

# 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

## Preparing for Sunday, March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday  
"What Ending?"  
Mark 16:1-8 (NLT)

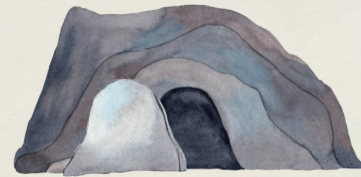


*"They Have Taken Away My Lord" by Paige Payne*

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

On Easter Sunday, we invite you to bring flowers to place on the cross outside of the Sanctuary. You can bring handpicked or purchased flowers.

## Easter Sunday March 31



HE IS NOT HERE: FOR HE IS RISEN.



9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am Worship

## *Coming up this week. . .*

### **Sunday, March 31**

#### ***Easter***

9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)  
10:30 a.m. Worship Online

### **Monday, April 1**

*The Early Childhood Ministry and church offices will be closed. Church office staff and ministers will be out of the office April 2-5.*

### **Tuesday, April 2**

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

### **Wednesday, April 3**

No Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study, Youth Doing Missions, or Children's Activities.

### **Saturday, April 6**

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



## Palm Sunday — March 24, 2024



What a blast Palm Sunday was at FBC Lumberton! We held our Palm/Passion Sunday where we celebrated Jesus' triumphant entry before hearing the readings of the passion story. Then we had a delicious lunch, celebrated the wonderful gift baskets made for our homebound and assisted living members that were delivered Sunday afternoon, and capped off the day with our annual egg hunt.





## A Note from the Pastor's Desk

### *April 2024*

While all four gospels have an account of the Easter morning at the tomb, this year we focus on the version Mark tells in Mark 16. And to state what is obvious when you lay each of the four gospels beside each other, Mark is certainly the shortest of the four. Still, in this perspective, we hear the familiar details of the story; a group of women coming to the tomb, encountering a person (or persons depending on the gospel), finding an empty tomb, and leaving to tell others as the first proclaimers of the gospel.

Let me draw your attention to some of the words Mark uses to describe their emotions throughout the experience. The writer of Mark uses words like, “alarmed”, “trembling”, and “bewildered.” Those really aren’t the words we use in our Easter celebrations today, but for that first Easter morning, those were certainly appropriate emotions. For those women who were the first to know of Jesus’ resurrection, they had no frame of reference to help make sense of what was happening. They had come expecting one set of circumstances but instead encountered something entirely different. They did not have 2,000-plus years of tradition and theology to aid them in breaking down the various implications of their feelings. They simply had to live in the present and accept that at least at this moment, resurrection was not something they could explain.

For each of us today, I would like to think that a sign of growth in our spiritual journeys is becoming comfortable with not being able to explain God’s grand, divine acts. Often, we go into life’s situations with predetermined measures of how we will know whether God is intervening or not. Is our loved one healed or not? Will we get the result at work we expect? Will our friends forgive us for when we wronged them? Will we pass this test or not? We are very much conditioned to think of things with clear marks of fulfillment. But then I am still reminded of this matter involving resurrection. Just as those ladies struggled to verbalize what had happened, for us today, while we may be able to recount the details of the event, we really may not be able to adequately convey the fullness of what transpired that morning. But we are no less deterred in our hope and faith that God is at work in this supreme moment.

While Easter can teach us many things, maybe it would behoove us to remember that one of those things is learning to become comfortable with the unexplainable. To follow in the example of those faithful women on Easter morning, and share the story of God’s resurrecting interventions in our lives excitedly. Jesus did not tell us to go only when we had full understanding, unwavering confidence in the details, or verifiable facts, he told us simply to believe and to go. This is the truth of resurrection, to simply believe, and to go, trusting that wherever we are sent, Christ will meet us there. Happy Easter to all of our First Baptist community!

In the Love of Christ,



Rev. Joshua K. Owens, *Senior Pastor*



# Welcome!

## On April 7th, we welcome Rev. Michael Johnson as our guest preacher!

Rev. Johnson is a native of Lake View, SC and is retired after 43 years of full-time ministry. He is a graduate of Campbell University and Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as chaplain at the University of Kentucky Medical School and pastor of Ten Mile Baptist Church of Lumberton, Union Baptist Church of Ahoskie, Round Hill Baptist Church of Rutherfordton, and First Baptist Church of Rowland. He now lives in Cumberland County with his wife, Brenda, who is retired from Pembroke Middle School. He has a son, a daughter, and 4 grandchildren. During Worship next Sunday, he will present a sermon entitled "Party Politics" and will reference Luke 15:11-32.



