

# First Thoughts...

I'm part of a group of 6-8 pastors in our area who meets about one a month. We keep up with each other via text thread, and occasionally things happen that cause us all to weigh in on what the others of us are doing. The snow and ice issues were a topic of conversation; we all have to make our own decisions but it's helpful and informative to see how others of us are handling things.

Recently, the topic of Presidents' Day came up and the question was whether our churches were closed for this holiday. Most of us did not do this, although I did say that if one day could be added (or created), it would be the Opening Day of Baseball season!

Yes, pitchers and catchers have reported and spring training is underway! There's something comforting and reassuring about the familiar rhythm and routine of the upcoming baseball season; it offers a sense of hope for those whose motto has been "there's always next year!"

We're in a season of our own, much more spiritual and significant in its own right. A few weeks ago, our church observed Ash Wednesday. This day reminds us of our mortality and sinfulness: "from dust you are and to dust you will return—repent and believe the gospel." This day is the beginning of the season of Lent.

There aren't many Baptist churches who observe the Lenten season—especially in our immediate area. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten season, a 40 day period of prayer, reflection, and fasting (for some). Sundays are not typically counted in the number of days leading up to the Resurrection of Jesus.

Over the next several weeks, our church will make its journey to the cross. You'll notice the color purple being featured more on the pulpit; we'll remain in this posture until Maundy Thursday and then of course, Easter Sunday. But, let's not hurry through these important weeks of reflection and repentance. I'm hopeful that each one of us will find a way to slow down and appreciate what Jesus Christ has done for us. We have so much to be thankful for, among the most valuable is our shared life together.

Thanks so much for your ongoing faithfulness in your attendance, prayers, financial support, and involvement in the mission and ministries of our church. There are good things happening in our church, and I pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us to be and do what he wants as First Baptist Church.

Pastor Danny

**Pastor Danny** has a podcast called "Elisha's Bears."

It's about faith, the Bible, and the church in general. He'll have conversations with guests about various topics from time to time, too. You can follow the podcast on Spotify, Apple Podcast and Amazon Music. Recent episodes include conversations with Dr. Derek Alderman, Professor of Geography at UT, about "Mapping, Racial Equality, and Naming Streets after MLK" and Tyler Tankersley, Senior Pastor of Aardmore Baptist Church in Winston-Salem, NC. Tyler talks about "Mark Twain, Spiritual Crankiness, and a Pastor's Health".



## Youth Ignite

Wednesdays  
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.  
FLC Youth Room  
Grades 6-12  
Free Dinner, Games,  
and Bible Study!



## College & Career LifeGroup

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.  
FLC, Level 2  
Teacher: Kris Hicks

## YOUTH SCHEDULE CHANGES:

No Youth LifeGroup or College & Career LifeGroup on Sunday, March 15 & March 22. No Youth Ignite on March 18 due to Spring Break



## Youth Beach Trip Spring Break

Emerald Isle, NC  
March 15 - 21  
Please remember our Youth and Youth Leaders in your prayers as they travel on Spring Break.

## The Chosen Season 3

Sunday Bible Study  
Sundays  
March 1, 8, 15, 29  
April 12 (final session)  
6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
Lower Auditorium  
Led by Amanda & Jason Taylor



## FBC Kids

Wednesdays  
(No FBC Kids 3/18)  
5:30 p.m. -  
7:15 p.m.  
Free Dinner,  
Music, Bible Study  
Parents sign in children in the FLC  
Lobby between 5:00 p.m. - 5:30  
p.m. to eat dinner.



## Kids Church

Sundays during the 10:40 a.m.  
Service in the Church Library (next  
to the nursery) for Age 3 - Grade 5.



## Basketball & Cheer

Last games are March 7, 2026.  
Upward Celebration is Monday,  
March 9, 2026 at Second Baptist.



## Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 5  
12:00 p.m.  
At First Baptist Church following the  
10:40 a.m. Worship Service.



## Vacation Bible School

Monday, June 8 - Friday, June 12  
Family Life Center  
Age 4 - Grade 5



## FBC Spring Banquet

Honoring our Widows/Widowers  
Sponsored by the Deacons  
Sunday, March 22  
5:00 p.m.  
FLC, Gym  
Meal Catered by Apple Blossom  
Entertainment by Sleepy Eyed  
John's String Band

## Deacon Workshop

*Walking With Others  
Through the Valley:  
A Deacon's Role in Times  
of Loss*

Led by Dr. Rick Bennett  
Saturday, March 28  
8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Breakfast will be catered by  
Apple Blossom  
All ordained deacons are invited  
to attend. Please call the Church  
Office to RSVP by noon on  
Wednesday, March 18.

## Young Life Madrid

Host Families Needed for their  
Spanish teens June 24 to July 24  
Learn more at [younglife.org](http://younglife.org).  
looking for host families for our  
Spanish teenagers who will be  
participating in the Young Life  
Madrid 2026 USA Summer  
Program.  
Would you prayerfully consider  
hosting a student, or recommend  
someone who might be  
interested? Opening your home  
is an opportunity to be the hands  
and feet of Jesus, creating a  
space where a student can  
experience Christ's love through  
your family in real and  
unforgettable ways.



## Save the Date: Encore Trip to Tennessee Museum of Aviation and Applewood Farm House Grill

Sevierville, TN.  
Friday, March 27  
Watch for more details in the  
Sunday Bulletin. RSVP to the  
Church Office.

## SAVE THE DATE: Encore Trip to Dogwood Arts Festival

Friday, April 24  
Watch for more details.

