

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 9, 2025

First Sunday in Lent

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (NLT)

“A Series of Sacrifices: First Fruits”

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

or online on YouTube

youtube.com/c/lumbertonfbc/



Guest Speaker from ASP on March 9th! We will host a special guest from Appalachia Service Project (ASP) on Sunday, March 9 starting at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. ASP provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation — bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia to repair homes for low-income families. Our Youth will be participating this year. To learn more about this program, visit <https://asphome.org/>.

Coming up this week. . .

Sunday, March 9

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (in the Sanctuary)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (online)
- 4:45 p.m. Youth Bells Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Appalachia Service Project Guest Speaker (Fellowship Hall)

Monday, March 10

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

March 10-12

College Ski Trip

Tuesday, March 11

- 7:00 a.m. Men’s Prayer Group (Zoom)

Wednesday, March 12

- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study (Rm. D-113)
- Youth Doing Missions (Act. Bld.)
- Note: Passport Payment #3 due*
- Children’s Music & Missions
- Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, March 13

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

Saturday, March 15

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

A Note from the Pastor's Desk March 2025

The month of March is going to be a busy one, both personally and in our church. Personally, I'll be traveling to conduct research for my dissertation project that will take me to Odessa, TX, Louisville, KY, and Winston-Salem. Spring football practices are starting up as well, so I will be doing some officiating on college campuses around the Carolinas. March is also when our denominational partners at the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC will be holding their annual gathering at Pritchard Memorial Baptist in downtown Charlotte March 27-28. It is open (and free) to all who would like to attend, so I encourage you to consider going for one or both days if you are able. (Learn more by following this link: <https://cbfnc.org/annualgathering/>).



Then in our church, the warming months bring more activity as well. March 5 marks the beginning of Lent with our Ash Wednesday service (I hope you were able to make it). We have our college students going on a ski adventure, we welcome a representative from Appalachia Service Project on Sunday March 9 at 6 PM, and the days will be getting longer when Daylight Saving Time starts.

I guess you can say there will be a lot of movement going on these next few weeks. But there is one more aspect of the month of March that reflects an even larger movement worth remembering. This movement is one that has occurred across Baptist life here in America, and in particular with Baptist churches similar to us here at FBC Lumberton.

The month of March is being celebrated as Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) Month of Advocacy. It is an annual effort put on by our partners at BWIM to highlight and promote the significance of women leaders in our congregations, to celebrate the way that God has called all but especially women to all forms of church ministry and leadership, and to remember the trailblazing women who have made this possible in our churches over the last several decades.

In participation with this event, we will be sharing various resources and information throughout the month in our publications and worship. We also will be



BWIM | MONTH OF ADVOCACY

having a special series on Wednesday nights in March where we will be viewing the documentary film, "Midwives of a Movement" which chronicles the stories of the women who "boldly birthed a movement to seek greater visibility and opportunities for women in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in the 1970s and 1980s." I hope that you will make plans to join us for these viewings and discussions.

While there is much movement happening in March, I am so grateful for the movement of faithful women across Baptist life who worked to make space for all of God's people to serve as they are called. I am thankful that here at First Baptist Lumberton, we were pioneers years before the debates of the last two decades in Baptist circles, affirming the role of women to serve as God has called. May we remember and celebrate this month and allow the movement to continue to grow!



Rev. Joshua K. Owens, *Senior Pastor*

Additional Resources for Celebrating BWIM Month of Advocacy

BWIM 2025 Lenten Devotional: "Seek Discomfort" https://issuu.com/baptistwomeninministry/docs/seek_discomfort_a_bwim_lenten_devotion_guide

Short E-Book: "The Bible & Women in Ministry and Leadership 2023 Updated Edition with Discussion Guide" by Mereidh Stone - https://issuu.com/baptistwomeninministry/docs/the-bible--women-updated_2023-proof-2

2025 BWIM Month of Advocacy Calendar - <https://bwim.info/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/2025-Month-of-Advocacy-Calendar.pdf>

For more resources, visit: <https://bwim.info/bwim-month-of-advocacy/>

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

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

General Email: office@fbclumbertonnc.org

Rev. Tim Little — Minister of Music and Facilities;
timlittle@fbclumbertonnc.org

Rev. Josh Owens — Senior Pastor;
joshowens@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;
dougreedy@fbclumbertonnc.org

If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, we currently have most Sundays available in 2025. Call the church office to reserve. Once your date is reserved, we encourage you to contact your florist to arrange delivery of the flowers. The florists most are using are The Secret Garden on Liberty Hill Road (910-272-0000) or Flowers by Billy (910-738-2279).