**PRESCHOOL  
ADMISSION**

**NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS AUG. 2024**

- 2 Year Old Classes; Spaces Still Available
- 3 Year Old Classes
- 4 Year Old Classes
- NC PreK; Spaces Still Available

Contact Michelle Prevatte,  
First Baptist ECM Director: 910-738-6608



**PICKLEBALL  
Nights**

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS  
7:00 PM**

**FBC LUMBERTON'S FELLOWSHIP HALL**

We took a short break from Pickleball during Holy Week, and will resume playing on April 4th. If you don't know how to play, we will show you! This is open to all ages and skill levels.

## Coming Up:

**April 7** — Rev. Michael Johnson will be our guest preacher.

**April 8** — WMU Meeting, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.

**April 9** — Snr. Ad. Trip to Southport

**April 11** — Fun & Fellowship, 11 am, Act. Bld.

**April 12** — Youth Lock-in

**April 14** — Baptism

**April 14** — Bingo, 4 pm, Act. Bld.

**April 16** — PreK Peer Learning Group Meeting, 4 pm, Act. Bld.

**April 20** — Community Café, hosted by Youth

**April 21** — Youth Sunday

**April 22** — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**April 24** — Quarterly Church Conference, 6 pm

**April 24** — Administrative Professionals Day

**April 28** — Communion & Baptism

**May 5** — Children's Sunday

**May 6** — Teacher Appreciation Week

**May 6** — WMU Meeting, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.

**May 7** — Baptist Women's Bible Study, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.

**May 9** — Fun & Fellowship, 11 am, Act. Bld.

**May 9** — Partnership for Children's PreK Teacher Appreciation Program, Fellowship Hall, 4-8 pm.

**May 10** — United Way's Day of Caring

**May 12** — Mother's Day; Parent-Child Dedication

**May 14** — Military Appreciation Luncheon, 12 noon, Fellowship Hall

**May 15** — Friends of Jesus Softball Game and Year-end Church Cook-out, 5 pm, Godwin Heights Park

**May 18** — Community Café (hosted by Baptist Women's Bible Study Group)

**May 19** — Pentecost Sunday

**May 20** — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

**May 22** — Youth Relay Race

**May 24** — Last day of school for SeA Students

**May 27** — Memorial Day. The ECM and offices are closed.

**June 2** — Grad Sunday

**June 2-8** — Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Plymouth Trip

**June 6** — NC PreK Graduation Program, 10 am, Fellowship Hall

**June 14** — Last day of school for PSRC Students

**June 16** — Father's Day



## From our Associate Pastor

Holy Week has begun. By the time you read this, it should be Maundy Thursday. A lot happens before then, but two very bitter betrayals happen that night from Judas and Peter. We should question not if we will betray Jesus but how?

On Monday, will we take advantage of the poor for profit like the moneychangers thereby disgracing our religion? On Tuesday, will we take offense to Jesus' difficult teachings concerning our areas of hypocrisy and refuse to accept them like the religious leaders? On Wednesday, will we betray Jesus by choosing money over what's right as Judas did?

On Thursday, after being cleansed by Jesus will we fall asleep on the job as his disciples did? Will we betray him by choosing violence as Peter did? Will we claim to be his friend while doing the opposite as Judas yet again did? Will we betray him by our own cowardice as Peter yet again did?

Will we deny justice like the Jewish and Roman courts did? Will we choose to side with the powerful because they hate who we hate? Or do we have the power to prevent injustice yet wash our hands of our duties as Pilate did?

We are all guilty of betraying our Lord in many different ways. Will we repent and answer our calling as Peter did? Or will refuse forgiveness and choose death as Judas did?

Grace and Peace,  
*Doug*



A poster for LEGO Youth Week 2024. The background is a light blue square with a border of colorful LEGO bricks. At the top, the word "LEGOS" is in large, yellow, pixelated letters. Below it, "Youth Week 2024" is in yellow. A quote from Psalm 118:22 is in black: "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone." Below the quote is a LEGO minifigure of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe with yellow trim. He is standing behind a stack of smooth, multi-colored stones. At the bottom, it says "Youth Lock-in Friday, April 12th - Departing at 5 pm". The cost is listed: "\$25.00 for t-shirt &amp; lock-in only" and "\$75.00 for t-shirt, lock-in, and RushHour Karting in Morrisville and bring \$ for Waffle House". There is a "SIGN UP" button and contact information for Rev. Doug Reedy, including a phone number and email address. The First Baptist Church logo is at the bottom left.

**Youth Sunday is April 21st!**  
**Youth will be leading Sunday School Classes and in Worship.**

### **Older Youth Rafting Trip — June 23-24** **Section IV of the Chattooga River**

Due to the challenging nature of the river, the trip is only open to those who have completed 8th-12th grade. Ideally, everyone should either have rafting experience OR be in good physical shape. We will leave Sunday, June 23 immediately following worship, spend the night in yurts, check out and raft on the 24th, and return home Monday night.



