



"Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God"

# First Matters

Cleveland First Baptist Church

October 2026

## Ministers and Staff

**Dr. Phil Weaver**  
Senior Pastor  
pweaver@firstcleveland.com

**Rev. Dennis Turner**  
Associate Pastor  
of Senior Adults  
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**Rev. Manning Minton**  
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Children's Director  
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**Mr. Terry Goodger**  
Financial Administrator  
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**Mrs. Sue Massey**  
Church Organist

**Mrs. Bethany Beck**  
Church Pianist

**Mrs. Terry Trimble**  
Custodian

**Contact Information**  
First Baptist Church  
25 Church Street  
Cleveland, Georgia 30528  
Office: 706-865-2933  
www.firstcleveland.com

**Office Hours**  
Monday – Thursday  
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM



**CLEVELAND  
FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH**

# FALL FESTIVAL

**Free event for the whole family!**

**FOOD - DRINKS - CANDY - GAMES - INFLATABLES**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25**  
**4:00 - 6:00 PM**

**25 CHURCH STREET, CLEVELAND, GA**  
**[www.firstcleveland.com](http://www.firstcleveland.com)**

## Volunteers Needed.

If you are interested in hosting a trunk game, please contact Donnie Filaski or Manning Minton.

We are accepting candy donations, which may be placed in the designated collection bin in the Welcome Center.



**Dr. Phil Weaver**  
Senior Pastor

### **"The Danger of Wearing Masks"**

October is a month when we see plenty of masks. Children may dress up for fall festivals, costume parties, and other seasonal activities. For a few hours, pretending to be someone else can be part of the fun. But there's another kind of "mask" that's far more dangerous—especially for Christians.

Jesus repeatedly confronted the religious leaders of His day for wearing "spiritual masks." He called them "hypocrites." The Greek word translated "hypocrite" originally referred to an actor or stage performer—someone who played a part, usually by wearing a mask. Over time, the term came to describe someone whose outward appearance didn't match the reality within.

Jesus said of the scribes and Pharisees, "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness" (Matthew 23:28). In other words, they "looked" spiritual. They knew the right words and performed the right religious activities. But Jesus could see behind the mask!

The danger is we can do the same thing. We can wear our "church face" on Sunday morning while hiding anger, bitterness, doubt, temptation, brokenness, or sin. We can answer, "I'm doing great!" when inside we're struggling. We can become more concerned about appearing spiritual before people than actually walking with God.

Dan Schaeffer addressed this danger in his book *Faking Church: The Subtle Defection*. He wrote, "We're all faking church to some degree." His concern was what happens when simply "going through the motions" replaces a genuine relationship with God. Schaeffer's challenge remains simple but penetrating: "It's time to get real again with God." That begins by taking off the mask!

God isn't impressed by appearances, and we can't fool Him anyway! David prayed, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my anxious thoughts" (Psalm 139:23). John reminds us, "If we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another" (1 John 1:7). The church shouldn't be a place where "perfect" people pretend to have everything together. It should be a place where redeemed people honestly pursue Christ together.

So, this October, while you enjoy seeing children wearing their masks, allow those masks to remind you of a more important question: Am I wearing one, too? If so...Take it off. Be genuine. Be honest. Be true—not only to yourself, but true before God and true before others. Remember, God isn't looking for better actors. He's looking for authentic followers of Jesus.

I'm blessed to serve you and to serve with you!  
Pastor Phil

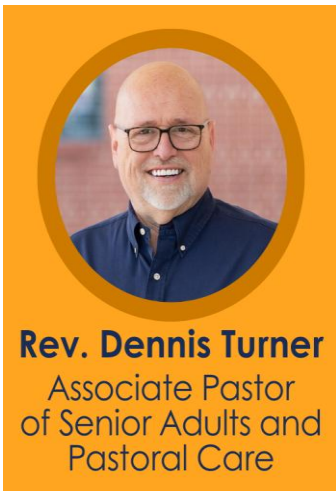
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**HIGH**  
*Attendance*  
**DAY!**  
**OCTOBER 4**

**Classes for EVERYONE!**

**Cleveland First Baptist Church**  
*Growing in Faith. Serving in Love. Sharing the Gospel.*

**GROW TOGETHER in Faith**

**HOLY BIBLE**



I want to share my deep appreciation with all of you for making my vacation and birthday last month so incredibly special. Thank you so much for the thoughtful phone calls, texts, cards, and gifts—each one made me feel deeply loved and cared for. You are an exceptional congregation, and I constantly praise the Lord for placing me in such a wonderful church.

