

First Baptist News

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



SCAN ME

Coming up this week. . .

Sunday, November 5

- 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 (Act. Bld.)

Monday, November 6

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

Tuesday, November 7

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group (Zoom)
- 11:45 a.m. Baptist Women's Bible Study (Act. Bld.)

Wednesday, November 8

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

Thursday, November 9

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

Saturday, November 11

Veteran's Day

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



Preparing for Sunday, Nov. 5

"The Multitude of Saints"
Revelation 7:9-17 (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**](https://facebook.com/firstbaptistlumbertonnc)

or online on YouTube
[**youtube.com/c/lumbertonfbc/**](https://youtube.com/c/lumbertonfbc/)

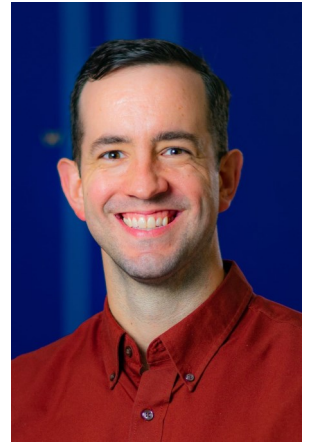
During worship Sunday, November 5, we will observe All Saints' Sunday. We will call the names of those who have passed away over the past year as a way of honoring the impact their lives have had on the church body.



Marguerite Branch
Ruth Britt
Ritchie Sealey

Bernie Stamper
Raymond Lee Stevens, Jr.
Marvin Thompson

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



In a recent sermon, I mentioned a burgeoning theory from the field of adult development called “fallback theory.” The idea of fallback theory is that when a person experiences times of unrest, pressure, emotional distress, or some other kind of stress, we may be susceptible to reverting to decision-making practices that were from a previous time in our development. To put this into a real-world example, we may see someone who becomes very angry and starts acting in a way that we deem to be irrational, so we may say something like, “They are acting like a child.” This is sort of what fallback theory is trying to get at.

This article is not meant to be critical of our times of fallback, but if we were honest with ourselves, we have all experienced times where we probably were not proud of the way we handled certain situations. In a non-heightened emotional state, we see with clear eyes where we could have responded differently, more thoughtfully, or more reasoned when facing a particular situation. While we may experience fallback on account of moments with friends, family, work, or community stressors, might I suggest that we are also susceptible to experiencing fallback when it comes to our spiritual lives as well?

There are absolutely times when the stresses of this life impact our spiritual walks as well. Maybe we see some of the events of the world and ask a question that many children will ask, “Where is God?” Maybe we experience a tragic loss in our lives of some kind, and we look in the mirror and ask, “Why me God?” Fallback might creep in when we think about the possibilities of what could lie ahead for us individually or collectively as a Church, and so we may only think of options in terms of what we have already encountered, cutting ourselves off from new opportunities or different ways of imagining God working in and through us.

Despite these less-than-optimum aspects of fallback, one thing that fallback theory suggests is that though fallback is not always unavoidable, it can however teach us something. We can grow from the experience of fallback. So for our faith, it is not wrong to ask “Where is God?” or “Why me God?”, but where we error is when we stop searching for the answers or fail to embrace the ambiguity of God as a natural part of growing in our faith. Maybe growth is accepting that there are just some things we cannot know about God, and rather than that being a hindrance to us, it is in fact a deeper realization of just who God is. So while we may fallback to the old ways of doing things at times, the less mature versions of ourselves, that doesn’t always have to be who we are going forward. So as we experience challenge, or as we look toward what the future might bring for us as a community of faith, let us instead seek to fall forward into the arms of our loving, embracing God, so that we may discern all of who God is leading us to become!

