

MAY 2025

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

Issue 2025-5

God's Love For Us

A Message From Pastor Brandon

This month we will celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Romans 8:34 it says” Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

When we think on this passage, we see a couple of things

- 1. Jesus is in the position of honor and authority**
- 2. He is involved in our lives on a personal level**

This is not a one-time thing, it is an ongoing ministry that Christ does on our behalf.

We have a Savior and Lord who loves us that He involves Himself in every area of our lives. There is nothing too small or insignificant that Jesus doesn’t care about.

Let this thought put a smile on your face that Christ is in Heaven, and He is working on our behalf.

Pastor Brandon

SERVICES

Sunday School (all ages)

Morning Worship

Evening Worship

Children's Worship

Youth Group

Women's Bible Study

Prayer Meeting

Men's Bible Study

Sunday

Sunday

Sunday

Sunday

Sunday

Wednesday

Wednesday

Wednesday

9:30 am

10:45 am

6:00 pm

6:00 pm

6:00 pm

6:00 pm

6:30 pm

7:00 pm



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FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH OF LA JUNTA

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

A vibrant, painterly illustration serves as the background. It depicts a landscape with rolling hills, a river, and mountains in the distance. In the foreground, a person is crouching in a field of large, colorful flowers (red, orange, and purple). A horse is visible in the middle ground, and the sky is a mix of blue and yellow.

BRANDON MILLS
PASTOR

TIM KNABENSHUE
DEACON

JIM COLLINS
DEACON

TYLER COLLINS
DEACON

KATHY BUTLER
CHILDREN'S LEADER
VBS COORDINATOR

WILMA COLLINS
YOUTH LEADER

ALLAN LASATER
WORSHIP LEADER

Pianist:
Arlene Watters
Carla Mills
Kim Stricker

Celebrations for May

Weekly Events in May

Be Kind to Animals Week -First full week of the month

Nurse's Week – first full week of the month

Wildflower Week – week two

National Police Week – third week of the month

Emergency Medical Services Week – fourth week of the month

Date

May 1 - National Prayer Day

May 1 - May Day

May 2 - Brother and Sister Day

May 3 - Garden Meditation Day- a great place for a prayer today

May 6 - National Teacher's Day

May 8 - Irish Flower Day - a celebration of one of God's creations

May 10 - National Train Day (just because we have a train station)

May 11 - Mother's Day

May 11 - Lilac Day - a celebration of one of God's creations

May 15 - National Police Officer's Memorial Day

May 17 - Armed Forces Day

May 26 - Memorial Day

May 28 - World Hunger Day

May 30 - Water a flower Day -Remember to take care of God's creations

Church Notes

School Graduations- church family, if you have a graduating church family member, please let Pastor Brandon know. Senior Celebration will be held on Sunday June 1, 2025. Please join the potluck lunch after the morning service. Be sure to read the Senior article a couple of pages from here.

OCC- requesting kids flip flop shoes for boys and girls. Small kids sizes 1 & 2. Older kids sizes 3, 4, 5 6, 7, & 8. As always, check with Wilma for more information.

Newsletter- If you have news for the newsletter, or an announcement, please contact Shirley at benzshirley@ymail.com or call/text 719-469-1870.

Bible Study...

there's never a time when you can't learn something from an open Bible.

Wednesday Women Of the Word (WWOW) Bible Study – meets every Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. We are presently studying Moses and his leadership of the Hebrew people. We presently have 15 ladies registered for the study, and welcome others to join us when we begin a new study in the not-too-distant-future. Watch for details about the new study in the bulletin. The WWOW gals are a great group of ladies, and we are thankful for our leader, Julie Worley.

Men's Bible Study- Men's Bible Study also meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., and has openings for more men to join them. There is never a “No Vacancy” sign for bible study, and Deacon Jim Collins is an amazing guide leading the men through the Bible.

Concert - Be on the watch for a concert coming soon

Women's Morning of Inspiration: May 3, 9-11 am. First Southern Baptist Church Las Animas: 602 6th St/Las Animas Food Fellowship Inspiration and the Word of God Co-Hosted by FSBCWWOW Bible Study All Women are encouraged and invited to attend.



Easter 2025

Resurrection Sunday morning and sunrise service on April 20th was a beautiful morning! However, because it was very chilly that morning with the outdoor temperatures hovering at 30 degrees, the celebration was held in the sanctuary. But the celebration of Christ's resurrection is a joyous occasion whether celebrated on the lawn of the Church or in the house of the Lord.