As you read this, I am with a group of our seniors on St. Simons Island. We have looked forward to this time of fellowship as we enjoy the beauty of the Georgia coast. Everyone on this trip would be so grateful for your prayers for safe travels, good health, and God's hand of protection over us. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you upon our return. I extend a special thank you to Jennifer Wollett for driving the bus for us on this trip. She is greatly appreciated!

### **Family Promise Ministry**

A huge thank you to the amazing volunteers who wrapped up our final Family Promise rotation of the year by serving meals at the Promise House. Thank you to: Loretta Brooks, Rachel Carpenter, Jennifer Fox, BarBara Goodger, Becky Mullins, Margie Nash, Coleda Phillips and Karen Skidmore. Also, thanks to Co-coordinator, Lauren Stanley, for her willingness to assist with this ministry.

To everyone who participated in this ministry over the course of this year, thank you for your unwavering commitment and generous spirit. Your efforts have been a true blessing, and I look forward to another wonderful year as we partner with Family Promise in 2027.

### **Funeral Meal Ministry**

Thank you to those who have given to this ministry recently. We continue to accept funds to ensure we can keep serving families in their time of need. If you feel led to give above your regular tithe, please note "Funeral Meal" on your offering envelope or digital giving method. Thank you for your generosity as we share Christ's love with families during a most difficult time.

### **AARP Smart Driver classroom course**

We will be offering the AARP Smart Driver Class here at the church on Thursday, October 15, from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM. You may be eligible for a 10% discount on your auto insurance if you complete this course. The Smart Driver course will refresh your driving skills and knowledge of the rules of the road. Learn techniques for handling left turns, right-of-way and roundabouts, as well as proven driving methods to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road.

The cost for the course is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. You can bring a bag lunch or purchase one of the box lunches that will be available for \$10.00.

Curt Frederick, a friend of mine from back when I sang with the Sons of Jubal, will be leading the course. Curt is a great guy, and you will enjoy getting to know him and his wife on that day.

I am looking forward to taking this course and hopefully saving some money on my insurance. I hope you will consider taking it too, if you think it will benefit you.

See me or contact the church office for more information or to sign up. ☞

## **AARP SMART DRIVER CLASS**

➡ **Cleveland First Baptist Church**  
**Thursday, October 15 | 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

➡ **Cost is \$20 for AARP members and \$25 for non-members. \$10 optional box meal.**

➡ **Contact the church office to signup.**



Dear Church family,

We are so excited to share that we now have 71 students signed up, and we are averaging around 50 students each week! God is blessing our club, and we are having so much fun getting to know the children and sharing Jesus with them. ❤️

Our current curriculum is "Jesus: God Who Cares for People." Over the first six weeks, the students will be learning three important memory verses: John 3:16, John 3:17, and John 3:36. We are excited to see what God will teach them through these lessons!

We are still in need of Blow Pop suckers for our club, and most importantly, PRAYERS! 🙏

A huge thank-you to everyone who has signed up to be part of our Prayer Warriors list. I will begin sending out prayer reminders soon so we can all be praying together for our students, volunteers, and the message of Jesus being shared each week.

Thank you all for your continued prayers, encouragement, and support of this ministry. We are getting settled in, finding our rhythm, and—most importantly—having lots of fun while sharing the love of Jesus! ❤️

Thank you for being a part of the Good News Club family!

Jennifer Wollett  
Director

## WEAR YOUR FAITH SHARE HIS LOVE

Church members are encouraged to wear this shirt and engage in Gospel conversations leading up to Easter 2027.

- BOLD MESSAGE**  
A powerful reminder that He Lives!
- INSPIRING DESIGN**  
A timeless scene of hope and redemption.
- COMFORT & QUALITY**  
Soft, breathable fabric perfect for everyday wear.

