

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



"Feed My Sheep" by James L. Johnson, oil on canvas

Preparing for Sunday, May 4, 2025

**"Taking Us Where We
Don't Want to Go"**
John 21:1-19 (NLT)

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/

Coming up this week...

Sunday, May 4

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Discover FBC
10:30 a.m. Worship (in the Sanctuary)
10:30 a.m. Worship (online)

Monday, May 5

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting (Conf. Rm.)
12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn (Act. Bld.)

Tuesday, May 6

ECM Summer Care Registration Opens

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

Wednesday, May 7

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

Thursday, May 8

7-9:30 am ECM's Muffins with Mom
(Fellowship Hall)
11:00 a.m. Fun & Fellowship (Act. Bld.)
6:30 p.m. Partnership's Provider Banquet
(Fellowship Hall)

Friday, May 9

United Way's Day of Caring

Saturday, May 10

3:00 p.m. Hispanic Ministry Bible
Study (Act. Bld.)

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.*

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



GIVING

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

May 2025



Every Sunday when we gather for worship, there is always a segment of the service where we collect an offering. One of the pastors of my childhood church, Rev. Dennis Guy used to say the offering collection was a time to “give back a portion of which God had given to us.” You may have heard me utter that phrase in an offertory prayer a time or two as some things can become buried into our subconscious.

The act of giving an offering is an important one for many reasons. First, as Christians, giving of ourselves to God, including a portion of our financial resources, is a mandate of our Lord. In the Old Testament, there are multiple instructions for the people of God to give an appropriate amount of their financial or material means (Gen. 28:20-22, Lev. 27:30, Mal. 3:10). Then in the New Testament, the characteristics of giving willingly and cheerfully are lifted up (Acts 20:35, 2 Cor. 9:7). A second reason why giving is important is a practical one. It is hard to run any ministry, business, or entity without the necessary funds to operate it, and the primary (and in most cases the only) revenue-generating practice for churches is the money that its parishioners give to the church's budget or other allocations.

I mention all of this because, throughout the season of Lent, you may have noticed that our time of giving seemed different than prior worship services. Given the Lenten themes of sacrifice and giving up something for God, we moved the time in the service when the offering was collected from just before the sermon, to after. This was done for a few reasons. One, because usually, we speak about the offering being a response to God. Speaking of responsive acts, often we end the service by singing a song that encourages worshipers to act or respond to what they have heard God say through the Word proclaimed. This slight change allowed for the two common “responsive” elements of worship which typically were separate moments in worship, to come together in the service order. Second, it provided us a chance to use the themes of Lent to hopefully give greater focus on the purpose of why we give and what it means. Sometimes it may be easy to lose the significance of giving our tithes and offerings as an act of worship when it is sandwiched between the more expressive or engaging elements like singing or preaching.

So I wonder, did any of you notice the change? And if you did, were you focused just on questions like “Why are we changing what we’ve always done?”, OR were you asking questions more like “What new ways may God be asking me to give of myself today in response to what I have heard?” Going forward in this Easter season and beyond, the time in the service where we physically pass the plates or encourage you to give digitally will once again reside in its more familiar location in the service. However, we don’t want to lose focus on the importance of giving as an act of worship and as a response to what God has done and calls us to be. Rather than just assuming you know why we give, the goal each week will be to have a prompting to give, or a “call to give.”

Our God expects us to give; give our money, our time, our attention, and our energy to Kingdom work both within our local congregations and the community around us. Our giving can and should be an act of worship, weekly and daily worship. So may we continue to think deeply about what we give, or maybe don’t give, and consider how we can push ourselves to offer more of what we have to the glory of God’s kingdom. For what we set our minds to, what we treasure most, that is where ultimately the focus of our heart will be also (Matt. 6:21).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joshua Owens".

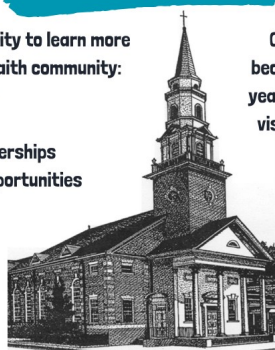
Rev. Joshua K. Owens, *Senior Pastor*



DISCOVER FBC

A 3 week opportunity to learn more about the FBCL faith community:

- Church history
- Governance
- Missional Partnerships
- Membership Opportunities
- Involvement



Open to anyone who has become a member in the last year, or anyone who has been visiting and is interested in learning more!

Sundays May 4, 11, 18
9:30 am

Explore our rich history, governance, missional partnerships, and ways to get involved during Discover FBC! Whether you recently became a member or are a visitor curious about FBC, this opportunity is for you. Rev. Joshua Owens will guide us through this insightful experience. Let's grow together in understanding and connection. Meetings will be held Sundays May 4, 11, and 18 at 9:30 am (during the Sunday School hour).

