

First Baptist Church  
1600 S. Main Street  
Lamar, Colorado 81052  
(719) 336-4953  
www.lamarfbc.org

# The MESSENGER

Volume 56 - November 2023

Non-Profit  
Organization  
US Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 71

Return Service Requested

## WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday

- ◆ 8:45a Sunday School for all ages
- ◆ 10:00a Sunday Worship

(We also offer live streaming at [lamarfbc.org](http://lamarfbc.org))

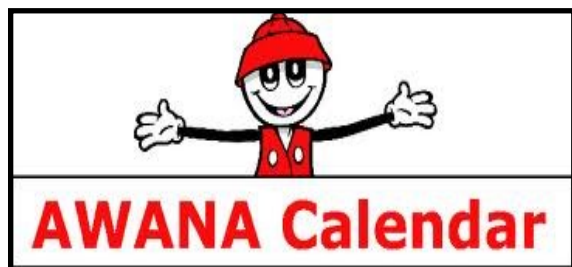
## BIBLE STUDIES

Wednesday

- ◆ 11:30a Wednesday Ladies Bible Study
- ◆ 6:30p Wednesday Adult Bible Study

## PROGRAMS

- ◆ AWANA CLUBS  
Sunday 5:00p-6:30p
- ◆ YOUTH GROUP  
Wednesdays 6:30p-8:00p



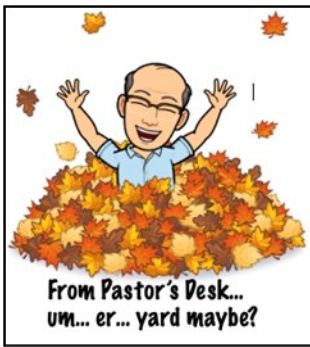
November 5	Veterans Day Night
November 12	OCC Shoebox Night
November 19	Thanks Night
November 26	Duct Tape Night



## **Food, Faith, & Fellowship**

There is NO Dinner Church in  
November or December!

Happy Holidays!



When we first moved to Lamar, I was in a conversation with a long time resident here in Lamar. I asked him, “So what is the Fall like around here?” His response? “Well, about 2 hours.” I still chuckle when I think of that conversation.

Fall has some wonderful attributes: such as cooler weather and the changing of the colors. I think one of the things I like the most about Fall is that there is an intrinsic slowing down of things. Plants slow down. Squirrels start foraging so that they can slow down. And if it weren't humanity's drive to push themselves to their brink (and also for early Christmas sales and promotions), we'd probably slow down too. It just feels kind of natural to take a little slower pace on walks and read more books with a blanket and a cup of something warm to drink.

My Dad had a problem with Fall. His favorite season was Spring. He loved to see things come alive. His favorite color was green because of Spring. To him, Fall felt like a deathblow to Spring and Summer. He even preferred the searing heat of summer and the frigid winds of winter over Fall. “It's just like I'm witnessing the beginning of the end,” he'd say. He didn't mind the changing colors. He just found the rest of it depressing.

My mom was an eternal optimist. Whatever the season was, she loved it. Her statement was, “Well, first of all, you can't change it so you might as well enjoy it, right?” And then she would go on to say something that has stuck with me ever since. “There would be no Spring without Fall. In fact, because we know God is faithful, in the midst of Fall, we can even celebrate Spring, because we know its coming, its just a matter of time.” That didn't convince Dad, but it is something that has stuck with me—and not just with weather patterns and seasons.

Some could argue that our world seems to be entering into a season of Fall—and not necessarily in a good way. Things are changing colors in our world but not pretty yellows and oranges. The economy is struggling in many different ways. Prices are up and even with that, some things that were commonly obtained are now not available at all. Morality has become more based upon selfish desires rather than Godly principles. Peoples are resorting to name calling and violence to achieve their goals. In places like Israel and Gaza and Russia and the Ukraine, people are losing their lives and their ability to sustain their life. And why? Those in power are seeking more power at the expense of the innocents.