# WHITE COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

## 2027 EVANGELISTIC EMPHASIS

# Ask Me How I Know He Lives!

**FRONT DESIGN**

**BACK DESIGN**

*Let's spread the hope of the resurrection together—  
one conversation, one life at a time.*

**GREAT FOR**

CHURCH
 OUTREACH
 GIFTS
 EVERYDAY WEAR

**ONLY \$10.00 PER SHIRT | ADD \$2.00 FOR PLUS SIZES**

**LEADING HEARTS TO  
EASTER 2027**

Ask. Share. Lead.

**HE IS RISEN! HE IS ALIVE!**

# SENIOR Adults

## Grand Adults – CFBC Senior Adult Ministry

### **Luncheons – Good Food and Great Fellowship.**

#### **Thursday, October 8, 11:30 AM – Guest Speaker**

The superintendent of the White County School System, Dr. Jonathan Stribling, will be our guest speaker for our October luncheon. This luncheon will be a covered-dish meal as usual, with a twist – we will have a Banana Split Bar with chocolate, caramel, and strawberry toppings, whipped cream, chopped nuts and cherries, and of course, bananas and ice cream.

### **Laurel Lodge – Grand Friends.**

#### **•Thursday, October 15, 1:30 PM – 2:30 PM – Gift bags by Marie Belcher and Loretta Brooks**

Come join us for a visit with our friends at Laurel Lodge! Each month, we spend some time with the residents singing some of their favorite hymns and songs, sharing a short devotional, visiting, laughing, and just enjoying being together. We also take a little gift bag for each resident.

You don't have to come every month to be a part of this. If you have some time and would like to come along, we'd love to have you! It's always a fun time, and it's amazing how a little time spent together can mean so much. We always leave with a smile—and usually feeling like we were the ones who received the blessing!

A huge thank-you goes to our faithful volunteers who give their time each month and to everyone who donates items for the gift bags. Your generosity helps make this ministry possible! If you'd like to learn more or join us, see Pastor Dennis.

### **Upcoming Trips – Come Along for the Fellowship.**

#### **•Thursday, October 22 – Hamrick's, Anderson, South Carolina – Depart at 8:00 AM.**

This is one of our popular annual trips, so come along and spend the morning shopping at Hamrick's during their popular Bus Week! Everyone will receive a 10% off coupon, and Bus Week features additional store specials. We will stop for lunch around 1:30 PM, followed by more shopping before returning home. Seating is limited to twenty-six passengers, so reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Be sure to sign up early to reserve your seat! (We will stop in Lavonia for a restroom break at McDonald's.)

# CFBC VOLUNTEERS

## Childcare – Nursery Volunteers

**October 4** – Marsha Adkins, Brandi Filaski

**October 11** – Tonya & Samantha Palmour, Lauren Stanley

**October 18** – Nan Bowen, Margaret Owens

**October 25** – Kim Barrett, Wilma Pittman

**November 1** – Kayla Frederick, Courtney Ramey

**November 8** – Margie Nash, Pam Walden

**November 15** – Doris Beck, Sherry Neff

**November 22** – Marsha Adkins, Nina Dodson

**November 29** – Tonya & Samantha Palmour, Lauren Stanley

## Greeters

**October** – Gary and Marsha Adkins

**November** – Sam and Wendy Pelletier

## Intercessory Prayer Volunteers

**October 4** – Coleda Phillips

**October 11** – Leon and Barbara Pirkle

**October 18** – John and Susan Reynolds

**October 25** – Joyce Schofill

**November 1** – Frank and Martha Senkbeil

**November 8** – Linda Smith

**November 15** – Loretta Brooks

**November 22** – Norma Holeman

**November 29** – Pat McDuffie

## Wednesday Night Fellowship Meals Crews

**October** – George and Linda Bartlett, Jerry and Nita Battle, Alex and Marie Belcher, Bob and Sonja Waddell.

**November** – Sue Massey, Margaret Owens, Wilma Pittman, Linda Smith

## Volunteers to Lock up Church

**October** – Nate Carpenter, Lee Underwood

**November** – Alex Belcher, John Reynolds

## New Deacon Officers

We welcome Chairman Dr. Sam Pelletier; Vice-Chair Ricky Barrett; and Secretary John Reynolds as the 2026-2027 officers.



