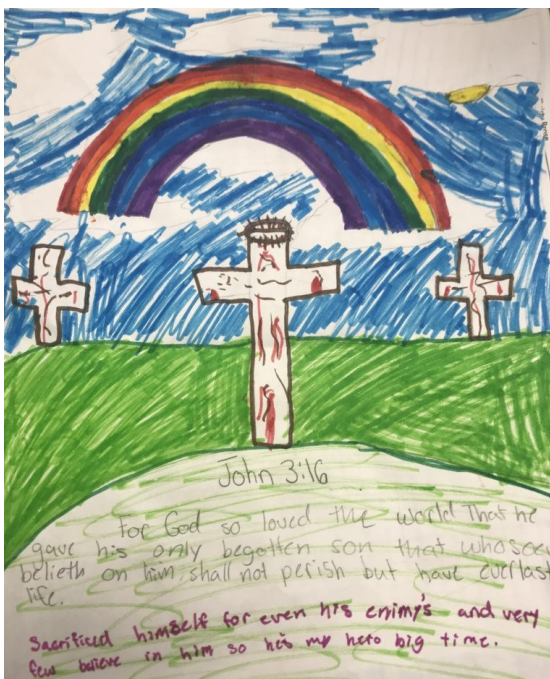


First Baptist News

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



Preparing for
Sunday, March 10, 2024
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
“Decisions, Decisions, Decisions”
John 3:14-21 (NLT)



"John 3:16" by Lily, age 11, USA, marker drawing 2019

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/



BWIM | MONTH OF ADVOCACY

Sandra Cox will be preaching
Sunday, March 17th.

Coming up this week. . .

Sunday, March 10

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Online
- 4:45 p.m. Youth Bells Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Bible Study (Act. Bld.)

Monday, March 11

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Conf. Rm.)
- 6:30 p.m. Scouts Meeting

Tuesday, March 12

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group (Zoom)
- 10:00 a.m. Rape Crisis Center Training (Act. Bld.)
- 7:00 p.m. Pickleball (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday, March 13

- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Rm. D-113)
- Youth Doing Missions (Act. Bld.)
- Children's Missions & Music
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 14

- 11:00 a.m. Fun & Fellowship (Act. Bld.)
- 7:00 p.m. Pickleball (Fellowship Hall)

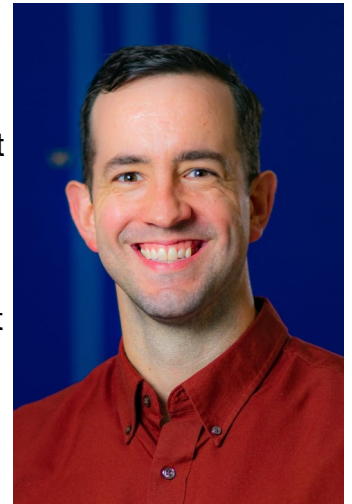
March 14—15 **CBFNC's Annual Gathering**

Saturday, March 16

- 10:30 a.m. Community Cafe (Act. Bld.)
hosted by Fellowship Class

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

March 2024



In my almost 18 years of ministry work, it is a common occurrence that I am asked to share my “faith journey.” With much practice, I’ve got my go-to lines down pretty well. For example, in describing my home church, Mill Creek Baptist (just outside of Roseboro headed towards the Beaver Dam community of Cumberland County), I often describe it as a “small, family church. The kind of place where my mom was the youth director and my aunt was my Sunday School teacher.” And all of that is absolutely true. In fact, as I have shared a few times in the last week, I never had a male Sunday School teacher. I recall briefly male leaders with our short-lived Royal Ambassadors program, but all-in-all, in my small country church of 50-75 folks, it was women who did the bulk of the educational, missional, and service formation. But there were two distinct ways in which they didn’t, and that was in the role of deacon and pastor. We had our annual women’s day and other specific celebrations (often led by my Mom, I don’t mind bragging about her here), but again, as I reflect on my spiritual upbringing, and the people who predominately were my role models of embodying the faith, it was primarily women.

I think that is why when I got to college and seminary and was formally presented with the idea that there were many in Baptist circles who were opposed to women in leadership, it just did not compute with and for me. Not just in my mind, but in my understanding of how I had seen the faith embodied. It was women who had taught me the books of the Bible, shared wisdom in the epic stories of scripture, and conveyed the simple truth in the lyrics, “Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me.” It was women who initially planned the opportunity for our church’s teenagers to attend summer camp for the first time. It was women who planned missional activities for us like visiting older shut-ins at their homes. It was women who were the foremost lived examples that taught me what it is to be loved by Jesus and to love like Jesus.