I'm reminded of CS Lewis' book in his Narnia series, *The Silver Chair*, where the Pevensie children (Peter, Susan, Edmond, and Lucy) realize that they have been away from Narnia for a long time and during that time, the trees no longer communicate and many of the animals have gone feral. The magic of the land has dissipated to the point in which a sort of Fall that leads to a brutal winter is nye upon the land. I think of that point in the book a lot when I look at the world around me.

But then, the Holy Spirit gently shakes me and reminds me of three wonderful truths:

1. **Humanity has experienced worse in our history and God has faithfully carried us through then and will now as well.** If one looks through human history and sees the brutality against Christians that the Roman Empire and the Ottoman Empire had, one can clearly see why Christianity is exploding in places like China and Iran. God didn't give up then. God won't give up now. God was not overwhelmed then. God is not overwhelmed now. Jeremiah wrote in Judah's darkest hour—as they were being dragged out of burning Jerusalem, “Because of the Lord's great love, we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning. Great is Your faithfulness, O Lord!” (Lamentations 3:21-22)
2. **Everything is going to work out for the good even when evil tries its very best.** Even Satan has to get permission from Christ to do anything to us our around us. The tough stuff we face today or tomorrow? It has a God-ordained purpose to it. Hang in there. It will end up good one way or another. “All things work out for the good for those who love God and are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28) Even Job and all he went through would agree with that statement. He said, “I know that You [God] can do all things; no plan of Yours can be thwarted.” (Job 42:2)

(continued ...)

- 3. The presence of each Fall we experience means that the ultimate Spring yet to come.** Paul wrote of this Spring in 2 Corinthians 4:17, “For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.” Paul tells us more in 1 Thessalonians 4. These are his words.

“According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.” (1Thess. 4:15-17)

Jesus also said, “Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me. In my Father’s house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.” (John 14:1-3)

Fall means spring is coming. In that, there can be great hope. In the words of Polycarp as he faced execution by burning at the stake, “Eighty-six years have I served him and He has done me no wrong...” God causes all things—even evil things—to have a meaningful, blessed end to those who love him and are called according to His purpose. God has a wonderful outcome planned. In that, regardless of what happens around us—there is hope instead of fear, joy instead of despair, and peace instead of worry. So enjoy the colors of the literal Fall season. Enjoy the cooler weather. Enjoy the hopefully slower pace. Enjoy the soups and sweaters and warm blankets. Enjoy the coffee, tea or hot chocolate. And when you see the plants that succumb to the colder weather and brown become the dominant color, remember there is a message in all of this.

Spring is on its way!

In Christ.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Dave". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

### MISSION EMPHASIS FOR NOVEMBER 2023 Retired Ministers and Missionaries

RMMO provides financial support for ministers, missionaries and widowed spouses who have helped build and serve American Baptist churches and ministries for 15 years or more.

This offering supports those who have dedicated their lives to God’s service through the provision of emergency assistance and a “thank you” check at the end of the year.

This is the perfect opportunity to highlight the selfless contributions retired ministers and missionaries have made in our communities and around the world.

Thank you for so faithfully supporting our missions.

## Just A Reminder. These may be services/ministries that may benefit you or your family:



**RightNowMedia:** A streaming, Netflix-like service that provides 1000's of Bible Studies and family programming, free of charge to you. (Please see Pastor Evan to get signed up for this.)



**Colorado Christian University** offers up to a 20% discount for members of First Baptist Church of Lamar. Please see Pastor Darren for details.



**The Rev. Wayne and Beverly Fink Scholarship** offers \$1000 college scholarship for undergraduate studies awarded to two members of First Baptist Church each year renewable up to 4 years. Scholarship application deadline is April 1st. This scholarship can work in conjunction with the Wayne Fink Scholarship at Ottawa University but is not limited to just that institution. To apply, contact a Deacon or Pastor Darren.



**The Five Wishes:** An easy to use, step by step Medical Living Will template that can help you help your loved ones in the event you are struck with a medical emergency. It is legally binding in the State of Colorado. (Please see Kammie or Pastor Darren for this)



**AirMedCare Network** discount offered through the Lamar Ministerial Alliance (LCMA) Group to members of First Baptist Church or a member of any church in the LCMA. See Kammie for application.