|       |                                   |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 10/2  | Terry Roberts                     |
| 10/4  | Nan Bowen                         |
| 10/5  | Ruth Black                        |
| 10/6  | Toni Mundy                        |
| 10/7  | Tricia Hamilton<br>Buddy Waldrep  |
| 10/8  | Don Stanley                       |
| 10/11 | Bill Bryan                        |
| 10/14 | Carol Bailey                      |
| 10/15 | Mitchell Martin<br>Manning Minton |
| 10/16 | Megan Gailey<br>Heather Wilkerson |
| 10/17 | Jimmie Brown                      |
| 10/19 | Beverly Cook                      |
| 10/20 | Karen Ondera                      |
| 10/21 | Braxton Frederick                 |
| 10/23 | Kaleb Gauntt                      |
| 10/26 | Doris Beck                        |
| 10/28 | Conchita Black                    |
| 10/31 | Deb Forman<br>Kat Harris          |

*If your birthday was accidentally left off this list, call the church office at 706-865-2933.*



### **Shoes for JP Nix School**

Thank you for all the shoes that have been donated this year. We continue to collect new or gently used children's shoes in good condition of any size for elementary students in need.

### **White County Food Pantry**

October is World Hunger Month. They are collecting any non-perishable item. You may place them in the container in the welcome center.

### **Operation Christmas Child**

During October we are collecting money to pay for the cost of shipping the boxes.

Thank you in advance.

Don't miss out!

# UPCOMING YOUTH & COLLEGE/CAREER EVENTS

Mark Your  
Calendars!

## MISSIONS IN HELEN, GA

Saturday,  
October 24th

## FOLD OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD BOXES

Wednesday,  
November 11th

## FRIENDSGIVING

Wednesday,  
November 18th

## YOUTH BONFIRE & PUMPKIN DECORATING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

AT CFBC

5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

FOOD PROVIDED!  
BYOP (BRING YOUR  
OWN PUMPKIN)



**COLLEGE & CAREER**  
**Jaemor Farms**  
Farm Games | Hay Ride | Corn Maze  
Sunday, October 18th,  
After Church  
**ADMISSION COVERED!**  
Bring money for lunch and activities  
such as apple cannon, gem mining,  
& paintball target shoot.  
CHECK OUT ACTIVITIES  
@ JAEMORFARMS.COM

## YOUTH & COLLEGE/CAREER

MINISTRY IN  
HELEN, GA

SAT., OCT. 24

MEET @ CHURCH @ 8:30 AM

RETURN AROUND 2 PM

LUNCH PROVIDED!

2026  
**XTREME WINTER**  
RISE UP!  
PSALM 94:16  
YOUTH &  
COLLEGE/CAREER  
GATLINBURG, TN  
DECEMBER 27-29  
SIGN UP BY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Artists featured: ANNE WILSON, HULVEY, COLTON DIXON, STRINGS & HEART, CHAPELS WORSHIP, NEWSONG, ZANE BLACK, TOM RICHTER, JERROD GUNTER, BRODY HOLLOWAY, DJ GBABY.