I am grateful that here at First Baptist Lumberton, we have embraced the God-honoring truth that women can, and are called to serve in all ways of God’s church. There are biblical accounts, historical practices, and our own life experiences that prove that the Spirit of God moves in such a way to affirm the call of women. But still, there is much that can and should be done to recognize the equal calling of our sisters in the faith. That is why this month we are engaging in Baptist Women in Ministry’s Month of Advocacy which also happens to coincide with Women’s History Month. BWIM is an organization that brings together women and men to lift up and support the voice and role of women in Baptist churches in a variety of ways. Our participation includes our adult and teenagers’ engagement with the “Equally Called” curriculum co-produced by BWIM and CBF, which looks at the biblical case for supporting women in ministry. We also will be holding a celebratory worship service on March 17th, where women clergy and leaders alike will be facilitating our service, with one of the up-and-coming voices of one of our young leaders, Sandra Cox, bringing the message that day. I hope that you see this month both as a celebration and also a call to action. A call not to be silent about supporting all of God’s children in our midst. A call to see the value and worth in others, especially our women and young girls. A call to make space for all those whom God has called, to the glory of God’s Kingdom!

In the Love of Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joshua Owens".

Rev. Joshua K. Owens, Senior Pastor

Additional Resources for You to Consider:

To access this content, click the blue titles.

[Baptist Women in Ministry](#)

[Baptist Women in Ministry of North Carolina](#)

[BWIM's State of Women in Baptist Life Report \(2021\)](#)

[Equally Called Individual Study Guide](#) (An additional tool for our discussions)

Celebrating Women's
Leadership in the Church



**EQUALLY
CALLED**

Adult Bible Study In March

*A video and discussion curriculum,
with video lessons by
Dr. Jennifer Bashaw*

Wednesdays 6PM Room D-113

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study February 28—March 27

Our next adult Bible study series is entitled, "Equally Called". It is a publication of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and Baptist Women in Ministry that explores the Biblical foundations for the full inclusion of women in ministry. There are video lessons, including teaching by Dr. Jennifer Bashaw (our former Interim Pastor) as well as stories from female clergy. This is a part of our participation in the Baptist Women in Ministry Month of Advocacy taking place in March.

If you are interested, the videos are free online and there is an individual lesson plan if you so desire: <https://cbf.net/equallycalled>

As far as information on BWIM Month of Advocacy, that is here:

<https://bwim.info/bwim-month-of-advocacy/>

Friday, March 22nd FBC Lumberton will host Mental Health First Aid in partnership with the Overflow Foundation. The cost is \$50 per person and covers workshop materials. FBC Members—take advantage of early bird registration for \$25 if you register by March 8th. To register, call the church office (910-739-4336) or sign up online via ACS Realm. Space is limited!

Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. This training gives you the skills you need to reach out and provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem and help connect them to appropriate care. "Like CPR, one person in every family should be trained in Mental Health First Aid. This is Overflow Foundation's goal." - Terry Lee, Founder and Executive Director

WHAT IT COVERS: Common signs and symptoms of mental illness. Common signs and symptoms of substance use disorder. How to interact with a person in crisis. How to connect the person with help.

WHO SHOULD TAKE IT: Employers, Police officers, Hospital staff, First responders, Faith leaders, Community members, Caring individuals, Educators, General Public.

Scan to register online



Mental Health First Aid

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH'S
ACTIVITIES BUILDING**

Cost is \$50 per person
(covers participant workbook
and other supplies)

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

AWARENESS



PREVENTION



EDUCATION

From our Associate Pastor

As our church, especially our youth group, has become more and more diverse (racially, socioeconomically, etc.), our needs have changed. Our language and activities have become more inclusive. We have grown stronger as have begun to learn from each other and more empathetic as we realize we have much more in common than we once believed.

The majority of our youth come from families who do not suffer greatly from writing checks for trips and activities but an increasing number of our youth simply cannot afford some of the big trips. Sales of barbeque plates are how a sizeable number of our youth afford the ski trip. Donations to our Youth Missions Memorial funds are crucial for many of our single parent families to send their teenagers on our annual mission trip.

