



The First Baptist Good News

September 2026

FOLLOWING GOD PRAYERFULLY AND PASSIONATELY!

A Journey of Praise: Reflecting on 12 Years as Your Worship Pastor

It is hard to believe that a little over twelve years have passed since I first stood before this congregation, raised my hands, and invited you all to worship with me. It also occurred to me that this will most likely be the last article I will be writing for our Newsletter...

As I prepare to step into this next chapter, my heart is simply overflowing with a profound sense of joy and gratitude for the journey we have shared. Serving as your Worship Pastor (+) has been one of the greatest honors of my life. Together, we have lived out the truth of **Psalm 100:2**—we have "*worshiped the Lord with gladness*" and "*come before him with joyful songs*."

When I look back over more than a decade of ministry here, it is not the high-production Christmas or Easter services or the flawless musical arrangements that stand out the most. Instead, it is the sacred, quiet moments of shared faith. I will remember looking out from the platform and seeing generations—grandparents, parents, and children—all lifting their voices in unity and harmony. I will think of the times we sang through our collective grief during hard seasons and joy in the good times. I will remember **2020**, as we jumped through so many hoops during the Covid months to keep everything going and everyone in contact with each other! I will remember the lightning strikes, the times of rebuilding, and...

Well, every little moment with you!

To the incredible Choir Members, Worship Team Musicians, Tech Team Members, and the many Volunteers who have poured their time and talents into this ministry: Thank you! You did not just play and sing the notes, push buttons or tweak the sound; you built an altar of praise week after week after week. Your intentionality and dedication to use your gifts and talents in Worship has made my job easy and my life incredibly rich.

To the Staff: Thank you for the love and patience you have all shown me; for your challenging me and spurring me on - for your being Iron sharpening iron to me, but mostly for your friendship in Christ and being great examples of what Christ-followers look like!

To the congregation: Thank you for trusting me to lead you all these years. Thank you for singing out, even on the days your hearts were heavy. You taught me what a true community of faith looks like.

While my role is changing, my love for this church family and our shared mission remains. As we enter this next chapter together, I am filled with anticipation and confident hope for how God will continue to use "us" in this wonderful thing called the "Body of Christ" here at First Baptist Church of Inverness, and I look forward to serving alongside of you!

Though I am putting down the microphone and stepping away from leading, the praise we have offered together will echo in my heart forever. Thank you for the more than twelve beautiful years of music, ministry, and memories!

May the Lord bless you and keep you, and may your lives always be a song of praise to Him.

With love and gratitude,

Pastor John

Contact Pastor John at john@fbcinverness.com



CITRUS
PREGNANCY CENTER

Compassion Hope.
Support.

Citrus Pregnancy Center is having a Volunteer Interest Meeting

Your time can change lives

-  **MAKE A DIFFERENCE**
Share the love of Christ and be an encouragement
-  **BUILD CONNECTIONS**
Support clients through meaningful relationships.
-  **SHARE THE GOSPEL**
Help families find hope, courage and strength in the Lord

1 Peter 4:10, God has given each of you a gift from His great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another

MALE CLIENT ADVOCATES SPOTS AVAILABLE AS WELL

Meeting will be held on September 1st at 1:00 p.m. and requires a reservation, please RSVP to 352-341-5176 for more information.

Embrace Grace Ministry



Embrace Grace Ministry will begin a new session on Wednesday, September 2, from 6:00–7:00 PM. A light meal will be provided, and childcare is available.

We welcome single women who are expecting a baby and could benefit from the love, encouragement, and support that Embrace Grace provides. Our desire is to come alongside each Brave Mama with grace, compassion, and practical support while pointing her to the hope we have in Christ.

Please join us in praying for our Brave Mamas and our Embrace Grace team, that God would use us to show His love and bring glory to Him through this ministry.

Embrace Life



For single moms-Our new life group, called Embrace Life, meets on Wednesdays from 6-7 PM in room 167/168. Share, refresh, and grow while your kids have a great time at youth and children's events.

Need more info? Call or text Beth Rickert, 526-506-1394.

**Give to the 2026
Maguire State Mission Offering**

Help Plant Churches Statewide

Immeasurably More

EPHESIANS 3:20-21

NEW CITY

**266 Current Church
Plant Locations**

Statewide Goal: \$1,000,000 Our Church's Goal: \$

 Florida Baptist Convention | *Right Beside You.*
 Send Network
FLORIDA

[FLBAPTIST.ORG/SEND](https://flbaptist.org/send) | @floridabaptists     #ReachFlorida #RightBesideYou



**Week of Prayer September 6 - 13
Offering Goal: \$8,000**

Baby Dedication



We will be having a time of child dedication during the Worship Service on September 20th. If you are interested in having your child dedicated, please contact Pastor Byron at 352-726-1252 or byron@fbcinverness.com.

Youth Orchestra Classes



Citrus Youth Educational Symphonic Orchestra, (CYESO) will have their Open House from 4:00pm-5:00pm on September 8th, at the First Baptist Church of Inverness. All students and families interested in joining their program should attend. All returning students who wish to change classes, need instrument repairs/upgrades, or are interested in trying out for the orchestra, should also attend the open house. The weekly classes are at First Baptist Inverness on Tuesdays from 3:45 pm-5:15pm, and the first official class of the season is September 15th.

