

# First Baptist News

a family of faith

## ***This Week. . .***

### ***Sunday, February 7***

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

### ***Monday, February 8***

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

### ***Tuesday, February 9***

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

### ***Wednesday, February 10***

- 6:00 p.m. Prayer Service (Zoom)  
With Communion  
7:00 p.m. Bridge Class (Zoom)

### ***Thursday, February 11***

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

## **Communion– February 10th 6:00 p.m. via Zoom**



We will observe communion during Prayer Service via Zoom on Wednesday evening, February 10th. Please gather your communion elements prior to the service so that you may participate.



Each Wednesday night at 6 pm 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)



## From the Interim Pastor

By now, you are aware that my last Sunday with you will be Sunday, April 11th. I have loved being with you, even virtually. This has certainly not been the Interim that we had planned. However, we have done good work in the past year. God continues to show us divine presence and guidance.

I want to remind you of the three stages of the Interim that I outlined for you when we began in December of 2019.

Fixin' to Get Ready

Gettin' Ready

Ready an' Waitin'

Here are a few things that have happened in each of these stages. You can see that we've been a busy congregation even though most of our time has been virtual!

Fixin' to Get Ready—

- ♦ Listening sessions, getting to know each other, looking at policies and procedures.

Gettin' Ready—

- ♦ Two weeks after the report from the listening sessions COVID shut us down and the whole world changed. So did our church. We went to virtual worship experiences quickly. We initiated a COVID leadership Team to help us quickly navigate the issues that were emerging.
- ♦ We hired a new ECM Director, commissioned the Pastor Search Committee, filed for Payroll Protection, celebrated Nancy's retirement, hired MBS to manage finances, redid our budgets and staffing approaches, and said goodbye to Erin Collier. We worked to rebuild confidence and self-esteem, began virtual prayer meetings and Sunday School classes and held some tightly controlled youth gatherings.
- ♦ There are still some issues to be settled. The Staff, COVID team, Deacons and Committees will be at work focusing on these as we move deeper into 2021.

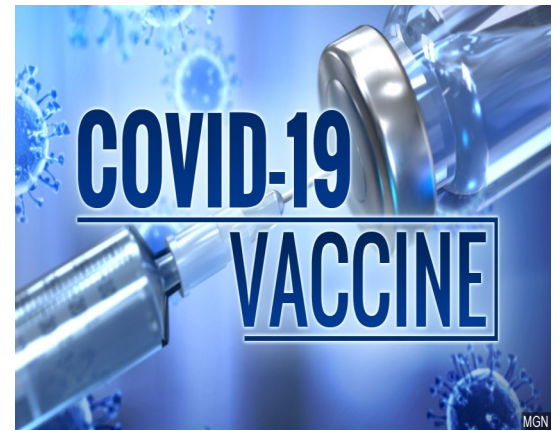
Ready an' Waitin'—

- ♦ Pray without ceasing. Pray for strength and discernment of the Pastor Search Committee. Stay patient both with virtual gatherings and the work of Pastor Search.

You are a strong people. You have excellent leaders in place. While my time with you is drawing to a close, we still have some work to do. Continue to pray, continue to discern, and continue to be committed to excellence. Don't settle for "good enough!" Please, know how much Gail and I love you.

God has been guiding, continues to guide, and will guide us into a bright future!

*Grateful,  
Dr. Bo*



## Vaccine Now Available for ages 65 and up!

UNC Health Southeastern has begun administering vaccines for individuals ages 65 and older as recommended in Phase 1B Group 1 by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

Individuals ages 65 and older who are residents of Robeson County and/or established patients of UNC Health Southeastern may call **910-671-5395** to schedule appointments to receive their vaccination at the Southeastern COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic located at 2901 N. Elm St., Lumberton. The clinic will be open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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BE STRONG  
and let your  
**Heart**  
TAKE COURAGE

all you who  
*Hope*  
**IN THE LORD**  
PSALM 31:24





Lent is fast approaching. Ash Wednesday this year is February 17th. Easter is April 4th. Now is the time to pray and consider how you will personally observe your Lenten journey amid this pandemic.

Everyone has their own unique relationship with God. Through your prayers you may be led to sacrifice greatly, or God, knowing your circumstances, may just require a simple act of devotion this year. I am sharing with you what some of our youth, college students, and young adults will be doing. These are merely suggestions to consider.

We begin talking about Lent as a youth group each year on the Sunday night prior to Ash Wednesday. We burn last year's palm leaves to create this year's ashes. Occasionally youth will write down a thing they plan to give up on a small slip of paper and drop it into the fire as well. This year, as a church, we will observe Ash Wednesday with a drive through imposition of the Ashes from 6-7 p.m. on Ash Wednesday. A pre-recorded Ash Wednesday service will be available online at 7:30 p.m.

During Zoom Sunday School a couple of weeks ago one of our 10th Graders mentioned she had intended to read her Bible more in 2021, but had trouble getting started. A short conversation later, several of us decided to read Luke for Lent. Each of the 40 days of Lent, I will text out a reading assignment from Luke, along with a reflection question. Each Sunday night Bible study we have this year from now until Easter will focus on a key passage from Luke, beginning with the 40 day temptation of Jesus in the desert. We also traditionally fast for Good Friday, beginning sundown or immediately following communion on Maundy Thursday, lasting 24 hours until Friday night.

However you observe Lent this year and every year is between you and God. We have reason to be optimistic that things will slowly improve from now until Easter and beyond. Please know your church will do all it can to make that journey with you.

*Doug*

### Community Café Volunteers Needed !

Groups are needed to host our Community Café on the 3rd Saturday each month. Host groups provide a meal to be picked up by our Community Café guests. We have dates available from May through the end of the year!

If your Sunday School Class, Mission Group, etc. would like to host please contact the church office (739-4336 or [dougreeedy@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:dougreeedy@fbclumbertonnc.org)).



*Thanks to the Fellowship Class for hosting Community Café in January!*

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## Mark your calendar for 2021-2022 ECM Registration!

- **February 8—19 — Registration for currently-enrolled families of preschool-age children (rising 2, 3,4 year olds)**
- February 22 — Registration for FBC members not currently enrolled
- February 23 until spaces are filled — Registration opens to the public
- *TO BE ANNOUNCED* -- Registration for School-age children.

The 2021-2022 year begins in August 2021, typically the first day of school for Public Schools of Robeson County.

### Person of the Week

Earline Cranfill  
1901 N. Rowland Ave.  
Lumberton, NC 28358

Send a card, letter, or other remembrance  
to our special persons this week!

### 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**



Thank you to all who brought food for our 1st Monday  
Food Drive during tithing time on February 1st!

### CHURCH STAFF

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

**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**