First Sunday Food Drive—May 4th

This Sunday, you can help feed the hungry in our community by bringing canned or dry goods to donate to our First Sunday Food Drive.

Donations collected will be sent to local food banks. As you are out and about the next couple of days, pick up an extra can and bring it with you Sunday. Suggestions: Pop-top canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, canned meats, pasta & pasta sauce. Items should be in-date and in their original packaging.

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) - Tony & Becky Thompson

ECM Entrance (Handicap) - Ann & John Underwood

10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters

Vestibule 10:00—11:30 am

JW & Angie Lawson

Nursery — Jenna Davis, Brooke Blackmon

Extended Session — Brooke Blackmon, Kim Gore



MILITARY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Thursday, May 15, 2025

12:00 Noon

Activities Building

All branches of service are welcome to attend. We will have a guest speaker with complementary lunch.



Call 910-739-4336 to register, or scan the QR code to register online.



606 N Walnut St, Lumberton, NC 28358

Are you currently serving or have you served in the military? We would love for you to join us at our Military Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday, May 15, 2025 in the Activities Building. We will have a guest speaker! Our speaker for the military luncheon will be Ed Tatum. He served in The Old Guard, including a time at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. He is also a local business owner with Tatum Auto Sales here in Lumberton and his grandchild attends the ECM. A complimentary meal will be provided for all attendees. Please RSVP by Friday, May 9th by registering online or by contacting the church office at 910-739-4336 or office@fbclumbertonnc.org. We look forward to having you with us!

Person of the Week

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



Dyanne Stone
1409 Eisenhower Street
Lumberton, NC 28358

From Our Associate Pastor

The FBC Friends of Jesus ministry is healthy and thriving! From big events like the Christmas Party, the Valentine Banquet, and our annual softball game to smaller events like Easter bingo, they stay active learning about the love of Jesus and learning they are loved. This year, they return to Happiness Retreat at Camp Caraway. From their website:

For over 50 years, Happiness Retreat has brought joy, community, and connection through our unique Christian camp experience! We offer a two-night retreat for individuals with Developmental Disabilities and their caregivers in our accommodating Conference Center with private hotel style bedrooms. With specially trained staff leading three camp sessions, participants will enjoy engaging classes, fun activities, recreation times, meaningful worship and a talent show. Join us for a celebration of friendship, laughter, and joy!

Sometimes I wonder if we as Christians spend way too much time arguing about freewill and predestination, the social gospel versus individual morality, worship styles, and denominational differences. These things are important. I'm not so sure in the end it will matter so much what we were "right" about.

It may matter more how we treated folks that needed our help. There are plenty of legitimate political disagreements about how best to serve people, but it is a basic Christian doctrine to serve those in need. Read the New Testament and be reminded that that's not up for debate.

So, whoever you are, what your political stance is, your social status, your race, or your age, please note God has blessed each of us with the opportunity to make life better for these beautiful creations of God. God has given us this gift. All of us can be involved in one way or another.

Currently, the ministry needs more volunteers. Some to teach, some to help serve plates at events, and some just willing to love and be loved. Just being there means so much to our FOJs (or to anyone really).

If you can help more with our Friends of Jesus, please see Hoss, Judith, Bucky, or any of our other leaders. If you want to help with youth, please see me. Sorry Judith. I couldn't resist asking for youth volunteers, too. One last reminder: God loves you!

Grace & Peace,
Doug

A graphic with a light blue grid background. At the top, the words "Scholarship Applications" are written in a blue, arched font. Below this is a blue graduation cap with a yellow tassel and a rolled-up diploma tied with a red ribbon. In the center, the First Baptist Church logo is displayed, consisting of a cross and the text "First Baptist Church" and "a community of faith". Below the logo, the text "DUE BY MAY 31, 2025" is written in blue. Further down, in smaller blue text, it says "For more information, please contact the church office or Rev. Doug Reedy." At the bottom, a red rectangular button contains the text "First Baptist Church" and "910-739-4336" in white.A graphic with a dark wood-grain background. On the left is a black graduation cap with a white outline. To its right is a blue fountain pen with gold accents. On the right side, the First Baptist Church logo is at the top. Below it, the text "GRAD SUNDAY BACCALAUREATE SERVICE" is written in white. The year "2025" is in large, bold, yellow numbers, with "JUNE 1" in white below it. At the bottom, the text "10:30 AM IN THE SANCTUARY" is written in white.

As the school year comes to a close, we are planning our Grad Sunday baccalaureate service. If you or a family member will be graduating from high school or college or has recently graduated, please let us know so we can celebrate his or her in this important milestone.

