

First Baptist News

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



Preparing for Sunday, February 4, 2024 “The City at Our Door?: A Review of the Last Year at FBC Lumberton”

Join us for Sunday School at 9:30 am
and for Worship in-person at 10:30 am
in the Sanctuary
or online on Facebook Live
facebook.com/firstbaptistlumbertonnc
or online on YouTube
youtube.com/c/lumbertonfbc/



Coming up this week. . .

Sunday, February 4

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Online
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study

A Called Church Conference will be held immediately following Worship for the purpose of voting on the 2024 budget.

Feb. 4th is the last day to purchase tickets for the Valentine Banquet!

Monday, February 5

ECM Registration opens to

FBC members not currently enrolled

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

Tuesday, February 6

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

Wednesday, February 7

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

Thursday, February 8

ECM Registration opens to the public

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

Saturday, February 10

- 10:00 a.m. Hispanic Ministry Bible Study (Act. Bld.)
 - 6:00 p.m.* Valentine Banquet (Fellowship Hall)
- *Doors open at 6 pm.*

A Note from the Pastor's Desk *February 2024*



Last week I was in Philadelphia for two days to participate in some classes and activities associated with my PhD program at Eastern University. Lindsay was able to travel with me for the first time in the four years I have been in the program, and it was her first time visiting Philadelphia. Of course, for any Philly tourist, eating a beloved Philly cheesesteak sandwich is an absolute must. I've made it a personal mission of mine that every time I travel to Philly, I find a sandwich from a different establishment to try, all to find the "best Philly cheesesteak."

In my quest, one of the things that I find quite funny is that depending on who you ask, you will get very different perspectives on what is the best sandwich in town. Often, if you ask other folks who have been to Philly, they will tell you, "You got to go to Pat's or Geno's." These are two well-known and longstanding restaurants that happen to be across the street from each other, so it makes for some fun competition between their respective aficionados. However, if you ask

most Philly residents, they'll tell you a version of what our Lyft driver told us last week when we asked her, "Whatever you do, avoid Pat's and Geno's, they're overrated tourist traps." Yikes, quite the difference of opinion to be sure.

While I have asked a version of that question to many folks, I think the best answer I ever got was from a Philadelphia police detective early on in my bun-filled quest. I struck up a conversation with him while waiting for a sandwich outside of a place called Dalessandro's Steaks, in the northwestern Philly neighborhood of Roxborough. When I learned what he did, I figured since he'd been all over the city's streets, he would certainly know where the best cheesesteak was located. His answer surprised me. He said that while there are a couple that all the tourists go to, (you know the ones), each respective neighborhood has its own local "steak place" that originated from the people there (kind of like Dalessandros). They are beloved by the people who live and work there. "So really," he said, "the best steak is wherever you happen to find yourself in the city at that moment. They're all great."

There are few things more powerful in a community than the realization by its people that together they are something special. What a force a group of dedicated individuals can be when they come together on behalf of one another and the community they represent. When they take pride in who they are and work to elevate the place they call home, while some may search for the "best out there," these smart ones know that what they have right here is something truly special. The same can be said for our community here, both the city of Lumberton and First Baptist. While it may be tempting to look outward and see what others have as superior or more desirable, let me tell you, what we got right here is something pretty special! We cannot get caught up looking around, searching, or wishing for something else, that we miss what is right here. To make that recognition though, we must first take meaningful steps to value our community not only in words but through our actions as well. We must endeavor to engage our community in various ways, promote our wonderful area, and support the businesses, initiatives, and entities right here. We must commit to making "our place" the best reflection of ALL the people who call it home.

So where is the best church and the best place to live? I'll borrow the words of my Philly detective to say that the best is right here where we happen to find ourselves. And you dear reader, are one of the many reasons why it is so special. So let's continue to join together to help others realize that what we got, is something others will want to partake in. Like a good Philly cheesesteak, it's even better when you have someone to share the experience with together!

(And for the record, Dalessandro's is the best Philly cheesesteak, especially their "pizza steak" topped with marinara and provolone!)

In the Love of Christ,

Rev. Joshua K. Owens, *Senior Pastor*



SECURITY FUND

You may designate contributions to our security fund, which pays off-duty officers hired by the church. We currently have funding for about 6 weeks of security.