 Annual Gathering 2025

SERVING TOGETHER

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

March 27-28, 2025

Pritchard Church, Charlotte

All are invited to join CBFNC's Annual Gathering in Charlotte at Pritchard Church as we celebrate and explore the theme of "Serving Together." Come to reconnect, network and build new relationships, explore learning through workshops, participate in meaningful and intentional worship, engage in a mission project and be welcomed into hospitable gathering places. Register online by March 16th! For more information, visit <https://cbfnc.org/annualgathering/>. Rev. Josh Owens will be attending.



Jeff Kinlaw will be our guest preacher Sunday, March 30th!

Dr. Kinlaw is an Adjunct Professor of Philosophy at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and with B.A. from Wake Forest University, Master of Divinity from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Ph.D. from University of Virginia.



Adult Bible Study
March 12, 19, 26, April 2

The Friends of Jesus Softball Game and Church Cookout will be held Wednesday, April 9 starting at 5 pm at Godwin Heights Park. We need volunteers to help with set up and with serving food for the softball game and cookout! Contact any of our Pastors or Hoss & Judith Watts if you can lead a hand.

Save the Date!

Youth and Young Adult Sunday School classes are meeting together 9:30 Sundays as they read and study the book of Matthew.

From Our Associate Minister

Lent has begun once again and today, at the time of my writing, it is Ash Wednesday. I've learned over the years that some spiritual practices are more meaningful than others, depending on the person and life's circumstances. For me, the day works like a reset button. It reminds me to be humble and acknowledge sin and death. I can see why it isn't something everyone leans into.

By the same token, people sometimes like to take shots at others for fasting or receiving the imposition of ashes. It is always interesting to hear from youth who choose to wear their ashes at school. They have some positive reactions and often a few negative comments, nearly always from other Christians. Other people minimize the importance of fasting for whatever reason.

This day is not a contest. Lent is not a competition. Please challenge yourself, talk to God, and do what you are capable of doing. Give what you can give cheerfully. Give up what you can give up and still function. Don't brag about either and please don't judge others in regards to what they choose to do.

We (the Youth Sunday School Class and the Young Adult one) have combined for a few weeks and are currently reading the book of Matthew for Lent. This week we will be covering the Sermon on the Mount. Someone recently pointed out that in the SOM Jesus says nothing about what to believe, only what to do and how to be. It was the core of what it meant to follow Christ. Three hundred years later, Christians came up with the Nicene Creed to define the faith. It is a list of things we must believe and says nothing of how to live. To me, Lent is a time to admit our sinfulness and seriously repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

Grace and Peace,

Doug

The poster features the text "Youth BELLS & BIBLE STUDY" in a mix of fonts. It lists the schedule: "SUNDAYS 4:45 PM BELLS REHEARSAL 6:00 PM BIBLE STUDY" and "WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM YOUTH DOING MISSIONS". The church's name and address, "First Baptist Church a community of faith 606 N Walnut St Lumberton, NC", are also present. An illustration of a stack of books with one open is shown on the right.

The poster has a colorful, abstract background. It reads "FBC YOUTH SUNDAY APRIL 6, 2025" and "Equal UNDER GOD" in large, stylized fonts. A quote from Galatians 3:28 is included: "THERE IS NEITHER JEW NOR GENTILE, NEITHER SLAVE NOR FREE, NOR IS THERE MALE AND FEMALE, FOR YOU ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST JESUS. - GALATIANS 3:28". At the bottom, there is an illustration of two hands shaking with a heart above them.

Youth Lock-in: May 2nd

Join us for the Youth Lock-in on Friday, May 2nd, which will include a trip to a trampoline park (details to be determined). To be a part of the lock-in, you must participate in Youth Sunday on April 6th. The deadline to submit money for the lock-in and Youth t-shirt is March 17th (cost will be announced soon). Please note that shirt sizes will only be reserved upon payment. If you are not involved in Youth Sunday, any remaining shirts and lock-in sign-ups will be on a first come, first served basis. For further details on Youth Sunday, the Lock-in, and t-shirt, feel free to reach out to Rev. Doug Reedy.

Youth Sunday is April 6th!

Youth Week Officers 2025

Pastors: Faith Harrelson and Noah Paige

Delivers sermon or equivalent on Youth Sunday, provides leadership, attends Deacons meeting, teaches Sunday School on Youth Sunday, says blessing at Youth Sunday lunch.

