship Study Service
Four Corner Sisters
a ministry of First Baptist Church, Inverness

It's Time to Celebrate!

Come Celebrate the Nations with us on Saturday, November 14 at 11 AM.

Come hear a very special young woman, Lyuba West as she shares her life experiences of carrying the commission. Lyuba was born in Russia and immigrated to the panhandle of Florida. There she met her husband Brett. Their passion is to share Jesus with internationals which they have done in Ft. Walton Beach, FL and Houston, TX. They served as missionaries in Israel. What a rich testimony she has to share.

Come enjoy a variety of international foods representative of various countries.

We will be able to carry the commission by assisting a young couple that Byron and Kim met in Mexico during their last mission trip. Their transportation which allows them to travel up the mountain to share Jesus has deteriorated to the point where it is not repairable anymore. They need a new one. Please bring a monetary donation to help them with their ministry.

You may register at the ministry desk in the lobby or online by November 11. Do you need childcare? Please let us know that before November 8. Come enjoy the atmosphere of many nations around the world! The cost per person is $5 with scholarships available.

There are other ministries that will be happening in December. The Angel Tree party will be December 13 from 2-4 PM.

We will again plan to do Reverse Advent during the month of December. When you purchase for your family, pick up something extra to donate to a food pantry as their shelves are depleted after Christmas

Chili Cookoff & Cornhole Competition





WHO WILL WIN THE GOLDEN LADLE?

Do you have your chili recipe ready?
Getting your Cornhole practice in?
Join us November 21st from 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm
for a time of food, fun, & fellowship.

Sign up at the Ministry Desk.



Mission:Dignity Sunday

Join us Sunday, November 22nd for Mission:Dignity Sunday.
We will have Denny Gorena, Manager, Donor Relations, for Mission:Dignity as our guest speaker. We will have the donation envelopes in the bulletin.
Mission:Dignity is a Southern Baptist ministry that cares for retired SBC ministers, workers, and widows through prayer and financial support.
Please be in prayer about the amount you will give.

Lottie Moon Offering & Week of Prayer for International Missions November 29th - December 6



Help take the good news of Jesus to people who've never heard it. Your gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® sends and sustains missionaries among the unreached — and 100% goes to the field.

During the week of prayer, Southern Baptists pray together for the peoples of the world. We pray for missionaries who are physically present in each region, and the billions who have yet to hear the gospel.

The Prayer Guides and Offering Envelopes will be in the bulletin on Sunday, November 29th.

Florida Baptist Convention 2026 Annual Meeting & Pastor's Conference

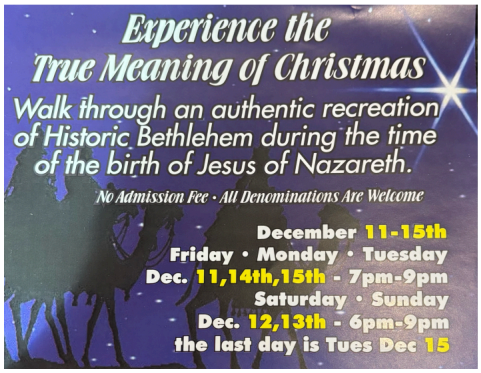


Join fellow Florida Baptists for a time of encouragement and strengthening in the Word of God at the 2026 Florida Baptist State Convention Pastors' Conference and Annual Meeting. The Pastors' Conference will take place Monday, November 9. The Annual Meeting will start Monday, November 9, in the evening, and conclude Tuesday, November 10, in the afternoon.

Location: First Orlando, 3000 S John Young Pkwy, Orlando, FL 32805

More information can be found at:https://flbaptist.org/state-convention/

Bethlehem Revisited



Unfortunately, the dates for Bethlehem Revisited at First Church of Coral Springs conflict with the OCC trip to Atlanta. BUT....there is a solution! If those who wish to attend this amazing event will contact Donna Phillips with whether they would be able to leave Monday morning, December 14th, attend the event that evening, stay overnight, then return on Tuesday.
The event is free. Costs are hotel and dinner Monday evening.
PLEASE TEXT Donna Phillips at 954-868-1150.
More information about Bethlehem Revisited can be found at: www.bethlehem-revisited.com

Giving Statements

The Giving statements for 2026 will be distributed in January 2027.

We have produced the statements for the first three quarters of 2026 so donors can verify the names, addresses, and amounts donated.

We can also combine statements for different members of a household into one combined statement, if requested.

The September 30, 2026 statements can be accessed in three ways:
• On the Church Center app under Giving / View my giving / Statements / Year ending 2026 / September 30, 2026 Giving Statement / Download button.
• On the church website (www.fbcinverness.com) by clicking on Member Login / Giving / My giving / Statements / Year ending 2026 / September 30, 2026 Giving Statement / Download button.
• If you cannot use the app or website, you may request a printed September 30, 2026 Giving Statement by contacting the Treasurer at treasurer@fbcinverness.com.

Any changes or questions should be directed to the Treasurer at treasurer@fbcinverness.com.

Thank you.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Trip To Atlanta

Sunday, November 8 is the Deadline to sign up for the annual trip to the OCC Processing Plant in Atlanta. We will leave Thursday, December 10 to travel to Atlanta, work at the OCC Processing Center on Friday, December 11 and Saturday, December 12, and return home on Saturday afternoon.

The QR codes to signup to volunteer are located below. Please sign up for both days. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Byron.

