

### *Restrooms*

Ladies restrooms are located outside of the organ-side of the Sanctuary. A nongender & handicap accessible restroom with an infant changing table is located outside of the piano-side of the Sanctuary.



### *For Children During this Service*

Nursery care is available for birth—age 2. Nursery will meet in Room D-107. Children in 1st grade and older are encouraged to attend this service in lieu of regular Wednesday night missions and music activities. Worship bags are available in the Sanctuary for those who wish to use them.

### *Contact Us*

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

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Lumberton, NC 28358

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### *Coming Up*

#### **Feb. 18 — Friends of Jesus Valentine Party**

The Friends of Jesus Ministry is having a Valentine's Party! The class would love to celebrate this occasion with you. Please come out and enjoy great conversations, dancing, and delicious food. Visitors are welcome and helpers are greatly appreciated. Please contact Judith or Hoss Watts to let them know if you are able to help serve.

**Feb. 24 — Downtown Clean Sweep, 9:00-11:00 am.** We will be providing coffee and donuts to volunteers. We need folks to volunteer to serve refreshments and to help clean.

**Feb. 25 — Bingo in the Activities Building at 4:00 pm.**

**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 will be using various parts of the church for rehearsal and concert.**

### *Give to First Baptist Church*

You may donate to our ministry during Sunday worship, scan the QR code with your cell phone camera, give online, text FBC606 to 73256, or mail your contribution:  
606 N. Walnut Street,  
Lumberton, NC 28358.



GIVING

### *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 this weekend.

This 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.

# Ash Wednesday



February 14, 2024

**First Baptist Church**

7th & Walnut, Lumberton, NC

a community of faith

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

# The Worship of God

## Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.  
Chapel

“By the sweat of your brow will you have food to eat until you return to the ground from which you were made. For you were made from dust, and to dust you will return.” Genesis 3:19 (NLT)

The Meaning of Ash Wednesday ..... Rev. Josh Owens

Call to Worship.....Rev. Owens

“Even Now, Return to Me” written by Joseph W. Daniels, Jr., in The Africana Worship Book, Year B

One: Even now, return to me, says God. Let the sirens in the streets rage; let the trumpet from the church house blow. Let those consumed with darkness, gloomy from bad fortunes know that:

**People: Even now, God says, return to me.**

One: Let the abused and the abusing hear, the defiant and disobedient revere. Let the sinner and the scornful draw near. Return from your ignorance, return from your injustice. Return from your apathy, return from your agony.

**People: Even now, God says, return to me.**

One: Return from your selfishness, return from your greed. Return from your neglect, return out of your need.

**People: Even now, God says, return to me.**

One: Return to me, with a clean heart. Return to me with fasting, weeping and mourning.

**ALL: Return to me, God says, for I am gracious and merciful; I am slow to anger and full of steadfast love. Return to me, God says, for I am your God.**

Hymn, No. 187\* .....Congregation

*Just As I Am* (stanzas 1 and 2)

*\*Children are invited to come forward during the final stanza.*

Time with the Children.....Rev. Doug Reedy

Old Testament Reading ..... Rev. Tim Little  
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Hymn, No. 187 ..... Congregation  
*Just As I Am* (stanzas 3 and 4)

Prayer of Confession ..... Congregation  
*from Psalm 51 and Psalm 103*

One: Oh Lord all-knowing, hear us as we, your people turn to you once more.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of our sins.**

One: Our God is merciful and gracious, slow to get angry, and full of unfailing love.

**People: Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. For we recognize our shameful deeds — they haunt us day and night.**

One: God will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever.

**People: Against you, and you alone, have we sinned; We have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgement against me is just.**

One: God has not punished us for all our sins, nor does he deal with us as we deserve. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

**People: You desire honesty from the heart; teach us to be wise in our innermost selves.**

One: For our days on earth are like grass; like wildflowers, we bloom and die. The wind blows, and we are gone — as though we had never been here.

**People: Restore to use the joy of your salvation and make us willing to obey you.**

One: For the love of the Lord remains forever with those who fear him. His salvation extends to the children’s children of those who are faithful to his covenant; those who obey his commandments.

**People: The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart.**

One: Our God is merciful and gracious.

**People: Bless the Lord, O my soul. Amen.**

Hymn, No. 187 ..... Congregation  
*Just As I Am* (stanzas 3 and 4)

New Testament Reading..... Rev. Reedy  
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Reflection & Invitation  
to Receive the Ashes ..... Rev. Owens

### Imposition of Ashes

Thanksgiving Over the Ashes ..... Congregation  
**Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, so we may remember that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Benediction ..... Rev. Owens

Depart in Silence