

# First Baptist News

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



“Two Boats and a Great Catch of Fish” From Lighthouse and Flint, Robert Blincoe

Preparing for Sunday, February 9, 2025  
Luke 5:1-11 (NLT)  
“What a Catch”

Join us for Sunday School at 9:30 am  
and 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/)

The Friends of Jesus Ministry will host their annual Valentine's Party on Sunday, February 9th at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. We are seeking volunteers to help during the party, specifically for serving the meal. If you are willing to help, please contact Hoss and Judith Watts or the church office.



The class will meet for Sunday School at 10:30 am on that date as well. This is a change from their usual meeting time.

## Coming up this week . . .

### Sunday, February 9

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Friends of Jesus Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (in the Sanctuary)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (online)
- 11:30 a.m. Friends of Jesus Valentine Party (Fellowship Hall)

### Monday, February 10

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

### Tuesday, February 11

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group (Zoom)

### Wednesday, February 12

- 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

### Saturday, February 15

- 10:00 a.m. Community Café, hosted by Sanctuary Choir
- 3:00 p.m. Hispanic Ministry Bible Study (Act. Bld.)



## A Note from the Pastor's Desk *February 2025*



Over the weekend I heard a [podcast interview](#) with a journalist for The Atlantic named Derek Thompson. He was promoting his newest essay in this month's publication entitled "[The Anti-Social Century](#)." The topic and the ensuing conversation were both fascinating and devastating to me. The premise is that over the last century, we have become significantly less social as human beings. No surprise, the smartphone has been a major factor, but as Thompson's research points out, this decline in sociality began long ago with two technological predecessors that initiated it; the automobile and the television.

The summations of the article are more than I can capture here, but essentially, we are spending more time on screens, more time at home, and less time with other actual human beings in all their complexity. Thompson discussed the difference between feeling lonely and being isolated. He notes that loneliness is not necessarily a bad thing, because it can motivate us to seek out and connect with others. It reminds us of our need to be present with others. Isolation, however, is where we intentionally cut ourselves off from others. Data from various researchers record an alarming rapidly growing preference for isolation practices (such as getting our food as takeout rather than sitting in a restaurant, watching something at home rather than in a theater, or talking online rather than in person). This isolation preference has ramifications for a whole host of other elements of our lives like family, mental health, politics, and work.

This discussion hit me profoundly this weekend because I was already planning to use this article this month to highlight one of the most active ministries in our church... our small groups. The various groups in our church take on many forms. We have Sunday School classes comprised of all ages that meet, when else, but on Sunday mornings before worship. Our youth gather on Sunday evenings. There is a Tuesday morning men's group that meets weekly online via Zoom. There is our Women's Missionary Union (WMU) group, a Baptist women's monthly Bible study group, and the Fun & Fellowship monthly gathering on Thursdays. There is a vast array of when, how, and what affinity brings these different groups together.

What remains constant across them all, is the value of connection that is fostered amongst their participants. I happen to find myself in a text-messaging thread for at least two of our church's groups. Sometimes, the frequent dinging of my phone may be a mild irritant at first, but when I open the notification, I am reminded of how valuable these groups are to those who are a part of them. I read messages of people conveying prayer requests, celebrations, concerns they are having for the day, or clarifications on church or community activities. There is a shared connection that is developed between those who are a part of these bodies within the larger community of our church. These are places where you take a deeper step into intimacy and connection with your sisters and brothers in the faith. Connections that are vital to helping you navigate the struggles of life, and to sense the presence of God in both the good and the bad.

So my hope for all of you is that if you are not involved in some way with any of our groups, you would take the first bold step and visit one. Choosing to isolate yourself from others is not how God created us to be. Remember God saw fit to leave the heavenly confines to walk the dusty roads of where we are because the Lord knows the value of real, authentic relationship and connection with others. For more info on these gatherings, see some of the events highlighted in this newsletter, or contact the church office.