As a church, we do a wonderful job with helping the poorest of the poor through generous giving. Sometimes though, we aren't able to do know how to positively impact paycheck to paycheck working class families that never ask for help. Whenever I have made the needs of certain families known, you have never let me down as a congregation. Several of you have asked over the years if you could be of financial help to any of our youth.

I never ask for you to help pay for ski trips (outside of buying and sometimes selling BBQ tickets). We usually rely heavily on the aforementioned memorial funds to make the mission trip doable for some of our youth and more affordable for all. What falls between the cracks sometimes are the little things that I hate to see some of our youth excluded from such as lock-ins, youth week shirts, CBFNC weekend trips, and other events that don't cost a lot as we see it, but require real sacrifice or even a hard "no" from some parents who simply don't have the disposable resources available for any non-necessities.

Please don't see this as us asking for money as much as we are just answering a question. For those of you who may not have much to give beyond your tithes and offerings, concentrate on those. For others who may be looking for a place to positively impact youth of hardworking parents that are doing their best, you may want to consider paying for their youth week t-shirt, helping them pay for the music trip they have earned by faithfully ringing bells, or perhaps this Fall pay for someone's weekend retreat at Ft. Caswell. You can contact Kandace or me if you wish to. If not, we will find other creative ways to help keep all of the students God has sent our way included, but this seemed a good place to start.

Grace & Peace,
Doug

A poster for 'LEGOs Youth Week 2024' set against a background of colorful LEGO bricks. The title 'LEGOs' is in large, yellow, blocky letters with red and yellow starburst lines radiating from it. Below it, 'Youth Week 2024' is in a similar but smaller font. A quote from Psalm 118:22, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. - Psalm 118:22', is centered. Below the quote is a LEGO minifigure of a man with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white shirt with yellow suspenders, standing behind a stack of smooth, multi-colored stones. To the right of the minifigure is another stack of similar stones. At the bottom, the text 'Youth Lock-in' is in yellow, followed by 'Friday, April 12th - Departing at 5 pm' in black. A 'Cost:' section lists prices for t-shirts and lock-ins, and mentions 'RUSH HOUR KARTING' with a logo. A 'SIGN UP' button is shown next to the text 'with Rev. Doug Reedy' and contact information: '910-739-4336' and 'dougreedy@fbcumbertonnc.org'. The First Baptist Church logo is also present.

Support our Youth's Extracurricular Activities!

March 7 — Southeastern Academy Soccer
at Northeast Park
4 pm Rustin Walters
5 pm Landon Walters & Carter Britt

March 9 — Lumberton High Wrestling
1 pm Ayden Little

March 11 — Littlefield Middle Softball
4 pm Lainey Pittman

March 25 — Lumberton High Tennis
4 pm Dixon Davis & Ethan Stevens

April 8 — Magnolia (Orrum) Baseball
4 pm Grayson Branch

April 20 — Lumberton Junior High Theater's
"Seussical Junior"
1 pm and 6 pm Abby Ivey

Ruth Diehl will have a dance recital, and several of our girls play rec softball, but those activities are not yet scheduled. Contact youth parents or Rev. Doug Reedy for full schedules.



On Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, FBC Lumberton will be having a Palm/Passion Sunday service at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. During this service, children will be invited to wave palms. If your child would like to participate in this or any other element of worship, please contact Rev. Josh Owens or Rev. Doug Reedy. Children's Sunday School classes should plan to meet in the Sanctuary for rehearsal during the Sunday School hour.

A church-wide Fellowship meal will follow Worship. This will include an egg hunt! Please RSVP for the meal and egg hunt online through ACS Realm or at the bulletin board by March 15th.

We need donations of pre-filled eggs for the egg hunt. They can be purchased filled, or you can fill them yourself with candy or non-candy treats. Candies donated should be individually wrapped and in their original packaging. Drop off your donations to the church office.



<div> <div>Holy⁺Week</div> <div>SCHEDULE</div> <div>12 NOON</div> </div>		
Monday, March 25	CHESTNUT STREET METHODIST	REV. DAVID RUTH
Tuesday, March 26	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN	REV. LESLIE SESSOMS
Wednesday, March 27	FIRST BAPTIST	REV. CLARENCE PAGE
Thursday, March 28	GODWIN HEIGHTS BAPTIST	REV. EVA RUTH
Friday, March 29	TRINITY EPISCOPAL	REV. CHIP BASS



Sunday School and Worship will be held at regular meeting times on Easter Sunday. While we would love for you to join us in-person, the option to Worship with us online is available.

