

July 2021

First Southern Baptist Church

A message from Pastor Brandon

It is Summertime and lots of people are headed on vacation. Maybe to the beach, mountains, or anywhere they enjoy getting some rest. We all need a time that we can rest and recuperate from the stresses of life.

Jesus gave us this promise this invitation and promise in Matthew 11:28 "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

We live in a world where people are overwhelmed, exhausted, stressed out, their minds and spirits broken down, and they are looking for something that can help them.

Jesus says come to Him and when we do, He offers us a rest that the world can never, that no vacation can ever give us. He gives us a rest for our souls. A rest from trying to earn His favor, a rest from sin and shame and guilt.

"I heard the voice of Jesus say,
"Come unto me and rest;
Lay down, thou weary one, lay down
Thy head upon my breast."

I came to Jesus as I was,
Weary and worn and sad;
I found in Him a RESTING PLACE,
And He has made me glad."

-Horatius Bonar

Will you come to Jesus and let Him give you the rest that your soul longs for?

The background of the entire page is a soft, painterly illustration of a flock of white sheep grazing in a green field. In the distance, there are blue-toned mountains under a light sky. The style is reminiscent of a watercolor or oil painting, with visible brushstrokes and a gentle, pastoral atmosphere.

MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

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

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	9:30 am
Sunday	10:45 am
Sunday	6:00 pm
Sunday	6:00 pm
Sunday	6:00 pm
Wednesday	6:00 pm
Wednesday	6:30 pm
Wednesday	7:00 pm



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FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH OF LA JUNTA

July Calendar

July 4, Friday -4th of July Happy Birthday AMERICA!

Stand by for hands needed- OCC work session to put together the sewing kits for girls:

July 7 Monday- will be in the morning. For exact time check with Wilma. Allow for a couple of hours.

Press On!

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:14

Of all the Israelites, perhaps no one strove harder to please God than Saul of Tarsus. Every area of his life conformed strictly to the Law. No one could accuse this respected Pharisee of lacking zeal. He was a man with a mission-a mission to please and serve God.

But on the road to Damascus, Saul's life changed entirely. From now on, he would no longer try to please God himself. Instead, he would press on with the goal of knowing Christ. "I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Philippians 3:8 (NIV emphasis added). Saul (now called Paul) had a new mission-a mission that remained constant amid ever-changing circumstances. It didn't matter whether he was preaching to a crowd or sitting in a damp prison. Paul now had one goal before which everything in his life bowed. Paul wanted to know his Lord.

How about you? Is knowing Christ-fellowshipping, trusting, and depending on Him-the goal toward which you're striving? Ask God to help you press on to know Him today.

From Christian Perspective.net

Ignoring the Bounty

Peter and his friend Josiah reclined under the shade of a tree. On the slope in front of them, Peter's flock of sheep grazed contentedly—well, most of the flock grazed contentedly. One little lamb did not graze at all.

Instead, the lamb had positioned itself at the very edge of the slope and lay looking out at other pastures, bleating softly, as if to say, "I wish I could be over there instead of here."

"Whatever is wrong with that lamb over there? It looks positively miserable!" Josiah asked his friend. He enjoyed learning all he could about shepherding on his visits.

Peter shook his head sadly and replied with a grieved yet infinitely compassionate voice, "That little lamb refuses to rejoice in what I have given her." "That doesn't make a lot of sense. Haven't you always given her what is best?" Josiah asked.

Peter nodded. "I always give my sheep exactly what they need. I brought this lamb to this pasture because this pasture has the nutritious grass she needs to grow strong. But she is convinced she would be happier feeding in other pastures. It saddens me, Josiah. That little lamb is missing out on the feast I have laid out for her."

Josiah looked over at the poor lamb who was making herself miserable by refusing to simply rejoice in what her shepherd had provided.

After pondering the situation for a moment, he thought of another question. "Do you ever feel like giving up on that lamb? I think I would lose patience pretty quickly with a lamb like that."

Peter stared at his friend in surprise. "Give up? How could I! I will go on caring for her and loving her no matter how she treats me. That's my lamb, and nothing can change that."

No one seeing the deep love in Peter's eyes at that moment could ever doubt his words. Josiah knew beyond a shadow of a doubt Peter would go on loving that poor little lamb. The only question was, would the lamb ever learn to rejoice in his love, or would she go on ignoring the bounty laid out before her?

"The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies."

Psalm 23:1,2,5



WHO PACKS YOUR PARACHUTE?

Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a Communist prison. He survived that ordeal and now lectures about lessons learned from that experience.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!"

"How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb.

"I packed your parachute," the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!"

Plumb assured him, "It sure did – if your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb couldn't sleep that night, thinking about that man. Plumb says, "I kept wondering what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform – a Dixie cup hat, a bib in the back, and bell bottom trousers. I wondered how many times I might have passed him on the Kitty Hawk. I wondered how many times I might have seen him and not even said 'Good morning, how are you,' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor."

Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the bowels of the ship carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute? Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day."

Take time out to encourage and thank the people who provide the parachutes in your life.

Church Notes

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

Women's Morning of Inspiration – SAVE THE DATE!

