Let's quickly look at one Bible verse that tells us about something that we know for absolute certain IS God's will. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." While you might at times struggle to know what is God's perfect will in any given situation, you can know without a doubt, that God's call on you is to give thanks, to praise Him, no matter what is going on. Doing so brings glory to His name and puts your situation, whether good or bad, in a proper perspective.

I'm praying for each of you that in the days ahead, that God will show you where He is leading you, and that you might know His will for your life. However, I hope that as you wait for that understanding to come, you will choose to give God thanks in ALL your circumstances.

Blessings!

**Pastor Greg** 

# WE ARE IN NEED OF A ROTATION OF SECURITY TEAM VOLUNTEERS FOR WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FROM 5:45-8 PM! If you are interested, contact the church office or Dave Watson at davewatson49@gmail.com.

### October Outreach By: Jason Welker

October is one of my favorite months of the year. It's the month when the leaves start changing colors, the and air begins to crisp. It also means that the Christmas season is only a few short weeks away. Plus, it means that Trunk or Treat is just around the corner! When we started planning community wide Trunk or Treats years ago we looked forward to the year that a Sunday would fall on the same day as Halloween. That would mean that Trunk or Treat would happen on the actual holiday. I am happy to say that the waiting is almost over because this year our Trunk or Treat will happen on Sunday, October 31!

Trunk or Treat will take place in our large parking lot and will be open to the whole community from 4-6 PM! We hope to have 50 trunks handing out candy as well as inflatables, popcorn, and cotton candy. This year we are inviting a juggler/evangelist to entertain the crowd as well as draw them closer to Jesus. We will also have special guests at the event to take pictures with families at character meet and greet locations.

If you would like to help with this event, we would love to have you! Our biggest need is trunks! If you would like to be one of

our 50 trunks, please don't hesitate to sign up at church or through our church center app. This year, we are encouraging church ministries, as well as individuals, to bring trunks to Trunk or Treat. What a great way to share with the community everything we have to offer them as a church and give candy!

In other news, we have a great 5th quarter event on September 17 with over 60 teens and 4 church youth groups at our church. We have two more 5th Quarters coming up this month. There will be one on October 8 at Parkland Chapel and October 22 at New Heights. All teens are welcome to attend!

# Through Their Eyes By: Mark Phillips

I recently returned from the Child Discipleship Forum that was sponsored by AWANA. I was very blessed to hear the encouraging and uplifting speakers that were at the conference. I was also able to take part in several worship services. As I reflect upon that time, I am humbled at the incredible responsibility that we have as a church to reach out to the kids we have coming, and those yet to come. I ask you, for a moment, to see through a child's eyes. Imagine being presented with Jesus and His love for the first time. You might be a child that comes from a loving family, or you might be from a home that there is little in the way of love. You are overwhelmed by what Jesus did for you and how he loves you. Now, imagine being that same child and watching the world around you and all that is going on, sometimes in fear, and not knowing what each day will bring. But Jesus and the church are the bright spots in your life. Now, come back to me in your present state. Shouldn't we all feel this same way about Jesus and his love? As adults, we forget to look through the eyes of a child and realize how awesome God is and how he can protect us from the reality around us. We need to remember this and do this on a daily basis just like a child. Oh, to have a childlike faith in God and know without a doubt, that Jesus died for me and loves me so much! Kids know this, without asking questions. They may not have it all learned, but they do understand that unconditional love better than adults. May we all hold onto that promise as we get older and see through the eyes of a child!

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Jerry & Kay Miller, Tom Heberlie, Barbara Ward, Chuck Daly, Verna Keller, Edna Brooks, Carol McCord, Amy Gann, John Ratliff, Chris Wenninger, Larry Stephens, Pat Watson

### IN MEMORIAM

Jerry Jinkerson, Jared Statler, Astr Coleman

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

-William & Barbara Shelton on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Sutton Peppler Make sure to sign up for our Pumpkin Patch trip on October 2. The trip is from 9 AM though 3 PM. We will leave the church at 9 and ride the bus to Caledonia. Kids are free, but they need to bring money if they want to buy a pumpkin and they also need to bring a sack lunch. The age is K-6 grade, but pre-school kids are welcome with parent chaperones. There are many activities to do at the Pumpkin Patch, so make sure to have your kids, grand-kids, great grandkids, nieces, and nephews to come. It will be a great day!

### Children's Musicals & God's Providence By: Kevin Willis

As a child growing up in church, I have many memories. I remember puppet shows, Vacation Bible School and Church camp, Thanksgiving meals, and movie nights. However, one of my fondest memories was participating in our annual Children's Christmas Musical at church. One year in particular comes to mind, I was 9 years old and playing the part of one of the Wise men. I specifically remember rehearsing the manger scene and practicing when each group was supposed to walk down the aisle. The performances were so much fun and I remember the pride that I felt.

