

First Baptist News

a family of faith

This Week...

Sunday, January 9

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. **Worship in Sanctuary**
 10:30 a.m. **Worship Online**
 via Facebook Live
 3:00 p.m. Knit Wits (Parlor)

Tuesday, January 11

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

Wednesday, January 12

6:00 p.m. **Wednesday Night Prayer Service**
with Called Church Conference
(Fellowship Hall)
 Children's Activities
 Youth Doing Missions
 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 p.m. ECM Committee Meeting
 (Conference Room)

Thursday, January 13

6:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 13

10:00 a.m. Community Café
 (hosted by Sanctuary Choir)

Called Church Conference
 Wednesday, January 12, 2022
 During Prayer Service, 6:00 p.m.
 For presentation and vote of the 2022 Budget

Church Conference
 Wednesday, January 26, 2022
 During Prayer Service, 6:00 p.m.



**Preparing for
 Sunday,
 January 9**

**“A Vision for Making Christ Known”
 Luke 3:15-22**

**New gathering times this Sunday!
 Please spread the word.**

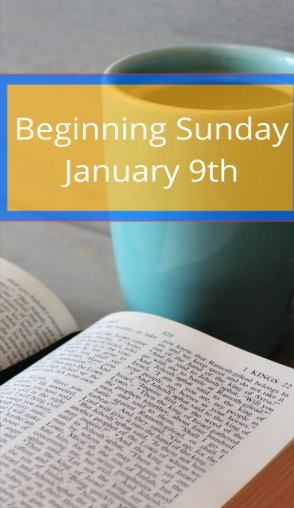


New Sunday Gathering Times

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Sunday School 9:30 AM  
(all ages)

Worship 10:30 AM



Beginning Sunday  
January 9th

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

Here are some ways to donate to our ministry:

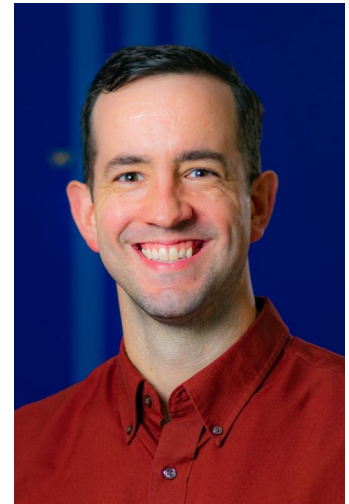
- Give during Sunday worship.
- Scan our QR code with your cell phone camera to go to our giving page.
- Give through our [secure online giving portal](https://secureonlinegivingportal.com).
- Go to our website ([www.fbclumbertonnc.org](http://www.fbclumbertonnc.org)) to complete a draft form.
- Send us your contribution by mail —

**606 N. Walnut St., Lumberton, NC 28358**



## A Note from the Pastor's Desk

How are your resolutions going so far in 2022? I have never really been one to make resolutions, but I do often consider things that I would like to improve on or new things to try when a new year rolls around. At their core, whether it is resolutions, goals, or just good intentions, these stated desires are all aimed at helping us get to a better version of ourselves. Something that we are maybe more content with, more excited about, can identify as achieving a level of success, or that brings us a sense of accomplishment.



Looking at these ideas another way, might I suggest that what we all should be striving for with these resolutions or lists is to achieve something akin to flourishing. Now “flourishing” is not a word that we use frequently in our lexicons but I think it is more in line with the desires of God for us. Flourishing is all about growing in a healthy way in the environment where you already are. This idea is seen in scripture in Psalm 92:12-14 where the psalmist writes, “But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted to the Lord’s own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. Even in old age, they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green.” Yet, how do we achieve flourishing? How do we grow right where God has us planted and produce fruit for our community and the world?

First, it is helpful to know what it is not. For example, flourishing is not the same thing as physical or numerical growth. We all know what kudzu is here in the South, and so we know that a roadside overgrown with it is not an environment that is flourishing despite the noticeable growth in the area. Flourishing is instead intentional growth. Jesus said in John 10:10, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” In this new year, how can you intentionally grow more into who God has created you to be so that you might know the kind of abundance that God aims to provide? How might our church seek intentional growth, maybe in new or different ways to bring on the abundance of God, not abundance by human standards? I am looking at 2022 as a new opportunity to flourish as a father, as a spouse, as a minister, and for our church. How might you work in this new year to find flourishing for yourself? Let’s seek it out together.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua Owens". The script is fluid and cursive.

Rev. Joshua K. Owens, *Senior Pastor*



*Coming up...*

**January 17** — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Activities Building and Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. No school for PSRC for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.

**January 24** — Partnership for Children will be using the Fellowship Hall 9:00 am—4:00 pm for professional development.

