

# First Baptist News

a family of faith

## This Week . . .

### Wednesday, November 4

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting  
(Zoom)  
7:00 p.m. Bridge Class (Zoom)

### Thursday, November 5

- 1:00 p.m. Circle of Friends Class  
(Zoom)

### Sunday, November 8

- 10:00 a.m. **Worship (Facebook Live & YouTube)**  
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Class  
(Zoom)

### Monday, November 9

- 1:00-2:30 p.m. Tithing Time  
7:00 p.m. Monday School  
(Bo's Facebook Page)

### Tuesday, November 10

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group  
(Zoom)



**We're collecting notes for a (socially distant) ordination for our new deacons!**



Write a note of encouragement and/or prayer for each new deacon and bring it to the church office.

New deacons are:

- Betty Graham
- Summer Pittman
- Lewis Lytch
- Nancy Wagner
- Katherine Martin



Part of our ordination tradition at First Baptist is to have a laying on of hands, where the church family says prayers of encouragement and blessing over each candidate for ordination. It is a beautiful and meaningful tradition...but doesn't fit with current social distancing measures!

So, like so many things in 2020, we are adjusting. We are asking you to write down your words or prayers of blessing and encouragement and bring them to the church office (preferably during Tithing Time). The notes will be bundled together and presented to each new deacon in lieu of a traditional laying on of hands. **We need all the notes by November 9th.** Our adapted deacon ordination service will be shared in worship on November 22.

Thank you for your prayerful support of our deacons!



## Cake Raffle!

**\$5 = 1 ticket**

Tickets may be purchased on Monday during Tithing Time (1-2:30 pm at the 6th Street entrance).

Winners will be drawn on Friday, November 20.



All proceeds benefit FBC youth missions and trips.

November 22nd at 10:00 am

# Deacon Ordination Service

## *From the Interim Pastor*

**Virtual gatherings continue.**—ALL of our services will be virtual for the immediate future. As much as we had hoped to gather, we just don't feel that it is right, best or safe in the current environment. We continue to have meaningful worship experiences and thoughtful teaching and prayer experiences. You have been wonderful in adapting. Our Wednesday prayer meetings have been especially special for me. The praying that we do and the sharing that we do give me a boost for the living of these days.

**The Election is Over, NOW the Healing begins.**—As expected in heavily contested races, there are elated winners and dejected losers. There are also many in the wide middle. Winners, be gracious in the winning and now follow through on the promises that you made. Loser, be gracious in the losing and be open to extending your hand to work for the good of all. To the many in the wide middle, be peacemakers in bridge-building and healing. To all of us, let's now drop the RED or BLUE from our labels. Let us now become good and faithful citizens of the Republic. Let us now be good Jesus followers and work for the health and welfare of us all.

**Deacon Ordination, November 22**—You will see more information about this special service elsewhere in the newsletter. Please send your cards of support and encouragement. This will be a special gift to your new leaders.

**Advent begins November 29 with the Hanging of the Green.**—We will begin the journey to Bethlehem on the 29th. We will follow the footsteps of Mary and Joseph as we seek the love and grace of God. Each Sunday will slow our steps, look for God on the pathway, and celebrate the goodness of the birth of Jesus. This is my favorite time of the year! I am excited to walk this path with you.

**Continue to pray for the Pastor Search Committee.**—They are working hard and praying for just the right person to lead you. They are seeking God's will for the church. Pray for these special folks. Pray for the person that God is preparing. Pray for the work of the church. Pray!!!

*God is guiding!  
Bo*

## **Proposed Amendments to Bylaws October 19, 2020**

Amend Article V, Section 2, by adding the following sentence at the end: "Any conference or church meeting may be held and conducted virtually or in person, at the discretion of the Pastor and Deacon Chair."

Amend Article VII, Section 5., A., to reduce the number of deacons from twenty-four (24) to sixteen (16). In order to effectuate that change over a four (4) year period, while honoring the terms of deacons already elected to serve, the following words in that section will be changed as follows:

<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>New Wording</u>
2005	2020
2006	2021
thirty-two (32)	twenty-four (24)
twenty-four (24)	sixteen (16)

Amend Article VIII to change word "Six (6)" to "Four (4)" as to the number of deacons to be elected each year.