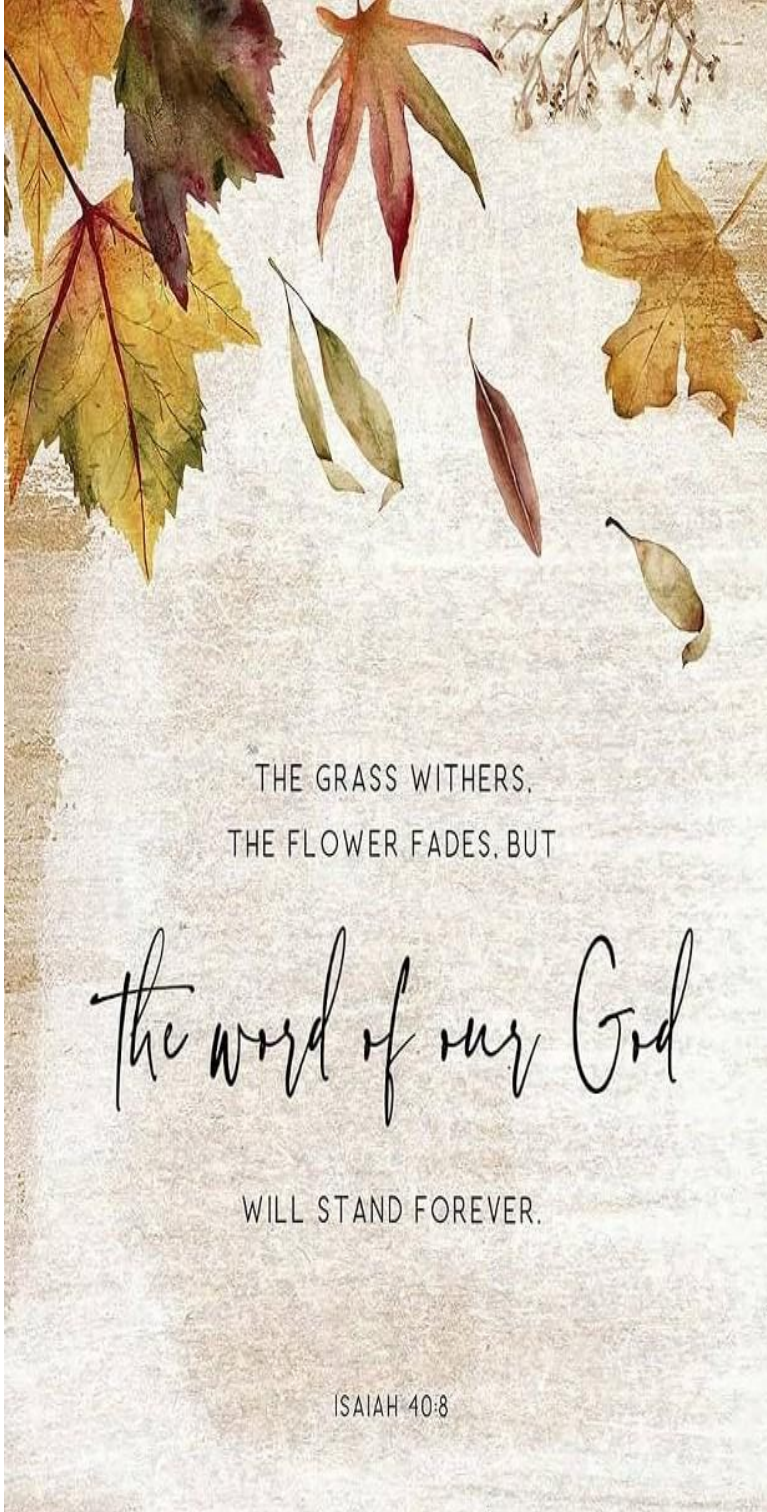
# Christian Sympathy

**We express Christian sympathy  
to the following families:**

Terry and BarBara Goodger, and Laverne  
Higdon, in the passing of BarBara  
and Laverne's brother, Lloyd M. Mills