Following the sunrise service, we enjoyed fellowship with our Church family over breakfast of traditional biscuits and gravy, and then went upstairs to the sanctuary for the morning worship service. It was an encouraging worship time and celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Prior to the worship service we were blessed to witness the baptism of Ellie Collins. Ellie has been attending church with her family since birth, and now at eight years old she felt God call her to be baptized. Ellie is the daughter of Tyler and Caitlin Collins.





welcome

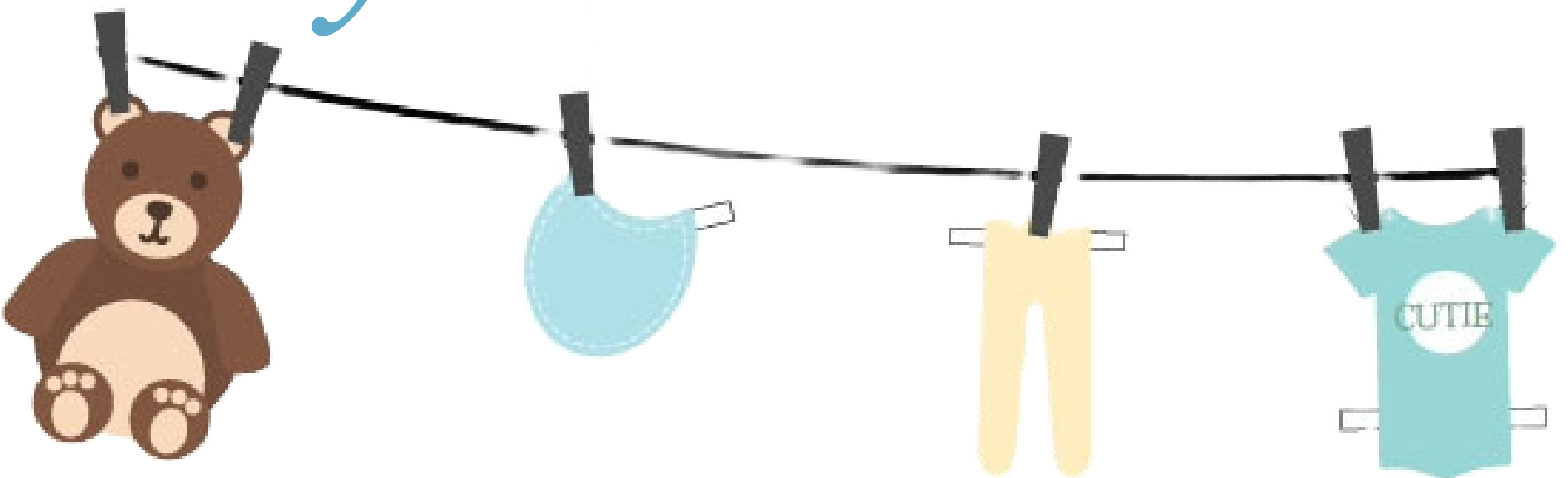
We are excited to announce the birth of little Beau Amari Kade Salazar who entered the world with a beautiful little head of pretty black hair – and sparkly bright eyes. Daddy Dino and Mommy Kaydence Salazar are seen smiling all the time as they settle into “parenthood” - in spite of the sleepless nights they have probably experienced with a newborn baby in the house.

Beau was born at Parkview Memorial Hospital in Pueblo on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, and weighed in at birth at 6 lbs, 9 oz, and was 20 inches long. Mommy and Baby Beau came home to La Junta a few days later, and Beau has been “ruling the household” since he arrived.

- We welcome little Beau Amari Kade Salazar to the family of First Southern Baptist Church in La Junta. We will be praying for Dino and Kaydence as they raise this precious little one to adulthood.

PROVERBS 22:6 - “TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO, AND WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT.”

Congratulations...
Kaydence and Dino





Congratulations

CONGRATULATIONS to our five graduating seniors who have been a part of the First Southern Baptist Church family these past years. Please keep these five outstanding and achieving young adults in your prayers as they pursue careers and future endeavors. We wish them luck and love as they transition onto college.

Deuteronomy 31:8 – “The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.”

SADIE BUHR: Sadie Joy Buhr, the youngest child of Dan and Kellie Buhr, was born on March 24, 2007 in Pueblo, and will graduate La Junta Jr./Sr. High School on May 17th.

Sadie has been a very active student during her school years, honing her leadership skills in many different organizations. A 4-H member since she was six years old, Sadie has exhibited projects ranging from home improvement and veterinary science to exhibiting horses, goats, and steers. As a “born” leader, Sadie has served in almost every office in her 4-H Club.

