First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

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5TH ANNUAL Jim McCall

Pickleball Benefit



Sunday, November 1, 2026, 1:00-4:00 P.M. at Jackson Square Tennis Courts.

Enjoy complimentary hamburgers and hot dogs while we celebrate Jim's memory. For more information, please contact Jodie Johnson at (865) 806-1121. All event donations will go directly to the Agape Help Center at First Baptist Church, Oak Ridge in honor of Jim. Lunch is provided from 1-4 P.M.

**In case of rain, the event will move to the First Baptist Church gym and youth area.*



Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner is November 22, at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The church will provide meat, bread and drinks. Church members are asked to please bring a generous side dish to share, such as vegetables, salads or desserts. A small donation will be accepted to cover the cost of the meat.

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REFLECTIONS

"Calling them like I see them"

Halloween is just about here and it seems like there's this perennial tension about Halloween within the church. I believe Halloween is actually fine and I'll try to explain why. Let's pose some questions that we might hear around this time of year.

Isn't Halloween a pagan holiday? Yes and no. A lot of our traditions and celebrations come from Samhain, an old Celtic holiday about scaring off evil spirits. The name "Halloween" comes from shortening "All **Hallow**s **E**v**en**ing," or the night before All Hallows Day. We call that All Saints Day, where we remember and honor all those in the fellowship of Christ who have gone before us to death. It's a day to honor their lives and recognize that we still hold fellowship alongside them in the great communion of Christ.

So, it's a pagan holiday that we just put Christian theology on top of? Yes. Like most other holidays. There were pagan festivals and rituals. Our forbearers sought to teach Christianity through the celebrations. That doesn't make the day bad. Intention matters.

Isn't all of the scary stuff a bit much? Mmm, maybe? Everybody has a different tolerance, but I think it's actually a healthy thing to think about death and other things that frighten us, and we probably ought to do so more than one night a year. It's also a way of facing fear and disgust in a safe environment. Sure, you might get startled or grossed out, but the community is also very much all around to ensure folks are OK. Now you've got some practice for real life fear and horrors so maybe you won't be paralyzed by them.

What about all of the candy and the decorations? I do think Halloween is too commercialized, but I'd say the same about Christmas and Easter and even Independence Day. But yeah, I think we should probably spend less money in general on these things. Doesn't make the holiday bad, though. Think about how you can celebrate without spending hundreds of dollars on premade costumes or thousands of piece of candy all made by the same 3 mega-conglomerates.

Halloween is a good holiday to me. The community shows up for children and allows them to be a bit troublesome, within reason. It allows for a moment to be honest about fear and things that we don't like to talk about, especially death. And most importantly, it's a reason to remember those saints that have gone before us and to remember that we are still connected to them through Christ and his resurrection. Have a good time and let's regroup on Sunday. I'll take your leftover 3 Musketeers!

Peace, Rory

Before His Presence with Singing

"For all the saints who from their labors rest..."

The Christian faith is not ours alone. We stand in a long and amazing procession of believers who went before us. Many of those believers were ordinary folk who simply lived extraordinary lives firmly planted in faith. Some names that will mean nothing to you come to mind for me: Creole Henderlight, Lucille Chandler Jones, Ruby Simpson, Jean Dacus, Richard Phelps (my brother-in-law), Mark Bounds (my brother), Dot Bounds (my mother), Jack Bounds (my dad), Jackie Roach (my sister). Several names from this church come to mind also. I'm sure if I were to list them, they'd be on your list, too, and their mention would call to mind others. These are but a handful, selected from a host of people who belong to Christ, and while here on earth with me and you, sought to live in and follow Christ faithfully through the joys and sorrows of everyday life.

The church we are a part of is united across generations. Pilgrims we didn't even know taught the people who are teaching us.

Singing this hymn can connect us to those who went before us if we will open our hearts and minds to it. AND, others will come after US, so it is important that we live lives worthy of being remembered as beacons of faith.

Take a moment here and now and think of a former pastor, teacher, parent, grandparent, a faithful church member. Their names will likely never appear in a history book, but their quiet example in living likely spoke louder, and still rings clearer than words.

Stanza 3 in the version we sing says: O blest communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle, they in glory shine, yet all are one in Thee, for all are thine, Alleluia! Alleluia! "Yet all are one in Thee." That includes you and me. Their triumph fuels our struggle. May our lives be well remembered because we have been faithful to Christ.

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed;
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light. Alleluia, Alleluia!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine. Alleluia, Alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the warfare long,
steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
in praise of Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia, Alleluia!

In Christ, *Tim*



NOVEMBER FBCFBC

Our book club will be discussing *AI for Absolute Beginners* by Anne Hansen. Most of us are pretty unfamiliar with AI (artificial intelligence)--what exactly can it do, and how is it affecting the world? Just how complicated is it, and is it something the average person can make use of? Is it something we need to be scared of? Join us at noon in the library on Monday, November 2, as Linda Williamson helps us gain a better understanding of this new phenomenon. And remember that you may bring your lunch.

Women's Retreat

November 7th is just around the corner, and you do not want to miss the FBC One Day Women's Retreat! Our theme this year is BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE CALLED, and it is going to be an absolutely incredible day of renewal and inspiration. We'll be here from 8:45 AM to 3:00 PM. Registration is officially open! To lock in your spot, simply email Lola at FBCoffice@fbcoakridge.org. You can also grab a flyer with all the details out in the lobby. Sign up soon, and let's get ready for an amazing day together!

Celebration of Life for Norval Ziegler

Please join us at 11:00 a.m. November 7th for a Celebration of Life Service for Norval F. Ziegler, a member of First Baptist Church Oak Ridge for over 70 years. The service will be held in the church sanctuary; lunch will be served following the service in the church Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us for lunch and perhaps share a story or memory about Norval. To ensure we have enough food, please RSVP via text to Melissa Z at 865-414-7847, with the number in your group joining us for lunch by October 28th. Thank you.