In the Love of Christ,

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

Rev. Joshua K. Owens, *Senior Pastor*

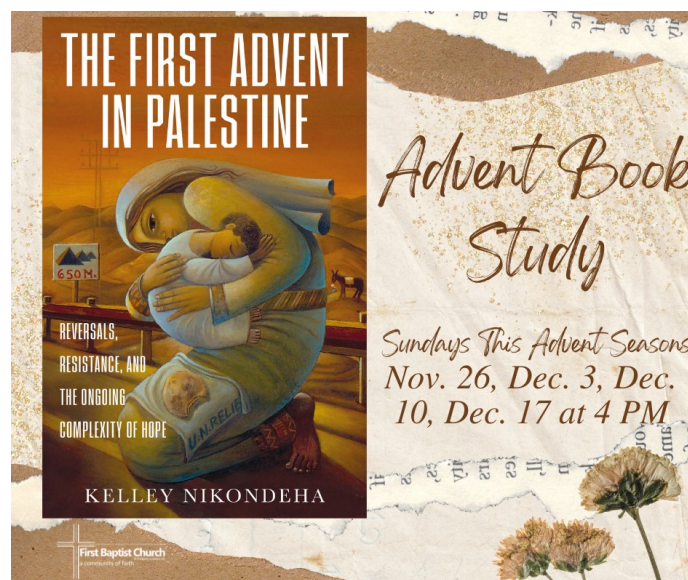
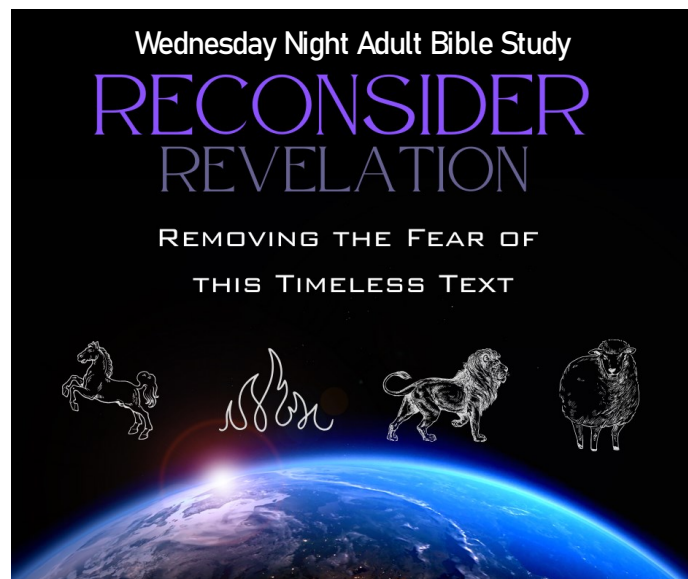


All are invited to get away for a period of spiritual reflection and refreshment! During this retreat, we will spend time thinking about how we might more fully embrace the goodness of God and the gifts of this life both individually and in small groups.

Hosted at Camp Agape in Fuquay-Varina, the retreat will be led by Sarah Blackwell, Derek Hogan and Lydia Hoyle from the CBFNC Spiritual Formation Advisory Team. This retreat is a wonderful opportunity to relax and recharge.

\$60 Registration fee includes lodging and meals. Single and double rooms available. Each room shares a bathroom with one other room.

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, we have several dates available in 2023 and 2024. Call the church office to reserve a date. Once your date is reserved, we encourage you to contact your florist to arrange delivery of the flowers (most use Flowers by Billy—738-2279).



We will have an Advent Book Study Sundays at 4 pm in the conference room. We encourage you to purchase your copy of the book, "The First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope" by Kelly Nikondeha, in advance. It can be purchased on Amazon at <https://a.co/d/2DeNqDa>.

In the book, Nikondeha guides the reader to revisit the birth of Jesus in the context of his birth. A context that was marked by social upheaval, resistance, and oppression, and challenges us to think how that reality has something to say to us today as we revisit the First Advent.

Meeting dates are November 26, December 3, December 10, and December 17.

Ramblings From Our Associate Pastor

It is Halloween/Reformation Day as I am writing this, and it seems like autumn has finally arrived. We have experienced unseasonably hot weather this last week or two, even for us. It feels great outside and if the rain holds off the weather will be perfect for trick or treating this evening.

Before asking for volunteers for a certain fundraiser I'll mention soon, we would like to thank everyone who helped out with a very successful Trunk or Treat this past Wednesday. We had well over 300 children, who all seemed to have a wonderful time. We had more cars, more candy, and more folks in chairs than I can ever remember. It was a good thing, since we needed everyone and even had to make a Dollar General run for more candy. Thank you all!

Now, let's talk pork. The next opportunity to serve our community is on Friday, November 17th where we will sell thousands of pints and plates of Tommy's delicious barbeque. I have 100% confidence in our food quality, but we need lots of volunteers to keep up with the high demand we will encounter. Usually, there is a lunch rush, then a lull. Last year, it was steady from before we planned to open until well into the evening. We even ran out, and I cannot promise that will not happen again.

Although we at times struggled to keep up with the line of cars we encountered, we hung in there and kept the plates coming. Through all of the stress of the day, everyone dug deep and kept things from descending in to chaos. It was a team effort. We worked together to make things happen, just as we can as a congregation.