During her high school years, Sadie has been an active and involved member of FBLA, FCCLA, National Honor Society, High Teens, and has been an active and involved member of FFA – serving as the Chapter President for the past two years.

Animals are Sadie’s love, but she also enjoys basketball, volleyball, and track which have kept her busy during high school years. However, involvement in those activities had its downside, as she has gone through two ACL knee replacements, and just this past winter, she endured a hip labrum repair surgery. Pain – and more pain – and yet you still saw Sadie smiling her pretty smile.

Sadie’s college plans are not finalized yet, as she is seeking a State FFA Officer position at the Colorado FFA Convention in June, 2025 in Pueblo. Should she be – or when she is - selected for a state office, her college plans will be delayed for the year she serves. In the future she plans to attend West Texas A&M University or CSU/Fort Collins – and pursue an eventual career as a veterinary.

KIERAN HARRIS: It was a hot day on August 4, 2006 when Kieran Evonne joined the family of Brian and Katie Harris. And now the pretty, red-headed young lady will graduate high school on May 11th.

A standout academic, as well as an athlete, at Cheraw High School, Kieran will continue her education at Colorado State University/Fort Collins where she plans to major in Business Administration/Management. And because of her hard work and tireless leadership endeavors, Kieran will head to college with several scholarships in hand.

Kieran was a recipient of a prestigious Boettcher Scholarship, as well as scholarships from Colorado State FBLA; Knights of Columbus; Cheraw Lions Club; Cheraw FFA; Green & Gold Honors; ICBC; SECO All-Star Game; and the first ever AJ Quick Memorial Scholarship.

It is obvious that Kieran was a busy student/athlete, and yet she still found time to start her own business. “Destination Hydration” is a refreshing drink business that Kieran has operated during her last two years of high school, and she will continue to operate the business this summer. There will be no “down time” for this active young lady.

LANDON MILLS: You won’t miss Landon Mills when he enters the room or as he stands on the mound at the baseball field. You can’t overlook the tall, 6’3” young man – whether he’s pitching a baseball or offering the closing prayer at the end of the Church service.



Congratulations

Landon was born to Brandon and Carla Mills on September 30, 2006 in Charlotte, North Carolina. In July, 2016, Landon's Dad heeded the Lord's call to pastor First Southern Baptist Church in La Junta, and Landon and his family made a major move across the country.

After settling into their new surroundings in La Junta, Landon began school in Swink as a 4th grader. And he grew and matured into the outstanding young man he is today. It is probably a little difficult for Dad and Mom to realize that on May 24th, Landon will become a 2025 Swink High School graduate.

After courageously working through some health challenges during high school, Landon has made his mark as a stand-out baseball player, and will continue to "stoke that love" of the game this fall at Otero College in La Junta, where he will join the Rattlers baseball team.

Landon's transition from the lush green surroundings of North Carolina to the canyons and plains of SE Colorado has probably been one of life's biggest hurdles thus far. But in spite of that, Landon has found time to explore his interest in playing video games and his passion for baseball. He will be pursuing an Associates of Science certificate at Otero College, and will then let the Lord lead him in his future academic and sports pursuits.

NOAH NUNEZ-REBEL: If you have not ever met Noah Nunez-Rebel, when you do meet him, it will not take you long to realize what a talented and personable young man he is.

Noah is the son of Anthony Nunez and Jessica Rebel, and was born at AVRMC in La Junta on October 19, 2006. Noah has attended La Junta schools since kindergarten, and has showcased his many acting talents in drama productions with the Children's Theater shows each summer, and also under the bright lights of the Picketwire Center for Performing and Visual Arts in La Junta.

Noah's plans following his graduation from La Junta Jr./Sr. High School on May 18th are to attend Colorado Mesa University in Grand Junction. Noah's interest and abilities in math make a degree in secondary education an obvious choice. He eventually hopes to teach high school math.

Throughout his school years, Noah has been the recipient of various awards, to include the Picketwire "Mickie Award" for his "Best Supporting Actor" performance as Will Parker in the musical, "Oklahoma". He is also a four-year cheerleading letterman, and served as an FBLA Chapter Officer.

Watch for his drama abilities to be showcased as he is the Assistant Director of "Annie, Jr." – the upcoming "Plays In The Park" production that will be produced at the Livewell Park in La Junta on July 11, 12, and 13, 2025. Noah is a busy young man with a bright future.

AUSTIN PATTON – Austin Carter Patton is a quiet, thoughtful young man with a bright and productive future ahead of him.

On November 21, 2006, Austin entered the world at AVRMC in La Junta to Shanae Curry and Devin Patton. His school years have been spent entirely at Swink School except for his fifth grade year, when he attended school in Colorado Springs.

