

# First Baptist News

a family of faith

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

### ***Sunday, June 27***

10:00 a.m. **Worship in Sanctuary**  
10:00 a.m. **Worship Online (Facebook Live)**  
11:15 a.m. **Fellowship Class (Zoom)**

### ***Monday, June 28***

#### ***ECM Afterschool Care Registration Opens***

5:45 p.m. **Finance Committee Meeting**  
(Activity Building)  
7:00 p.m. **Deacons Meeting (Fellowship Hall)**

### ***Tuesday, June 29***

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

### ***Wednesday, June 30***

6:00 p.m. **Prayer Service (Zoom)**  
7:00 p.m. **Bridge Class (Zoom)**



**Sunday, June 27, 2021**

**“The Good News:  
Restoration and Resurrection”**

**Mark 5:21-43  
Psalm 130**

Community Café was held on Saturday, June 19 hosted by H.J. and Sylvia Edwards, Eddie Prevatte, and Doug Reedy. Thank you for helping feed needy families in our community!



Community Café is held the third Saturday of each month. If your Sunday School class, Bible study

group, or group of friends would like to host Community Café, please contact the church office. Spaces are available through the end of the year.



**High School Senior Retreat  
June 13 — 15, 2021**

# FIRST BAPTIST TO RELAUNCH IN-PERSON PROGRAMMING AND ACTIVITIES

Fifteen months ago, in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the ministerial staff and deacons of First Baptist Church suspended all in-person programming except for Community Cafe and an on-line worship service. Since then, our focus has been on loving God and loving our neighbor. Through these difficult days, you as a congregation have done a fantastic job of “being the church” outside the walls of the church building. I am writing to let you know that the deacons believe it is time to “Be the Church” inside the church building, too.

With COVID positivity rates declining, we began having in-person Sunday morning worship services again on May 2. As the congregation has continued to meet for worship, we have been able to relax restrictions gradually over the past month and a half. Though the pandemic is not yet over, with many congregants having been vaccinated and the COVID positivity rates continuing to be low, the Deacons at their meeting this past Monday night voted to adopt a science-based policy for the health and safety of our members based upon current CDC guidance and Executive Orders coming from the Governor’s office, which would allow First Baptist Church to immediately reopen all programming and activities as logistically feasible. The ministerial staff has been assigned the task to work through logistics.

Reopening (or perhaps “relaunching” is a better word for it, as the church, being its congregants, not its building, truly has never been closed), will include Sunday School classes (to be determined individually by class leadership with staff consultation), Wednesday Night Prayer meeting, Baptist Women, funeral services, etc. Youth and Worship are already meeting on our campus, as is our weekday ECM. Some programs may not return and many may choose different times. For example, worship is currently at 10 a.m. Given our reduction in office personnel, the hours the church office is open will be determined and posted by the ministerial staff and may vary.

The following announcement is to be used at the beginning of each in-person meeting on our campus:

**“We are glad you joined us at FBC today. For the health and safety of those attending, let me remind you of mask policy. Our mask policy is based upon current science. This guidance is: The wearing of face masks is optional for those who are fully vaccinated. Wearing face masks is highly recommended for all others. We trust you will do what is best for yourself, your family, and your church family.”**

It is important for you and your small groups to notify and consult with the ministerial staff concerning your plans for relaunching your respective class or organization. The maintenance staff needs to clean and set up the rooms you plan to use for your meetings. Literature needs to be ordered. Volunteers need to be recruited to lead classes and other organizations in many cases, as not all leadership serving fifteen months ago remains in place. Our Nominating Committee met on Tuesday night to begin the task of securing leadership for our various classes and organizations. We hope when they call you, many of you will say “Yes.”

Tim will be the only local minister in town this coming Sunday, as Doug and his family will be taking some well-deserved days off. (Doug has been instructed not to text and email and talk church from Thursday until Monday, so he can truly have a few days off, so I would respectfully request that you hold off for a few days with your requests.) With the next week being July 4<sup>th</sup>, I urge you to use the next couple of weeks to talk amongst your classes and other small groups and come up with your individual plans and requests to submit to the ministerial staff.

Our pastor-elect, Rev. Josh Owens, met with the deacons Monday night and is truly excited to begin his ministry with us in the coming weeks. His first day in the church office will be Monday, July 12, and his first Sunday in the pulpit will be Sunday, July 18. We are going to have a special event immediately following the worship service on Josh's first Sunday – more on that will come later.

So make your plans to come together in person in the coming weeks, invite others to join us, be prepared to volunteer as a Sunday School teacher, greeter, security monitor, or in some other position, and mark your calendars for church on July 18 as we welcome Josh and his family to First Baptist Church and prepare to relaunch our programming and activities. Of course, if you are immunocompromised or have concerns about coming back to the church just yet, be assured that the church has ordered new live-streaming equipment and will continue to offer a virtual option. While some things will be different in the "new normal", as we work together as God guides, we have much to be excited about.

David Ramsaur  
Deacon Chair



*You are invited to share your testimony during worship. Contact the church office—*



**The ECM and offices will be closed Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day.**

***Happy Fourth of July!***

### **Afterschool Care at First Baptist Early Childhood Ministry Apply Now!**

Kindergarten—6th Grade

Afterschool care allows your child to attend after school hours and all day during school closures (such as during teacher work days and remote learning days.)

Openings are also available in our younger classes as well (ages 2—4).

Call Michelle Prevatte, Director, at 738-6608 or visit [fbclumbertonnc.org](http://fbclumbertonnc.org) to apply.

## *Coming up. . .*

**June 28** — ECM registration opens to the public for Afterschool care for the 2021-22 school year.

**July 5** — ECM and offices closed in observance of Independence Day.

**July 12** — Rev. Josh Owens' first day in the church office

**July 13-16** — Youth trip to Black Mountain.

**July 17** — Community Café

**July 18** — Rev. Josh Owen's first Sunday Worship service

**July 19** — Finance Committee Meeting and Deacons Meeting

**July 25-29** — Youth Music Retreat. \$100 due July 1.

**July 28** — Quarterly Church Conference

## **Youth Black Mountain Trip July 13—16, 2021**

### **A few changes to note:**

We will travel on the 13th, participate in team building on the 14th, then raft on the French Broad on the 15th. The trip is open to all Youth who participated in Sunday nights this year.

## **Youth Music Retreat July 25—29, 2021 \$100.00 due July 1**

We will be staying at Tim Little's house in Lenoir. We will practice bells, ride the gravity coaster, and visit the waterfall to swim. Youth must have (1) either performed bells for Hanging of the Green or any music for Youth Sunday or (2) be entering the 7th Grade.

To sign up, contact Doug Reedy:  
(910) 739-4336 or [dougreedy@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:dougreedy@fbclumbertonnc.org)

Emily Rust is helping in the office Monday through Friday, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. She will be available to assist you by phone (739-4336) or email ([emilyrust@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:emilyrust@fbclumbertonnc.org)). The Church Office remains closed at this time.

### ***Give to First Baptist Church!***

Here are some ways to donate to our ministry:

- Give during Sunday worship service.
- Scan our QR code with your cell phone camera 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**

*Thinking  
of you*

### **Person of the Week**

Pat Davis  
304 Cambridge Blvd  
Lumberton, NC 28358

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

### **CHURCH STAFF**

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

**Dr. Jennifer Bashaw — Interim Pastor**

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

**Mr. Len Power — Building Superintendent**

**Mrs. Kandace Ramsey — Administrative Assistant**

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

**Miss Emily Rust — Administrative Assistant**