This year, if you haven't helped before, you should. It's more fun than it sounds. If you can't help, please buy tickets. If you can afford to do so, please consider buying plates for some of our shut ins and taking plates to them. They will be thankful. Another option is to buy tickets for our community café guests who visit us the day after the sale. It is a wonderful way to support our youth and also follow Jesus' instructions in Matthew 25. Can't wait!

Grace & Peace,

Doug



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.

BBQ for Community Café—Nov. 18

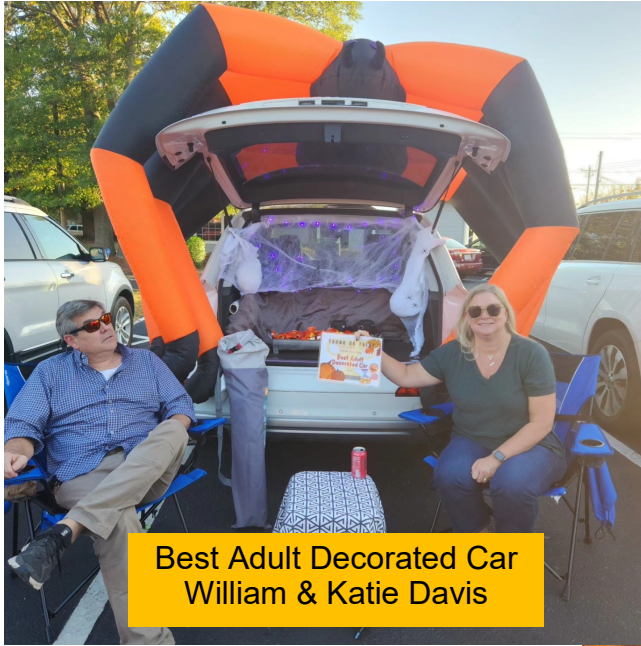
Youth will be hosting Community Café this month (Nov. 18). This is the day after the BBQ sale, so if your Sunday School class, small group, or group of friends are willing to purchase plates for community café, please contact Rev. Doug Reedy or the church office.





Trunk or Treat — Wednesday, October 25, 2023

What a blast we had at our annual Trunk-or-Treat. Well over 300 children attended, as well as additional accompanying adults and volunteers. Thanks to everyone who visited, donated candy, decorated, or shared a smiling face! We loved meeting so many of our awesome neighbors!



Best Adult Decorated Car
William & Katie Davis



Random Drawing Winner
Grayson Branch



Best Youth Decorated Car
Carter & Annsley Britt



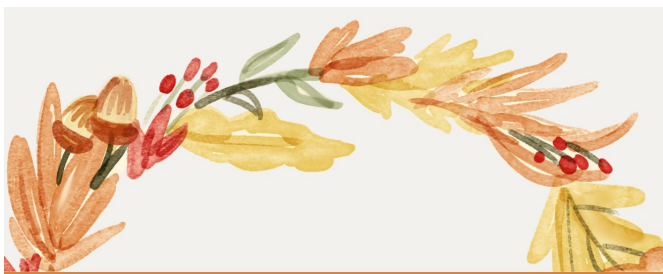
Senior Adult Sunday



NOVEMBER 12

Rev. Larry Sawyer

10:30 Worship
In-person or Online



YOU ARE INVITED TO A

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

HOSTED AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
606 N. WALNUT STREET, LUMBERTON

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2023
5:00 P.M. IN THE SANCTUARY



Fun & Fellowship meets at 11:00 am on Thursday, November 9th in the Activities Building. Lunch will be provided. Join us as we learn about Holiday Safety during this month's meeting.

Coming up this month:

Nov. 12 — Senior Adult Sunday. Rev. Larry Sawyer will be preaching.

Nov. 14 — Carolina Opry Christmas Show Trip

Nov. 17 — BBQ Sale, 11 am until we run out!

Nov. 18 — Community Café, hosted by Youth

Nov. 18 — Lumberton Christmas Parade. The ECM will have a float, so be sure to show your support if you attend.

Nov. 19 — Deacon Ordination & Installation Service during 10:30 am Worship

Nov. 19 — Community Thanksgiving Service, hosted at FBC. Rev. Lisa Rust will be preaching.

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

Nov. 20 — Hanging of the Green greenery fund memorials/honorariums due. Forms are available in the newsletter and online.

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

Nov. 26 — Christ the King Sunday; Hanging of the Green Rehearsal that evening.

Coming Up in December:

Dec. 3 — Muffins for Music during 9:30 am Sunday School hour. The FOJ class will be singing carols.