**January 24-25** — No school for PSRC.

**January 26** — Quarterly Church Conference during Wednesday Night Prayer Service, 6:00 pm.

**January 30** — Youth Bible Study resumes, 6:00 pm.

**January 31** — 2021 Contribution Statements and ECM Statements will be available.

**February 8** — Early Childhood Ministry in-house registration for the 2022-23 school year begins.

**February 19** — Community Café (hosted by Fellowship Class)

**February 21** — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Activities Building and Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. No school for PSRC for the President's Day Holiday.

**February 21** — First Baptist members not currently enrolled may register for ECM care for the 2022-23 school year.

**February 22** — Early Childhood Ministry registration opens to the public for the 2022-23 school year.

**March 2** — Ash Wednesday

**March 10** — Youth Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm

**March 13** — Daylight Savings Time begins ("Spring Forward")

**March 19** — Community Café (host needed)

**March 21** — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Activities Building and Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**March 25** — No school for PSRC.

**April 3** — Youth Sunday

**April 10** — Palm Sunday

**April 11-15** — Holy Week

**April 16** — Community Café (host needed)

**April 17** — Easter

**April 18** — Offices and Early Childhood Ministry closed for Easter Monday.

**April 18-22** — No school for PSRC.

**April 29-May 1** — High School Senior Retreat

**May 4** — Spring Children's Concert, tentative.

**May 8** — Mother's Day

**May 11** — Friends of Jesus Softball Game, tentative.

**May 16** — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Activities Building and Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**May 21** — Community Café (hosts needed)

**May 22** — Grad Sunday

**May 30** — Offices and ECM closed for Memorial Day

# Join Us IN Worship

Persons attending Sunday School and Worship will wear masks and practice social distancing in all indoor settings. This applies to those who have been vaccinated and those who have not been or cannot be vaccinated. Pews will be marked to allow for social distancing during Worship.

## Wednesday Night Children's & Youth Activities

Please remember to wear a mask so we can all be safe!

Here is our Wednesday Night Schedule:

|           |                                                |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------|
| 6:00      | Wednesday Night Live (Grades 1-5)              |
| 6:00—7:00 | Music Munchkins and Mission Friends (ages 3—K) |
| 6:00—6:30 | Music Makers (Grades 1-3)                      |
| 6:30—7:00 | Young Musicians Choir (Grades 4-5)             |

Youth will be participating in Youth Doing Missions at 6:00 p.m. Meet at the Activity Building and wear your mask.





### *Servants this Sunday*

#### **9:30 Sunday School Entrance Greeters**

\*6th Street Ramp 9:00—9:30 am  
Dianne and Layton Britt

\*ECM Entrance 9:00—9:30 am  
Kenneth Sasser

#### **10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters**

Sanctuary Vestibule 10:00—11:30 am  
Jayne and Bruce Huggins

#### **Nursery**

Ashlynn Cox, Jenna Davis

#### **Extended Session**

Christy Strickland

\*Handicap Accessible entrance

*Thinking  
of you*

### **Person of the Week**

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

Sara Henry

59 Arboretum Lane

Suite 111

Greenville, SC 29617

While our network is being set-up and software is being installed, we are still experiencing some hiccups resulting from the ransomware attack on our network last November. We greatly appreciate the work of our IT team as we work out the challenges of setting up several new devices and programs and ensuring our online security is up to par. One of the hiccups we are experiencing is the lack of restoration of our software programs, including ACS People. ACS People is the program we use for member records, such as easy access to addresses and phone numbers, but we also use it for entering contributions. Fortunately, we have paper records available!

Since it's the time of year when we are closing out the old year and getting ready for the upcoming year, we are also looking at a large task when it comes to getting contributions statements ready for 2021. Our Money Counters, office staff, and Financial Secretary are working together to collect information from paper records, office deposits, and online contributions to create contribution statements manually. Previously, the ACS People software made accessing giving statements easy to access with the reports feature. We are now having to go "old school" and recreate records on paper. Our goal is have your contribution statement report for you by January 31, 2022. With that being said, your report will look different than what we provided in previous years. One of the biggest changes is that only your total giving amount, instead of each gift, will be listed on your 2021 contribution statement.

We greatly appreciate your flexibility and patience with office staff during this time of year. If you have questions, please call the office (910-739-4336) or email the general office email ([office@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:office@fbclumbertonnc.org)).

## **CHURCH STAFF**

Contact us at 910-739-4336 or

[office@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:office@fbclumbertonnc.org)

[www.fbclumbertonnc.org](http://www.fbclumbertonnc.org)

Rev. Tim Little — Minister of Music and Facilities

Rev. Josh Owens — Senior Pastor

Mr. Len Power — Building Superintendent

Mrs. Kandace Ramsey — Administrative Assistant

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

### ***First Sunday Food Drive - It's not too late to donate!***



The first Sunday of each month we collect non-perishable foods for local charities. If you were not able to bring your donations on January 2, it's not too late!

A collection bin is available in the Sanctuary vestibule and inside the 6th street entrance of the church.

Donation suggestions: Canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned meats (such as chicken breast), pork & beans, rice, dried beans, boxed meals, baby foods, bottles of water and juices. Pop-top cans are preferred.