

First Baptist News

FBC 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, September 10

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Online
- 4:45 p.m. Youth Bells Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study

Monday, September 11

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Conf. Rm.)
- 11:45 a.m. WMU Meeting (Act. Bld.)
- 6:00 p.m. Public Hearing at City Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Scouts Meeting

Tuesday, September 12

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group (Zoom)
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Council Meeting

Wednesday, September 13

Youth Beach Retreat Payment Due

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

Thursday, September 14

- 11:00 a.m. Fun & Fellowship (Act. Bld.)

Saturday, September 16

- 10:00 a.m. Community Café (Act. Bld.)

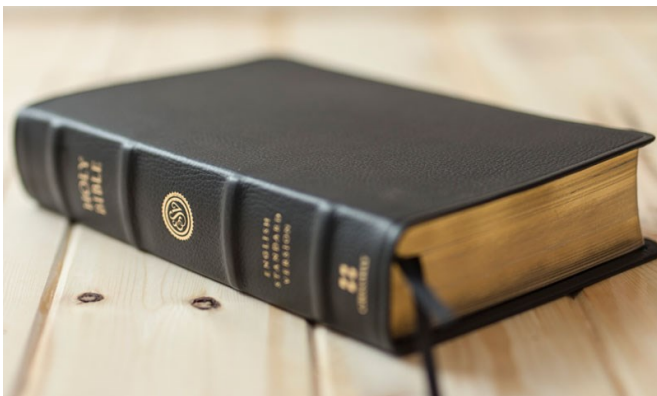


Preparing for Sunday, September 10

**“Easy as 1-2-3?”
Matthew 15:18-20 and
Romans 13:8-14 (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
youtube.com/c/lumbertonfbc/**



**Children's Bible Presentation
Sunday, September 10**

Worship will resume gathering in the Sanctuary
Sunday, September 10.
Please enter at the Sanctuary Vestibule for
Worship.

Bibles will be presented to 1st graders during
Worship on September 10th. If your child will be
present and hasn't received a Bible from us yet,
please contact the church office so we can have a
Bible ready for them this Sunday.



A Note from the Pastor's Desk *September 2023*

If I had the chance, I would love to invite those within our church to give me their response to the question, "What is worship?" Upon compiling the answers, I would then welcome the chance to share them with all of you, and then hear your responses to that data. If I had to guess, I would assume the responses might be quite varied, and as you read them, you might be surprised to see the many ways in which people within our own faith community understand, experience, and desire to engage in worship.

Sadly, in the last fifty years of the global Church, thoughts, opinions, and preferences around worship have dominated much of the conversation within churches. Churches have even come to the point of splitting, or participants outright leaving altogether on account of things like drums and guitars, hymns or choruses, organ or piano, lights or stained glass windows, "suit and ties" or "jeans and flannel shirts." On and on we could go about the many aspects of worship engagement that have served as confrontations for the people of God. This is somewhat understandable when you remember that worship is one of the central components of the people of God. For many folks, it is the most significant engagement one has with their faith community or their own spiritual life. Because we associate worship with our faith, and our faith with how we see ourselves and understand the world, worship is important.

That is why I am so grateful to you, Church, for allowing us to engage with different experiences of worship this summer. For starters, we didn't gather in the sanctuary at all from Memorial Day to Labor Day. While in the fellowship hall, we incorporated elements such as PowerPoint, spoken word, and visual aids in sermons. We manipulated how we were physically present in the space, such as gathering around tables, to sitting in a circle. We adorned the space with different elements for the eye, like the various art mediums during August. Then we ended the summer by joining for worship in our chapel and got to rub elbows in the packed room. Through all of this, if you had reservations, you didn't hound the staff with them. If you were upset about something, it did not reach our ears. So for that, I want to say thank you for letting us explore and attempt to be creative with how we worship as a faith community.

Through all of these experiences, I hope you were able to see that worship is so much more than a regular routine, specific space, particular seat, or a preferred method. When we gather for worship, there are well over 100 different personalities, experiences, tastes, and learning styles gathered in the room at one time. While everything we do in worship may not be everyone's favorite, we hope that in a worship gathering, there is at least one element that connects with you and in turn facilitates a connection with the divine. Because ultimately friends, worship is not about us. It is not really about what "feeds us", what "moves us", or what "we have always done." Our worship is about the people of God giving praise and adoration to God. The worship is not done for the "audience" gathered in the pews or chairs, but the audience is really an audience of one, our Heavenly Father.