Parents of Youth—check your email for the overview of the calendar for May. While we will take a break from Sunday and Wednesday night Youth activities, please note the following on your calendar:
May 21 — Trip meeting for ASP students, chaperones, and parents at 6 pm
June 22-27 — Passport Choices Trip (full)
July 12-18 — Appalachia Service Project Trip (full). We'll be going to Clay County, WV.
July 26-31 — Youth Music Retreat. This is open for those who rang bells and more details and sign--up is coming up soon.



Children will lead in elements of Worship on Sunday, May 18th including greeting, saying prayers, reading scripture, collecting the offering, participating artistically and musically, and by preparing and delivering the sermon. Please be in prayer for this group as they plan Worship on Children's Sunday.

First Baptist Early Childhood Ministry
606 N. Walnut Street
Lumberton, NC 28358

CHILDCARE
FOR SCHOOL-AGED
CHILDREN (AGES 5 -12)
SUMMER 2025

REGISTER MAY 6

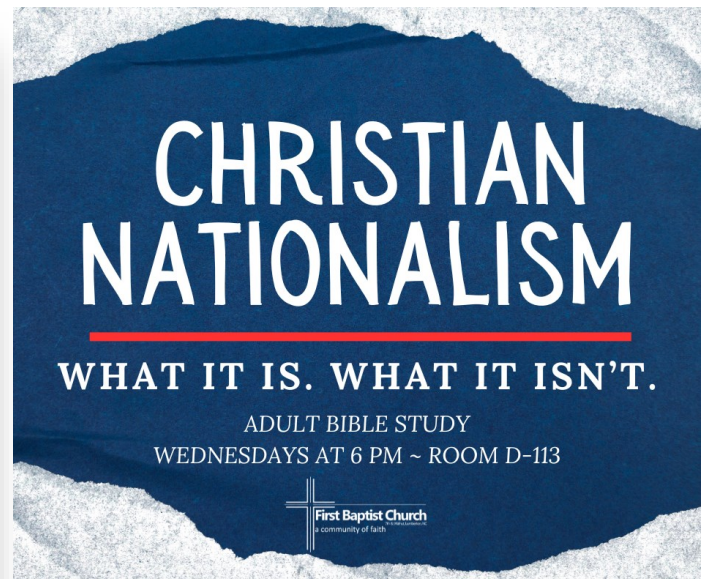
\$75 REGISTRATION FEE
\$150 WEEKLY TUITION

Get in touch
Michelle Prevatte or Paula Lewis

We are so excited to announce that the ECM will be accepting applications for summer care for school-aged children on **Tuesday, May 6th!**

For current openings, registration for the upcoming school year, or for more information about our program, contact Michelle Prevatte, Director:
Call 910-738-6608 or email
michelleprevatte@fbclumbertonnc.org.

<https://www.firstbaptistearlychildhoodministry.com/>



The term "Christian Nationalism" is something you may have heard a lot in the last several years, but may not have stopped to consider what it is and what its implications are. In this three-week series adapting curriculum published by the Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty of "The BJC" we will look at what Christian Nationalism is, what the Bible would say to this ideology, and how we can faithfully engage its viewpoint in our lives.



It has been a busy few weeks but we didn't want to miss out on sharing some of the fun from our annual Friends of Jesus softball game and cookout on April 9. Over 120 folks gathered at Godwin Heights Park to cheer on Friends of Jesus class participants and youth ministry volunteers in a friendly competition before enjoying a meal of hot dogs and other goodies. Thanks to all who came out and to Lumberton Parks and Recreation for facilitating the location and equipment. More photos from this event may be viewed on the church's Facebook and Instagram.



Volunteers are needed in the following areas:

1. **Group Leaders:** Spend morning with kids of assigned age group, welcome them, and take them to various stations. Primary responsibility to know, love, supervise, and encourage students through the day! Must be adults 21+.

2. **Assistant Group Leaders:** Assist the group leader in carrying out duties. Open to any one over the age of 14.

3. **Celebration Leader:** Responsible for facilitating the opening and closing celebrations including songs, games, dancing, emphasizing the theme and theme verses. Ideally this person should be someone of high energy and have the ability to communicate effectively with little ones.

4. **Station Leaders:** Will facilitate a specified station session (craft, story, rec, or music).

*Crafts: guide students in completing a theme-related craft.

*Story: guide students in an intentional Bible story time by reading the text and asking questions.

*Recreation: will prepare and carry out theme-related, team-based activities.

*Music: will have an opportunity to teach a simple song, or use instruments that correspond to the them.

5. **Snack Coordinators:** Will ensure that we have acquired snacks and drinks for each student & volunteer, and help set-up, distribute, and clean-up snack.

6. Registration/Check-in

Coordinators: Primary role is to check-in students who have pre-registered and record any on-site registrations. These folks are some of the first faces seen so personable demeanor are desired.

