

First News



Thank You, Walter!

This Sunday as part of our 8:30 and 11:00 worship services, we will celebrate Walter Satchell for serving our church as an Associate Pastor for 20 years! Though he is heading into retirement, Walter and Jane will still be part of our church family as they serve, worship, and pray. I hope you will join us for one of these services, and I also hope you will stop by the reception that will take place during the Sunday morning Bible study hour. It will be a Sunday to give thanks to God for Walter, and to commit to praying for



Congratulations Class of 2026!

High School:



Kaylee Briggs

Menchville High School
Future Plans: Christopher Newport University

him and Jane as he enters retirement and the health journeys that follow.

I want to take a moment to say thank you to Walter. There are not enough words in one article to share the gratitude I have in my heart for Walter's life and ministry, and yet, I must do what I can, though I will leave so much unsaid.

Thank you for welcoming me. From the first day you and I met, you embraced me as a pastor and friend. It was not easy. We come from different generations. We had and have different perspectives on many things. We faced hard decisions together and sometimes, we came down in different places. Your commitment to support and welcome never wavered. After a while, we hit our stride. We became more than colleagues. We became friends. Thank you for sticking with me. Thank you for embracing me.

Thank you for praying for me. More times than I can count, you came into my office and prayed over me. In my presence you prayed for my wife and children. You prayed for encouragement, wisdom, and love. You prayed for strength. No one else has ever prayed for me like this. Thank you.

Thank you for the conversations. We talked so many times in your office, in my office, and at Vinny's. Some were times where we simply "shot the breeze." Other times, we worked through hard conversations and came to understandings and solutions. Many times, you gave me insight into our church family I could not find any other way. You helped me so many times. I hope I helped you as well.

Thank you for your kindness when you were right. Most of the time, we



Sebastian Cabrera

Warwick High School
Future Plans: Virginia Tech



William Campbell Corbitt, Jr.

Gloucester High School

were on the same or similar pages with our decisions, but sometimes, we disagreed. A lot of those times, your way ended up being the right way. You never once said, "I told you so." You never held it against me when I made a mistake or messed up. You were always gracious. You let me learn. Thank you for being kind and compassionate when you were right.

Thank you for your humility when you were wrong. Sometimes when we disagreed, it turned out that I was right. Thank you for your humility and willingness to own the times you were wrong. I hope I was as kind and compassionate to you as you were to me whenever I made a mistake.

Thank you for your willingness to keep growing. I have enjoyed our talks about theology and how God works in the world. I am amazed how you continue to read articles, books, and authors who challenge and reshape your thinking. Thank you for stretching your mind with new thoughts rather than satiating your brain with resources that merely confirm what you already think.

Thank you for your humor. Your jokes, laughter, and teasing all create a spirit of warmth and comfort. Your wit and joy help people relax. Thank you for your humor that brings smiles to our faces, especially when you are wearing the hot dog hat.

Thank you for the birthday songs. Until I met Walter, I never knew "Happy Birthday" had so many key changes! I have heard him sing the song so many times. I do, however, have a favorite. In 2017, my family was in Atlanta for the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship General Assembly. We were walking along the street when James' phone rang. His face lit up into a huge grin and he started laughing.

Future Plans: Career in Plumbing and Welding



Shawn Gurganus

Menchville High School
Future Plans: James Madison University to pursue a degree in Statistics with a minor in Music



Chris Mowery

We could hear Walter singing from the phone speaker. It was James' 16th birthday.

Thank you for your encouragement. On good days and hard days, you are ready with an uplifting word. On many days, God used your words to keep me moving forward. Your words to give voice to perseverance. Thank you.

And finally,

Thank you for being my friend. Thank you for caring about me. Thank you for loving me. Thank you for loving our people with fervor and grace. Thank you for being such a faithful partner in the ministry of First Baptist Church of Newport News. Your employment will end; our friendship will not. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Randy



End of the School Year Cookout

Join us June 3rd for hot dogs and hamburgers fresh off of the grill, chips, drinks, and ice cream sandwiches, bounce houses, games, fun, and fellowship. Invite your friends!

Menchville High School
Future Plans: Virginia Peninsula Community College to play baseball and pursue a degree in Athletic Training from a four-year university



Nola Toms

Menchville High School
Future Plans: Christopher Newport University to study Neuroscience with the goal of becoming a Neuro-Physician Assistant



Sarah Spitzer

Menchville High School
Future Plans: Virginia Tech to study Human Development with a minor in Music



First Baptist Preschool Graduation

First Baptist Preschool held a graduation ceremony for rising kindergarteners last Wednesday, May 20th. Thursday, May 21st was the last day of preschool for the school year. Congratulations to all of the teachers and preschoolers for making this another wonderful year to learn!



Gael Vidales

Warhill High School
Future Plans: Virginia Peninsula
Community College



Luke Woodard

Menchville High School
Future Plans: Randolph Macon College
to study Engineering and pursue
baseball career



As we continue our **Shine The Light Giving Campaign**, we're reminded of Jesus' call to "let your light shine before others." Our Sanctuary lighting system has served us well, but it is aging, inefficient, and increasingly difficult to maintain. This campaign will allow us to install a modern, energy-efficient LED lighting system that will brighten our worship space and support our ministry for years to come.