Friday, December 11

Saturday, December 12

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes



It is time to get your shoeboxes packed and returned to the church. Pick up an empty shoebox in the lobby to fill with quality toys, school supplies, and personal care items. A list of suggested items is available in the Lobby. Labels are also available to make sure your shoebox gift gets to a child of the right gender and age. Labels also offer a way for you to give the necessary $10 donation per shoebox to provide for collection, processing, shipping, and other project costs. If you donate online, the labels allow you to Follow Your Box and find out the country where your box will be delivered with the message of Christ's love.

Please drop off your filled boxes or donated items in the foyer by November 15.

Shoebox Collection Week



Collection Days & Times

Monday, November 16 - Thursday, November 19 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Friday, November 20 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM, Saturday, November 21 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM, Sunday, November 22 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM, & Monday, November 23 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

First Baptist Inverness is a Drop-Off Location. If you would like to volunteer to help with collection week, please contact Jim Johnson.

Financial Update

As we near the end of the year, the Finance Committee has been reviewing our current financial status as we prepare the proposed church budget for 2027. We have currently overspent our general fund revenues by $54,500 as of September 30, 2026.

Please see the chart produced from our financial records that shows the number of giving units (individuals and families) and how their year-to-date giving relates to the overall giving of the congregation.

We are encouraged that the total giving units have increased from 214 units in 2025 to 223 units 2026.

Number of Giving Units	YTD 2026 Range
23	$7,000 and above
22	$4,000 to $6,999
14	$3,000 to $3,999
31	$2,000 to $2,999
23	$1,000 to $1,999
26	$500 to $999
84	$1 to $499
223 Total Units	

Thank you to all who have faithfully given toward the needs of our church! It is evident the Lord is providing through the generosity of his people, and we are trusting God for our continued needs to be met.

SAVE THE DATE
Lunch & Learn
Sunday, December 6
after church.
We will have a guest speaker from the Southern Baptist Convention explaining Estate Planning & Wills. More information coming soon.

SAVE THE DATE
Christmas Musical during the Morning Worship Service on Sunday, December 6.

SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING
Wednesday, December 2
To discuss the proposed 2027 budget, and vote on replacements for the Nominating and Finance Committees. The vote on the proposed budget will be Sunday, December 6.

A Praying Life

A PRAYING LIFE
a seeJesus ministry

Find The Missing Peace

Life is filled with pressures. As Christians, we know that we can trust God with our problems. But how do we do that?

H*ow do we pray in a way that really brings peace?*

Is there a practical approach that can really make us excited about praying?

Starting in 2027, First Baptist Church will focus on the power of prayer to change, not just our circumstances, but our very character. We'll share simple tools, and useful strategies, to take our praying beyond routine, and let it be what it was always meant to be:

a means for God's peace to invade our reality. *

Take this journey with us.

*** Philippians 4: 6 & 7**

A PRAYING LIFE
all of life with Jesus
SEMINAR

LEARNING TO PRAY IN A DISTRACTING WORLD
First Baptist Church Inverness
January 29-30, 2027

$10 / person

Friday
6:00 PM | Check-in
6:30-9:15 PM | Sessions 1-2

Saturday
8:00 AM | Continental Breakfast
8:30-12:30 PM | Sessions 3-4

To register, scan the QR code or go to: https://fbcinverness.churchcenter.com/registrations/events

Birthdays

Wyatt Strong 11/1
Lisa Blonkenfeld 11/3
Denny Dingler 11/3
Jennifer Cocuzzo 11/4
Josh Strong 11/4
Danny Tvenstrup 11/4
DeAnna Davis 11/5
Bea Johnson 11/6
Maggie Cerny 11/8
Olive De Noma 11/9
Ruth Hooper 11/9
Elizabeth Brown 11/10
Anders Marks 11/10
Suzi Gemmell 11/10
Karen Kaiser 11/10
Elaine Kaiser 11/12
Sharon Turner 11/12
Toni Maynor 11/13
Paul Blum 11/13
Ben Rashley 11/13
Joya Clark 11/15
Marjorie Pratt 11/15
Louise Davis 11/15
Jana Morgan 11/19
Donna Bilotti 11/19
Mark Conley 11/22
Nichole Dileo 11/22
Elsie Ramos 11/22
Mary Smalley 11/24
Tina Mansfield 11/27
Tom Miles 11/28
Samarah Posadny 11/28
Sunshine Hahn 11/29

If you have a November birthday and your name does not show up on the Birthday List, it means we are missing some or all of your information. Please log into the Church Center App and update your information. You may also contact Debbie Jolly at debbie@fbcinverness.com, Carolyn Johnson at carolyn@fbcinverness.com, or call the church office at 352-726-1252 to provide your information to update the computer. A month, day, and year are required to enter the date of birth. Thank you.

Thank You Notes

Dear Church Family,
Your kindness and sympathy are more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks can ever express.
Thank you so much for all the visiting my Mom all these years at Highland Place. (Jessie Shelton)
We know she appreciated it, even through her memory loss.
We know she is feeling much better now and is enjoying paradise.
Love,
Liz and Carl Bergstrom

Thank you for our kind words, gifts, and cards during Pastor Appreciation Month. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated! It is a privilege to serve God alongside you.
In His Service,
Pastor Byron & Kim, Pastor John & Carolyn, Pastor Adam & Tiffany, & Pastor Matt & Brittany

New Members
Welcome to the Family
Adam Meeks
Calyn Mansfield

Don't forget the time change on November 1st! Set your clocks back 1 hour before bed on October 31st.

Memorials & Honors
In Memory of Ray Morrison
For: Mailbox Bible Club
From: Ron & Jana Morgan
From: Dennis & Renie Deal
From: Betty Kidwell



The Church Office will be closed:
Wednesday, November 25th, Thursday, November 26th & Friday, November 27th.
There will be no Wednesday Evening Activities on November 25th.