CHILDREN'S VOLUNTEERS

SUNDAY, November 1
11am Nursery .....Mitzi Thomas & Jackie Laney
Children's Church .....Linda Bunton & Lela Moore

SUNDAY, November 8
11am Nursery .....Tedi Newman & Bev Burgan
Children's Church .... First Christian & Hannah Simic

SUNDAY, November 15
11am Nursery ..... Susan Williams & Karry Garcia
Children's Church .....Jackie Laney & Hannah Simic

SUNDAY, November 22
11am Nursery ..... Bev Burgan & Jodie Johnson
Children's Church ..... Debbie Johnson & Polly Smith

SUNDAY, November 29
11am Nursery .....Mitzi Thomas & Jackie Laney
Children's Church .....Linda Bunton & Lela Moore

BUSINESS MEETING

November 18, at 6:00 PM

The purpose of the Business Meeting is to vote on the slate of officers, deacons, trustees, committees, and service groups. A list of candidates will be available at the meeting.



MOVIE DISCUSSION GROUP

Movie: Amadeus (1984), starring Tom Hulce.

Viewing: Streaming on many platforms for ~ $4.

Time & Place: Friday, Nov. 20, 6:30 pm at Joy Reedy's home.

PASSPORT CAMP NEWS

It's time to get ready for Passport Youth Camp 2027!

- When: June 13-18
- Where: Converse University, Spartanburg, S.C.
- Your Cost: $150

For more information contact Shawn Simic.

NOVEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2nd FL. **11:00 AM Worship & Communion** **1:00 PM Jim McCall Memorial Pickleball Benefit** 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 2:00 PM Finance Mtg./RM.105 5:30 PM Feast (Youth) 6:00 PM First Christian/2nd FL. **Daylight Saving Time Ends**	2 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 12:00 PM FBCFBC/Library 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH or Sanct.] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym] 7:00 PM Trustee Mtg./105	3 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy] **5:15 PM -8:15 PM [ORMCA Rehearsal-Joy B./FH, Sanc., Choir RM., Class RM's]** 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bell Rehearsal	4 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 1:30 PM -3:30 PM [Fiber Friends /Parlor] 5:00 PM -7:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 5:00 PM -11:00 PM M.Griffin organ rehearsal/sanct. 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study/FH 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	5 1:30 PM -4:00 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:30 PM [ORCBand/San.or FH] 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]	6 **8:45 AM -3:00 PM Women's Retreat@FBC/Gy** 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym]	7 **8:45 AM -3:00 PM Women's Retreat@FBC/Gym** **9:00 AM -12:00 PM [Ecumenical Pickup]** **11:00 AM Norval Ziegler Memorial Service/FH & Sanct.**
8 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2nd FL. 11:00 AM Worship Service **2:00 PM -5:00 PM [ORCB Concert-sanc.]** 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 2:00 PM Church Council Mtg./RM.105 3:00 PM Deacons Mtg./105 5:30 PM Feast (Youth) 6:00 PM First Christian/2nd FL.	9 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH or Sanct.] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym] **~First Light~**	10 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy] **5:15 PM -8:15 PM [ORMCA Rehearsal-Joy B./FH, Sanc., Choir RM., Class RM's]** 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bell Rehearsal	11 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 1:30 PM -3:30 PM [Fiber Friends /Parlor] 5:00 PM -7:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 5:00 PM -11:00 PM M.Griffin organ rehearsal/sanct. 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting & Bible Study/FH 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12 1:30 PM -4:00 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:30 PM [ORCBand/San.or FH] 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]	13 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym]	14 10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball] **Youth @ Olive Branch**
15 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2nd FL. 11:00 AM Worship Service **12:30 PM -3:30 PM [ORCMA Concert @ 2PM/FH, Sanc.]** 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 5:30 PM Feast (Youth) 6:00 PM First Christian/2nd FL.	16 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 2:00 PM LibraryMtg. 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH or Sanct.] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym] **Rory CBF Retreat**	17 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 12:00 PM -4:30 PM Bunco Game/105 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy] **5:15 PM -8:15 PM [ORMCA Rehearsal-Joy B./FH, Sanc., Choir RM., Class RM's]** 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bell Rehearsal	18 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 1:30 PM -3:30 PM [Fiber Friends /Parlor] 5:00 PM -7:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 5:00 PM -11:00 PM M.Griffin organ rehearsal/sanct. **6:00 PM Business Meeting** 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	19 1:30 PM -4:00 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 5:30 PM [ORCBand/San.or FH] 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]	20 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 6:30 PM Movie Discussion Group @ J. Reedy's	21 10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]
22 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2nd FL. 11:00 AM Worship Service 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] **5:00 PM Thanksgiving Dinner** 5:30 PM Feast (Youth) 6:00 PM First Christian/2nd FL.	23 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH or Sanct.] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym] **~First Light~**	24 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy] **5:15 PM -8:15 PM [ORMCA Rehearsal-Joy B./FH, Sanc., Choir RM., Class RM's]** 6:00 PM -7:00 PM Chancel Bell Rehearsal	25 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 1:30 PM -3:30 PM [Fiber Friends /Parlor] 5:00 PM -7:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 5:00 PM -11:00 PM M.Griffin organ rehearsal/sanct.	26 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 6:30 PM [Pickleball/gym] **THANKSGIVING** **Church Office Closed**	27 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym]	28 10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]
29 10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2nd FL. 11:00 AM Worship Service 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] **5:00 PM Hanging of the Greens Service** 5:30 PM Feast (Youth) 6:00 PM First Christian/2nd FL.	30 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH or Sanct.] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym]					