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

Rev. Joshua K. Owens, *Senior Pastor*

**PS - If you are interested in the podcast episode I mentioned, you can find it here:**  
<https://www.npr.org/2025/01/29/1227543269/antisocial-century-derek-thompson>

## Worship with Us

606 N. Walnut Street  
fbclumbertonnc.org

*Childcare is available on Sundays and Wednesdays. Nurse care (birth-age 2) is available in room D-107. Children age 3—K are invited to attend Extended Session after the children's sermon on Sundays in Room D-111. Children in 1st grade and older attend the full worship service.*

### Sundays

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship

*In-person, Facebook Live, YouTube*

4:45 pm — Youth Bells Rehearsal

6:00 pm — Youth Bible Study

### Wednesdays

6:00 p.m.—Adult Bible Study,  
Children's Activities, Youth Doing Missions  
7:00 pm — Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal



Wednesday, January 22, 2025  
Snow Day!



We at First Baptist Church have an online community where we can connect with each other outside our Sunday gatherings. We'd love for you to take part! This is an invitation to join ACS Realm, which is a web-based program that you can access on your computer, phone, or tablet. Our hope is that this will be a helpful tool for each of us.

*Some helpful features:*

- Update your own demographics, such as address and phone number, and upload a photo so people can put a face with a name;
- Online giving & view your giving history;
- Register & pay for trips;
- Access our online directory!

**Create an account:**

<https://onrealm.org/FirstBaptistChu67135>

On your smartphone, you may download the Realm Connect app. Use the code FirstBaptistChu67135 when creating an account.

If you have questions about this program, please contact Kandace at 910-739-4336 or [kandaceramsey@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:kandaceramsey@fbclumbertonnc.org).



## What is 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.

***Thank you to those who have already signed up to host in 2025!***

Feb. 15 — Sanctuary Choir

March 15 — Missions Committee

April 19 — Susan Welsh Sunday School

May 17 — WMU

June 21 — Young Adult Sunday School

July 19 — Deacons

Aug. 16 — HOST NEEDED

Sept. 20 — at Asbury UMC

Oct. 18 — Collins Sunday School

Nov. 15 — Youth

Dec. 20 — Bridge Sunday School



### *Coming Up:*

**Feb. 17** — WMU, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.  
**Feb. 17** — Worship Committee Meeting, 6 pm  
**Feb. 18** — Youth Council, 4:30 pm  
**Feb. 23** — Youth Appalachia Service Project Final Payment is due (\$200)  
**Feb. 23** — Lumberton Christian Care's Empty Bowls Fundraiser, 11 am—2 pm  
**Feb. 23** — Youth Bells resume meeting at 4:45 pm. Youth Bible Study resumes at 6:00 pm in the Activities Building.  
**Feb. 23** — Juniors will be using the Activities Building 2-4 pm for a Galentine's Party  
**Feb. 23** — Sanctuary/HVAC Task Force Meeting, 2 pm, Fellowship Hall  
**Feb. 24** — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.  
**March 4** — Baptist Women's Bible Study, 11:45 am, Activities Building  
**March 5** — Ash Wednesday  
**March 6-7** — PSRC All-County Chorus  
**March 10-12** — College Ski Trip  
**March 12** — Youth Passport Payment #3 due (\$100). Final payment due April 27.  
**March 13** — Fun & Fellowship, 11 am, Act. Bld.  
**March 15** — Community Café, hosted by Missions Committee

### **Contact Us**

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

Mailing address: 606 N. Walnut Street,  
Lumberton, NC 28358  
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;  
[jshowens@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:jshowens@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;  
[dougreedy@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:dougreedy@fbclumbertonnc.org)



Contact Alli Branch or Summer Pittman for more details about upcoming events being planned for Children this year. Save the date for the following Children's events:

April 13, Palm Sunday: Children will wave palms during 10:30 am Worship

May 18 is Children's Sunday!

June 14 VBS 9:00 am—12:00 pm

Plus several fun summer activities are being planned and will be announced once more information is available.

Wednesday night children's activities (missions & music) start at 6 pm. Nursery care is also available.



*Looking ahead...*

**March 5 is Ash Wednesday!**

Tentative Service Schedule:

7:15 am - Imposition of Ashes  
(ashes only - no service)  
6:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Service  
Both held in the Chapel

Ashes from the palms used during Palm Sunday are applied in the shape of the cross on the forehead of each Worshiper as a reminder to repent and reflect. Children and Youth are invited to attend the service at 6 pm in lieu of regular children's and Youth activities.