Harvest Fest was a hit, and congratulations to all of our contest winners!

We've all heard the expression "practice makes perfect". That was certainly true with this year's Harvest Fest. We had well over 250 people in attendance. Families enjoyed the hay maze, pumpkin patch, bouncy houses, tram rides, games, and of course the abundance of good food. It took a lot of work and a lot of people to organize this big event. Just so we don't leave anyone out, we want to thank **EVERYONE** for their help in putting together this wonderful outreach project. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed an evening of fellowship and fun.



The Pumpkin Patch Youth Fundraiser has exceeded our expectations! We are very grateful for the adults and youth kids that showed up to help unload the truck on the 13th. I'm pretty sure no one envisioned what 800+ pumpkins looked like, or how heavy they could be. However, once the patch was open, watching the kids excitement as they got their face painted, took pictures at the different photo opportunities and picking out their own pumpkins, made it well worth the work. Several of the youth were invited to speak about their fundraiser on the radio during Anything Goes at KWAY. They did an awesome job representing our church. There is a drone video that John Gersick put together and posted on our church webpage. If you haven't seen it I encourage you to check it out. He did a very good job.



**October 1**

Sunday School.....	41
In Person Worship.....	111
Online.....	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>164</b>

Awana Club.....	62
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**October 8**

Sunday School.....	46
In Person Worship.....	121
Online.....	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>173</b>

Awana Club.....	47
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**October 15**

Sunday School.....	40
In Person Worship.....	138
Online.....	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>

Awana Club.....	42
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**October 22**

Sunday School.....	51
In Person Worship.....	125
Online.....	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>197</b>

**October 29**

Not recorded at time of publication

To our First Baptist Family,  
It's easy to be grateful when  
there are wonderful people  
like you in the world.

I appreciate my church family  
for the prayers for my family  
through the loss of my  
brother.

Thank you pastor for the message for his service. Thank you deaconess for the meal.  
My family was grateful for your servitude.

God Bless,  
The Mendenhall family.



deliver a difference

Anita is looking for a permanent drivers for Meals on Wheels on Thursday during the week that 1st Baptist delivers (usually 2nd full week). Time commitment is usually 9:45-11:30am. Subs are also needed to fill in for regular drivers, with usually 2-3 days notice. If you can help with this ministry call Anita at 719-940-1266 or contact the church office.



Every Saturday morning  
at 7:00am.

**Monthly Business Meeting**

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**Thanksgiving Meal**

November 12, 2023

Deaconess will be providing turkey, mashed potatoes and dressing. Pot luck items still needed are salads, rolls, vegetables, and desserts.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

FRIDAY-SUNDAY JANUARY 19 - 21

....DETAILS COMING SOON....