So my hope for each of us is that as we gather once more in our sanctuary and continue in our weekly worship gatherings, the central guiding principle of everything we do, the "why" behind what we do will always be on praising God in all of the ways we can. God has created each of us uniquely, and the diversity of God's creation speaks to the multitude of ways we can use the elements of that creation to offer our praises to God. May our acts of worship, whenever, however, and wherever they occur, seek to honor God. For our Lord is worthy to be praised!

In the Love of Christ,

Rev. Joshua K. Owens, *Senior Pastor*



MENTAL HEALTH FOR TODAY'S CHURCH



AWARENESS ♥ PREVENTION + EDUCATION

Guest Speakers
Terry & Phillip Lee
of the Overflow Foundation
overflow.foundation



**Saturday,
Sept, 9,
2023**

9 am — 1 pm

**Cherry
Fellowship
Hall**

**There are many ways to view upcoming
events at FBC Lumberton!**

Paper options:

- Subscribe to our newsletter mailing.
- Check out our bulletin boards located at the 6th street entrance or near the rear entrance of the Sanctuary.

Online options:

- Subscribe to our email list.
- Check out our website: www.fbclumbertonnc.org
- Follow us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistECM
- Follow us on Instagram: [fbclumbertonnc](https://www.instagram.com/fbclumbertonnc)
- View Worship on YouTube:
www.youtube.com/@lumbertonfbc

Coming up...

Sept. 19 — Committee on Committees Meeting, 7 pm, Conference Room

Sept. 25 — Lunch & Learn at 12 noon. Please RSVP by Sept. 15th.

Sept. 25 — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Sept. 25-29 — Deacon Election Absentee Voting in the church office, 9:00 am—2:30 pm.

Oct. 1 — World Communion Sunday. We will observe the Ordinance of Communion during Worship.

Oct. 1 — Deacon Election during Called Church Conference, immediately following the conclusion of worship.

Oct. 2 — WMU meeting, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.

Oct. 3 — Baptist Women's Bible Study, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.

Oct. 4 — Youth 2024 Ski Trip deposit due (\$100). The ski trip is scheduled for Jan. 12-16, 2024.

Oct. 12 — Fun & Fellowship, 11:00 am, Act. Bld.

Oct. 13-15 — CBFNC Youth Beach Retreat

Oct. 19 — PSRC's Elementary Honors Chorus

Oct. 21 — Community Café (host needed)

Oct. 22 — Friends of Jesus Sunday

Oct. 23 — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Oct. 23-28 — Joyful Travelers Trip to Kentucky

Oct. 25 — Trunk or Treat

Oct. 29 — All Saints Sunday

Nov. 1 — Quarterly Church Conference, 6 pm

Nov. 5 — Daylight Savings Time Ends (fall back)

Nov. 6 — WMU meeting, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.

Nov. 7 — Election Day; Baptist Women's Bible Study Group, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.

Nov. 9 — Fun & Fellowship, 11 am, Act. Bld.

Nov. 11 — Veteran's Day

Nov. 12 — Senior Adult Sunday

Nov. 13 — Hanging of the Green greenery fund memorials/honorariums due.

Nov. 14 — Carolina Opry Christmas Show Trip

Nov. 17 — Youth BBQ Sale

Nov. 18 — Community Café, hosted by Youth

Nov. 19 — Community Thanksgiving Service, hosted at FBC

Nov. 20 — Finance meeting at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons meeting at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Nov. 23 — Thanksgiving! The offices and ECM will be closed Nov. 23 and 24.

For most people, New Year's Day or the spring season represent new beginnings. For the rest of us who work in church life, education, or football, we know this is the true time for new beginnings! Somehow, things never really seem to slow down at work or in life, but things are about to get especially busy.

This Saturday, we have a seminar on mental health and the church. Residents of Lumberton in particular have been through a great deal of stress over the past 7-8 years and it has taken its psychological toll on many. Mental illness in general affects every one of us or at least someone we know and love. We all need to be better educated and help remove the stigma surrounding this subject.

Our youth Bible Studies, Wednesday night missions, new Sunday School materials, and bells are all beginning now. Adult Wednesday night studies and Wednesday night children's activities have begun. We will be back in the sanctuary for worship this Sunday morning.

New beginnings always come with new challenges and opportunities. Please consider joining with a group or creating your own to sign up for an open Community Café. Consider volunteering one Sunday per month to help with Friends of Jesus. We need more volunteers in the youth department as well. There are so many ways to get involved at FBC.

Your prayers and positivity go a long way toward helping First Baptist live out our mission. Your generosity of time and finances still do the heavy lifting though. Invite your friends and neighbors as well. Let's make this 2023-2024 year at First Baptist a special one!