### THE SHOW IS NOW SOLD OUT!

Ticketholders should enter through the Fellowship Hall Lobby entrance. The doors open at 6:00 pm. We will start with a delicious meal from Long Branch Café followed by the show written and preformed by the Youth.



Parents of Youth, please check your email for Valentine Banquet details from Rev. Doug Reedy. Youth should arrive before 5:00 pm on Feb. 8th.

Sunday Night Youth Activities resume Feb. 23rd! Bells rehearsal starts at 4:45 pm and Bible Study starts in the Activities Building at 6 pm.

Youth Sunday is April 6th!

Upcoming trip payments are due:  
 Feb. 23—Final ASP Payment is due (\$200)  
 March 12 — Passport Payment #3 due (\$100)  
 April 27 — Final Passport Payment due (\$200)

### From Our Associate Pastor

Jesus, in John 14:6, tells us he is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” In John 1, Jesus is referred to as the Word of God. These are bold claims.

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

JOHN 14:6

Often in today’s world, these claims are ignored or used against others. We have a lot of folks who claim to be Christians but do so in order to achieve power and influence. They have no interest in following the teachings of Jesus, but want the benefits of the label.

This is not a new thing. When the early Roman emperors persecuted followers of the Way, those who claimed Christ were relatively small in number. However, when Constantine made Christianity not only safe but also the preferred religion of the Empire, suddenly Rome was brimming with new “converts.”

Later on, when a backlash against our faith from a new emperor set in, many of those same converts left (only to return once the balance of power was back with the Church). This pattern repeated itself often through history in different parts of the world. In fairness, at times there were the “Christians” forced false conversions on the masses.

Matthew 7:21 reminds us “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

Our world is sadly in a dark place right now. We all would do well to look not only at our hearts but also at our actions and compare them to the teachings of Christ Jesus found in the gospels. As Josh recently pointed out, almost everyone has a Bible, but few people actually read it.

So, with Lent approaching, now is the time to make some decisions. My challenge to everyone is to pick a gospel and read it. I know some of you read scripture daily, but many do not. God seems to be leading me toward Matthew. Please pray that God reveal to you what gospel to study. You don’t have to wait until Ash Wednesday to start, but if Lent proves to be the catalyst you need, use it.

Grace & Peace,  
 Doug



## Deacon Care Teams



SERVING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

At FBC Lumberton, we have divided Deacons into four groups, called Deacon Care Teams. Each team takes the opportunity of service to your family gladly. By early March, each team will mail letters to the folks under their care. Our hope is that you will feel free to contact them with updates concerning you and your family, whether it be during seasons of happiness or tragedy. If you have questions concerning our community of faith, they will be pleased to find the answers for you. The Deacon Care Teams look forward to learning more about you and visiting with you. If you have questions about any of our ministries, you may also call the church office at 910-739-4336 or email [office@fbclumbertonnc.org](mailto:office@fbclumbertonnc.org). Thank you for allowing us to serve you!

### 2025 Deacons

Barbara Andrews

Sandra Cox

Bruce Davis

William Davis

Phyllis Gibson (Secretary)

James Gore

Drina Hedgpeth (Chair)

Lisa Johnson

James W. Lawson

Eddie Prevatte

David Ramsaur

Jeanne Stevens

Christy Strickland (Vice Chair)

Tony Thompson

John Underwood

Chris Walters

## LCC Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Lumberton Christian Care Center (LCC) is holding its Annual Empty Bowls Fundraiser on Sunday, February 23 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. Tickets may also be purchased in advance from Barbara Andrews or Lisa Johnson, and can be purchased at the door.

## Sanctuary/HVAC Task Force Meeting #2 Sunday, February 23, 2025 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

The Board of Deacons voted to request that members of the church's Deacons, Finance, Building & Grounds, and Endowment committees have come together to begin the work of having conversations around ways to address the HVAC issues of the sanctuary. The hope is that by bringing these various groups together who would each play a role in a future decision, it could streamline the conversations and process of deciding the desired path forward to propose to the full congregation. If you are part of the committees invited to this meeting, you should have already received an email with more information. If you have not, please reach out to Rev. Josh Owens or to the Deacons.

