



First Baptist Church of Vienna, Va.

JULY/AUGUST 2026

The Epistle

from the PASTOR

*Grace and Peace
from God our Father,*

Summer is often viewed as a season of rest, vacations, and slowing down. While we certainly pray that you find time to refresh and spend meaningful moments with family and friends, ministry at First Baptist Church of Vienna never takes a vacation. This season is one of our busiest and most impactful times of the year as we continue living out Christ's call to love, serve, and transform our community. As we continue moving Forward Together: One Church, One Goal, we are reminded that every act of service strengthens our congregation and extends God's love beyond our walls.

This July, we invite you to be the Church through our annual Christmas in July outreach. Together, we have the opportunity to be a blessing to families by meeting practical needs, sharing hope, and reminding our neighbors that God's love is not seasonal, it is constant. Every donation, every volunteer, every prayer, and every act of generosity become an expression of Christ's compassion. Ministry is at

PASTOR, *continued on pg. 4*

Christmas in July: Neighbors Serving Neighbors

What if Christmas came early—not with presents under a tree, but with neighbors coming together to share the love of Christ? On Sunday, July 26, First Baptist Church of Vienna will once again open our doors and hearts for Christmas in July: Neighbors Serving Neighbors, a community block party designed to meet practical needs while sharing God's love with our neighbors.

Our campus will be transformed into a place of hope and hospitality featuring:

- Free food
- Free backpacks and school supplies
- Free clothing and athletic shoes for men, women, and children
- Free haircuts
- Fellowship, fun, and opportunities to connect with our community

One of the highlights of the day will be a special youth-led experience inspired by the Children's Church curriculum, "Neighborhood Love Quest." Our young people will guide guests through a collaborative community art project celebrating our unique differences while reminding us that God's love unites us all. It will be a beautiful expression of what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves.

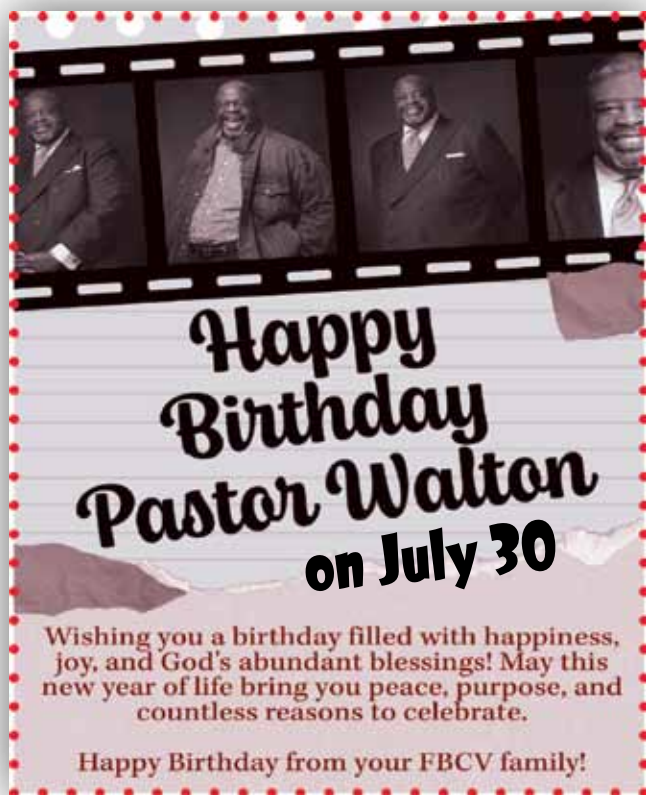
CHRISTMAS IN JULY, *continued on page 3*

Freedom School Is Almost Here

The countdown is on! Freedom School 2026 is just around the corner, and we can't wait to welcome our scholars for an incredible week, July 13–16, as we explore this year's theme, "Still Standing: Faith, Freedom, and the Fight for Justice."

This dynamic, faith-filled experience will engage participants of all ages through worship, interactive learning, arts, leadership development, hands-on activities, and meaningful conversations that

FREEDOM SCHOOL, *continued on page 2*



Family Life Ministry Growing Together in Christ: A Conversation About Spiritual Growth

As believers, we are called to continually grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ. As deacons we are called to protect and promote the spiritual development of First Baptist. Spiritual growth is a lifelong journey of becoming more like Christ in our thoughts, actions, faith, and service.

Throughout the month of August, members of the Deacon Ministry will be reaching out to church members and families to engage in an important conversation: What are your spiritual growth goals?