**A Called Church Conference will be held on Sunday, November 22nd at 12 noon via  
Zoom to vote concerning these amendments to the Bylaws.  
Zoom information will be provided to the congregation in an email prior to the conference.**

**Give to First Baptist Church!**

Here are some ways to donate to our ministry:

- Drop by during Tithing Time!— Mondays from 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- Scan our QR code with your cell phone to go to our giving page.



- Go to our website ([www.fbclumbertonnc.org](http://www.fbclumbertonnc.org)) to complete a draft form.
- Send us your contribution by mail— **606 N. Walnut St., Lumberton, NC 28358**

**For the Record**

Budgeted 2020.....	\$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2020) .....	\$13,461.54
Received October 26, 2020 .....	\$5,786.00
Need to date .....	\$562,307.69
Received to date.....	\$430,979.95
Over (Under) Budget.....	(\$131,327.74)



Each Wednesday night at 6pm we will have a time of sharing concerns and announcements and praying together. We will also have a time of devotion based on Bo's sermons.

Email Daphne in the church office to get the Zoom link for these meetings— [daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org).

It is time to begin collecting donations for the annual Hanging of the Green! While our service will be virtual this year, families and individuals will be provided a to-go box with items to help prepare for Advent in your own home as we worship together (including an Advent wreath)! Donations will offset the cost of these boxes, but you do not have to give to receive a box. Forms & donations will be collected at tithing time each week until Monday, November 23rd.

I would like to contribute \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the Hanging of the Green Fund.

Please print names exactly as they should appear in the program:

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

And/or

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Children's Christmas Party Donations Welcomed!**

We will still be offering some care and help for families in need during the holidays this year through a different/scaled down/socially distant version of the Children's Christmas Party. We have already begun working with area schools to establish a list of families we can assist. Monetary donations are needed to make this missions opportunity a reality.

**Friends of Jesus Christmas Care Packages**

Our Friends of Jesus Christmas Party has been a long-standing, well-loved tradition at First Baptist. Our special needs adults look forward all year to a visit from Santa, gifts and this special time of fellowship together. Even though they are unable to gather for this event this year, First Baptist wants our Friends of Jesus to know that they are appreciated and loved. In that spirit, leaders of the class will be preparing care packages for the class members for Christmas. Please donate to the Friends of Jesus Christmas Fund, so that we may purchase and distribute these gifts.

Please designate "Children's Christmas Party" or "Friends of Jesus Christmas" on the memo line of your check. Donations will be accepted by mail—606 N. Walnut St., Lumberton, NC 28358— or at tithing time—1-2:30 p.m. each Monday.

# Community Thanksgiving Service

Join us for an online multi-church  
service of thankfulness on  
November 22nd at 7:00 p.m.  
More information to come!



*As the Advent season quickly approaches, we are making plans for safe and meaningful adaptations of some of our long-standing traditions. For example, Hanging of the Green will be a virtual service...but we will still get to prepare for the season together via these take-home kits! Each item in the box will correspond with part of the service, and you will be invited to place those items in your own home.*

*You may pick up your box at tithing time beginning next Monday, November 9th, then participate in the Hanging of the Green, November 29th at 10:00 a.m.*



*Dear First Baptist Family,*

*Thank you for your many words and gifts of support and encouragement during Minister Appreciation Month! We are grateful for each of you and thankful to be ministering among you.*

*Erin, Doug, Tim & Bo*



## **CHURCH STAFF**

Contact us at 739-4336 or [daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org)  
[www.fbclumbertonnc.org](http://www.fbclumbertonnc.org)

**Rev. Erin Collier — Associate Pastor of Families and Worship**

**Mrs. Daphne Fletcher — Administrative Assistant**

**Rev. Tim Little — Minister of Music and Facilities**

**Mr. Len Power — Building Superintendent**

**Dr. Bo Prosser — Interim Pastor**

**Mrs. Kandace Ramsey — Administrative Assistant**

**Rev. Doug Reedy — Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Missions**