During high school, Austin performed in several of Mrs. Grossen's drama productions, with his favorite play being the 2024 Fall Melodrama where he was cast as Dudley Do-Goode, the Sheriff of the town. Additionally, during high school Austin has been a Knowledge Bowl state competitor for two years, and was selected as a two-year member of the Teen Volunteer Group (TAG) at the Woodruff Memorial Library here in La Junta.

During Austin's 11th grade year, his School Counselor, Mrs. Snowy Schroeder, peaked Austin's interest in a college preparatory course which paid off in a tremendous way. Austin is the recipient of the Questbridge National Match Scholarship which will provide for tuition, living expenses, food, and other things college students need, as he attends Colorado College in Colorado Springs. Austin is undecided at this time what he will major in and what career he will pursue, but it must be a relief to have his college endeavor paid-in-full! Austin's Mother attended junior college, but Austin will be a first generation four-year college attendee. We know Austin will be a success at whatever he pursues in the future.

JOY of my HEART

Daily Devotion



Meditating on God's Word with Anne Graham Lotz

The Silence of God

He who trusts in the Lord, mercy shall surround him.

Psalm 32:10, NKJV

Is God silent in your life? What prayers has He not answered for you?

At a time of unanswered prayer in my life years ago, my mother taught me the verse to a hymn that I still quote when I am totally baffled by events that seem to careen out of the orbit of what I have asked:

Trust Him when dark doubts assail thee,

Trust Him when thy strength is small,

Trust Him when to simply trust Him,

Seems the hardest thing of all.

Is your focus on your immediate need blinding you to a greater purpose that God is working out? Would you choose to be patient and simply trust Him? Sometimes God does not answer our immediate prayer because He has something greater in store for us.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Graham Lotz".



2025 VBS

Vacation Bible School June 2nd-6th

Place:

**First Southern Baptist Church
2006 Smithland Ave, La Junta
(across the street from LJHS)
719-384-5185**

**Times: June 2nd-6th
8:30am till 12:00pm**

Ages:

Pre-K to 6th grade

To register:

Go to www.fsbclajunta.com/vbs-registration/



VBS Prayer Calendar

May 2025

Please print and hang where can been seen daily

PRAYER CALENDAR							
1. Pray for the VBS Director and all leaders involved with the preparation and planning of VBS.	2. Pray that kids and adults will withstand the temptation to be conformed to this age and will instead be transformed by the renewing of their minds. <i>Romans 12:2*</i>	3. Pray that leaders and participants will evaluate their own beliefs. Can truth be different for different people or does all truth come from God?	4. Thank God for providing all we need to excel in His good work. <i>2 Corinthians 9:8</i>	5. Ask God to give strength to the leaders when they are weary and power when they are weak. <i>Isaiah 40:29</i>	6. Pray for the Bible study leaders to communicate God's love effectively to the children they teach. <i>1 John 4:19</i>	7. Pray that leaders and participants will evaluate their own beliefs. Should people do what makes them happy or is following God's plan better?	
8. Pray that participants will recognize that the entirety of God's word is true. <i>Psalms 119:160*</i>	9. Ask God to give energy and stamina to leaders who will guide kids to worship Him through music and drama.	10. Pray for those who are leading missions. Ask God to give them a heart and passion for the missionary families they will teach about.	11. Ask for physical safety and energy for recreation leaders during the week.	12. Pray a blessing on all the snacks that will be prepared for VBS and the workers who will prepare them.	13. Thank God for the creativity and passion of those leading crafts. Ask God to give them patience and compassion for the children with whom they work.	14. Ask God to place a hedge of protection around your church's VBS and everyone who will attend.	
15. Pray that children will continue to increase in wisdom concerning God's Word. <i>Luke 2:52</i>	16. Thank God for His gift of eternal life and for the children who will receive that gift at VBS. <i>Ephesians 2:8</i>	17. Pray that leaders and participants will evaluate their own beliefs. Does being a good person get someone into heaven?	18. Pray for participants to trust in the LORD with all of their hearts and not to rely on their own understanding. <i>Proverbs 3:5-6*</i>	19. Pray for students and adults who will be attending VBS. Ask God to open their hearts to hear His Word in a fresh and new way.	20. Pray that kids can see the love of Jesus through the leaders and adults at VBS. <i>John 13:35</i>	21. Pray participants will understand they have fallen short of the glory of God but are justified by His grace through redemption in Jesus Christ. <i>Romans 3:23-24*</i>	
22. Pray that the VBS Celebration provides a witnessing opportunity with parents and the community.	23. Pray that leaders and participants will evaluate their own beliefs. Are there many ways to get to heaven?	24. Ask God to help everyone serving in VBS to do everything with kindness and love. <i>1 Corinthians 16:14</i>	25. Pray that leaders will be able to use their time wisely in planning, studying, and preparing for their different roles in VBS.	26. Pray that all those involved in VBS will continue to seek God with all their hearts and grow in their relationships with Him.	27. Ask God to help participants understand that the only way to be saved is through Jesus. <i>Acts 4:12*</i>	28. Pray that your church's VBS will continue to bear fruit and glorify God. <i>John 15:8</i>	
29. Pray that leaders and participants will evaluate their own beliefs. Can you disagree with people and still love them?	30. Pray for participants to be encouraged to speak the truth in love so they become more and more like Christ. <i>Ephesians 4:15*</i>	31. Pray for unchurched guests to begin attending a worship service or Bible study after VBS.	NOTE Scripture references marked with an asterisk come directly from the Bible passages children will study during VBS.				