## Niagara Falls Trip Meeting

Monday, March 9  
6:00 p.m.  
Lower Auditorium  
Final Payment is due at this  
meeting.

## Encore Trip to Niagara Falls & Toronto May 24 - May 30

## Women's Book Club

Book of the Month:  
"Evicted: Poverty and Profit in  
the American City"  
by Matthew Desmond  
3rd Tuesday, Monthly  
11:00 a.m.  
FLC, Hearth Room  
Please contact Kay Hannah if  
you would like to attend.

## Memorial Flowers

The flowers on the altar in the sanctuary on Sunday, March 1 are in loving memory of **Terry Carpenter's** birthday, March 3 and in memory of **Von and Toni Carpenter**, given by Carol Carpenter.

The flowers on the altar in the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 8 are in loving memory of **Frank Boggs'** birthday, March 11, given by Sue and family.

The flowers on the altar in the Sanctuary on Sunday, March 22 are in loving memory of **Helen Bowling's** birthday which was March 23, given by Billie Sue Hammer, Will, Whitney, Morgan, and Millie Hammer, Clay, Ashley, Gabriella, Adayah, and C.J. Hammer and Carolyn Wilson.

## From the Pulpit in March

**8:30 a.m.** Family Life Center  
**9:30 a.m.** LifeGroups  
**10:40 a.m.** Sanctuary  
01 Exodus 4:1-13  
08 Esther 4:9-14  
15 Joshua 1:1-9  
22 10:40 Service Only  
Dr. Michael Prince  
29 Palm Sunday - John 12:12-19

## Holy Week Service

**Monday, March 30**  
**12:00 p.m.**  
St. Mark United Methodist Church  
Message by Dr. Danny Chisholm

## Maundy Thursday Service

**Thursday, April 2**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
Sanctuary  
Observance of the Lord's Supper

## Easter Sunday

**Sunday, April 5**  
**8:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.**

## The Seven Last Words of Jesus

*"Cross-Shattered Christ"*

by Stanley Hauerwas  
**Adult Bible Study**  
**Wed., March 4 and 11**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
Lower Auditorium  
Led by Pastor Danny



## Wednesdays in March

6:30 p.m.  
04 Seven Last Words of Jesus  
11 Seven Last Words of Jesus  
18 Spring Break—No Study  
25 Business Meeting

## Deacons' Meeting

**Tuesday, March 10**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
Lower Auditorium

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

**Tuesdays**  
**5:30 p.m.**  
FLC - Level 2

## Spirit Sisters

(Widows Support Group)  
**1st Monday/monthly**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
FLC/Hearth Room  
Social outings will be on the 3rd Monday monthly

## Photography Group

**1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, Monthly**  
**6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**  
FLC - Hearth Room

## The Bridge LifeGroup Class

**Sundays**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
Main Building  
Level 3 Room B303  
This LifeGroup Class is for Young Adults in their 20s who are single or married and is led by Lori Chisholm.

## January Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$46,768
2026 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$11,692
2026 Weekly Budget Req.	\$18,495
Budget Expense	\$74,399
January (Deficit)/Income	(\$27,631)
2026 Deficit (Deficit)/Income	(\$27,631)
TOTAL January 31	(\$27,631)



**ONLINE GIVING**

Giving options to FBC Clinton include the offering envelope system (checks and cash), scanning the QR code (digital giving), or by setting up a recurring bank draft through the church office.

## Offering Envelopes

are available for pick up in the hallway behind the sanctuary and in the FLC.

## Business Meeting Budget Discussion

**\*Wednesday, March 25**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
Lower Auditorium  
**\*notice date change due Spring Break**

## Business Meeting Report

The February Business Meeting report was not available at the time of printing the newsletter due to Business Meeting being moved to February 25. This report will be in the April newsletter.

## Towers Movie Night

**Saturday, March 7**  
Popcorn & Drinks will be served.

## Towers Craft

**Third Thursday, Monthly**  
**2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**  
At the Towers  
Led by Julia Spradling

## No Bible Study or Activities on March 18 due to Spring Break.

## Budget Vote

**Sunday, March 29**  
**8:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.**

## CSC Report January 2026

218 individual served (107 families)  
39 Children 96 Adults 83 Seniors  
Food Items 4316  
Clothes 408  
Miscellaneous 143 (3 wks. dist.)  
Because of your generosity we have been able to serve other with compassion and love. We ask for your continued prayers and support as we continue this mission of being the hands and feet of Jesus.

## CSC Clothing Closet

When donating clothing, please make sure they are clean and gently used.  
Also, the CSC is in need of 2-3 more volunteers to substitute on Tuesday afternoons from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. and sort through clothes on Tuesday mornings from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. If you can help, please contact K.K. Meredith.

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IN THE  
*Heart* OF  
**CLINTON**  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

FRIENDLY GUIDE

MARCH 2026

## Daylight Savings Time Begins

**Sunday, March 8**

Remember to move your clocks forward 1 hour!

## Combined Worship Service

**Sunday, March 22 at 10:40 a.m.**

In the Sanctuary

There will be no 8:30 a.m. service on this day.

## FBC Spring Banquet

Honoring our Widows/Widowers

Sponsored by the Deacons

**Sunday, March 22 at 5:00 p.m.**

In the Family Life Center, Gym



**Sunday, March 29**

Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.

LifeGroups meet at 9:30 a.m.

Children will process in with palm branches.

LifeGroups will meet at 9:30 a.m.