Grace & Peace,
Doug

YOUTH BEACH RETREAT 2023

October 13-15
Fort Caswell
Middle & High School



GLOW

**\$100.00 due
Sept. 13th!**

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. -1 Peter 2:9



606 N. Walnut Street
Lumberton, NC 28358
910-739-4336

BBQ SALE

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023
11 AM - UNTIL WE RUN OUT
\$10 FOR PLATE OR PINT**

Plates include wood-fired BBQ, beans, slaw, bread, and dessert.
Take-out only.



**PURCHASE ADVANCE
TICKETS FROM ANY
FBC YOUTH.**



First Sunday

FOOD DRIVE

Your donations support community ministries as we provide for the needs of the hungry in our area.

SEPT. NEEDS

Cereal
Peanut Butter

Youth will be collecting items during Youth Doing Missions on Wednesday, Sept. 13th. Contact Rev. Doug Reedy or the office if you would like Youth to pick up your donations.

At our most recent church business meeting, it was shared how our church's leadership has recently begun the process of requesting our city officials to close the portion of 6th Street that runs between our two properties (Walnut to Pine). This would mean this section would no longer be a maintained city street and would cut out general traffic on this busy pedestrian walk for our church and ECM. It also opens up opportunities for us to reimagine accessibility and church grounds to best use our combined properties. The city council approved our request for evaluation with the city's planning department at their August 7th meeting. At the next meeting, on Sept. 11, there will be a public hearing on our request, where residents can speak in support or against our request. It would be great if those from our church were present for a visible show of support. If you are interested in attending, the meeting is on Monday, Sept. 11 at 6 p.m. at City Hall, upstairs in the council meeting room. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me. - Pastor Josh



Trunk or Treat
Wednesday, October 25, 2023
6:00 p.m.
6th Street Parking Lot

Our Trunk or Treat last year was a huge success. We anticipate the need for lots of candy and treats again this year! We know it's a tad earlier than we usually start asking for donations, but Halloween candy sold out quickly last year. Donations may be dropped off in the office.

We also need people to sign-up to decorate their vehicle and/or hand out candy. Call the church office or Rev. Doug Reedy if you are willing to help (910-739-4336).



We are excited to return to our Lunch & Learn gatherings this month. Join us on Monday, September 25th as we welcome one of our own here at First Baptist, Bruce Davis, mayor of Lumberton. Mayor Davis will share an update about recent things happening in the city, as well as report on what might be coming on the horizon. Be sure to sign up by September 15th so we can prepare accordingly for the catered lunch, and bring a friend for this time of fellowship.



Deacon Election Absentee Voting will take place Sept. 25-29 in the Church Office from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm. Other times available by appointment.

Deacon Election will take place Sunday, October 1, 2023 during Called Church Conference immediately following Worship.

Servants this Sunday

*The ECM Entrance remains closed due to repairs.
Please enter for Worship at the Sanctuary Vestibule.*

9:30 Sunday School Entrance Greeters

6th Street Ramp, 9:00—9:30 am (Handicap)
Barbara Andrews

10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters

Sanctuary Vestibule 10:00—11:30 am
Ann & John Underwood

Security Monitor — John Underwood

Nursery — Ashlynn Cox, Jenna Davis

Extended Session — Pattie Ramsaur, Katherine Martin

Contact Us

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

Office Phone: 910-739-4336

Website: www.fbclumbertonnc.org

General Email: office@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

Starting Back in September...

First Monday of the Month

WMU will meet at 11:45 am in the Activities Building starting Sept. 11th.

First Tuesday of the Month

Baptist Women's Bible Study Group will meet at 11:45 am in the Activities Building starting Sept. 5th.

Second Thursday of the Month

Fun & Fellowship will meet at 11:00 am in the Activities Building starting Sept. 14th. The program will be presented by Mark Wagner about beekeeping. Lunch will be provided.

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 portal — fbclumbertonnc.org/give
- 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
- Text FBC606 to 73256 to give using your mobile device.



Community Cafe

providing a meal for the less fortunate

**We have an urgent need for
hosts for September 16th
and October 21st!**

**10:00 am - until food runs out
Activities Building**

**Call the office if your Sunday School class, small
group, family, or group of friends can host.**

910-739-4336

Person of the Week

Send a card, letter, or other
remembrance to our very
special person this week.
She has a birthday coming up!



**Dorothy Powers
1000 Wesley Pines Rd.
Room N-121
Lumberton, NC 28358**