



News and Views

First Baptist Church
Wellsboro, PA

October 2026

From the Senior Pastor...

Belonging Again

What does it mean to *belong* to a church? Sometimes we misuse the phrasing when we discuss church. As we rightly understand the church is not a building but a (kirk) or *circle* of people. Belonging then is not strictly about attendance or consuming a product from a business. Belonging entails a far deeper connectedness, as each person serves one piece of the larger circle, living within the circle (*church* or *kirk*) in such a way as to provoke the phrase “what would we be without you?”

The Lord calls us to belong, not only to Him but to His people. He even uses examples like marriage. Not one of us would think it healthy to view marriage as simply wearing a ring or having a joint tax return. When struggles show up between you and your spouse—indeed, they do—our expectation in a healthy view of marriage includes striving together, looking to humility, understanding, love, and unity as the various parts of our shared goal (Ephesians 5:29–30). Being a member in the body of Christ is similar; we recognize unity is not about the occasional vote or the “card carrying” role. Belonging isn’t even the same as volunteering, even though our volunteers are essential! Belonging ought to be thought when we hear about the church, the body of Christ.

What does it mean to be in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27)? Such

supernatural participation means something far richer, and more satisfying is going on than *belonging* anywhere else. For many, we can understand commitment to church as commitment to a business or commitment to a mechanistic board, where individuals do a service and move their piece along the track. Commitment is relevant but it is not the whole or even primary concern of what we see in Scripture. The Redeemer places even the loners into families wherein they belong one to another (Psalm 68:6). However, inviting someone to belong hits differently than asking for a commitment. Belonging entails devotion to one another, vulnerability, accountability, humility, prayer, conviction, edification, empathy, reconciliation, and so on. Commitment requires an obligation, which may accidentally fall into an interpersonal relationship.

A ministry of *belonging* necessarily includes all the gracious benefits of spiritual fruitfulness. A church that practices *belonging* simply practices the union of Christ inwardly and outwardly. Why? Because we are “members of His household” (Eph. 2:19). Because “we are a chosen people” not just a chosen person (1 Pet. 2:9). Because we are children of God, by the working of His Spirit in us (Rom. 8:16). Because, though diverse and unique, we are yet made one in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:28). The healthiest, most satisfied individuals are those who find belonging

(according to a 1995 study by Roy Baumeister at Florida State). And for the Christian, it is because of the spiritual need to belong both to Christ and His people.

Don’t just commit to church, commit because you *belong*. Search and discover you indeed belong to this family of believers. Contribute by bringing others along that they too may feel the worth of belonging. We have need to confront issues of need, of gossip, of anxiety, of division, of temptation, of coarse humor. Not as busybodies, but because each of these issues strikes at the core of our *belonging*. Instead, we resolve these issues and serve one another in order to foster an even greater atmosphere of belonging. How sweet to hear the voice of God’s people call your name as you enter the door—knowing and enjoying the assurance that God’s people recognize you. Let that be our obedient work this week, assuring those around us that they indeed belong to us, yes, but most importantly, they belong to Christ.

Our new monthly Belonging Meal is the first Sunday of the month. Please join ready to eat and experience joyful, meaningful fellowship together with your forever family

Pastor Chris



Contents Page

From the Senior Pastor	1
From the Associate Pastor Wifi Password	2
Mission News - Planted & HTH Compassion Ministry Shepherding Deacons	3
First Friday Outreach Congregational Meeting Church Office Closed Pastor Appreciation Lunch Pumpkin Roll Event	4
Baptism Congratulations Deepest Sympathy Thank You’s	5
Kid’s Coloring Page And Puzzle	6
October Volunteers College Students Service Person Shut-ins Deacon/Deaconess Nursery Schedule Usher Schedule Children’s Church Schedule	7
Calendar	8





From the Associate Pastor...

