



March 19, 2026

# THE LAMPLIGHTER

## A NEWSLETTER FOR THE JUDSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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**Judy Koerber, Ministry Centers Director**

**LOVE IN ACTION MINISTRIES (ABBEVILLE)**

**532 Ozark Rd, Abbeville, AL 36310**

**Store Telephone (334) 585-3334**

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

**OVERFLOWING MINISTRIES (HEADLAND)**

**810 Mitchell St, Headland, AL 36345**

**Telephone (334) 693-0200**

### FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MISSIONS

It has been another full and encouraging season in the life of the Judson Baptist Association, and I want to take a moment to share a few updates and praises from across our ministries.

First, I want to recognize John Gunter, who retired on March 1 after faithfully serving for 20 years as our Hispanic Coalition Missionary. John has invested countless hours reaching people with the gospel, encouraging churches, and helping lead the work of the Southeastern Alabama Baptist Hispanic Ministry Coalition. His faithful service has made a lasting impact on our association and on many lives. We will miss John greatly. At our Hispanic Coalition meeting in April, we will plan a celebration for John, and we will share the details soon after. In the meantime, please pray for the future direction of the Hispanic Coalition as we seek the Lord's leadership for the days ahead.

Our Ramp Ministry continues to be a tremendous blessing to our community. This past month alone, our volunteers built three ramps. Two of those ramps were for individuals who were in desperate need, and their gratitude was overwhelming. It is always encouraging to see how such a simple act of service can communicate the love of Christ in a tangible way. The third ramp was built for Concord Baptist Church, helping meet a need within one of our own congregations. I am thankful for the men and women who give their time and effort to this ministry. It has been a powerful testimony of compassion throughout our association.

We were also glad to assist the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Headland Middle School by purchasing tables for their gatherings. FCA continues to be a wonderful ministry that encourages students to live for Christ and boldly share their faith. It is a joy to partner with ministries that are reaching the next generation.

Last month, I attended the AMS Personal Development Conference, where Jeff Iorg, president of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, spoke to our group. Dr. Iorg is a great man of God with a genuine heart for lost people. His leadership and encouragement were a blessing, and we are grateful to have someone with his passion for evangelism serving in leadership within our denomination.

In another effort to care for those we serve, we recently placed LifeVac devices in our associational office and in our Ministry Centers. These devices are designed to help remove airway obstructions for someone who is choking. We pray they will never be needed, but we are thankful to have them available should an emergency arise. We are also making progress with improvements to Overflowing Ministries. Recently, we met with a contractor to discuss pricing for the parking lot renovation and expansion project. This project will not only repair the current lot but also add a new exit, which should greatly improve traffic flow. We are excited about getting started on this long-needed improvement.

Another development that will help our ministries moving forward is the establishment of an online giving account for our Ministry Centers and Food Banks. Individuals who want to support these important works can now give conveniently online. This process was made possible through the assistance of the Baptist Foundation of Alabama, and we are grateful for their partnership in helping us provide this new option.

As I reflect on all these things, I am reminded again how blessed we are as an association of churches working together for the Kingdom of God. Thank you for your prayers, your support, and your willingness to serve. It is truly a privilege to labor alongside you.

I am grateful to be allowed to serve the Judson Baptist Association as your Director of Missions.

Your Fellow Servant, *Brandon Turner*

### MSC Information

**Sunday, March 29, 2026 – Palm Sunday**

**Sunday, April 5, 2026 – Easter Sunday**

**Sunday, May 10, 2026 – Mother's Day/Children's Home & Family Ministries Sunday**

**Sunday, June 14, 2026 – Father's Day**

*Aimee Starling, MSC Coordinator*

### MINISTRY CENTERS REPORT

The word of the day is CELEBRATION. This morning I was reflecting on some recent activities here at our ministry centers. In October, we celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Love in Action, our Abbeville thrift store and food bank. It was a wonderful day celebrating with our volunteers, employees and our customers. The festivities included 20 door prizes, 20% off the entire store and a free hot dog lunch. It was a beautiful, sunny day! Two weeks ago, we celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Overflowing Ministries, our Headland thrift store and food bank with 15 door prizes, 15% off the entire store, and free lunch. Again, it was a wonderful, albeit really cold, day celebrating with volunteers, employees, and customers. We had to move all the festivities inside and, due to the 32-degree temperature, we served homemade vegetable beef soup, crackers and chocolate chip cookies instead of hot dogs. Celebrating these two milestones was so incredibly important. Not so much because of the 15- and 20-year marks, but because of the blessings of God on both of the centers. Moving from clothes dropped off and distributed from someone's carport over 20 years ago, to two thrift stores, two food banks serving 113.9 tons of food last fiscal year, leaves no doubt – it's a God thing.

Sharing all of that brings me to this point. For Christians, everyday should be a celebration! We should not just be celebrating birthdays, anniversaries, special achievements or events. We should be celebrating our gracious and merciful God and the salvation afforded to us by the death, burial, and resurrection of His son. No, I'm not talking about celebrating Easter, although that is fast approaching. I'm talking about daily celebrating our place in God's kingdom, being grateful every day for where we are and what we have regardless of how much or how little that may be. Many scriptures reference contentment. Contentment is a skill that is developed over time through trusting God in both good and bad situations. It is rooted in a deep relationship with a God and Father who provides the strength to face anything and everything never abandoning us. We can not only be content, but we can celebrate! Celebrate our salvation, celebrate the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives, celebrate God's great provision in our daily lives, and best of all, celebrate the fact He promised to never leave or forsake us.

So, no matter what is going on in your life today, take time to recognize who you are. You are a child of the King – CELEBRATE it!

In His service, *Judy Koerber, Ministry Centers Director*

### WMU

As we approach Mother's Day, please consider a focus on Alabama Baptist Children's Homes. There are over 6,000 children in Alabama in foster care. The need is great. You can contact the local office in Dothan at 325 Ross Clark Circle or call 334-677-7856 for further information including a speaker and/or materials. There are many ways we can help through prayer, giving, or providing homes for the many children in need.

Consider the Women of Compassion : Women of Compassion exists to gather women around one shared purpose: to give generously, serve faithfully, and surround children in foster care with the love and hope of Christ.

*Charlotte Doster, JBA WMU*

### YOUTH INFORMATION

Youth Gathering, March 25, 6PM, Abbeville High School, featuring John Riley  
*Nick Wilson, JBA Youth Director*