

First Baptist News

First Baptist, Lumberton is a community of faith committed to living out the love of Christ by serving God and all people.

Coming up this week. . .

Sunday, January 8

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Online
via Facebook Live & YouTube
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study
(Fellowship Hall)

Monday, January 9

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 11:45 a.m. WMU Meeting (Act. Bld.)
- 6:30 p.m. Scout Meeting

Tuesday, January 10

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group (Zoom)
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Committee Meeting
(Conf. Rm.)

Wednesday, January 11

Youth Ski Trip Payments Due

- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Chapel)
- Youth Doing Missions
(Fellowship Hall)
- Children's Activities
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, January 12

- 11:00 a.m. Fun & Fellowship (Act. Bld.)
- 6:30 p.m. Autism Society Meeting
(Act. Bld.)

Saturday, January 14

- 10:00 a.m. Hispanic Ministry Bible Study
(Act. Bld.)



Preparing for Sunday, January 8 Epiphany Sunday/Baptism of the Lord

“Scheduling Difficulties”
Matthew 2:1-12, 3:13-17 (NLT)

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

Join us for Worship in-person in the Sanctuary
or online on Facebook Live
facebook.com/firstbaptistlumbertonnc
or online on YouTube

Can't make it our services in-person? We
stream most of our services on Facebook
Live and on YouTube!

Scan the QR code to the right
with your cell phone camera
to access our social media
pages, YouTube Channel,
and our website.



SCAN ME

To be added to our email list,
contact Kandace
(kandaceramsey@fbclumbertonnc.org).



Wednesday, January 11 starting at 6:00 pm:
Adult Bible Study will meet in the Chapel.
Youth Doing Missions will meet in the
Fellowship Hall. Sanctuary Choir rehearsal
will follow at 7:00 pm.



A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Maybe it has something to do with short work weeks? Maybe it's the proximity to a holiday? Or maybe it is just wishful thinking that given those two elements, it would be a slow week around the office? Well given the fact that our building experienced a small fire in the parlor the Monday of Thanksgiving week, and then now a large water line bursting in the children's building while the church and ECM were closed for the Christmas holiday, I am starting to wonder what the connection is? As someone asked me last week after acknowledging first the fire, then the leak, "what comes next?"

It is funny how we often convince ourselves that difficulties or tragedies come in waves. Maybe that is because sometimes they do. Little things hit us at different moments and in different ways. Then there are seasons in our lives where we may feel like we are just treading water in a sea of challenges. But we are the ones who determine how we view these particular instances in our lives. For me, the thing that I have taken to focusing my mind on in the wake of these frustrating snafus is that they provide opportunities. Opportunity to try new things, to experience things that we normally would, yet in different circumstances or venues, forcing us out of the rut of the "same-ol, same-ol." Now this certainly is not my attempt to downplay the displacement, the cost, or the inconvenience that many of these issues have caused in the last several months, but it is all about the perspective we take.

The Bible has much to say about enduring difficulties ([Matt. 6:19-34](#)) and the hope we have in God's presence during such times ([Isaiah 41:10](#)), but I am particularly fond of the rendering of James 1:2-4 in the Voice translation, "Don't run from tests and hardships, brothers and sisters. As difficult as they are, you will ultimately find joy in them; if you embrace them, your faith will blossom under pressure and teach you true patience as you endure. And true patience brought on by endurance will equip you to complete the long journey and cross the finish line—mature, complete, and wanting nothing." In that I hear that difficult moments have the potential, the opportunity if you will, to grow us as individuals, as a community, and ultimately as followers of Jesus. It is all in how we choose to view the things that happen to us in our lives. So in this new year, whatever may come our way, let's all choose to meet it head on, and with hearts full, knowing that we have the opportunity to experience God in new ways together!

In the Love of 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*

Isn't a new year a wonderful thing? It reminds us of our capacity to start afresh, to try new things, and to push ourselves, with God's guidance, to become better versions of ourselves. Sometimes this means changing our eating habits.

We, as a family, have decided to restrict our intake of red meat to once/week. This will make cooking a challenge, but it will likely mean we will need to get out of our culinary routine. We will need to try to prepare new things from different cultures. Hopefully, this will contribute to healthier lifestyles, less environmental damage, and more creativity.

Some inspiration will no doubt come from our new favorite Netflix series, *Somebody Feed Phil*. If you are unfamiliar with the show, it features Phil Rosenthal, the creator and writer of *Everybody Loves Raymond*, traveling to areas around our country and around the world. He enthusiastically explores new cities, meets new friends, and spends most of his time consuming a wide variety of food.