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.

No Wednesday services, Youth Doing Missions, or children's activities will be held March 27 and April 3.

Coming Up:

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 22 — Mental Health First Aid training, 8:30 am—3 pm, Activities Building.
March 23 — Scouts will be using the Fellowship Hall for Pinewood Derby
March 23 — Senior Adult Committee Care Basket Assembly, Fellowship Hall, 12-2 pm.
March 24 — Palm/Passion Sunday. A fellowship meal and egg hunt will be held after Worship.
March 25 — Holy Week noon service hosted at Chestnut Street Methodist.
March 26 — Holy Week noon service hosted at First Presbyterian.
March 27 — Holy Week noon service hosted at FBC Lumberton
March 27 — No Wednesday Night Activities
March 28 — Holy Week noon service hosted at Godwin Heights Baptist
March 28 — Maundy Thursday Service hosted at Godwin Heights. Rev. Josh Owens will be preaching.
March 29 — Good Friday
March 29 — Holy Week noon service hosted at Trinity Episcopal
March 31 — Easter

April 1 — The church offices and ECM closed
April 2-5 — Church office staff will be on vacation or working from home. No staff will be in the office.
April 2 — Baptist Women's Bible Study, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.
April 3 — No Wednesday Night Activities
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.



SECURITY FUND

You may designate contributions to our security fund, which pays off-duty officers hired by the church. After time change, Security will be available on Sunday mornings.



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.
- 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

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



Care Baskets For the Homebound

During February and March, our Senior Adult Committee has been collecting care baskets to be given to the homebound. The baskets will be delivered by the committee on Palm Sunday (March 24).

Once your basket is finished, you may drop it off in the church office. There is a table set up near the office entrance.



Shopping and lunch at the beach? Yes, please!

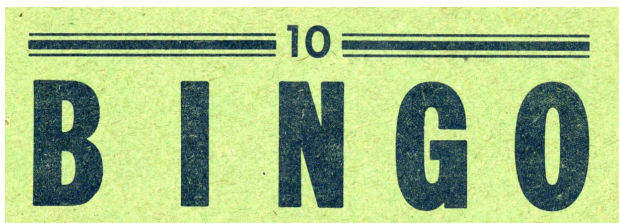
Sign up quickly for this trip as spaces are limited. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board near Room D-113, or you can call the office to be added to the list.



If you are going the Cape Cod trip this summer, your trip balance is due in full no later than Friday, March 22. This deadline is coming up quickly!

Ways to pay:

1. Call the church office to pay by debit/credit card.
2. Drop off check, cash, money order, or cashier's check. Make checks out to First Baptist Church.
3. Mail payment to us (606 N. Walnut St, Lumberton, NC 28358).



Our senior adult committee held a fun afternoon of BINGO on February 25th with a full house of all ages! Our next BINGO night will be April 14th at 4:00 pm in the Activities Building, so be sure to jot down that date in your calendar if you would like to attend the next one. Light refreshments, such as cookies, will be served. Yes, there are prizes!

From our last gathering — February 25th



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

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

Person of the Week

Send a card, letter, or other remembrance to our very special person this week. She has a birthday coming up March 9th.

Betty Edens

1000 Wesley Pines Rd.

Villa 302

Lumberton, NC 28358

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)

Tony & Becky Thompson

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

Ann & John Underwood

10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters

Sanctuary Vestibule 10:00—11:30 am

Preston Britt

Nursery — Ashlynn Cox, Jenna Davis

Extended Session — Nancy Wagner

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;
dougreezy@fbclumbertonnc.org

Nursery Volunteers Needed

**We need someone to help
Sunday, April 14th. If you
can help, or wish to be
placed in the volunteer
rotation, please let us
know. A background check
is required.**



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 more nurturing individuals to rock babies and play kitchen with our toddlers especially on Sundays.

Specially, we need a couple of folks to help on Sunday, April 14th since our paid workers are not available. If you can help on that date or would consider being placed in regular rotation, please contact the office as soon as possible. A background check through FirstPoint will need to be performed if you do not already have one on file with the church.