Every believer is at a different stage in their faith journey. Some may desire a deeper prayer life, while others may want to develop a consistent Bible study habit, become more involved in ministry, strengthen family devotions, share their faith more effectively, or discover and use their spiritual gifts.

As your deacon connects with you, they will ask questions such as:

- What spiritual goals would you like to accomplish over the next year?
- What areas would you like to strengthen?
- What areas of ministry are you involved in?
- What challenges are hindering spiritual growth?
- How can your deacon support and encourage you in your walk with Christ?

These conversations are not intended to evaluate or judge anyone. Rather, they are an opportunity for us to listen, encourage, pray, and better understand how we can support one another as members of the Body of Christ.

The Bible reminds us in 2 Peter 3:18, “But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Spiritual growth is God’s desire for every believer. It occurs through worship, prayer, Bible study, fellowship, service, stewardship, and obedience to God’s Word. It is a process that continues throughout our lives.

As a church family, we want to ensure that our ministries, classes, small groups, discipleship opportunities, and outreach efforts are helping members mature in their faith. Your input will help identify ways to strengthen these opportunities and provide resources that encourage spiritual development.

We encourage you to prayerfully consider your spiritual growth goals before your deacon reaches out. Together, let us seek God’s guidance as we strive to become a church that is growing deeper in faith, stronger in fellowship, and more committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ.

We look forward to these meaningful conversations and to growing together in Christ.

—The FBCV Deacons Ministry

FREEDOM SCHOOL, continued from page 1

encourage them to stand courageously in their faith and make a difference in their communities.

REGISTER TODAY!

If you haven’t registered yet, now is the time to reserve their child’s spot! Registration is quick and easy online, or you can register in person at the church.

Know a child, grandchild, neighbor, or friend who would benefit from this experience? Invite them to join you! Freedom School is a wonderful opportunity to grow in faith, build friendships, and develop the confidence to become tomorrow’s leaders.

REGISTER HERE: www.tinyurl.com/fbcvfreedom26

WE NEED YOU!

Freedom School is successful because of dedicated volunteers who serve with love and enthusiasm. There are opportunities for everyone to make a difference, including:

- Greeters and Welcome Team
- Registration Team
- Classroom Assistants
- Servers
- Activity Helpers

Whether you can serve one day or all week, your time and gifts will have a lasting impact on our youth.

VOLUNTEER: www.tinyurl.com/fbcvfreedomserve

Together, let’s make Freedom School 2026 a life-changing experience for everyone! —Stacey Seay



CHRISTMAS, *cont. from page 1*

We Need Everyone's Help!

Over the next few weeks, we're asking every member to prayerfully consider how you can help.

Donate Backpacks

Quality backpacks make a tremendous difference. They equip students for a successful school year and also serve as an essential everyday item for many of our unhoused neighbors.

Donate Athletic Shoes

We are specifically requesting new athletic shoes because they are the most practical and versatile footwear for our guests. Athletic shoes provide comfort, durability, and support for work, school, and everyday life.

This First Sunday, Pastor offered a powerful visual reminder of sacrificial generosity. Rather than wearing the shoes he planned to preach in, he was barefoot, choosing instead to donate those shoes to Christmas in July. His simple act reminds us that generosity often begins by giving something we could have kept for ourselves. We invite every member to join him by donating a pair of athletic shoes.

Donate Children's Clothing

Children's clothing is always one of our greatest needs—and

one of the first items we run out of. Please consider purchasing new children's clothing or donating gently used items in excellent condition.

To make shopping simple:

- Men: purchase items for men and boys.
- Women: purchase items for women and girls.

We are also gratefully accepting new and gently used clothing and shoes for all ages.

Calling All Barbers!

Do you know a barber who enjoys serving the community? Invite them to donate their time by providing free haircuts during the event. The church has an official request letter available for anyone who would like to share it with a barber or barber shop.

Volunteer Opportunities

There is a place for everyone to serve! Volunteers are needed to:

- Sort and organize donated clothing
- Serve food
- Welcome guests as greeters
- Serve as Room Captains (clothing, school supplies, shoes, activities, and more)
- Assist families with shopping
- Help with setup, cleanup, and many other roles

Sign up today at www.tinyurl.com/fbcvchristmasjuly26.

Volunteer Rally

All volunteers are encouraged to attend our Volunteer Rally and Work Session on Saturday, July 25, where you'll receive your volunteer badge, assignments, final instructions, and help prepare everything for a successful day of ministry.