The 5th birthday celebration of the quarterly “Women’s Morning of Inspiration” will take place at the Valley Cowboy Church/La Junta on Saturday morning, September 13, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

The Wednesday Women of the Word (WWOW) bible study gals that meet each Wednesday evening at First Southern Baptist Church will be the hosts for the morning event.

The J6 Praying Grandma, Rebecca Lavrenz, will be presenting the morning’s inspirational message. “Grandma Lavrenz” spent six months in home confinement for her alleged participation in the 2021 Washington D.C. Capitol riot case. She is now back living a normal life operating her bed and breakfast outside Colorado Springs.

The event is free and open to all women and girls. Save the date! September 13, 2025 9AM

YOU can add to the newsletter!

Do you have anything for sale, fresh eggs, fresh beef, kids size clothing, a car? Let us know. Are you in the market, looking for something? A certain size of kids clothing, a source for fresh eggs, a used car? Let us know. We can get the word out and ask for you.

Would your kids like to tell a joke? Submit it. What kid wouldn't enjoy seeing their joke in print with their name by it?

Do you want to write about something that would be of interest to the church? Please write the article and submit it to us. We can put it in the newsletter. Articles will be "juried" for the content.

OCC-

Collecting small to medium size stuff animals.
Still looking for boys hats, only have about 25.

Save your see-through medicine bottles for OCC.

Always accepting cash for when items need to be ordered/brought.

NEED Shoe Boxes

Coming in August- collection will be school supplies

PIONEER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

With summer break in full swing, it is difficult – for kids, and parents alike - to think about the upcoming school year that will be starting in a couple of months. Are you happy with the education your students are receiving where they attend school now? Does the school curriculum align with your Christian and biblical world-view?

Are your students encouraged to think critically and strive for higher academic goals?

If you answered “no” to any of the above questions, you may want to check out Pioneer Christian School (PCS) – located on Road 22.5, between Swink and Rocky Ford.

PCS is a small, affordable K-12 school that strives for high academic standards while teaching classes with a view of the world from a biblical standpoint. PCS is an independent, inter-denominational Christian School that is affordable and offers students small class sizes; classmates and fellow students that respect their peers – and their instructors; daily Bible classes; and an atmosphere that promotes learning and growing in a Christian environment.

To learn more about PCS or to schedule a visit to the campus, please call 719.316.1128, or link to their website at pcseagles.org.

Proverbs 22:6 – “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

By Julie Worley



Hometown HEROES

of First Southern Baptist Church La Junta



What would we do without our “hometown heroes” and “first responders” who answer the emergency calls at all times of the day and night? The mere mention of the words, “first responder”, coupled with the sounds of sirens in the background, usually stirs up thoughts of “emergency”, “crisis”, “fire”, “tragedy”, “accident”, etc., etc. And what do we do when that happens? The answer to that question may be different for each one of us. The closer tragedy strikes, the more it causes us to ask the ultimate questions of life. When we face an unexpected crisis event, and as difficult and paralyzing as these events may be, those of us who know Christ must remember that we have answers. We probably won’t have all the answers; we will probably not have a specific answer as to why a particular tragic event happened, but we have ultimate answers nonetheless. Those of us who are believers know that tragedy and death are the result of the Fall and are the general curse of sin upon mankind and upon the world (Genesis 3). We know that God is always good, and even when we don’t have answers as to why a tragedy or crisis happened, we trust and believe the promise of Romans 8:28. And we can pray. However, in this sin-cursed world, trouble is inevitable, and there will be times of questioning. We must always be prepared spiritually for whatever may come – and that preparation happens on a daily basis. Daily prayer, bible study, meditation, and reflection on God’s good hand on everything will help us navigate through the tragedies of life – whenever they may come. And daily we can pray for our “hometown heroes” and “first responders” and we can pray whenever we hear the sirens. We appreciate what they do and will pray that they go out in the spirit of Joshua 1:9 – “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

By Julie Worley



2025 Vacation Bible School Was A Magnified Success!



First Southern Baptist Church (FSBC) was the place to be June 2nd – 6th, when Vacation Bible School (VBS) was held. With about 100 kids attending daily from many different Churches in the La Junta and Rocky Ford area, the Church was abuzz with activity.

Kathy Butler once again directed the VBS – as she has done for the past 23 years - and without the help of the volunteers, VBS would not have happened. There were 25-30 volunteers who helped at the Church during VBS, helping to teach the classes; watching over the kids as they made their crafts; leading the young people in the actions and words to the songs; refereeing games and activities; providing cookies and snacks that were devoured each day; and praying quietly at home for each day's activities.

Vacation Bible School has been a ministry of FSBC since the late 1960's, and hundreds of young people in SE Colorado have heard the Good News through participation in First Southern Baptist VBS. And this year was no exception, as seven young people accepted Christ during VBS this year.

By Julie Worley



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2025 VBS
THANK YOU KATHY and ALL
The VOLUNTEERS!



2025 VBS



2025 VBS PIE DAY

Pie to Pastor Brandon's face?
Well, at least it made it to the
top of his head!



KIDS KORNER



I ☐ choose ☐ to ☐ follow ☐ JESUS

I follow Jesus every day by

For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes.
Romans 1:16

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