

Celebrating the Generosity of FBG



In December, in a variety of ways, church leaders (including me) made appeals to the church family to be generous in your gifts to the church. You responded in an amazing way, so on behalf of our church and its leaders, I want to come back and say, “Thank you!”

I am grateful to God, whose blessings both inspire and make possible our generosity; and I am grateful to you for so generously supporting the mission and ministries of our church.

If you’re new to FBG, our church used to have what was called “The Annual Budget.” But the name was changed to “Mission and Ministry Plan,” which more accurately reflects what it is: it is the financial plan which makes it possible to carry out our missions and ministries. In 2022, the goal for our Mission and Ministry Plan was 2.9 million dollars. As we closed the books on 2022, we were about \$1,650 short of the goal. Technically, that means we gave 99.9 percent of our goal, but I was an English major, so

I’m going to round up and call that 100 percent! In all seriousness, for a year marked by the departure of the Senior Minister (not to mention the ongoing challenges related to COVID), that is truly remarkable. Not only that, you gave more than \$106,000 to the Lula Whilden World Missions Offering—exceeding our goal of \$100,000—which goes entirely to missions enterprises beyond the walls of our church.

As impressive as the numbers are, they aren’t what’s most important. Because of your generosity, hungry people were fed, homeless people were sheltered (or moved out of homelessness into their own homes!), people who needed them received decent clothes, sick people were cared for, jobless people were employed, children were nurtured, lonely people were loved, and a lot of folks were introduced to God’s great love in Jesus Christ.

On behalf of those who found the kingdom breaking into their lives because of your generosity, thank you! And thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,
Tony

Sundays through February 12

Forum@First: Intro to Christian Theology—
Theological Controversies Through the Centuries with Camille Loomis Rehnborg and Carrie Nettles
9:30-10:15am Fellowship Hall

Worship This Week



**Wednesday, February 1, 6:15pm—
MidWeek Fellowship (Fellowship Hall)**

Gather in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15pm on Wednesday for MidWeek Fellowship as Interim Senior Minister Tony Hopkins leads us in seeing the Passion through the lens of Christian Art. This first session will focus on the story in the synoptic gospels. Make reservations and come a little earlier to enjoy supper (<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>) and fellowship around the tables.



**Sunday, February 5, 10:30am—
Worship Service (Sanctuary)**

During worship this Sunday morning in the Sanctuary, Minister of Pastoral Care and Counseling Kendra Plating will preach as a part of the Martha Stearns Marshall Day of Preaching sponsored by Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM). This event is named after an eighteenth-century Separate Baptist

female preacher. FBG joins other congregations to celebrate hearing the voices of women as they preach in pulpits across the United States. FBG, through our affiliation with BWIM, supports their vision of being “a catalyst in Baptist life, drawing together women and men, in partnership with God, to illuminate, advocate and nurture the gifts and graces of women.” Kendra’s sermon will be “Advocacy for Women” based upon Luke 2:22-40. Sanctuary Choir and guest violinist Andy Carlson will present Shawn Kirchner’s arrangement of “Brightest and Best.”

If you can’t worship with us in person, join us by radio at 89.3-HD4, 91.9FM or 92.9FM. Visit our church website, firstbaptistgreenville.com, or our Facebook page, to view online.

No flowers are scheduled for this Sunday. If you would like to provide flowers for this Sunday or one of our other worship services, contact Kimberly Coates at kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or 864-233-2527 ext 128.

Mark Your Calendars!

There is a significant and meaningful opportunity for *your voice to be heard* with regard to our Senior Minister Search in the new year! Three independent Congregational Conversations are being held in the Fellowship Hall on the following dates:

- Sunday, January 22—
3:30-5:00pm
- Sunday, February 5—
3:30-5:00pm
- Sunday, February 26—
3:30-5:00pm

These conversations focus on our church’s past, present and future, respectively, as we develop a *congregational profile*—capturing who we are as a church family—

and a *pastor profile*—capturing the qualities that we as a church believe would make the perfect match in our new senior minister.

The conversations are designed to build on each other, so we invite you to attend all three. However, if you have a conflict or two, please plan to attend as many as possible. *Everyone* will have a chance to talk and to be heard. Childcare will be provided for ages birth through 5th grade.