Women's Ministry



One Another

Did you know that there are 243 scriptures with the phrase “one another” included according to the ESV. That makes me think that “one another” is an important teaching. For us to carry the commission we need to implement the teachings of these one another verses.

There are 6 ladies who will be sharing their observations of these scriptures plus a lady to lead us in a time of worship. Not only that but there will be a time of feasting on one another's potluck brunch dishes plus getting to know a new friend or two.

Our mission project this time is supplying OCC with their needs to finish well this year. We will carry the commission around the world with the items packed in the shoe boxes.

Items requested are:

For boys - matchbox cars, balls, regular yo-yos, socks

For girls – jump ropes, hair clips, dolls, beanie babies, socks

For all - Stuffed animals and small Christian books

As always, you may make a financial contribution to cover the cost of shipping or of the boxes themselves.

See you Saturday, September 12, 2026 in the Fellowship Hall at 10 AM along with your potluck dish and your contribution. Sign up on the church's website or in the lobby at the ministry desk.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child



The OCC Packing Party will be Wednesday, October 28th, and we need donations to help make it successful! Do you like to shop on Amazon? Operation Christmas Child has an Amazon storefront (<https://www.amazon.com/shop/operationchristmaschild>) with lists of quality items that are recommended for shoeboxes. Whether you choose to shop online or in a physical store, don't forget to ask God to lead you to what will particularly delight the heart of a child!

Grace Christian School



We are so thankful to God for the joyful energy and wonderful sense of community that filled our campus as we welcomed 75 students for the 2026–2027 school year. Our GCS family continues to grow, and this year we are blessed with seven full-time teachers, a full-time teacher's aide and Barton tutor, and two part-time office assistants who work together to serve our students. Our staff is committed to providing an excellent education while pointing students toward Christ.



Thank You Notes

Hello FBC!

I just received a very generous gift from the Vacation Bible School mission fund. Wow, what a generous gift. I am so thankful and I was so surprised!!! I don't have many words to say, but I want to say thank you.

I will be praying about how the Lord might use it and I hope to report back as to how it was used.

I am so grateful for First Baptist Church of Inverness! I am thankful for your support and for your prayers. Brothers and sisters in Christ are treasures from God!

I love you guys!

Melanie Dodd



Dear Inverness FBC,

Thank you for your recent gift to One More Child! You are helping plant the seed of hope in the lives of the children and families that we serve! You are making such an impact! We are so grateful for you partnership in ministry!

One More Child Team



Dear First Baptist Church

Serving the Lord in His ministries can take many different forms. At Citrus Pregnancy Center, we see many serve through their financial generosity which allows us to see clients in either of our two facilities and provide them with the things they need to bring their little ones into the world.

We also have many who serve through prayer. We have an email prayer chain of faithful individuals that we are eternally grateful for.

And last but not least, we have those who serve by volunteering their time at one of our centers. These precious individuals answer phones, meet with clients, and perform administrative duties. Some of those volunteers are nurses, who through the miracle of technology, perform ultrasounds which makes that baby growing inside of a woman all the more real to her. We also have doctors who volunteer their time as well to this ministry. If you know women who may be interested in volunteering, please tell them about us. We have a critical need for an RN or registered sonographer to perform ultrasounds. Thanks to all who serve Him.

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My father will honor the one who serves me.” John 12:26

Thank you for supporting this ministry,
Jessica Miller-Executive Director

Giving for 6/1/2026-6/30/2026: \$590.47

Total Giving Year to Date as of 6/30/2026: \$3,293.21

Baby Bottle Total as of 8/16/2026: \$2,560.70! A BIG Thank You to Team-FBI for your generous giving to our ministry!

Birthdays

Devin Dileo 9/1
 Fred Pepe 9/2
 Morgan Arthur 9/3
 Jacqueline Zukauskas 9/4
 Joyce Hill 9/5
 Valor Pullen 9/6
 Carla Darling 9/6
 Sandra Wilson 9/6
 Michael Deets-Wiley 9/7
 Marlene Miller 9/7
 Robert Bromley 9/10
 Ginny Harrelson 9/11
 Alan Rice 9/12

Cindy Howard 9/13
 Sarah Stewart 9/16
 Rhiley Messere 9/16
 Brylee Ross 9/17
 Linda Thompson 9/18
 Mitzi Lawrence 9/19
 Pam Sewell 9/20
 Kim Stuart 9/21
 Evelyn Mejia 9/21
 Sandy Allwood 9/21
 Eliana Meeks 9/22
 Brianna Ramos 9/22
 Kayla Geddings 9/22
 Betty Kidwell 9/24

Alex Yerkey 9/24
 Nancy Childers 9/25
 Judy Bishop 9/25
 Gayle McLaurin 9/26
 Ryan Thomas 9/26
 Mariah Harris 9/26
 Charles Sharpe 9/27
 Lisa Gormsen 9/28
 Duke King 9/28
 Thomas Mayberry, Jr. 9/28
 Karen Blum 9/29
 Sammy Ramos 9/29
 Dawn Theroux 9/30
 Calyn Mansfield 9/30

If you have a September 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 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.