Dec. 3 — Hanging of the Green, 6 pm, Sanctuary

Dec. 4 — WMU Meeting, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.

Dec. 5 — Baptist Women's Bible Study, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.

Dec. 8 — Partnership for Children's EC Art/Christmas Party in the Fellowship Hall, 10 am

Dec. 9 — Children's Christmas Party

Dec. 10 — Memorial Service, 5 pm, Chapel

Dec. 11 — Friends of Jesus Christmas Party

Dec. 13 — Youth Progressive Dinner

Dec. 14 — Fun & Fellowship, 11 am, Fellowship Hall

Dec. 16 — Community Café, hosted by Bridge Sunday School Class

Dec. 17 — Sanctuary Choir Cantata

Dec. 18 — Finance meeting at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons meeting at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. New elected Deacons are invited to attend.

Dec. 24 — No Sunday School. Worship will be held at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5 pm, Sanctuary

Dec. 24 — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5 pm, Sanctuary

Dec. 25 — Christmas Day!

Dec. 25-27 — Offices & ECM closed

Dec. 31 — No Sunday School. Worship will be held at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary.

Give to the Children's Christmas Party & Friends of Jesus Fund!

Children's Christmas Party Goal = \$6,000

Date of Party: December 9th

Beginning in October each year, we work with local schools to gather names of children in need. The Youth of First Baptist then invite these children to our annual Children's Christmas Party. The Youth and their families shop for necessities and a toy on the child's wish list, then send a ham home for the whole family. We hope to spend \$125.00 per child.

FOJ Christmas Party Goal = \$6,000

Date of Party: December 11th

The Friends of Jesus Ministry is also accepting donations to buy gifts for their annual Christmas party.

Please give early and generously to help make these ministry opportunities possible!



WELCOME!

This past Sunday (October 29) in worship Jeffery and Jean Kinlaw joined First Baptist Church. We welcome them to our community of faith!

**Jeffery and Jean Kinlaw
5207 Pin Oak Drive
Lumberton, NC 28358**

As an element of Worship, we invite you to light The Christ Candle. This invitation is open to all ages, individuals or families. The Christ Candle is lit at the beginning of Worship and stays burning through the service as a visual reminder of God's presence and light in our lives. Contact the Church Office or any of the ministers if you would like to light the candle.



December 3 is the first Sunday in Advent this year, which marks the start of the spiritual period of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth on Christmas Day.

During Hanging of the Green, children and Youth help decorate the Sanctuary. The tree is decorated in Chrismons. "Chrismon" is a combination of the words "Christ" and "monogram," and means "symbols of Christ." Chrismons are gold and white, representing majesty and purity. So, the primary colors used are green, gold, and white.

We include honorariums and memorials made to the greenery fund in the printed program. See the back of this newsletter for the form to contribution to the greenery fund.

On Sunday, December 3rd, Sunday Morning Worship will be held in Cherry Fellowship Hall at 10:30 a.m. as we prepare for Hanging of the Green that evening.

If you prefer, you may complete this form online. A link to the form is available in emails from the church. Contributions are accepted in cash, check, or online. Please contact Kandace about online giving options.

Hanging of the Green Sunday, December 3, 2023

It is time to begin collecting donations for the annual Hanging of the Green! We would like to include your honorariums and memorials in this year's program. Please complete this form and return it to the church office no later than Monday, November 20, 2023.

I would like to contribute \$ _____ to the Hanging of the Green Fund.

Please print names as they should appear in the program.

In memory of: _____

And/or

In honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Phone: _____



Our nursery room is in need of an update. As we prepare to give Room D-107 a fresh coat of paint, we need a few items to make the room baby and toddler friendly. We have made an Amazon

wish list if you would like to purchase a few items. Items purchased from this list can be shipped directly to the church.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/Is/1RTU1N5NDVKM3?ref=wl_share

Person of the Week

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

*Thinking
of you*

Larry Sawyer
328 Windsor Road
Lumberton, NC 28358

Servants this Sunday

The ECM Entrance remains closed due to repairs. Please enter for Worship at the vestibule this Sunday.

9:30 Sunday School Entrance Greeters

6th Street Ramp, 9:00—9:30 am (Handicap)
Jimmy & Billie Dail

10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters

Sanctuary Vestibule 10:00—11:30 am
Barbara Andrews & Shirley Hickman

Security Monitor — Malcolm McLean

Nursery — Ashlynn Cox, Jenna Davis

Extended Session — Christy Strickland

Contact Us

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

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;
dougree@fbclumbertonnc.org