

First Baptist Church of Oakville
6741 Telegraph Road,
St. Louis, MO, 63129



JOHN'S JOTS

I love September!! I love watching as God turns green to gold in nature. Apples are ripe and pumpkins are growing. September is a month of **New Beginnings**. The weather begins to moderate and the leaves begin to change color. After the heat and increased activities of Summer, I enjoy that September seems to settle things down, and get things ready for the change of the season. Cold weather is coming, but not quite yet. Wow! I enjoy September.

Speaking of New Beginnings—we plan to begin Sunday School September 5th, after waiting for 17 months. We will also begin Sunday evening worship on September 12th, with our Quarterly Business Meeting. More enjoyably, we also will begin Sunday evening fellowship meals that night. I plan to resume Wednesday prayer meeting & Bible Study in September. And John has announced choir rehearsals will resume. Unfortunately, **Kidz Kollege** will not resume just yet—Covid is still a reality.

The Rheubin South State Mission Offering is in September. The theme this year is **They first gave themselves to the Lord.** We will share videos each Sunday, sharing about the multiple ministries that are being done across our state. Please pray about what God would lead you to give for these important Missouri ministries. We will distribute a prayer guide later this month, and offering envelopes will be available.

Please note our Quarterly Business Meeting is Sunday evening, September 12th. One very important item is the Nominating Committee report of officers and committees for the coming year. Many members of our Church use their spiritual


gifts in many ways at FBC. Some are continuing faithfully to teach or serve as they have in the past. Others are beginning a new opportunity to serve our Church and the Lord. What is your **ministry** at FBC? In that business meeting, we also can anticipate an update from the Vision Committee on the status of our new building, and a report from the Pastor Search Committee on their progress in seeking the next Pastor for FBCO. I appreciate the work these groups are doing.

On a personal note, I am praying about the next several weeks, and the conclusion of what has been a wonderful blessing and a joy to me—my ministry as your pastor. Over the past 14 years, you have given me the privilege of rejoicing with you, and weeping with you. We have experienced victories and losses, blessings and disappointments, together as a family. I have had the blessed privilege of baptizing many, preaching funerals for some, and celebrating weddings for a few. As your pastor, I have lost a daughter and I have buried my wife. You have loved and prayed for me and for my family through it all. And you have embraced Barb as my wife and prayed God's blessing on us in our marriage. I have found a renewed sense of joy in her love and my life. And I am convinced that this is the right time for me to step aside, and help you welcome another to be your Pastor. I do regret some unfinished agendas in my ministry with you, and some unclaimed blessings we might have shared. But all in all, it has been a wonderful journey, and I will be forever grateful to God and you for the privilege of being your Pastor, and the times we have shared. Over the next several weeks, I look forward to sharing a Word from the Lord with you. God has something to say. Pray for me as we seek to hear it.

Gratefully Your Pastor,

Pastor John

Remembering September 11th
Lest We Forget


September

Margie Bishop, Denise Willoughby.....	1
Hayden Bennett, Jill Brumbaugh, Lisa Muser....	3
Debbie Handrahan.....	4
Deb Pezzo.....	6
Frances Lavall.....	7
Ernie Downs.....	9
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Jesse & Kaite Kuhlmann.....	20
Robin Sullivan.....	21
Barb Hessel.....	22
Jane Menzel.....	24
Janola Rigsby.....	25
David Nappier.....	26
Susan Lauer, Kim Emmons.....	27
Ed Maness.....	28
Cindy Stack.....	29

God Bless You on Your Birthday!

Coming In September

Happy Labor Day!.....	6
Deacon's Meeting.....	8
W.M.U. Meeting.....	11
Church Council Meeting.....	12
Business Meeting.....	12
Autumn Begins.....	22

Join us for Worship
Sunday School—9:00
Worship -10:15 am

GWEN'S Gallery

NEW LIBRARY HOURS!!