Review of Paul and the Law: Keeping the Commandments of God by Brian S. Rosner

What does the Apostle Paul do with the Old Testament (OT) laws? If you ask the Lutherans, they will say Paul held that Christ abolished the law and that the law is the antithesis of the gospel. In line with this is Paul's quote that "the law came in to increase the trespass" (Rom 5:20). Therefore the Christian does not think of the OT laws at all concerning their Christian life because it only condemns us, whereas the gospel saves us. This is the famous Lutheran Law/Gospel distinction. There are others who hold that, while the law does not save in any way, it does serve to instruct Christians in their life following Christ. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 7:19 "for neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God," so we are not under the old covenant in its entirety, but we are still to keep the moral commandments as Christians for they teach us of God's character and His will for our conduct as His followers. Still others would take their thinking further, asserting that we must continue to follow all the law (minus the

sacrifices) all the way down to the food laws, for, as Paul says, "the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good" (Rom 7:12, ESV).

As we can see, each position seems to support itself with Paul, yet they are different. What then are we to make of Paul's relation to the laws? He seems to contradict himself! But we know that no Scripture contradicts itself, so even though this issue is clearly complex and seemingly paradoxical, there must be a way forward.

Brian S. Rosner, New Testament professor at Sydney College, offers an interesting, well-balanced view that I believe helps us see Paul's thoughts clearly concerning the law and our relationship with it as New Covenant Christians. He offers three "moves" that Paul makes:

- 1) Repudiation;
- 2) Replacement; and
- 3) Reappropriation (pg. 39-40).

By Repudiation he means that we are not under the law as a covenant anymore, for Christ fulfilled the old covenant and inaugurated the new covenant. Thus the old

laws do not bind us covenantally. By Replacement he means what Paul says in 1 Corinthians 9:21 that we not under the old law, but now "under the law of Christ" that has been set down through apostolic instruction. So we are not to follow them as our covenantal guide in life, but to follow the apostle's teachings now. And by Reappropriation, he explains that Paul sees the old laws as serving largely a new purpose for Christians, primarily as prophecy and as ethics. The old laws point forward toward the work of Christ, serving as prophecy for us to see how Christ fulfilled the law in ways that no other human ever could. As ethics, we are still instructed by the old laws in the character of God and thus the character we must pursue as His followers. We can give a helpful summary by saying "There is a sense in which the Law as *Mosaic Covenant* is

abolished, but the Law as *Scripture* has ongoing value for Christians" (pg. 30). Reading through Paul's letters can be confusing when studying his thoughts on the Law in its relationship to the Gospel, but I hope these three points offer a bit of clarity and a foundation for us as we think through the issue. As we begin to preach through Paul's letter to the Colossians and as we go through Paul's letter to the Galatians in our Sunday School class, I pray these three points help spark you to think more deeply about these issues. As always, if you want to talk more about this, then don't hesitate to reach out and let's talk!

Pastor Joshua



Our Current Wi-Fi Password:

Wi-fi Network
First Baptist Church
Wi-fi Password
pilgrims

MISSION NEWS



This month, we turn our focus to the dual ministry of His Thousand Hills and Planted. Our church provides monthly support to both of these local missions.

His Thousand Hills exists to glorify God by partnering with churches and individuals to provide gospel centered retreats, camps, conferences, and activities that support church ministries, as well as our local community, for the primary purpose of helping people of all ages find Jesus Christ and grow in their faith. His Thousand Hills seeks to provide Christ honoring experiences through the beauty and quietness of God's creation, friendly hospitality, opportunities for spiritual growth, fellowship, and fun in a safe and serene environment.

The Planted Gap Year Program is a one-year program intentionally crafted for high school graduates, ages 18-24, who desire to be grounded and to grow in their knowledge of, trust in, and love for Jesus Christ. Located at His Thousand Hills, Planted weaves together biblical training, hands-on farming, outdoor adventure, and life skill development. Each component of Planted's program is a context for intentional discipleship and fostering deep relationships.