7. Registration/Check-in

Assistants: Assist the Registration/Check-in Coordinators. Great opportunity for Youth.

8. **Floater:** We can always use additional hands to ensure safety and security, assist in clean-up, and smiling faces to encourage participation of students. All ages are welcome to serve in this capacity.

Howdy! The Children's Committee is excited to announce this year's VBS will be held Saturday, June 14th 9 am - 12 noon! Registration for students will open soon. Look for student registration info in the coming editions of *First Baptist News*.

In the meantime, will you commit to volunteering for this year's Vacation Bible School? We have several opportunities to pick from!

How to sign-up to serve:

- Contact the office
- Contact any of the Children's Committee Members or Pastors
- Sign up to serve online through ACS Realm



Coming Up:

May 11 —Mother's Day
May 12 — Healthy Robeson & Duke Global Health's Community Café for Robeson County Ministers, 6-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
May 15 — Veteran's Luncheon, 12 pm, Act. Bld.
May 16 — Junioresettes Event in the Fellowship Hall
May 17 — Community Café, hosted by Baptist Women's Bible Study Group
May 18 — Children's Sunday
May 19 — WMU, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.
May 19 — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
May 21 — Last regular Wednesday night gathering until the Fall
May 26 — Memorial Day. The ECM and office are closed.
May 27-30 — Kandace working remotely
May 28 — Children's Committee Meeting, 6 pm, for VBS Planning
May 29 — NC PreK's year-end picnic at NE Park
May 31 — Scholarship applications due
June 1 — Grad Sunday Baccalaureate Service, 10:30 am, Sanctuary. A lunch for graduates and their families will follow in the Fellowship Hall.
June 5 — ECM PreK Graduation Program, 10 am, Fellowship Hall
June 8 — Pentecost Sunday. Wear red/orange. Worship will be held in the Fellowship Hall for the summer months starting this date. Sunset Slush will be on campus.
June 12 — ECM's Donuts with Dad, 7:30-9:00 am, Fellowship Hall
June 12 — Snr/Retired Adults trip to Vince Gill concert in Durham
June 14 — VBS, 9 am—12 noon
June 15 — Father's Day
June 19 — Juneteenth
June 21 — Community Café, hosted by Young Adult Sunday School Class
June 22-27 — Youth Passport Trip
June 23 — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
June 24-27 — CBF General Assembly, St. Louis
June 29 — BINGO, 3:00 pm, Act. Bld.
June 30-July 3 — Kandace working remotely.
July 4 — Independence Day. The offices and ECM will be closed.
July 12-18 — Youth Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Trip. We'll be going to Clay Co., WV.
July 19-21 — Friends of Jesus Happiness Retreat, Camp Caraway
July 19 — Children's trip to White Lake
July 19 — Community Café, hosted by Deacons



Thank you!



As part of Youth Week Activities, Missions Co-Ministers Ava Anderson and Taylor Martin helped collect food donations that were given to Robeson County Church and Community Center's food pantry.



Mental health awareness is crucial in recognizing that struggles of the mind and heart are real and deserving of compassion, support, and care. It's important to break the stigma surrounding mental health and remind those who are suffering that they are not alone. The Bible offers comfort in times of distress, assuring us of God's constant presence. In Deuteronomy 31:6, it says, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." This promise is a powerful reminder that no matter how isolated we may feel, God is always with us - offering hope, strength, and peace even in our darkest moments. You don't have to fight your battle alone. Talk to us for resources and for prayer.

988

SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE

Text, call, or chat 988

24/7/365 Free and confidential support for mental health, substance use, and more.

Worship with Us

606 N. Walnut Street
fbclumbertonnc.org

Childcare is available on Sundays and Wednesdays. Nursey 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

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



SCAN ME

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 these 2025 hosts:

May 17 — Baptist Women's Bible Study
June 21 — Young Adult Sunday School
July 19 — Deacons
Aug. 16 — Children's Committee
Sept. 20 — at Asbury UMC
Oct. 18 — Collins Sunday School
Nov. 15 — Youth
Dec. 20 — Bridge Sunday School



Wednesday, May 21st will be our last regular Wednesday night gathering for Adult Bible Study, Youth Doing Missions, and Children's Music & Missions until September.

Our Baptist Women's Bible Study Group, WMU, and Fun & Fellowship Group will take a break from meeting during the summer months as well. Meetings will resume in September.

We will move 10:30 am Sunday Worship to the Fellowship Hall starting June 8th. We will continue to worship in the Fellowship Hall likely through the month of September.

Look for more summer gathering opportunities for all age groups in coming editions of *First Baptist News*.

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;
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;
dougreeedy@fbclumbertonnc.org

From the pages of history...
excerpt from the church bulletin December 18, 1927

*"We often go to sleep doing the regular thing.
God calls us to our best action in special
campaigns—they bring us to prayer."*