Minister of Education: Ava Bolles

Writes Sunday School lesson for Youth Sunday, major role in Youth Sunday worship service, attends Deacons meeting, teaches Sunday School on Youth Sunday.

Minister of Music: Bindi Ivey

Chooses hymns for and leads hymns on Youth Sunday. Works with worship leader to plan Sunday worship service, attends Deacons meeting, teaches Sunday School on Youth Sunday.

Minister of Visual Arts: Kaitlyn Reedy

Designs youth week t-shirt and logo, major role in Youth Sunday worship service, attends Deacons meeting, teaches Sunday School on Youth Sunday.

Minister of Worship: Gabby Hardee

Works with music minister and Doug to plan Sunday worship service, has major role in service, attends Deacons meeting, teaches Sunday School on Youth Sunday.

Young Adult Minister: Layla Myers

Possibly visits a college with Doug, has a role in Youth Sunday service, teaches Young Adult Sunday School on Youth Sunday.

Senior Adult Minister: Ahdaren Toney

Visits senior adults with Doug and/or Josh after school, attends Deacons meeting, teaches Sunday School on Youth Sunday.

Missions Ministers: Ava Anderson, Taylor Martin, Rylee Sealey

Leads Youth Doing Missions on April 30th, has a role in Youth Sunday service, attends Deacons meeting, teaches Sunday School on Youth Sunday.

Children's Minister: Lainey Pittman; Assistant: Ruth Diehl

Writes and does Children's Sermon in Youth Sunday service, writes and teaches Children's Sunday School on Youth Sunday.

Youth Ministers: Grayson Branch and Landon Walters; Assistant: Chase Bollinger

Leads Youth Bible Study on March 30th, has a major role in service, attends Deacons meeting, teaches Sunday School on Youth Sunday.

Preschool Ministers: Mahlea Hester and Abby Ivey

Helps write and assists with Children's Sermon in Youth Sunday service, writes and teaches Preschool Sunday School on Youth Sunday.

Deacon Chair: Rustin Walters

Leads March Deacons meeting along with actual Deacon Chair, recruits and trains Youth deacons, has a role in Youth Sunday service, teaches Sunday School on Youth Sunday.

Coming Up:

March 17 — WMU, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.
March 17-18 — Rev. Owens out of office
March 21 — PreK class field trip
March 22 — Scouts Pinewood Derby, Fellowship Hall, 8 am—12 pm
March 24 — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
March 24-28 — Rev. Owens out of office
March 27-28 — CBFNC Annual Gathering at Pritchard Church, Charlotte
March 2-April 4 — ECM Book Fair
March 30 — Jeff Kinlaw will be our guest preacher during Worship
April 1 — Baptist Women's Bible Study Group, 11:45 am, Activities Building
April 1 — Kiwanis using the Fellowship Hall in the evening for a meeting and Pickleball
April 6 — Youth Sunday
April 9 — Friends of Jesus Softball Game and church cookout at Godwin Heights Park
April 10 — Fun & Fellowship, 11 am, Act. Bld.
April 13 — Palm Sunday. Fellowship meal and egg hunt will take place following Worship.

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) - Barbara Andrews
ECM Entrance (Handicap) - Shirley Hickman

10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters

Vestibule 10:00—11:30 am
James and Brenda Britt

Nursery — Jenna Davis, Brooke Blackmon

Extended Session — Brooke Blackmon, Julie Fowlkes

Person of the Week

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

Beverly Miller
525 Hickory Leaf Court
Lumberton, NC 28358



Sanctuary/HVAC Task Force Meeting Recap

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. During the February 23rd meeting, the following items were discussed:

- We learned more about the arrangement of our HVAC system, notably its piping that appears to go through portions of the ground. A quote from Townsend was presented for an estimated \$100,000-\$150,000.
- Concerns were expressed about the soundness of the structure and that an evaluation by a structural engineer was needed.
- A presentation regarding the amount of space we have vs. the space that is recommended given our active/realistic operating numbers was shared.

A request from the Task Force was presented to the Deacons February 24th and was approved to secure a structural engineer evaluation up to \$20,000. The next meeting for the Task Force will be announced once we get the report from the structural engineer.

We appreciate the continued investment of the Task Force in these important, although difficult, conversations. If you have questions, please reach out to the Deacons or to Rev. Josh Owens.