David England Family in the passing  
of his wife, Teresa England



## Memorials

**GIVEN IN MEMORY AND HONOR**

### Budget

**In Memory of Lloyd Mills**

By Terry and BarBara Goodger

### Flower Fund

**In Memory of Teresa England**

By James and Bea Rogers

**In Memory of Lloyd Mills**

By James and Bea Rogers

**In Memory of Mary Jane Murray**

By James and Bea Rogers

By Betty Tatum

**In Memory of Eric Wallace**

By James and Bea Rogers

By Betty Tatum

**In Memory of Joe Vernon**

By James and Bea Rogers

By Betty Tatum

### Bereavement Fund

**In Memory of Mary Jane Murray**

By Frank and Martha Senkbeil

**In Memory of Teresa England**

By Frank and Martha Senkbeil

### Building Fund

**In Memory of Mary Jane Murray**

By Neal and Pam Waldrn

By Don and Carolyn Willis

### Flower and Decorating Fund

**In Honor of the Decorating Committee**

By Dennis Turner

### Senior Adult Ministry

**In Memory of Mary Jane Murray**

By Alex and Marie Belcher

### **Ladies Bible Study Opportunities**

**Wednesdays – 10:00 AM**

Led by BarBara Goodger

**Sunday – 5:00 PM**

Led by Cherry Himstedt



# October 2026

| Sunday                                                                              | Monday                                                                                                                             | Tuesday                         | Wednesday                                                                        | Thursday                                                                  | Friday                                   | Saturday                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                    |                                 |                                                                                  | 1                                                                         | 2<br>Grand Adults Return from St. Simons | 3                                                            |
| 4<br>High Sunday School Attendance Day<br><br>Regular Sunday Service and Activities | 5                                                                                                                                  | 6                               | 7<br>Covered Dish Fellowship Meal 5:30 PM<br>Evening Activities Start at 6:30 PM | 8<br>Grand Adult Luncheon 11:30 AM                                        | 9                                        | 10                                                           |
| 11<br>Regular Sunday Service and Activities<br>Deacons Meeting 2:00 PM              | 12<br><br><div style="background-color: orange; padding: 5px;">College and Career to Jaemor Farms after the worship service.</div> | 13<br>Women on Mission 10:00 AM | 14<br>Evening Activities Start at 6:30 PM                                        | 15<br>AARP Smart Drivers Course 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM<br>Laurel Lodge 1:30 PM | 16                                       | 17<br>Youth Bonfire and Pumpkin Decorating 5:30 – 8:30 PM    |
| 18<br>Regular Sunday Service and Activities                                         | 19                                                                                                                                 | 20                              | 21<br>Evening Activities Start at 6:30 PM                                        | 22<br>Grand Adult Trip to Hamrick's 8:00 AM                               | 23                                       | 24<br>Youth and College and Career Ministry in Helen 8:30 AM |
| 25<br>Regular Sunday Service and Activities<br><br>Fall Festival 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM  | 26                                                                                                                                 | 27                              | 28<br>Evening Activities Start at 6:30 PM                                        | 29                                                                        | 30                                       | 31                                                           |

## Sundays

Orchestra | Praise Team Rehearsal – 8:30 AM  
 Sunday School/Bible Study – 9:15 AM  
 Worship – 10:30 AM  
 After Hours Bible Study – 12:45 PM  
 Ladies' Bible Study – 5:00 PM

## Tuesdays

Staff Meeting – 10:30 AM

## Wednesdays

Ladies' Bible Study – 10:00 AM  
Orchestra | Praise Team Rehearsal – 5:30 PM  
Children in Action | Youth | College & Career – 6:30 PM  
Choir Rehearsal – 6:30 PM  
Adult Bible Study | Prayer Service – 6:30 PM

## Thursdays

Good News Club at T-Gap – 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM

## August Attendance

| Date  | SS  | Worship | Date  | SS  | Worship |
|-------|-----|---------|-------|-----|---------|
| 09/06 | 105 | 174     | 09/13 | 119 | 194     |
| 09/20 | 100 | 179     | 09/27 | 120 | 200     |

### Budget As of September 23, 2026

|                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Budget Goal YTD     | \$522,500.00 |
| Budget Receipts YTD | \$558,251.00 |
| Budget Over         | \$ 35,751.00 |
| Building Fund       | \$ 20,673.00 |



*Build a Shoebox!*  
ONLINE



**You are invited to our  
churchwide packing party  
on Saturday, November 14, 10:00 AM.**

The following week is National Collection Week.

Special thanks to our youth and college students  
for preparing the boxes.

**Sunday, November 1, is the  
Day of Prayer for Operation Christmas Child.**

During October, we are collecting money to pay  
for the shipping of the boxes.

# *Trust in the lord*

WITH ALL YOUR HEART.

AND DO NOT LEAN ON

YOUR OWN UNDERSTANDING.

IN ALL YOUR WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM.

*and he will make straight your paths.*

PROVERBS 3:5-6