During our Adult Bible Study this month, Rev. Josh Owens will be leading a sermon talkback series. We will take the previous Sunday's sermon and revisit the main point(s) then have an interactive discussion around the text and the content. You will have a chance to ask questions as well. This series will be called "Sermon Segue" as we transition from the Sunday experience to our weekly living. Join us for this series and discussion in Room D-113 at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays during the month of February.

# Explore Branson & surrounding areas



**Price**  
**\$1425**  
 /Person  
 Double Rm



### Package Includes

- ✓ All Meals
- ✓ 6 Nights Lodging
- ✓ Show Tickets
- ✓ St. Louis Arch Ride
- ✓ Mississippi River Cruise

A sample itinerary is available in the church office. Cost per person is based on double room occupancy. We need at least 40 people to make the trip possible. Check or cash payment is accepted.

**\$100** deposit due to sign up

**First Baptist Church**  
 606 N. Walnut Street  
 Lumberton, NC 28358  
 910-739-4336

**Contact**  
 Phyllis Gibson, Snr. Ad. Committee Chair  
 910-734-3553

Dear Senior/Retired Adults, We are thrilled to extend an invitation for you to join us on a delightful trip to Branson, Missouri and its charming surrounding areas from September 7-13, 2025. This trip is not your usual travel agency affair; instead, we have partnered with the reliable Southern Express Bus Company, and your friendly driver will be Dustin Robinson. During this exciting journey, you can look forward to enjoying all meals, six nights of comfortable lodging, show admissions, a thrilling ride to the top of the Arch in St. Louis, and a relaxing Mississippi River cruise. The entire package comes at a cost of \$1425 per person based on double occupancy. If you prefer your own room, you can do so by adding \$395 to the total. To ensure this trip becomes a reality, we are aiming for a minimum of 40 enthusiastic participants. To secure your spot, a \$100 deposit is required at the time of sign-up. We gladly accept both check and cash payments. Should you have any inquiries or need further information, please feel free to reach out to Phyllis Gibson at 910-734-3553. We can't wait to embark on this memorable journey with you!

Can't make it our services in-person? We stream most of our services on Facebook Live and on YouTube!

Scan the QR code to the right with your cell phone camera to access our social media pages, YouTube Channel, and our website.



*SCAN ME*

To be added to our email list, contact Kandace (kandaceramsey@fbclumbertonnc.org).

## 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)**  
**TUESDAY, FEB. 4TH**  
 \$115 NON-REFUNDABLE REG. FEE  
(CASH/CHECK)

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



Currently enrolled children may re-enroll Jan. 27-31. First Baptist Church members may register Monday, Feb. 3rd.

## 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](http://fbclumbertonnc.org/give).
- Scan the QR code below.
- Send us your contribution by mail:  
606 N. Walnut Street, Lumberton, NC 28358
- Text FBC606 to 73256 to give using your mobile device.\*

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



# GIVING

## Servants this Sunday

Please enter for Worship at the Sanctuary Vestibule.

### 9:30 Sunday School

Entrance Greeters 9:00 – 9:30 am  
6th Street Ramp (Handicap) - Gene Horne  
ECM Entrance (Handicap) - Jimmy & Billie Dail

### 10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters

Vestibule 10:00—11:30 am  
Sue O'Tuel

Nursery — Jenna Davis, Brooke Blackmon

Extended Session — Brooke Blackmon, Katherine Martin

## Person of the Week

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

**Gracie Davis**  
196 Kensington Street  
Lumberton, NC 28358



ASP Appalachia SERVICE PROJECT® warmer. safer. drier.®

First Baptist Church  
Lumberton, NC  
YOUTH

# APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT

**JULY 12-18, 2025**

FINAL PAYMENT DUE  
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

CONTACT REV. DOUG REEDY  
FOR MORE INFO.

cbf Annual Gathering 2025  
North Carolina



"...Through love serve one another." - Galatians 5:13

March 27-28, 2025

Pritchard Church, Charlotte



**Contribution Statements for 2024 were mailed January 15th.**