One thing I've learned from watching, whether he is in New Orleans, London, or Rio, is that the best foods are created when unlikely combinations of cultures interact. For example, in Brazil, the French, Dutch, and African population were clashing with the ruling Portuguese. A side effect of their military collaboration was an amazing culinary collaboration. The result of different cooking styles is often greater than the sum of its parts.

So perhaps we should learn from this as a church. More styles, more ethnic diversity, and more ideas all force us to change our way of doing things. It teaches us to see things through different lens. It leads to more empathy and understanding. Diversity makes sense for a church that was founded to follow a Jewish Messiah that was visited by Zoroastrian priests, briefly lived in Egypt, and grew up surrounded by Romans.

Grace and Peace,

Doug

First Baptist Church
a family of faith

Youth Ski Trip

January 25 - 29, 2023
Canaan Valley, WV

\$400.00 includes lodging, lift tickets, transportation, and most but not all meals.

\$100.00 deposit due
October 19

**FINAL PAYMENT DUE
JANUARY 11**

Ski trip chaperones should plan to meet January 17 at 6 p.m.

We will leave the evening of Wednesday, January 25 and stay near Fredericksburg on the way up. Thursday will be travel and ski rentals, and Friday and Saturday will be skiing/tubing. Please bring money for few meals (lunch on the 27th and 28th is covered). We will return Sunday, January 29. Questions? Contact Doug—739-4336.

PASSPORT

Youth Mission Trip

July 9-14, 2023

Converse University
Spartanburg, SC

\$400 total cost
\$100 Deposit Due Jan. 22

Contact Rev. Doug Reedy for
more information.

ATTENTION:

The ECM Entrance is temporarily CLOSED due to repairs. Please enter for Worship at the Sanctuary.

Servants this Sunday

9:30 Sunday School Entrance Greeters

*6th Street Ramp, 9:00—9:30 am
Kenneth Sasser

10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters

Sanctuary Vestibule, 10:00—11:30 am
Brenda and James Britt

Security Monitor — Alan Britt

Nursery — Ashlynn Cox, Jenna Davis

Extended Session — Pattie Ramsaur, Heather Walters



YOUTH *Activities*

Youth will meet Wednesday and Sunday nights at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All of these meetings will focus on Valentine Banquet preparations. Doug sent an email with dates you should know and details for each meeting.

Beginning February 15, we will resume meeting in the youth building on Wednesday nights. Bells and Bible study return to their normal schedule and location beginning February 19.

Coming up in January...

January 15 — Knit Wits, 3:00 pm, Activities Building

January 16 — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in Room D-113. Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

January 17 — Youth Ski chaperone meeting, 7:00 pm, Conference Room

January 21 — Community Café hosted by Sanctuary Choir

January 22 — Communion during Worship

January 22 — Youth Passport Mission trip deposits are due.

January 23 — Lunch and Learn, 12:00 noon

January 25 — Quarterly Church Conference, 6:00 pm

January 25-29 — Youth Ski Trip

January 31 — 2022 Contributions Statements will be mailed (or emailed, if preferred) around this date.

January 31 — Children's Committee Meeting, 6:00 pm, Conference Room

Coming up in February...

February 6 — WMU Meeting, 11:45 am, Activities Building

February 7 — Baptist Women's Bible Study, 11:45 am, Activities Building

February 7-17 — ECM registration for the 2023-24 school year opens to currently-enrolled families

February 9 — Fun & Fellowship, 11:00 am, Activities Building

February 10 — Valentine Banquet rehearsal, 5 pm- until, Fellowship Hall

February 11 — Valentine Banquet, 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

February 13 — Friends of Jesus Valentine Party

February 18 — Community Café hosted by Fellowship Class

February 19 — Worship Committee Meeting, 3:00 pm

February 20 — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in Room D-113. Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

February 20 — ECM registration for the 2023-24 school year opens to FBC members not currently enrolled

February 21 — ECM registration for the 2023-24 school year opens to the public. Registration will take place in the Fellowship Hall 8-11 am on Feb. 21st and other times by appointment.

February 21 — Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

February 22 — Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

February 22 — Lancaster, PA trip final payments due



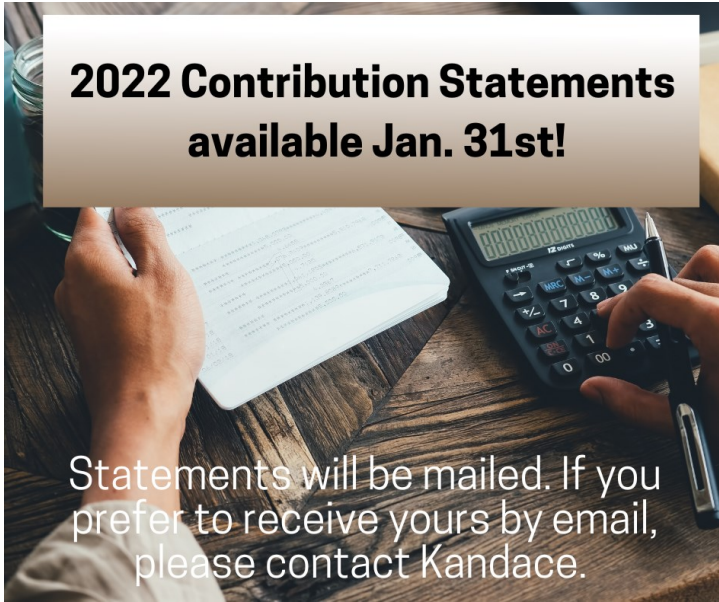
Give to First Baptist Church!
 Here are some ways to donate to our ministry:

- Give during Sunday worship.
- Scan the QR code to the right with your cell phone camera to go to our secure, online 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



Our speaker will be Pattie Ramsaur. Lunch will be provided! Please RSVP to the church office by January 19th so we can plan the meal (910-739-4336). You can also sign-up on the bulletin board near Room D-113 or by the Info Table.

2022 Contribution Statements available Jan. 31st!



Statements will be mailed. If you prefer to receive yours by email, please contact Kandace.

Upcoming Small Group Gatherings

Monday, January 9 — WMU meeting will be held at 11:45 am in the Activities Building. Victoria Wallace from Carroll Middle will be our speaker. She will be speaking about the clothing closet. Bring a sandwich and water.

Thursday, January 11 — Fun and Fellowship will meet at 11:00 am in the Activities Building.

We need hosts for Community Café!

Community Café is hosted on the third Saturday of each month at the Activities Building. A light lunch is served. If your Sunday School class, small group, or group of friends are willing to host Community Café, please contact Rev. Doug Reedy or the church office. We have several dates available in 2023.




Joyful Travelers to Lancaster Show Trip & the Dutch Country
May 1—5, 2023
 Cost: \$650.00

The price is per person, based on double occupancy. The trip includes transportation, lodging, most meals, admission to several shows, and guided tours. **Final trip payment is due Feb. 22, 2023. However, we need a few more people to sign up for the trip to be possible! Please spread the word!**

Due to the water damage in the Children's Building, please note that some meeting locations have recently changed.

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Nursery — Room D-107 (former TEL/Ladies' Fellowship Class room)

Preschool Sunday School Class — Room D-111A (use entrance across from Nursery)

1st-5th Grade Sunday School Class — Room D-206

Youth Sunday School Class —
Youth Sunday School Hall, Room 203

Bridge Sunday School Class — Room D-202

Circle of Friends Class — Pastor's Study (outside Parlor)

Collins Class — Conference Room

Susan Welsh Class — Henry Prayer Chapel

Fellowship Class — Chapel & Zoom

Friends of Jesus Class — Activities Building

Nursery Care & Extended Session

Nursery care is available for birth—age 2. Nursery will meet in Room D-107 (former TEL/Ladies' Fellowship Class room).

Children age 3—K are invited to attend Extended Session after the children's sermon. Extended Session will meet in D-111A (use entrance across from Nursery).

Children in 1st grade and older attend the full worship service. Worship bags are available for those who wish to use them.

Early Childhood Ministry announces 2023-24 Registration

The 2023-24 year usually begins in late August based on PSRC's calendar.

Feb. 7-17 for currently-enrolled families,
Feb. 20 for FBC members not currently enrolled,
Feb. 21 opens to the public.

On February 21, the ECM will be in the Fellowship Hall 8 – 11 am to accept applications. Applications will be accepted based on available openings.

NC PreK applications are accepted at Robeson County Partnership for Children (738-6767).

Contact Michelle Prevatte, ECM Director, to inquire about openings: 910-738-6608 or michelleprevatte@fbclumbertonnc.org

Thinking of you

Person of the Week

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

**Carolyn Kirby
1000 Wesley Pines Road, Rm A-162
Lumberton, NC 28358**

CHURCH STAFF

Please call the office to make sure someone is in before stopping by.

Office Phone: 910-739-4336

Website: www.fbclumbertonnc.org

Rev. Tim Little — Minister of Music and Facilities;
timlittle@fbclumbertonnc.org

Rev. Josh Owens — Senior Pastor;
jshowens@fbclumbertonnc.org

Mr. Len Power — Building Superintendent;
lenpower@fbclumbertonnc.org

Mrs. Kandace Ramsey — Administrative Assistant;
kandaceramsey@fbclumbertonnc.org

Rev. Doug Reedy — Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Missions; dougreedy@fbclumbertonnc.org

Quarterly Church Conference

Wednesday, January 25, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Observance of the Ordinance of Communion

During 10:30 am. Worship
Sunday, January 22, 2023