Bible Crossword X

Across

Down

- 1 Donkey (3)
- 2 Jesus' Father (3)
- 4 One of the twelve (9)

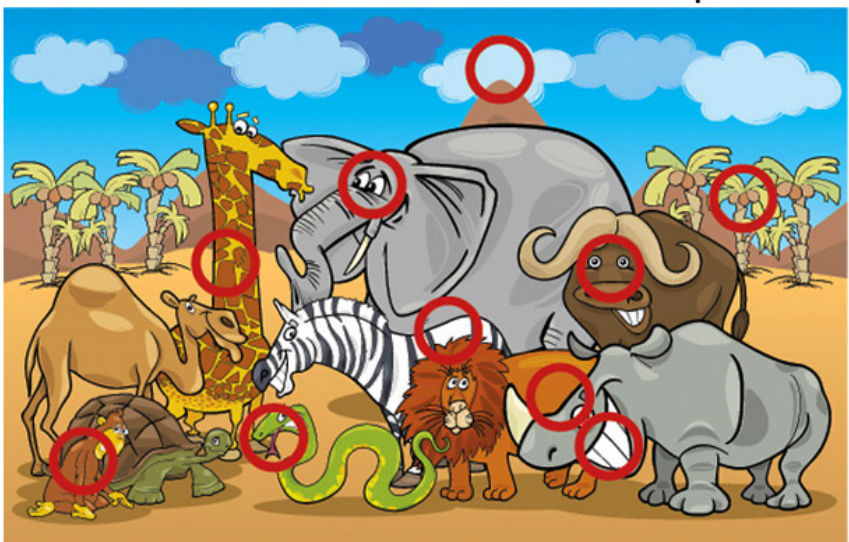
- 1 One of God's messengers (5,2,3,4)
- 3 1940s archaeological find (4,3,7)

4		5		6				7		8				9		10			11
12								13					14					15	
16													18					19	
20													21						

- 8 Didn't believe in resurrection (9)
- 12 One of David's warriors (5)
- 13 First word of the Lord's Prayer (3)
- 14 New Testament name for Noah (3)
- 15 Wish harm upon (5)
- 16 Hole in the ground (3)
- 17 Adversary (5)
- 18 Savour (5)
- 19 First woman (3)
- 20 Mother of John the Baptist (9)
- 21 Family of priests (9)
- 22 Third son of Jacob (4)
- 23 Hates (8)
- 26 Assurances (8)
- 30 Endured pain (8)
- 31 Return from the dead (4)
- 32 Intercessor (8)
- 35 Decorating (8)
- 39 Old Testament book of the Bible (4)
- 40 The prince of Rosh, Mesech and Tubal (3)
- 42 A wise insect (3)
- 44 Dwelling place of kings (6)
- 45 Make bigger (8)

- 4 Tread down (7)
- 5 Father of Jonah (7)
- 6 Very salty water bordering Israel (4,3)
- 7 Defensive structures (11)
- 8 Refuges (11)
- 9 Dirty (7)
- 10 Devout (7)
- 11 Pieces of money (7)
- 24 Used to listen (3)
- 25 Used to see (3)
- 26 Positions (5)
- 27 Made available (7)
- 28 Snake (7)
- 29 Destroyed along with Gomorrah (5)
- 33 Finish (3)
- 34 Possess (3)
- 35 King of the Amalekites (4)
- 36 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 37 Almost sacrificed by Abraham (5)
- 38 Present (4)
- 41 Unfasten (4)
- 43 Fish traps (4)

KIDS KORNER



Fist Southern Baptist Church

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