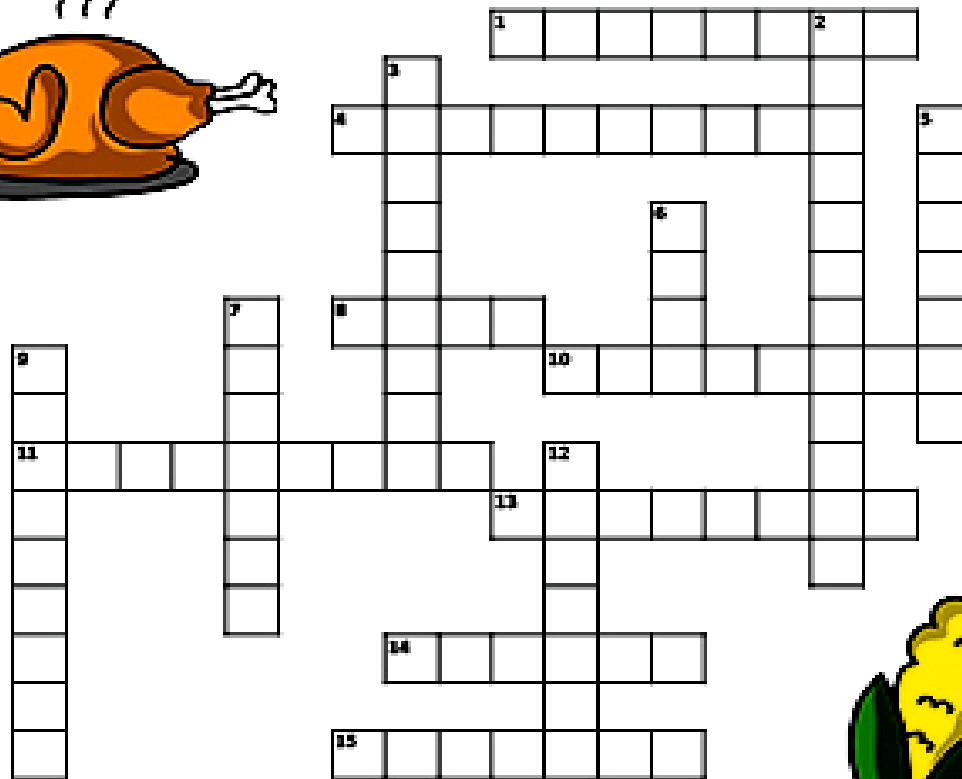
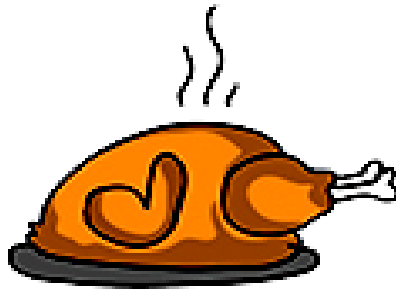


**WE'RE HEADING  
TO HORN CREEK**



# THANKSGIVING

## Crossword

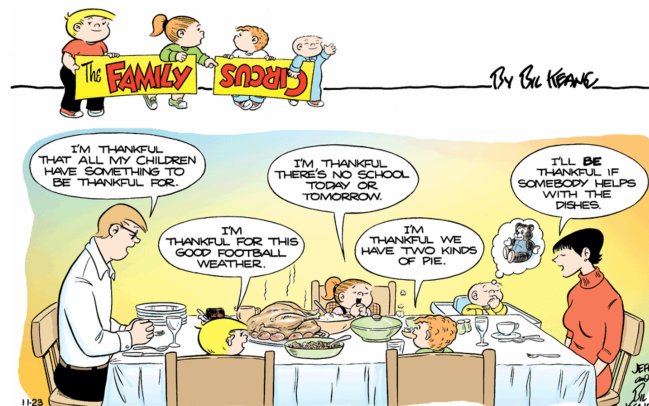


### ACROSS

1. First village established by the Pilgrims
4. Symbol of abundance and nourishment
8. An essential grain in the New World diet
10. Literally, travelers going to a holy place
11. The Pilgrims' boat
13. 16th and 17th century English Protestants
14. The traditional holiday bird
15. American Indian who taught the Pilgrims many things

### DOWN

2. 4th Thursday of November
3. A traditional American Indian dwelling
5. Gathering of crops
6. Season for harvesting
7. Country the Pilgrims left behind
9. Indigenous people who were present at the first Thanksgiving
12. Bright orange squash used to make pie



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

## Isaiah 40:27-31

Why do you **complain**, Jacob? Why do you say, **Israel**, “My way is **hidden** from the Lord; **my cause** is disregarded by my God”? Do you not **know**? Have you not **heard**? The Lord is the **everlasting** God, the **Creator** of the ends of the **earth**. He will not grow **tired** or weary, and his understanding no one can **fathom**. He gives **strength** to the weary and increases the **power** of the weak. Even **youths** grow tired and weary, and young men **stumble** and fall; but those who **hope** in the lord will renew their strength. They will **soar** on wings like eagles; they will **run** and not grow weary, they will **walk** and not be **faint**.