Dress Down Sunday

Sunday, July 26, will be a Dress Down Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to wear the 2026 RESET2RESTORE T-shirt, available for purchase in the Marketplace..

When we give, volunteer, and serve together, we become the hands and feet of Christ. Let's make this year's Christmas in July our biggest expression yet of God's love in action. —*Stacey Seay*

Sending Our SYMPATHY

The family of First Baptist Member, Fannie Thomas
Rev. Dyanne Corey and family
for the loss of her husband,
Jeffrey Corey



Larry and Gail Henderson
to commemorate the
60th birthday of their
daughter, LaTanya Williams
Ceola Allen, Danny and
Alfred Bunaugh and family
to commemorate the 110th
birthday of their aunt,
Thelma Humes.

Compiled by Ceola Allen.

Moving Forward Together

“Let us rise up and build.” – Nehemiah 2:18

The Forward Together: One Church, One Goal campaign is about much more than raising funds—it is about answering God’s call to prepare First Baptist Church for the future. Throughout our 159-year history, each generation has faithfully invested in the ministry we enjoy today. Now it is our turn to leave a legacy of faith for those who will worship, learn, serve, and grow here in the years to come.

Over the next four years, our collective goal is to raise \$1.2 million to reduce church debt and complete critical capital improvements, including HVAC upgrades, parking lot improvements, kitchen and rest-room renovations, enhancements to our youth spaces, and other projects outlined in the campaign brochure. These investments will strengthen our ministry, improve our facilities, and ensure that our church remains a welcoming place where lives are transformed and the Gospel continues to be proclaimed for generations.

CAMPAIGN FAQs:

Is my campaign gift in addition to my tithe?

Yes. The Forward Together Campaign is a sacrificial offering above and beyond our regular tithe. Our tithes sustain the day-to-day ministry of the church, while campaign gifts help us invest in our future.

What if I can’t commit the suggested amount?

Our campaign includes a suggested minimum commitment of \$1,500 per year for four years, but every gift is important. We simply ask each member to prayerfully seek God’s direction and give according to His leading.

Have You Completed Your Commitment Card?

If you haven’t already, we encourage you to submit your Forward Together commitment card. Your card is not a contract, it is a prayerful expression of your intended support for the campaign. Completing a commitment card, regardless of the amount, helps us measure participation, track our progress toward our \$1.2 million goal, and plan responsibly for the future God has placed before us. Every commitment matters, and every member’s participation strengthens our journey Forward Together.

How can I fulfill my commitment?

You may fulfill your commitment in the way that works best for you. Gifts may be made as a one-time contribution or through weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual installments. You may give online, by using a campaign giving envelope, or by mailing or delivering your gift to the church.

Thank you for your prayers, your faith, and your willingness to move Forward Together.

PASTOR, *continued from page 1*

its best when the Church moves beyond its walls and into the lives of people who need to experience God’s love in tangible ways.

As we observe Independence Day and our nation marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, we are reminded that the story of freedom in America is both inspiring and unfinished. While we celebrate the ideals of liberty upon which this nation was founded, we also acknowledge the painful reality that in 1776 many of our ancestors remained enslaved, excluded from the freedoms being proclaimed. We thank God for the tremendous progress that has been made, while recognizing that each generation is called to continue the work of building a more just and equitable society.

That is why Freedom School is such a vital ministry opportunity. Freedom is not merely something we commemorate, it is something we consistently cultivate. Through Freedom School 2026, we are helping people of all ages discover the freedom that comes through education, literacy, leadership, and faith. We are equipping scholars young and seasoned to think critically, engage confidently, lead courageously, and understand that their voices matter. In many ways, Freedom School carries forward the ongoing work of expanding opportunity and empowering the all generations to live into the promise that every person is created in the image of God and worthy of every opportunity to flourish.

This summer, I encourage every member of our church family to find a place to serve. Together, as One Church with One Goal, we can continue building a stronger church, a stronger community, and a brighter future for the generations to come. Thank you for your faithful prayers, generous support, and steadfast commitment to the work God has entrusted to us. I look forward to seeing all that He will accomplish as we continue moving Forward Together.

Thank you for your prayers, generous hearts, and commitment to the mission of First Baptist Church of Vienna. May God continue to strengthen us as we move Forward Together, sharing His love with our community one act of service at a time.

*Grace and peace,
Pastor Walton*

Colossians 3:14 – And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

Greetings from the Men's Ministry

It was another amazing and inspirational month for the men of First Baptist with all the Juneteenth activities and the Lamb Center support. The men of First Baptist stepped up—young and not as young—to do our part.

