



The First Baptist Good News

October 2026

FOLLOWING GOD PRAYERFULLY AND PASSIONATELY!

Reformation Day

Ah yes! Fall is in the air! I love Autumn! For years, I worked in the heat. Living on a farm and being an electrician from high school through my early years of marriage and then working in a non-temperature-controlled factory, I hated August. Too hot. I was a smaller guy in high school, so I wound up in a lot of attics running wire during August. If you have not had the pleasure of working in an attic during the month of August, let me tell you... So, I still to this day do a happy dance on the first day of September every year to celebrate when Autumn arrives.

Now you may have a lot of questions at this point: What is a happy dance? Doesn't Autumn start at the end of September? Isn't it still hot in September? Does Florida even really get a Fall? What does this have to do with the Reformation? Is this happy dance easy to learn?

All of these are good questions! If you've walked into Walmart during September, then you know that it is Halloween season. Every year, millions are spent on candy, costumes, and commercials. The Holiday Season has begun. But... I am one of those fuddy-duddies who does not celebrate Halloween the same way as the world. Now before you put down the HUB in disgust and reach for the remote, please hear me out.

The world at large uses this season to celebrate and revel in a lot of evil things: demons, witches, candy corn...

Yes. There is a lot of cute stuff. As parents, we dressed our infant daughter as a gumball machine as we went out to the Trick or Treat on the Street. But over the years, we have changed what and how we celebrate on October 31st.

On that day in 1517, a German monk, who still had a long way to go in his own personal spiritual growth, nailed 95 Thesis to the door of the Wittenburg chapel. Each strike of the hammer was like a bell ringing out across continental Europe to awaken it out of its spiritual slumber. It served as a spark for what would become a fire of hope that shined in a land that for years had dwelt in the dark of superstition and popery.

While celebrating this season, let me encourage you to exchange some of the darker elements of this holiday with stories of inspiration and hope from the early days of the Reformation.

With all that said...Happy Reformation Day! Blessings!

(P.S.- Regarding the Happy Dance, let me suggest starting with Mercy Me's song Happy Dance 😊.)

In Christ, Pastor Adam

Contact Pastor Adam at adam@fbcinverness.com

Discovery Class



Everyone wants to find a place where they belong. Whether you are new to church, new to FBI, or have been attending FBI for a while, we want you to find your place – a place where you can feel supported, encouraged, and loved. The Discovery Class will teach you more about First Baptist Church of Inverness, how we function as a church, and what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ.

Pastor Byron will be teaching the class at 9:00 am in Room 174A every Sunday in October.

Wednesday Evenings



FBC has something for everyone on Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm.

Pastor Byron will begin a new series Wednesday, October 7th answering the question, "How then should we worship?" looking at how we are to seek to please God as we worship Him. The class meets in the Choir Room.

In addition to the Pastor's Class, we also have a Spanish Service in Room 184, Kingdom Kids for Birth - 5th Grade in the Children's Wing, and Anchored by Christ for Youth 6th- 12th Grade in the Youth Room. Embrace Life (for single moms) meets in Room 167/168 and Embrace Grace (for single moms-to-be) meets in Room 165.

Choir Rehearsal



If you are interested in joining the choir, rehearsals are each Wednesday at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. They are always looking for new voices to join the music ministry. If you love to sing and want to serve, there is a seat waiting for you. For more information contact Pastor John at 352-726-1252 or john@fbcinverness.com.

Women's Ministry



Four Corner Sisters
a ministry of First Baptist Church, Inverness

November 14 will be our annual Celebration lunch. This year is very special in that as we continue to learn how to carry the commission, we will

Celebrate The Nations! Each table will be decorated to represent a country.

The lunch will be a tasting of various foods from other countries. We will have the privilege of hearing Lyuba West speak as she shares the ministry she and her husband have had in sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with internationals, their service in other countries, and their future plans. You will not want to miss this very special Celebration!

If you would consider being the hostess of a table, please contact Jana or Tiffany and we will share the details with you.

The cost is \$5 for adults. The date is November 14 starting at 11 AM. The place is the Fellowship Hall. Childcare is available with advance notification.

Please register online or in the foyer no later than November 8. Bring your friends! Bring the young girls in your family! Come expecting to Celebrate!

Pastor Appreciation Month



October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Thank you, Pastor Byron & Kim, Pastor Adam & Tiffany, Pastor John & Carolyn, and Pastor Matt & Brittany, for your devotion and diligent service to First Baptist Inverness. We are blessed to have you as a part of our church family!



Don't forget to show them your appreciation!



Nature Coast Baptist Association

Annual Celebration

Sign-in at 5:15 PM

Start time 6:00 PM.

**The Guest Speaker: Craig Culbreath,
Former FBC East Regional Catalyst.**

You're Invited to a

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

JOIN US AS WE HONOR

JOE MADDOX

for his outstanding service and dedication at
Nature Coast Baptist Association

We will honor Joe during the Annual Celebration at
First Baptist Church of Inverness

TUESDAY 6:00 PM
OCTOBER 20 550 PLEASANT GROVE RD
INVERNESS, FL 34452



**Offering envelopes will be in the
bulletin on October 11th.**


Mission: Dignity
A ministry of GuideStone®

Mission:Dignity Sunday

October 11th



Visit **MDSunday.org**
to learn more.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

It is time to kick off our annual Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection! Since we will not be hosting a packing party this year, we are encouraging every family to pick up an empty shoebox and packing guide from the Ministry Table in the lobby to fill at home.