Cost is \$125 (pay in full to hold your spot). Space is extremely limited, so please sign up ASAP. Let Rev. Doug Reedy know if you have any questions.



## 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!**

April — Youth

May — Baptist Women's Group

Sept. — at Asbury UMC  
(118 Orange Street)



## Give to First Baptist Church!

Here are some ways to donate to our ministries:

- Give during Sunday worship.
- Give through our secure online portal at [fbclumbertonnc.org/give](https://fbclumbertonnc.org/give).
- Scan the QR code:
- Send us your contribution by mail:  
606 N. Walnut Street,  
Lumberton, NC 28358
- Text FBC606 to 73256 to give using your mobile device.\*



## GIVING

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



## LOST & FOUND



The Lost and Found shelf in the church office has quite a collection of items that have been found around the church. We have glasses, books, Bibles, bows, bags, jewelry, jackets, and a key fob. Stop by the office to check to see if any of these items are yours.

## 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)

Sue O'Tuel

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

Tony & Becky Thompson

### 10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters

Sanctuary Vestibule 10:00—11:30 am

Ann & John Underwood

Nursery — Ashlynn Cox, Jenna Davis

Extended Session — Christy Strickland

We offer nursery care for children birth through age 2 on Sundays and Wednesdays

in Room D-107. While the church has hired a few nursery workers, we need more volunteers to have on rotation to cover when they cannot be here. We need some more nurturing individuals to rock babies and play kitchen with our toddlers especially on Sundays.

Please contact the office as soon as possible if you are able to help. A background check through FirstPoint is required for anyone working with minors, and will need to be performed if you do not already have one on file with the church.

## CHURCH NURSERY





**Tuesday, April 9th**

Shopping and lunch at the beach? Yes, please! We have enough folks going to take the bus and a transit, so more spaces are now available! A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board near Room D-113, or you can call the office to be added to the list. Don't forget your spending money!



WMU is collecting items for the clothing and toiletries closet for Carroll Middle's Special Needs classroom. The items of the most need are undergarments, socks, soap, towels, leggings/sweatpants. A more detailed list of items needed is available from Dean Kinlaw or from any of the WMU ladies. Donations may be placed in the box by the 6th Street ramp entrance or brought to the office.



**First Sunday Food Drive—April 7th!**

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 be in-date and in their original packaging.

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!





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## Worship with Us

606 N. Walnut Street  
[fbclumbertonnc.org](http://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

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## Family of the Week

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

*Thinking  
of you*

**Elouise Bullock**  
c/o Liberty Commons  
1402 Pickney Street  
Whiteville, NC 28472

### 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](http://www.fbclumbertonnc.org)

General Email: [office@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:office@fbclumbertonnc.org)

Rev. Tim Little — Minister of Music and Facilities;  
[timlittle@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:timlittle@fbclumbertonnc.org)

Rev. Josh Owens — Senior Pastor;  
[joshowens@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:joshowens@fbclumbertonnc.org)

Mr. Len Power — Building Superintendent;  
[lenpower@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:lenpower@fbclumbertonnc.org)

Mrs. Kandace Ramsey — Administrative Assistant;  
[kandaceramsey@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:kandaceramsey@fbclumbertonnc.org)

Rev. Doug Reedy — Associate Pastor of Youth,  
Young Adults and Missions;  
[dougreezy@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:dougreezy@fbclumbertonnc.org)

*For the Kids*  
**BIRTH - 5TH GRADE**

**Sundays—9:30 am Sunday School**  
(Room D-110 for ages 4-12)

**Wednesdays—6:00 pm Music & Missions**

**Nursery care** (birth-age 2) is available  
Sundays & Wednesdays in Room D-107.

### **Sundays — Extended Session**

Children age 3—K are invited to attend  
Extended Session after the children's  
sermon. We meet in Room D-111.

Children in 1st grade and older attend the  
full worship service. Worship bags  
containing books, Bibles, crayons, and quiet  
toys are available for those who wish to use  
them.

*For Youth*  
**6TH - 12TH GRADE**

**Sundays—9:30 am Sunday School**  
(Youth Hall, Room 203)

**4:45 pm Music Rehearsals**

**6:00 pm Youth Bible Study**

**Wednesdays—6:00 pm Youth Doing  
Missions**

*Happy Easter!*



**REMEMBER:  
HE DIED  
AND ROSE  
FOR US!**

*Church office staff will be out  
of the office April 1-5.*