Please look out for notifications in the coming weeks for our next Wings and a Word.



Minister of Music Kwan McKnight's incredible leadership of the Juneteenth Community Choir



Juneteenth preparations were made by young and seasoned saints.



Vince Eury sang a sensational solo during the Juneteenth Concert

Trust In Me

Trust is an instinct that we fiercely protect and apply with great caution. From our very first breath, we are born trusting our parents to care for us, love us, and guide us through childhood into adulthood. Trust is a firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something. For me, that “someone” is God. There is no “something,” because God is everything and everywhere. My faith rests in His unfailing love, His perfect wisdom, His promises, and faithfulness.

As Scripture reminds us, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6, NIV). True trust is not merely believing that God exists, but confidently relying on Him to direct our steps, provide for our

needs, and sustain us through every season of life.

There was a season in my life when darkness surrounded me. For nine months, I felt as though I was drowning in despair. The loneliness I experienced is difficult to describe. I had lost trust in people around me and carried deep hurt that only intensified my suffering.

One evening, while driving home, I realized there was One who would never leave me nor forsake me. I understood that God was waiting for me to call upon Him. When I arrived home, I laid in the bed of my truck and looked up at the stars shining in the night sky. With tears in my eyes, I cried out to the Lord in prayer. God heard me.

“I sought the Lord, and He answered me; He delivered me from all my fears.” (Psalm 34:4).

In that moment, I felt a peace and calmness that I had not experienced in nine months. The

weight I had been carrying lifted because God heard me. And for the first time in a long while, I rested peacefully through the night. The next morning, I awoke with prayer on my heart and a renewed sense of hope. That night reminded me that God's promises are true. As Scripture says: “Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord Himself, is the Rock eternal.” (Isaiah 26:4).

My circumstances did not change overnight, but my heart did. I learned that true peace is not found in the absence of storms but in the presence of God. He is faithful, and He is worthy of our trust.

We invite you to join our continuing study and discussion of *Each One Reach One: Everyday Ways You Can Shine God's Light* by Babbie Mason, July 11, and August 1, 11 a.m., FBCV library. —*Jacquelin Davis, Evangelism Ministry*

Our Juneteenth Celebration Was Unforgettable!

Thank you for making our 2026 Juneteenth Celebration an extraordinary success! From the Liberty Amendments Parade through the Community Celebration and culminating with our Juneteenth Concert, our church family demonstrated what it means to come together in service, fellowship, and love. Because of your prayers, generosity, countless volunteer hours, and enthusiastic participation, we were able to welcome guests from throughout Northern Virginia to celebrate freedom, faith, history, and community.

Whether you marched in the parade, volunteered behind the scenes, greeted guests, managed logistics, served food, coordinated

vendors, entertained on stage, prayed with attendees, or simply showed up to celebrate, you played an important role in making this event a meaningful witness to our community. Your willingness to serve reflected the very best of First Baptist Church of Vienna.

Juneteenth is more than a celebration, it is a sacred opportunity to remember the perseverance of those who came before us, honor the continuing pursuit of justice and equality, and proclaim the hope that is found in Christ. We are grateful that our church continues to serve as a place where history is remembered, culture is celebrated, and our community is strengthened.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to our 2026 sponsors, whose generous support helped make this year's celebration possible: AARP; ERM; Holiday Pest Control; M&T Bank; Mercedes-Benz of Chantilly; Phenomenal

Photo Booth; and Premier Health Destinations.

Thank you as well to our grand marshals, elected officials, community partners, performers, vendors, food trucks, parade participants, public safety personnel, and every organization that helped bring this vision to life. Together, we demonstrated the power of partnership and the impact that can be made when a community unites around a shared purpose.

As we celebrate another successful Juneteenth, we also look ahead with excitement. Plans are already underway for next year's Liberty Amendments Parade and Juneteenth Celebration. Together, we will continue honoring our past, celebrating our present, and inspiring future generations. Thank you for helping First Baptist Church of Vienna shine as a beacon of faith, freedom, and community. —*Stacey Seay*

FBCV and Good Shepard UMC Collaborate on Social Justice

The FBCV Social Justice Ministry hosted a June 26th Zoom meeting with Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (UMC). We shared our ongoing social justice work and brainstormed on how we can move forward together as one family in Christ. Below are just some of our key discussion points from the collaboration:

- **Both congregations already work with the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP);** potentially to coordinate joint trips to Richmond to advocate and influence policy in partnership.