By filling a shoebox with toys, school supplies, and personal care items, your family can deliver tangible joy and the message of God's love directly to a child in need around the world.

Pick up boxes: Available now in the lobby.

Return deadline: Sunday, November 15th.

Suggested donation: \$10 per box to cover international shipping and ministry costs.

Let's work together to share Christ's love across the globe this holiday season!



How to Pack Your Shoebox Gift

Your shoebox will be an expression of God's love to a child and may be the only gift he or she receives.

So plan to pack quality items that will last. Be sure to make them **FUN**, adding a "wow" item the child will love; **FULL**, with no empty space; and **PERSONALIZED** so that each is unique, prayed over, and includes a note of encouragement.



1

SHOEBOX

Get a standard size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Great preprinted boxes are available on our website.



4

PRAY

Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your gift. Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of the child.

2

"WOW" ITEM

Select a quality "wow" toy such as a doll, soccer ball with pump, or stuffed animal to bless a child.



5

DONATE \$10 PER BOX

A donation of **\$10** per box is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing you can give online. If you use our **Follow Your Box** feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!



3

OTHER GIFTS

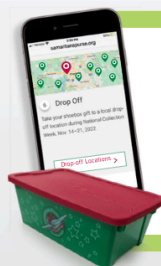
Pack full with other fun toys, hygiene items, and school supplies.



6

DROP OFF

Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location during **National Collection Week, the third week in November**. Visit our website to find one near you.



Thank You Notes

Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your love and kind thoughts.

Your thoughtful gestures of prayer, words of encouragement, and the beautiful quilt for Sharon's surgery are much appreciated. We are so thankful to be part of this special group of believers!

Thank you and blessings,
Fred & Sharon Pepe

Dear First Baptist Church of Inverness ,

Thank you for your \$100.00 donation that you made on 8/31/2026 for the Supplies for Success teacher store. Every act of your generosity helps us further our mission to support the Citrus County School District and to enhance the quality of education for present and future generations.

CCEF programs include:



as well as investment in numerous other programs with an emphasis on supporting our most at risk students and our economically disadvantaged student population.

Your support of our students is greatly appreciated. We are grateful to know that the impact on students and teachers of Citrus County comes from the generosity of donors like you.

Sincerely,
Shaunda Burdette, Executive Director
Citrus County Education Foundation

Dear Inverness First Baptist Church,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$100.00 to One More Child. Because of your incredible generosity, we are able to help single moms like Hannah* find hope. She was behind on rent, could no longer afford daycare, and was down to two diapers for her two-year-old.

After arriving on campus, our team began connecting Hannah with skills classes, trainings, and ongoing support she would need on her journey toward self-sufficiency. Hanna was also invited to our Compassion Center, where she could shop for diapers, wipes, and food - all at no cost.

Thanks to your partnership and generosity, we are able to provide hope, the love of Christ, and vital support to the vulnerable. We could not do this life-changing work without you!

Together for One More Child,

Stephen Robert
President/CEO
Once More Child

Jerry T. Haag, Ph.D., CFP
Chief Executive Officer
One More Child

**Name has been changed for confidentiality reasons.*

Birthdays

Kathy Kunze 10/2
Cassidy Swartzfager 10/2
Jessie Shelton 10/2
Betty White 10/4
Steve Weaver 10/6
Jessy Cernich 10/7
Susan Wilson 10/7
Heidi Garrison 10/7
Patti Strain 10/9
Jodie Bartell 10/10
Tristin Rowe 10/10
Debbie Jolly 10/13
Roger Biron 10/13
Julie Moomaw 10/13

Delores Kelly 10/14
Alli Rambo 10/14
Mike Locklear 10/15
Megan De Noma 10/16
Lauren Maxson 10/17
Fellicia Yerkey 10/18
Lois Wear 10/18
Abigail De Noma 10/18
Belén Cortez 10/19
Matthias De Noma 10/19
Ayden Mansfield 10/20
Rohini DeSilva 10/20
Robaldo Ramos, Sr. 10/20
Tommy Edwards 10/21

Charlie Barnes 10/22
Ashley Rashley 10/23
John Johnson 10/24
Jackie Mercer 10/24
Edward Staten 10/24
Cassy Cerny 10/26
Nida Hale 10/26
Faye Hoff 10/27
Judy Lidtke 10/28
Debbie Wheatley 10/28
Adeline De Noma 10/28
Charlotte Sims 10/28
Samantha Bitters 10/29

If you have a October 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.



Freedom That Lasts



Freedom That Lasts continues to grow as a vital ministry at FBCI. It is a Christ-centered, Bible-based, local-church-focused discipleship ministry to those who are enslaved in life-dominating sins or overcome by hurtful events of life. Join us at the church each Friday from 6-8 p.m. You will be blessed!

Childcare is available upon request. Please contact Pastor Matt at matt@fbcinverness.com the Wednesday prior to the meeting if childcare is needed.