

First Baptist News

a family of faith

This Week . . .

Sunday, February 6
 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. Mission Discernment Pilgrimage
 (Fellowship Hall and Zoom)
 4:30 p.m. Missions Committee Meeting

Tuesday, February 8
 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group (Zoom)

Wednesday, February 9
 6:00 p.m. **Wednesday Night Prayer Service**
 (Fellowship Hall and Zoom)
 Children's Activities
 Youth Doing Missions



Preparing for Sunday, February 6
“Mission Discernment Pilgrimage: The
Mission of Jesus, According to Jesus”
Luke 4:14-30

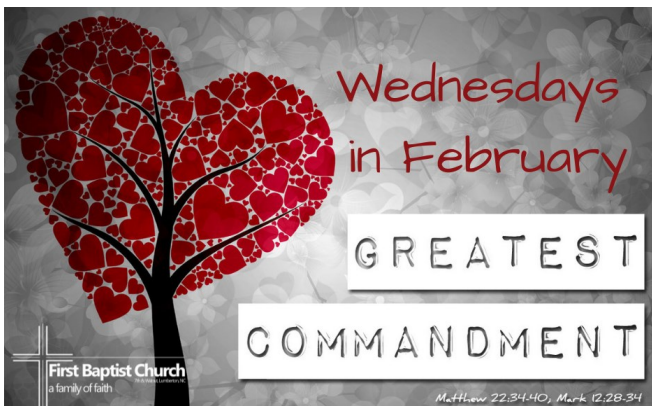
This Sunday, February 6, we will observe communion during 10:30 am worship. If you will be worshipping with us online, you are invited to gather your own communion elements or pick up pre-packaged elements from the church office. You can come inside or we can meet you curbside at the 6th street entrance of the church (910-739-4336). If you will be joining us in-person, pick up your communion elements as you enter the sanctuary.

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship

Join us for Worship in-person in the Sanctuary or on Facebook Live.

<https://www.facebook.com/firstbaptistlumbertonnc>

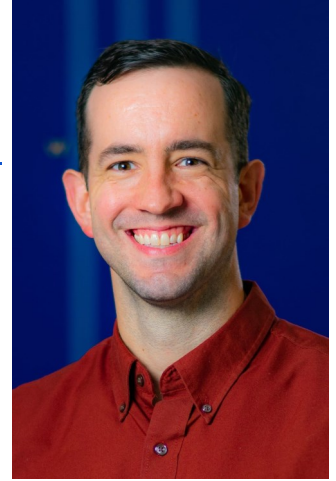
Persons attending Sunday School and Worship will wear masks and practice social distancing in all indoor settings. This applies to those who have been vaccinated and those who have not been or cannot be vaccinated. Pews will be marked to allow for social distancing during Worship.



During the month of February, we will be studying the different elements of Jesus' Greatest Commandment as told in Matthew 22. Join us Wednesday nights at 6:00 pm in-person in Cherry Fellowship Hall or via Zoom.

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

One of my favorite movies is the 2010 film "The Way" starring Martin Sheen. In the movie, Sheen plays a father whose son was killed while completing a pilgrimage along the Santiago de Compostela ([The Way of St. James](#)) in Spain. The father travels to Spain and resolves to complete the spiritual journey himself in an effort to better understand both his son and himself. The film tells the story of his travels and the cast of characters that he meets along the way. It is beautiful to watch the change that happens in the father over the course of the film as he gains a new understanding and appreciation for himself, his son, and the world around him.



A pilgrimage is a journey that a person or persons take to a place in order to discover something new about themselves or others. Oftentimes this "place" is a physical location that is somewhere new, unexpected, or unexplored to the traveler. A pilgrim returns from their journey renewed, restored, or transformed into a richer version of themselves. In faith communities, pilgrimages are intentional journeys that are taken by people of faith to locations of significance or unexplored destinations as a way to encounter God in a new way. They enter into this journey with the intention of being changed. They aim to experience God in a new way that leaves their lives altered for good.

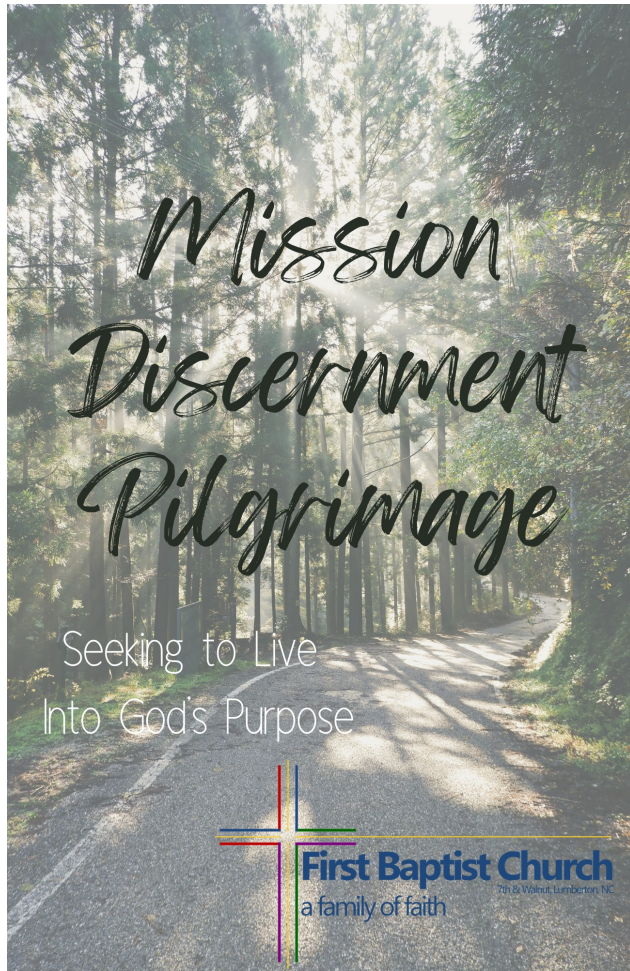
Here at First Baptist Lumberton, I believe that God has brought us to such a time of discernment and exploration. Beginning this month, we are beginning a time of intentional introspection on what the mission for FBCL will be in this new season of our ministry. We are calling this process our Mission Discernment Pilgrimage, or MDP. We want to answer the questions of why we exist, what we aim to do in our community, and what motivates us to do so. It will consist of six main sessions between February-May, and this month's sermon series will explore the understanding of mission as scripture and God understands it. At the end of this process, we will create a mission statement that will become adopted by the church, printed on documents, incorporated into our branding and publications, and serve as the lens through which we view our decision-making going forward. Through this pilgrimage, we may even look further down the road and craft a vision statement of what we hope to make a reality through living into our mission or produce a list of values that we hold dear as the people of FBCL. All of this is aimed to clarify who we are, who we want to be, and how we want to go about doing it.