On October 18, we are pleased to welcome Kate Hendricks Dematatis back to First Baptist Church! Kate will be updating us about her ministry during the service's Moment in Missions, and everybody is invited to an after-church luncheon, where the ministries will be presented in greater detail, along with a Q&A session. Please mark this date on your calendar and join us in learning more about His Thousand Hills and Planted.



Compassion Ministry

Do You Have a Special Need?

A ride to the doctor's office/store, Painting, Minor household repairs, or Light house cleaning.

If you could use some help please contact Holly Doud at 570-439-6477 or the church office at 570-724-4681 or through our website at fbcwellsboro.org/helping-hands/

Please contact us at least a week before help is needed.

We look forward to hearing from you.

If you'd like to help meet the needs of those looking for assistance, you can sign up to volunteer at <https://fbcwellsboro.org/helping-hands-volunteer/>

Shepherding Deacons For 2026

LaRue Kreger - 570-724-1272
Ardell Thomas - 570-724-3618
Ben Erway - 304-362-9252
Jim Spina - 609-870-1164
Mark Parsons - 570-439-3878



First Friday on Main Street
 Outreach Opportunity
 Friday, October 2nd
 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.
 See Natalie Himmelberger
 Or Pastor Joshua
 For more information.



First Baptist Church
 WELLSBORO

Gathering, Growing, Giving to Glorify Christ

The Congregational Business Meeting
 will be held on
Sunday, October 11, 2026 at 11:30 AM
 in the Sanctuary.



CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Columbus Day

October 12, 2026



Pastor Appreciation

Everyone is invited to
 an appreciation luncheon
 to honor Pastor Chris and
 Pastor Joshua and their families on

**Sunday, October 25th
 at 11:30 a.m.**

Come for a joyous time
 as we fellowship together
 and express our appreciation.

Please bring a large dish to pass and
 your own table settings.
 Meat, rolls and desserts
 will be provided.



Pumpkin Roll Event
Saturday, October 24th
1-4 p.m.
On the Church Front Lawn



Congratulations
To
Ruth Osterbrock and Evelyn Krieder
On your Baptism!



Our Deepest Sympathy

We express our deepest sympathy to:

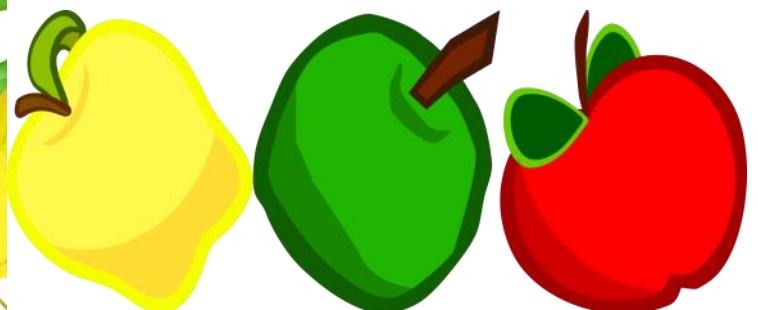
The West and Borden families. Brother to Don, Dave, Larry and Deb, Paul West passed on September 21, 2026.

Thank You's

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the cards, phone calls, visits and prayers while I was recuperating from my abdominal surgery. I appreciate your friendship and encouragement.

Nancy Cobb



Puzzle!

Locate the names of all the Old Testament books, using your Bible's table of contents for reference. Numbered books, such as 1 Samuel, appear only once — without numbers.

S E T S A I S E L C C E I N A D T
O E J D R E I N Y G L E R G A I M
N J O S E E U B A H I J O N I A H
G E R H Z S L C E U A E H B A
O F E U E O M V H I A N O H S C O N
S I A C I A T I G H A R I A H C Y O
L A H L N E C K U S B R E V O R P R T
O M I A Z G G I N P S A L M S U D O X E U Z
J U D G E S I S A M U E L U Z





College Students for October

- October 4** - Joe Doty, 240 Maple Hill Road, Wellsboro, PA 16901.
October 11 - Megan Mosher, 105 Broughton Hill Road, Wellsboro, PA 16901.
October 18 - Jessica Tremblay, 1694 State Road, Middlebury Ctr., PA 16935.
October 25 - Micah Vickery, 131 Hiester St., Apt 1106C, University Park, PA 16801.