Coming Up:

Feb. 13 — Seeds of HOPE will be using the Fellowship Hall for a meeting & meal, 6-8 pm.
Feb. 14 — Ash Wednesday. An Ash Wednesday service will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. If you wish to come earlier, Imposition of Ashes will also be available at 7:15 am in the Chapel.
Feb. 17 — Community Café, hosted by Sanctuary Choir
Feb. 18 — Friends of Jesus Valentine Dance, Fellowship Hall, 4-6 pm.
Feb. 24 — Downtown Clean Sweep
Feb. 25 — LCC's Empty Bowl Lunch
Feb. 25 — Bingo, 4 pm, Act. Bld.
Feb. 26 — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
Feb. 29-March 1 — All County Chorus

March is Baptist Women in Ministry Month of Advocacy

March 4 — WMU Meeting, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.
March 5 — Baptist Women's Bible Study, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.
March 10 — Daylight Savings Time Begins ("Spring Forward" one hour)
March 12 — Rape Crisis Center Training, Act. Bld.
March 14 — Fun & Fellowship, 11:00 am, Act. Bld.
March 14-15 — CBFNC Annual Gathering in Greensboro. Register to attend by March 5.
March 16 — Community Café hosted by the Fellowship Class
March 17 — Sandra Cox will be preaching
March 18 — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
March 23 — Scouts will be using the Fellowship Hall for Pinewood Derby
March 24 — Palm/Passion Sunday. A fellowship meal and egg hunt will be held after Worship.
March 25-29 — Holy Week services will be held at noon at downtown churches. Schedule to be announced.
March 27 — No Wednesday Night Activities
March 28 — Maundy Thursday
March 29 — Good Friday
March 31 — Easter
April 1 — The church offices and ECM closed



Friends of Jesus Valentine Party
February 18th, 4:00 - 6:00pm

Our class would love to celebrate Valentine's Day with you! Come out and enjoy great conversations, dancing, and delicious food! Visitors are always welcome, and helpers are greatly appreciated. Please contact Judith at [910-740-0622](tel:910-740-0622) (after 3pm) or Hoss at [910-740-0909](tel:910-740-0909), and let us know if you are able to join us and/or help serve food. The party is always great fun, and I promise your heart will be filled with joy when you leave! If you plan to eat with us please RSVP by Feb. 12th.



During the month of February, our Senior Adult Committee will be collecting care baskets to be given to the homebound. This is a great way to share God's love to those who cannot attend due to health or mobility. If your family, your Sunday School class, or small group would like to make a basket, please let Phyllis Gibson know. The baskets will be delivered by the committee on Palm Sunday (March 24).

From Our Associate Pastor

As American Christians we enjoy freedoms we tend to take for granted. Regardless of our faith, apart from a few well publicized incidences, worshiping God in America is a relatively safe activity. Although we need to keep an eye out for unhinged individuals, and we worry about the future of our democracy, we need to spend time praying for the truly persecuted Christians of the world.

According to the organization Open Doors' World Watch list the following ten countries are the most dangerous for Christians in 2024:

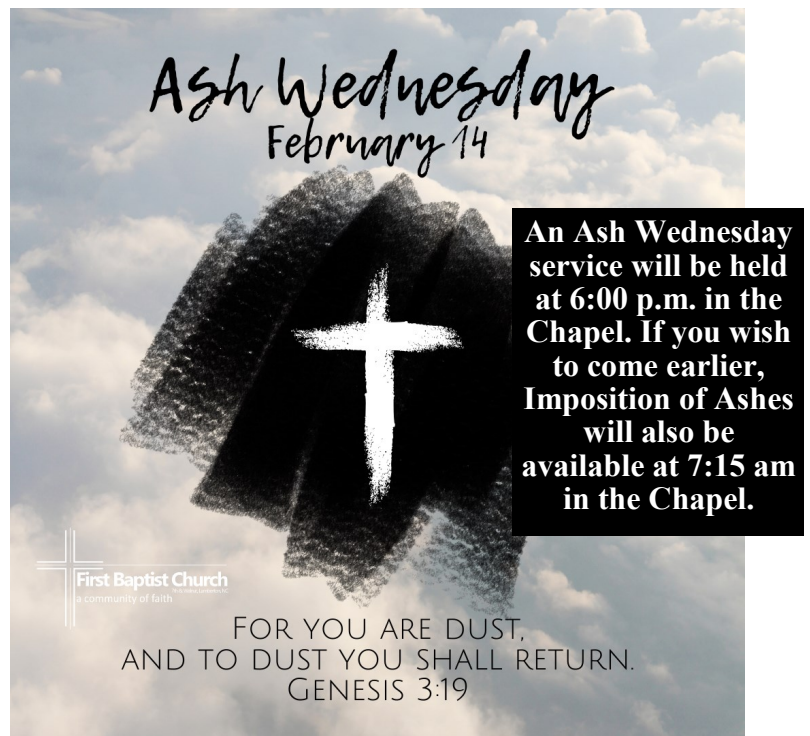
1. North Korea:
Estimated number of Christians: 400,000
2. Somalia:
Estimated number of Christians: Hundreds
3. Yemen:
Estimated number of Christians: A few thousand
4. Eritrea:
Estimated number of Christians: 1,709,000
5. Libya:
Estimated number of Christians: 35,400
6. Nigeria:
Estimated number of Christians: 100,420,000
7. Pakistan:
Estimated number of Christians: 4,194,000
8. Iran:
Estimated number of Christians: 1,245,000
9. Afghanistan:
Estimated number of Christians: Thousands
10. Sudan:
Estimated number of Christians: 2,000,000

The United States is of course not listed in their top 50. While we need to keep an eye out for the religious freedom of all of our citizens, let us first hold up our brothers and sisters throughout the world that suffer from religious intolerance. May we always use our freedom to lift others up and never to shove other groups down.

Doug



The Youth have been hard at work practicing and planning our this year's rad Valentine Banquet! Tickets are available now for \$10 each and are available in advance in the office until Sunday, February 4th. No shoulder pads or big hair are required! This event is open to all ages and along with the 80s program, a meal will be provided as well. Doors open at 6 pm on February 10th.



SEEKING THE SACRED

Exploring how we determine the
holy places of our faith and practice

Wednesdays
Jan. 10-Feb. 7



Wednesday Nights Jan. 10 — Feb. 7, 2024

Rev. Josh Owens will be leading a series entitled "Seeking the Sacred." This series comes out of some of the reading and writing he has been doing for his dissertation research, and the focus will be on how we go about determining what has been and what could be sacred places for our spiritual lives. It will focus on defining the word "sacred," how we have historically determined places we deem sacred, and challenge us to imagine what could serve as holy places in our lives and church practice.

It's time to register to attend CBFNC's Annual Gathering! 30th Anniversary Gathering Greensboro, NC

This is a two-day event, with the majority of events happening on Friday, March 15. Rev. Josh Owens plans to attend and is willing to drive up anyone who would like to attend on Friday for the worship, workshops, and fellowship. In order to attend, you will need to register on your own. Registration is free! We will plan to go to lunch on our own.

Our own Rev. Lisa Rust and Dr. David Elks will be leading one of the workshops, entitled "Work as Witness."

Please register by March 5th then let Rev. Josh Owens if you would like to carpool.

For more information, visit
<https://cbfnc.org/annualgathering/>



THRIVING TOGETHER

CBFNC ANNUAL GATHERING

March 14-15, 2024
First Baptist Church, Greensboro



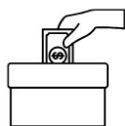
REGISTER NOW!
cbfnc.org

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.
-Psalm 100:5





WAYS TO GIVE



IN PERSON

During Sunday Worship
or bring it to the office



BY MAIL

606 N. Walnut Street
Lumberton, NC 28358



BY BANK DRAFT

Forms are available in the
office.

Your contribution will be
drafted from your checking or
savings account on the 5th and
20th of each month.



CHURCH OFFICE
910-739-4336



ONLINE

through our secure giving portal

Visit our website -
fbclumbertonnc.org/give

Direct Link to online giving -
<https://onrealm.org/FirstBaptistChu67135/-/form/give/now>

Scan the QR Code -



GIVING



TEXT TO GIVE

Text **FBC606** to **73256**,
followed by the gift amount,
to give online through text.

Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency
varies. Text HELP to 73256 for help. Text STOP to 73256 to
cancel.

FIRST BAPTIST ECM

Our experienced staff is passionate about creating a warm and nurturing environment where children can grow, learn, and thrive.

Program Features

- Early education
- Play-based learning
- Nutritious meals
- Outdoor play

REGISTRATION FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR (AUGUST)
THURSDAY, FEB. 8TH
**SPACES ARE LIMITED

For more information, please contact us at
910-738-6608





The Early Childhood Ministry is an extension of First Baptist Church, seeking to lead children to grow physically, mentally, socially and spiritually in an atmosphere of Christian love and to work closely with the parents to develop the whole child. For more about our program visit fbclumbertonnc.org/ecm-daycare.

Contact Michelle Prevatte or Paula Lewis
910-738-6608 michelleprevatte@fbclumbertonnc.org

First Sunday Food Drive—February 4th

While we primarily collect canned goods on the first Sunday of each month, we will accept them any Sunday! Donations are sent to Robeson County Church and Community Center and/or Lumberton Christian Care. After speaking with RCCC, they are still in need of dry goods such as cereal and peanut butter, which we have collected for them previously. Both of these items are enjoyed by all ages. Other donation suggestions include pop-top can goods, canned meats, and dry goods. Items donated should not be expired. Bring your donations and place them in the collection bins located around the church or bring them to the office. Thank you for helping feed the hungry of our community!

Beginning this month, the newsletter will be emailed and mailed the first Thursday of the month. Other weeks, it will be available online on our website and by email only and will not be mailed. To be added to our email list, please contact the office at 910-739-4336 or email Kandace (kandaceramsey@fbclumbertonnc.org).

NOTICE

ECM (Daycare) Traffic Flow Change Effective mid-February

Early Childhood Ministry Drive Traffic Flow Change

To help relieve traffic congestion, the traffic flow direction for the ECM drive will be reversed. The paving company is scheduled to complete this project the weekend of February 17th. That Sunday, you will need to park in another area so the paving and paint has time to dry. When this project is complete, you will enter the drive from 6th street and exit by the post office. The traffic pattern will remain one-way.



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

FILL THIS BIN

First Baptist Church
a community of faith

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Contribution statements for 2023 were mailed the middle of January. If you did not receive your statement, please contact Kandace at 910-739-4336 or kandaceramsey@fbclumbertonnc.org.

Worship with Us

606 N. Walnut Street
fbclumbertonnc.org

Sundays

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship

In-person, Facebook Live, YouTube

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m.—Adult Bible Study,
Children's Activities, Youth Doing Missions

Person of the Week

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

*Thinking
of you*

Elouise Bullock
1000 Wesley Pines Rd.
Lumberton, NC 28358

Hosts for Community Café

On the third Saturday of each month, we host Community Café. This is a program offered through downtown churches to help feed the hungry in our community. If your Sunday School class, small group, or group of friends are willing to host in 2024, please contact Rev. Doug Reedy or the church office.

Thank you to those who have already signed up!

Feb. — Sanctuary Choir

Mar. — Fellowship Class

May — Baptist Women's Group

Sept. — at Asbury UMC
(118 Orange Street)



Contact Us

Please call the office to make sure someone is in the office 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;
dougreeedy@fbclumbertonnc.org

Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Lumberton Christian Care Center is holding its 5th Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser on Sunday, February 25 from 11:00 am-2:00 pm. Invite some friends and join us after church for Sunday lunch. Soups and Dessert donated by local restaurants. Dine in or take out.

Tickets: \$20 for meal and local handmade
 pottery bowl
 \$10 for meal
 \$5 for children 3-8 years old

For more information
call the LCC office at
910-739-1204.



Servants this Sunday

Please enter for Worship at the Sanctuary.

9:30 Sunday School Entrance Greeters

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

Barbara Andrews

ECM Entrance, 9:00 — 9:30 am (Handicap)

Shirley Hickman

10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters

Sanctuary Vestibule 10:00—11:30 am

Brenda and James Britt

Nursery — Ashlynn Cox, Jenna Davis

Extended Session — Nancy Wagner