As a somewhat reserved child, it was these children's musicals that offered me a chance to step out of my comfort zone. They allowed me to learn and grow in confidence and in many ways helped to prepare me for the calling that God would place on my life as a Worship Pastor.

This past Wednesday we finalized our cast for this year's AWANA Christmas Musical, entitled "Jingle Bell Beach." Cast rehearsals will begin next Wednesday and I am excited for the amazing group of kids that will be featured. The performance will be on Wednesday evening, December 8 at 6:00pm and will feature all of our AWANA kids. I encourage all of our FBC family to make plans now to support our kids that night.

Also, join me in praying for these kids and families as they begin the hard work and preparations. Maybe God will inspire and ultimately call one of these young ones to one day be a missionary or a Sunday School teacher or perhaps even a Worship Pastor.



Join us this October for the "Laugh Your Way to a Better Marriage" Conference!

Mark Gungor, one of the most sought-after speakers on love and marriage, will be leading, exploring, and teaching about male/female relationships through a laughter approach that you won't forget.

# FRIENDLY FACES OF FBC

Meet John Myers!

You may recognize John from our Welcome Center or from the stage during worship on Sunday mornings. John plays trumpet in our orchestra most Sunday mornings and enjoys playing with the group! He also volunteers many Sunday mornings as part of our Security Team, mainly serving in our Welcome Center during Sunday School. The next time you see John, give him a wave hello, and say thanks for all you do for our church family!

# THANK YOU NOTES

"Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers." -Linda Stewart

"The outpouring love of this church to your next door neighbor—Truman Learning Center—was on grand display today. The chatter at school was all positive and the school staff definitely felt your outstretched, loving hand... So proud to be a part of FBC!"

-Carol Kocher

To read more of our thank yous for this month, visit our "Thank You Board" located outside of the sanctuary in the foyer.

# YOUR GIFTS AT WORK



What a blessing our church is to our community! We wrapped up September with our first ever "Pie, Pickin', & Poetry" event and fundraiser for Help the Hungry to aid our local food pantries. Together from ticket sales, donations, and a lively pie auction, you raised \$3,647.93!

As we wrap up the budget year at the end of September and begin the new year in October, we want to thank each of you for your continuous gifts in support of the ministry and missions of First Baptist Farmington. May God bless each of you!

\*Amount reflects both General Fund and Designated Gifts





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# OCTOBER 2021

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# **Discerning God's Will**

I must have prayed it a thousand times - "God, please help me know your will in this." That's probably one of the most common prayers ever uttered. David cried out in Scripture, "I desire to do your will, my God." (Psalm 40:8a) We all desire to know and do God's will, but just how are we supposed to go about finding it? Do we wait for some warm fuzzy feeling or all the stars to align just right? Or could it possibly be much simpler than that?

There are only a few occasions where Scripture clearly affirms something as God's specific will. I'll share one of those verses in just a moment, but before I do let me first point out a few things NOT to use when trying to determine what is what is not God's will for your life.

- Emotions There's nothing in the Bible that correlates God's will to making you happy. You can't say, "Well, I feel good about this, so it must be God's will for my life." Sorry, but it doesn't work that way. In fact, sometimes God's actual will can stir up some less than pleasant feelings. My experience has been that God's will often pushes you right out of your comfort zone and into a place where you have to walk by faith.
- Circumstances Just like when it comes to emotions, you can't say God's will is
  determined by how good or how bad the circumstances around you are at any
  given moment. This is probably the most commonly made mistake when it comes
  to discerning God's will. A situation seems to be sailing along smoothly and you say
  to yourself, "This just goes to show you that God's will is for me in this!" However,
  as soon as problems arise, you'll be left wondering, "Why is all this happening?
  Maybe it wasn't God's will in the first place!" Don't let this be the method you use
  to understand God's will.
- Specificity This one may surprise you. I've heard people say, "I try to determine God's will for every moment and every situation." I'm not so sure that's what God wants you doing. You didn't sin against God because you chose the red car over the blue car. I'm not saying you shouldn't be continually seeking God in all things, but there's a difference between seeking Him and constantly looking for signs and revelations in order to somehow divine God's directions for every little thing you face.

### In this edition:

October Outreach" - Jason Welker

Through Their Eyes" - Mark Phillips

"Children's Musicals & God's Providence" - Kevin Willis

### **Upcoming Highlights**