Beginning on Sunday, September 5, the library will be open from 8:45 in the morning until 10:05 am. **Please come by and check it out!**

The Seeds of Change by Lauraine Snelling

Larkspur Nielsen is ready for change, frustrated by the small-mindedness of her Ohio hometown and its lack of opportunity for her or her younger sisters. But the push to leave comes faster than she ever expected when several of her bold actions for justice earn her vindictive enemies. Overnight, they must pack up and ready to make a new life out West, hoping to escape notice and any opportunities for revenge.

Knowing that four women traveling together will draw unwanted attention, Larkspur dons a disguise, passing herself off as "Clark" Nielson accompanying his three sisters. But maintaining the ruse is more difficult than Larkspur imagined, as is protecting her headstrong, starry-eyed sisters from difficult circumstances and available young men. Will reaching a safe place to call home ever be possible.

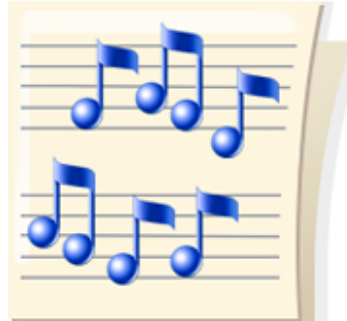
Finding Wings by Deborah Raney

Being the youngest of three sisters isn't always easy for Britt Chandler, especially when her older sisters have successful lives and hers is still on hold. She put everything aside to care for their dying mother, but now their mother is gone. Just as Britt's life finally has a chance to blossom, her sister is ordered on bed rest during a difficult pregnancy, and it looks like God is again calling Britt to be a family caregiver—and nothing more.

Rafe Stuart is unable to forgive himself for a childhood mistake with grave repercussions. No matter how many lives he saves as a first responder, he can't ever seem to do enough penance to free his soul from the decades-old tragedy. There definitely isn't room in his wounded heart for love; it's much too dangerous.



A Note from Minister of Worship John Gorse



Greetings Everyone,

As September rolls in I am reminded again how quick time moves by, and we need to take full advantage of it. It's hard to imagine that on September 11 this year it has been 20 years since the 9/11 terrorist attacks upon our country. It's one of those events that we all know where we were when we heard of the attacks and the tragedies that followed. May we never forget the incredible loss of life that was suffered on that day.

On a more positive note, it is exciting to have our Sunday morning Bible Study/Sunday School starting back up Sunday morning September 5 at 9:00 AM and the morning service will start at 10:15. It is great to be able to resume some of our ministries and services and classes as we begin to shake off some of the effects of the pandemic that has drastically limited and restricted our church over the last 17 months or so.

I am very excited to announce that on Wednesday September 8 we are going to resume Gods Choir at Oakville's choir practice at 7:30 in the choir room. I would like to invite everyone to come as we reacquaint ourselves and to organize and plan what our choir we be like post pandemic. My hope and desire is we will be able to have a Christmas Cantata this year. Obviously, we will always take in consideration any changes and developments on the pandemic front and adapt accordingly. Feel free to come and join whether you have ever been in a choir before or not. We would love to have you.

I would like announce that our Holy Ghost Praise Band and our tech team and sound and video crew is always looking for players and volunteers. Please contact Tony Pezzo or me if you are interested. I would like to thank Jamie Donnelly for his fine work and joining the video and sound crew and for Hope and Faith Schnarr for being a part of the Praise Team and Band. On a personal note I would like to thank Francis Lavall for her dedication and excellent work on the tech team for several years and for taking control and learning the new camera system and producing the video content that has been live streamed over Facebook Live, YouTube Live and our FBCO website. She has been such a blessing in her serving God at FBCO. We wish her the best as continues her studies away at school and look forward to her return. See you in the services or online.

We Serve an Almighty God and I LOVE YOU ALL,

John Gorse

Operation Christmas Child

Boxes due by November 14

Contact Linda Downs for information.



Kidz Praise . . .

In September, Kidz Praise will be learning about Elijah and Elisha from 1 and 2 Kings. The main question we will be answering is, "how many gods are there?" We know there is only one true God. The evidence will be clear as we read and learn about these two prophets. Our main verse of focus is Isaiah 42:8 - *I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not yield my glory to another or my praise to idols.*

We praise God by loving one another, and we show that love through RESPECT.



Cyndi Harmon