Like many people of faith have done for centuries, we are about to embark on a journey to a new and unexplored reality for our faith family. We enter into it with the intention of encountering God in a new way, desiring to come away from that encounter changed. Through this transformation, we hope to reaffirm who God has called us to be and discover how we can live into that calling in new, intentional ways to continue to connect with our community. Yet to do this, it will take a very important ingredient to make it the best it can be...you. I am inviting all who are a part of our church to be a part of this journey. Young or old. New or veteran. Confident or doubtful. This is our faith family's journey, and we need all of us to be a part of it so we can arrive at the destination together. I do not know where God will take us, but I do know that if we join together, it will be exactly where God needs and wants us to be. Let's take this journey together!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua Owens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Joshua K. Owens, *Senior Pastor*



Gatherings will be held in Cherry Fellowship Hall and via Zoom.

First Gathering:
Sunday February 6th
3:00-4:30 pm

Second Gathering:
Sunday February 20th
3:00-4:30 pm
Facilitated by Dr. Kendall Latham, PhD,
Senior K-12 Education Strategist,
Dell EMC Technologies

Third Gathering:
Sunday March 13th
3:00-4:30 pm

Fourth Gathering:
Saturday March 26
8 AM - 12 PM*
Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Daynette Snead Perez,
Founder/CEO of Diaspra, LLC
*Limited to 20 participants

Fifth Gathering:
Sunday May 1
3:00-4:30 PM

Many of you have read *Pilgrim's Progress*, *A Walk in the Woods*, *Wild*, *The Hobbit*, or have at least seen a movie involving a journey. It's a common storytelling trope, and it is probably the one I most enjoy. Getting from one place to another often involves many unexpected obstacles and adventures. It provides for us an excellent opportunity to bond with fellow travelers along the way. It is a wonderful metaphor for life itself.

We have overcome so much as a church and a community over the past few decades. Floods, controversies, and loss of industry are just a few examples. Yet here we are. We are still alive, still moving forward, and for now, confidently headed in the right direction.

That is not to say that at any point in our history we have completely forgotten that we are followers of Christ. We just have been prone toward occasionally taking the wrong exit or making an unnecessarily pit stop. While a case can be made that wandering off the trail sometimes generates the most unforgettable adventures, you must do so while keeping your destination firmly in mind.

None of us have been around for the entirety of First Baptist's journey, but those of you who have walked along with us for any length of time know we sometimes become so focused on the immediate distractions around us that we forget to remember where we are going. On one of my first trips with the youth of FBC, a chaperone reminded our students to always remember "who you are, and whose you are." It was sound advice.

All of that is to say that we are about to take a journey within our journey. We are on a pilgrimage over the next few months to rediscover who we are and whose we are. Unlike similar such trips we have made in the past, this time we will emerge with something tangible; a new mission statement. I'm always up for an adventure. Come join us. Can't wait!

Grace & Peace,
Doug

Early Childhood Ministry's Registration period for the 2022-23 School year opens Monday, February 21st to members of First Baptist. To learn more about our program, visit fbclumbertonnc.org/early-childhood-ministry or call 910-738-6608.





**Churchwide
Spiritual Retreat**
 April 22-24, 2022 Camp Rockfish
 (all ages welcome)
 \$100 per person (\$200 cap per family)
 (includes lodging, meals upon arrival, and retreat resources)
 Join us as all of FBCL gathers in one place for
 worship, rest, play, and community.

For more information about the retreat and to register, visit www.fbclumbertonnc.org/retreat

Servants this Sunday

9:30 Sunday School Entrance Greeters

- *6th Street Ramp 9:00—9:30 am
Kenneth Sasser
- *ECM Entrance 9:00—9:30 am
Jayne and Bruce Huggins

10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters

- Sanctuary Vestibule 10:00—11:30 am
Gene Home and Jimmy Dail

Nursery

Ashlynn Cox, Jenna Davis

Extended Session

Pattie Ramsaur

*Handicap Accessible entrance

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](#).

- Go to our website (www.fbclumbertonnc.org) to complete a draft form.

- Send us your contribution by mail —
**606 N. Walnut Street
 Lumberton, NC 28358**

***First Sunday
Food Drive—
February 6***



The first Sunday of each month we collect non-perishable foods for local charities. Our next collection date is Sunday, February 6.

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.

CHURCH STAFF

Contact us at 910-739-4336 or office@fbclumbertonnc.org
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

*Thinking
of you*

Person of the Week

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

Dorothy Powers
 1000 Wesley Pines Road
 Room 121
 Lumberton, NC 28358