- **Affordable housing:** Discussion covered Affordable-Dwell-

ing-Units; (ADUs)/granny flats; church-owned land for development; Governor Spanberger's pro-housing bills; and conversion of commercial buildings to low-income housing.

- **Information access gap:** Proposal to create FAQ brochures/postcards on housing resources, immigrant rights, and food access, potentially to be distributed via swag bags, backpacks, and at other community events. The takeaway is that there is an overwhelming number of free resources and support systems available, but the underserved community simply does not know about them.

- **Local elections flagged as under-attended** compared to national elections; grassroots outreach ideas to encourage our respective congregations, as well as the broader faith community, to participate in school board,

board of supervisors, and other local elections.

- **Good Shepherd noted that it originated its Social Justice ministry partly in response to the George Floyd tragedy of 2020 and the birth of Black Lives Matter.** They described a shift from an inward focus to a broader outward outreach—to love and serve the entire community in which they live and serve.

LaGuardia Myers and Sherelle East were very impactful in addressing the FBCV Social Justice Ministries' focus areas: Affordable Housing, Immigration Rights/Support, and Voter Rights.

We concluded the meeting with Good Shepard UMC in agreement that there is so much we can do together in the fight for Social Justice on behalf of the poor, oppressed, marginalized, and the voiceless. —*FBCV Social Justice Ministry*

MINISTRY MEETING SCHEDULE

For more info call 703-938-8525

All are welcome. join a new ministry today!

Burden Bearers
Feed the Homeless Ministry
HANDS Health & Wellness
Missionary
Nursery
Parking Lot
Parent Nation
Ushers
Women's Ministry
Worship & Arts (rehearsals)
Young Adults
Youth Advisory Council
Evangelism Ministry

M-5pm; T,Th, F-6pm; Su-7:30pm
(Conference Call Line)

4th Monday at 7pm (Virtual)

1st Tuesday at 7pm (Virtual)

3rd Monday at 6:30pm (Hybrid)

1st Monday at 7pm (Virtual)

1st Sunday at 8:30am (In-Person)

1st Thursday at 6:00 pm

2nd Thursday Time? (Virtual)

3rd Tuesday at 6:30pm (Virtual)

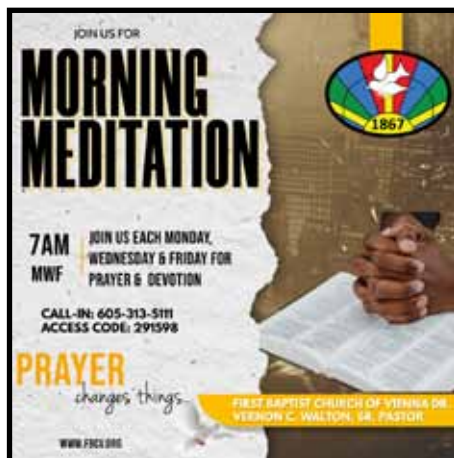
Tuesday Weekly at 7pm (In-Person)

2/6 and 3/6 at 6:30pm; 1st Thursday at
6:30pm (Virtual)

1st Tuesday at 6:30pm (Virtual)

1st Saturday at 11 am (In-Person at FBCV)

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

450 Orchard St. N.W.,
Vienna, Virginia 22180
(703) 938-8525

www.fbcv.org

Dr. Vernon C. Walton, Pastor

July							SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
													
										1	2	3	4
												Independence Day Holiday	Independence Day
5	Communion 9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	6	7:00 am Prayer Call	7		8	7:00 am Prayer Call	9		10	7:00 am Prayer Call	11	
12	9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship 2:00 Outreach: Providence BC	13	7:00 am Prayer Call 6:30 pm Freedom School (dinner at 5:30 pm)	14	6:30 pm Freedom School (dinner at 5:30 pm)	15	7:00 am Prayer Call 6:30 pm Freedom School (dinner at 5:30 pm)	16		17	7:00 am Prayer Call 6:30 pm Freedom School (dinner at 5:30 pm)	18	
19	9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	20	7:00 am Prayer Call	21		22	7:00 am Prayer Call	23		24	7:00 am Prayer Call	25	
26	Christmas in July 9:00 am CLA 10:00 am Worship	27	7:00 am Prayer Call	28		29	7:00 am Prayer Call	30	HAPPY BIRTHDAY PASTOR!	31	7:00 am Prayer Call		

2026

"I, therefore, the prisoner [\[a\]](#) of the Lord, [\[b\]](#) beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **There is one body and one Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism;" Ephesians 4:1-5