



November 27, 2025

# THE LAMPLIGHTER

## A NEWSLETTER FOR THE JUDSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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**Food Bank Telephone (334) 575-5187**

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### From the Director of Missions

Greetings, fellow laborers and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ. I pray you are doing well and enjoying this abundant life that God has given to those who believe. I know this is a busy time of year for all of our churches. Thanksgiving and then Christmas, with all of their special services and events, demand a lot of our time. It can be a time of year when we fail to appreciate what we are celebrating due to the business of it all. I pray you find time to be Thankful for all your blessings and time to contemplate all that Christ's birth means to you and to us all. Trust me, I am going to need to take my own advice on this. This will be the last Lamplighter for 2025. We will write to you again in January. With that being said, I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas!

Many of us from Judson Baptist Association attended the Alabama Baptist State Convention this year and the annual Pastor's Conference. It was good to see so many of our people there representing their churches. The Pastor's Conference was such a blessing. We were both encouraged and challenged. God's word convicted us, edified us, and revived us for future ministry. We are better for attending, and our churches will be as well. The State Convention was much the same, with powerful preaching during the two-day session as well. We are so blessed as Alabama Baptists! When the preaching is the most memorable part of the business sessions and not something controversial, then you know we are doing something right. Craig Carlisle finished his term as president this year. He served us well and is a great man of God. We elected Jarman Leatherwood as our new president. He will also serve us well and is a great man of God. It was a historic moment because Jarman was the first African American elected president of the Alabama Baptist State Convention. The vote was not only unanimous, but no one was nominated against him, which shows the level of support he had from the beginning. I am excited to see where his leadership leads us in the next year or two.

As most of you know, brother David Peterson went home to be with the Lord. We went to his graveside service at Abbeville Memorial Cemetery on November 19<sup>th</sup>. There were a lot of people there to pay their respects. He is a faithful servant of the Lord and has been an inspiration to many for his dedication. His pastor, Rickey Sowell, did a fantastic job of honoring Mr. David and the Lord. Mr. David was such a big part of our association. A great man; he will be greatly missed.

The work of the association is going strong. Whether it is our ministry with the 22 churches of JBA, our ministry to our community, or our ministry beyond, God has been blessing our efforts, and we see Him moving in all areas. Thank you for putting together, being a part of, and allowing me to serve with such an amazing coalition of Kingdom servants. "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Ephesians 3:20-21 NIV

Your Fellow Servant,

*Brandon Turner*

### MSC Information

**November/December Food Drive** – Macaroni & Cheese

### **Lottie Moon Christmas Offering & 2025 Week of Prayer for International Missions**

Together, we find the lost, give help to the hurting, share the hope of Christ, and witness God grow His Church around the world.

Your generosity today changes lives.

November 30 – December 7, 2025

IMB Mission Study – Brazil

Resources are available at [www.imb.org](http://www.imb.org)

Your gift supports missionary presence and gospel transformation around the world.

*Aimee Starling, MSC Coordinator*

### MINISTRY CENTERS REPORT

By this time every November, all minds are turning toward holiday preparations. Whether you have been Christmas shopping since July or holding off until Black Friday, for the next seven days, the focus is on Thanksgiving. Where can I get the best price on a turkey? How many friends and family members are coming for dinner? Did I ever get that gravy stain out of the Thanksgiving tablecloth? These and other burning questions are flooding our minds right about now. We seem to be preparing well for Thanksgiving, but are we preparing well to GIVE THANKS?

As we close in on Thanksgiving week ahead, let's remember that our demonstration of gratitude and thankfulness is not a once-a-year "event." We all have family traditions such as going around the Thanksgiving dinner table letting each person tell something for which they are thankful. Yep, sounds like a standard procedure – for Thanksgiving Day, but wouldn't it be a novel idea to do it every day of the year?

We have so many, many things to thank Him for daily, and remembering that His greatest and most blessed gift is the salvation we receive through His son Jesus. Keeping this in the forefront of our hearts and mind will help us fight the pressure of getting the worldly celebration "right." It is so very easy to allow the secular celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas to overshadow how much God loves us and to overtake our thoughts and actions for the next 40 or so days.

Again, this year, I am challenging myself and others not to allow: the retail establishments to bully us into blowing our budgets. keeping up with and impressing others to hijack our happiness. rushing around, traffic jams and long lines to steal our joy.

It's way too easy to get caught up in the "hustle and bustle" and much more difficult to relax and prioritize. For both of these upcoming holidays the most important things are not food and gifts, but gratitude and grace. It's not spending money, it's investing time. It's not about giving "stuff," it's about giving of yourself. And lastly, it's not about "me, my, you, we, he or she," it's about HIM. It's about Jesus and sharing His love and your testimony.

So, as we wade into the season, my prayer for my family, my church family, all of my ministry center and association family – volunteers and employees alike-is for days filled with joy, peace, and relaxation. May you remember to start each day mindful of the most important things. And most importantly of all, remember to share Jesus every day and in every way!

Much love and many warm wishes in Christ

*Judy Koerber, Ministry Centers Director*

### WMU

It is very important that all WMU Leadership Team members meet for our December 13 meeting at 9:00 at the Association Office. It is important as we plan the January Annual meeting. We will have the opportunity to hear about each church's plans to promote the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. We also will have the opportunity to hear about the delivery of Christmas Backpacks to two of our own states Hispanic churches. This time of sharing with each other is so important as we move into a new year of learning about and promoting missions around the world!

*Charlotte Doster*

### HISPANIC COALITION

John Gunter is collecting blankets and new heaters to give out over Christmas to Hispanic people in need. These would need to be in the JBA office by December 19th.