Service Person for October

- October 4-25** - 2nd LT Luna Alexander, address unavailable.

Shut-ins for October

- October 4** - Joanne Young, 108 Valley Heights Dr., Williamsport, PA 17701-1948.
October 11 - Lee Kaltenbach, 10 Cole St., Rm. 510, Wellsboro, PA 16901.
October 18 - Teary Morris, Autumn Lake @ Riverview, Rm. 402, 1 Eastern Blvd., Essex, MD, 21221.
October 25 - Rose Weatherby, 10 Cole St., Rm. 308, Wellsboro, PA 16901.

Deacon/Deaconess of the Week for October

	<u>Deacon</u>		<u>Deaconess</u>	
October 4	Mark Parsons	(570-439-3878)	Holly Doud	(570-439-6477)
October 11	LaRue Kreger	(570-724-1272)	Glenda Hammond	(570-439-7173)
October 18	Ardell Thomas	(570-439-4032)	Katy Starkweather	(570-404-6243)
October 25	Jim Spina	(609-870-1164)	Nancy Cobb	(570-439-2420)

Nursery Schedule for October

- October 4** - Katy Starkweather, Debbie Doty
October 11 - Tina Worden, Olivia Worden
October 18 - Barb Bump, Sarah Bump
October 25 - Laura Tremblay, Jessica Tremblay



Usher Schedule for October

- October 4** - Alternate (C), Tina Worden, Violet Worden
October 11 - David Fox (C), Alternate, Alternate
October 18 - Marsha Chesko (C), Sylvia Wilson, Glenda Hammond
October 25 - Alternate (C), Holly Doud, Jim Spina

Children's Church Schedule for October

- October 4** - Family Worship - No Children's Church
October 11 - Family Worship - No Children's Church
October 18 - Alternate, Kay Voorhees
October 25 - Sharon Hamm, Melissa Erway



October 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
"C.G." stands for "Connection Group"	"B.S." stands for "Bible Study"			1 _____ 10:30 Lighthouse B.S. _____	2 First Friday	3
4 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service 11:30 Belonging Luncheon 6:00 Youth Group	5 11:00 FBC's Prayer Group _____	6 9:00 Ladies' B.S. _____ 3:15 Kid's Club _____	7 _____ _____ 5:00 Osterbrock C.G.	8 _____ 10:30 Lighthouse B.S. _____	9 News & Views Deadline	10
11 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service 11:30 Congregational Meeting 6:00 Youth Group	12 11:00 FBC's Prayer Group _____ 6:00 Trustee's Mtg. 6:30 Mission's Mtg. Church Office Closed	13 9:00 Ladies' B.S. 11:00 Deaconess Mtg. _____ 3:15 Kid's Club _____ 6:00 C.E. Mtg.	14 _____ _____ 5:00 Parson's C.G.	15 _____ 10:30 Lighthouse B.S. _____	16	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service 11:30 Planted Luncheon 6:00 Youth Group	19 11:00 FBC's Prayer Group	20 9:00 Ladies' B.S. _____ 3:15 Kid's Club _____ 6:00 Deacons Mtg.	21 _____ _____ 5:00 Osterbrock C.G.	22 _____ 10:30 Lighthouse B.S. _____	23	24 Pumpkin Roll 1-4 p.m.
25 9:00 Sunday School 10:15 Worship Service 11:30 Pastor Appreciation Luncheon 6:00 Youth Group	26 11:00 FBC's Prayer Group	27 9:00 Ladies' B.S. _____ 3:15 Kid's Club _____	28	29 _____ 10:30 Lighthouse B.S. _____	30	31