Pledge cards are now available at the Welcome Center, and you may place completed cards in the **donation boxes located in the Sanctuary** on Sunday mornings. Also, **10% of everything we raise will support mission projects beyond our walls**, extending Christ's light into our community and the world. Please continue praying for this effort. **Every gift helps us shine Christ's light more brightly within our church and throughout our community.**



College:



Laura Davis

Old Dominion University
Bachelor of Science
Clinical Psychology and Community Health
Currently working in an urgent care setting with future plans of attending PA school



Benjamin Wilkes Hertzler

Jewelry Making Fundraiser for Passport Kids Camp

Join us for an afternoon of creativity on June 6 at 2pm as Kathy van Rijn shows us how to make beautiful bracelets and earrings. All supplies will be provided. Enjoy refreshments, fellowship, and fun while supporting a meaningful cause.

Please RSVP to Sharon Hertzler at shertzler@fbcnn.org.



VBS Preparation is Underway!

VBS is July 27-31, 2026, 9am-12:15pm. Click on the Amazon Wishlist button below if you would like to purchase something from our Wishlist to help alleviate costs.

You can also register for VBS by clicking on the corresponding button to get your chance to be "Exploring the Nature of God!"

We also need donations of approximately five 5-gallon buckets, and large appliance size cardboard boxes. Thank you as always for your generosity!

Virginia Peninsula Community College
Associate of Science
Computer Science
Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science
in Computer Science at Virginia Tech



Michael Lee Mason

James Madison University
Bachelor of Arts
Political Science and Philosophy



Samuel Shepley

Amazon Wishlist

Register for VBS!

Belmont University
Bachelor of Arts
English and Faith & Social Justice

Additional News from FBCNN

Upcoming Events

May 27 - Red Cross Blood Drive in memory of Campbell Webb in Payne Fellowship Hall 1-6pm, [click here to sign up to donate](#)

May 29 - Youth BARF (Bring A Real Friend) will be coming here 6:30-9pm for a time of fun, games, and devotions.

May 31 - Retirement Celebration for Walter Satchell in Payne Fellowship Hall during Sunday Bible Study time; take a few moments to wish him well!

June 3 - Our annual End of the School Year Cookout will be held starting at 5pm in the back parking lot, ballfield, and playground. There will be food, inflatables, games, and more! Come join the fun!

June 6 - Passport Kids Camp Fundraiser (see article above for more information)

June 7 - One combined service at 11am led by our youth and honoring our graduates. There will not be a service at 8:30, but Sunday Bible Study will occur at the usual time.

Support the Mission Through Your RMD Contributions

As you plan your financial giving this year, we invite you to consider directing



The Best Christmas Pageant Ever is Coming to FBCNN

In a joint effort with Denbigh United Presbyterian Church, we will be putting on the play, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!, December 4th and 5th in our sanctuary. If you would like to try out for a part, there will be casting calls on Wednesday, June 24th from 6pm to 7:30pm, and Sunday, June 28th from 12:30pm to 1:30pm. People of all ages are needed! To learn more about this production and to reserve a casting time click [here](#).



Let's Celebrate Our Graduates and Our Youth

On June 7, we will have Youth Sunday and Graduate Recognition at a special combined worship service at 11am.

your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement account to support the ministries of First Baptist Church.

If you are age 73 or older and have a traditional IRA, you are required to withdraw a minimum amount each year from your RMD. By making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly to the church, you can fulfill your RMD requirement while reducing your taxable income. It is a meaningful and tax-efficient way to support the church's mission.

There will not be an 8:30 service and Sunday Bible Study will occur at the usual time.

Make a financial contribution to FBCNN today by clicking on the Donate link.

Donate

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, May 31 at 8:30am and 11am! Rev. Randy Shepley will be leading us in worship.

The Sunday worship services are streamed directly to our [website](#) and can be accessed by clicking on **Upcoming Live Stream** tab located on the home page. If you miss a service, you can click on **Sermon Library** in the **Resources** tab to select the service you missed. (Services are listed in chronological order with the most recent on top.)

The following is a list of weekly events. Learn more about children's events on Facebook and youth events on their Instagram page-@fbcnnyouth.

Sundays

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Children's Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Infant-Preschool Bible Study
- 9:45 a.m. Youth Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
- 11:00 a.m. Extended Session - infants through age 4
- 11:00 a.m. Hispanic Bible Study
- 12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

Wednesdays

- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. K-Motion & Youth

6:30 p.m. Hispanic Prayer and Bible Study
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

Thursdays

10:00 a.m. Swingin' Singers

Click on the button below to watch the 8:30am or 11am worship service from May 24th.

May 24

Staff Contact Info

Randy Shepley, Senior Pastor, rshepley@fbcnn.org

Juan Garcia, Associate Pastor Hispanics, jgarcia@fbcnn.org

Walter Satchell, Associate Pastor Pastoral Care, wsatchell@fbcnn.org

Lesley Spitzer, Associate Pastor Worship and Creative Arts, [lspitzer@fbcnn.org](mailto:lsplitzer@fbcnn.org)

Monica Garcia, Financial Coordinator, monica@fbcnn.org

Sharon Hertzler, Director of Children and Preschool Ministry, shertzler@fbcnn.org

John Irving, Director of Choral Ministry, jirving@fbcnn.org

Nikki Reid, Executive Assistant, nikki@fbcnn.org

Lindsay Rew, Preschool Director, preschool@fbcnn.org

Church Office: 757-930-0911



**First Baptist Church Newport News | fbcnn.org
12716 Warwick Boulevard | Newport News, VA 23606 US**