The Senior Adult trip to Branson is now full, but we have a wait list started! Please contact the office or Phyllis Gibson, Sr. Ad. Committee chair, to be placed on the list.

**Explore
Branson**
& surrounding areas



April 28 -30



Lent: A Season of Reflection and Repentance

Ways to Observe Lent

Remember the three pillars of observing Lent: **Prayer, Fasting, & Almsgiving**

While Lent is not prescribed in the Bible, it has been a faithful practice of Christians for generations that has grown and developed as a way to more faithfully follow and remember the journey of Christ to the cross.

1. PRAYER/SCRIPTURE READING

- Commit to observing a daily prayer in some form if you aren't doing so already.
- Choose to pray in a different way than you usually do.
For example, rather than sitting in a specific place in your home, consider going for a walk and talking to God as you move.
- Engage in dedicated scripture reading
 - Use any 40-day plan and begin with Ash Wednesday and follow it every day (excluding Sundays) leading up to Holy Week.
 - Purchase a Lenten devotional book, or find one of the many freely published Lenten series available online. A few have been provided below from various partnering organizations.
 - *Lenten Devotional Guides* (links are provided in the weekly email from the church)
 - NC Council of Churches (weekly guide) - <https://ncchurches.org/resource/2025-lenten-guide-the-year-of-the-lord/?emci=e09c7bc9-8df3-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&emdi=fa123dea-23f5-ef11-90cb-0022482a94f4&ceid=3800080>
 - Baptist Women in Ministry: Seek Discomfort (2025 Lenten Devotion—weekly) - https://issuu.com/baptistwomeninministry/docs/seek_discomfort_a_bwim_lenten_devotion_guide
 - CBF: Emmanuel McCall Racial Justice Initiative (daily devotional) - <https://cbf.net/document/lenen-devotional-2025/>

2. FASTING

This has become a culturally popular association around Lent, however, it is a deeply spiritual practice observed by Jesus (Matthew 4:2). It is intended to help us re-enact the absence of something to remind us of what we ultimately need to be filled: Jesus. There are many ways you can go about doing this. See the below article from Hallow that has some helpful suggestions for people of all ages:

<https://hallow.com/blog/what-to-give-up-for-lent/>

- Another element of fasting that is limited to a handful of days is fasting from food on special days like Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Some traditions will fast the entirety of Easter weekend (Good Friday and Black Saturday).

3. ALMSGIVING (ACTS OF CHARITY)

So much of what we can do to observe Lent is personal, and done in isolation. This is one way in which we can observe the season outwardly, but it is with the intention of sacrificing something of yourself for others.

- Make special financial gifts to the church over-and-above your standard tithe
- Make a special gift (one time, or weekly) to one or multiple organizations
- Commit to volunteering so many hours each week of Lent to one of our wonderful local organizations (like Lumberton Christian Care) or to an area of the church you don't normally take part in.
- Offer to serve a neighbor or family member who you know could use assistance in some way in the coming days/weeks.

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 to cancel.

On Palm Sunday, April 13, 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 that morning.

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 April 4th.



first Baptist Weekday School Enrollment

Designed to nurture young minds, our curriculum sparks curiosity, builds friendships, and lays the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- 2 day, 3 day, or 5 day options
- September – May Calendar

ENROLL NOW →

Visit Our Website www.fbclumbertonnc.org For More Information **910-738-6608**

News from First Baptist Early Childhood Ministry (ECM)

We are so excited to announce that the ECM will now be offering a part-time program in the fall! This program will operate from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. for ages 2 - 4 years old, with 2 day, 3 day, and 5 day options. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please send them our way! Also, we still have openings for our full-time program for the 2025-26 year as well. Please let your friends and families know! Contact Michelle Prevatte, Director, to register: Call 910-738-6608 or email michelleprevatte@fbclumbertonnc.org.



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. Please avoid the jelly bean pre-filled eggs if at all possible. Drop off your donations to the church office.

PRESCHOOL ADMISSION

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS AUG. 2025

- 2 Year Old Classes; Spaces Still Available
- 3 Year Old Classes; Limited Availability
- 4 Year Old Classes; No Availability
- NC PreK; Spaces Still Available

- **Developmentally Appropriate Curriculums**
- **Breakfast, Lunch, & Snack served daily**
- **Loving Environment**
- **Qualified Teachers**
- **CPR & First Aid Certified**

REGISTER NOW BEFORE SPACES ARE FILLED UP!