We want to hear from our youth as well! Please stay tuned for information about a separate set of youth conversations.

Please mark your calendars for these special and important



events, so that our church family can benefit from your wisdom and insight.

— Senior Minister Search
Committee

The Bridge: Community for Young Adults

Here at First Baptist Greenville, we encourage all our members and visitors to find a small group where they can explore fellowship and discipleship—in addition to being involved with church-wide worship, service and events. If you are a college student, grad student or young adult living in or around Greenville, we hope you will consider The Bridge as your tailor-made small group! We meet a few times a month, on Sunday afternoons and Tuesday evenings, to share meals, explore Greenville, and begin to build a community together.

Everyone is welcome at The Bridge—seekers, disciples, sinners and saints—and we hope to see you soon! The best way to stay up-to-date on events and schedules is to follow us on our social media channels @firstbaptistbridge on Instagram and Facebook.

Our first Community Lunch of the year is February 5 at Gather Greenville! If you want to carpool, just meet at the “Come unto Me” window after worship!

—Franklin

Happy Birthday!

Please remember these members of our congregation celebrating February birthdays who are not always able to be with us in worship:

February 10

Annie Mae Clark

February 22

Martha Johns

Oops!

In January, we mistakenly left off our list Bob Mace, who has a January 2 birthday. We wish him a belated happy 96th birthday!

Schedule of Fellowship & Formation

Sunday Community Lunches

At least once a month, we get together for an informal lunch right after the Sunday Worship Service. Gather at the “Come unto Me” window in the sanctuary so we can carpool to a nearby restaurant for lunch. Remember that Jesus never passed up a meal with friends and chosen family!

Tuesday Fellowship Meals

On our monthly Tuesday outing, we get to know Greenville—and each other—better! From our annual Friendsgiving dinner to trivia nights, bowling, restaurant-hopping, and parties at church members’ homes, there is something for everyone.

Community Formation

Most Sundays, members of The Bridge can be found participating in a Sunday School class or church-wide spiritual formation. On some Sundays, however, we meet for Community Formation time—exploring scripture, current events, and our own questions together. Community Formation happens in the AYMC Lobby; watch our instagram @firstbaptistbridge for upcoming formation opportunities!

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 2/1 **Wednesdays at First Activities**
WATCH 6:15pm MidWeek
 Fellowship: Visual Depiction of Passion (Fellowship Hall) with Tony Hopkins
- 2/3 **10:30am** Senior Adult Lunch and More (Fellowship Hall)
- 2/5 **WATCH 9:30am** Forum@First: Intro to Christian Theology: Theological Controversies through the Centuries with Camille Loomis Rehnborg and Carrie Nettles (Fellowship Hall)
WATCH 10:30am Baptist Women in Ministry Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Kendra Plating
11:30am Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)
3:30-5:00pm Congregational Conversation (Fellowship Hall)
5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)
- 2/8 **Wednesdays at First Activities**
WATCH 6:15pm MidWeek
 Fellowship: Visual Depiction of Passion (Fellowship Hall) with Tony Hopkins

LIVING GENEROUSLY

Financial Needs as of 1/28

\$221,154

Receipts as of 1/24

\$122,418

Pastoral Care On Call Nights and Weekends

January 30-February 5

Frank Smith
864-616-5444 (m)

February 6-12
Kyle Matthews
864-551-0829 (m)

If you are unable to reach this minister at the above number, please call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, and leave a message by pressing the number "2" for "Pastoral Care Emergencies."

Wednesdays at First Schedule

Exceptions and details noted in calendar

- 3:00-6:00pm Youth Hang Time (AYMC Terrace Level)
 5:00-6:00pm Supper Serving Lines Open (Fellowship Hall)
 6:00-7:00pm Preschool and Children's Music and Missions (C300 and B400 halls)
 6:00-7:00pm Youth Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)

- 2/12 **WATCH 9:30am** Forum@First: Intro to Christian Theology: Theological Controversies through the Centuries with Camille Loomis Rehnborg and Carrie Nettles (Fellowship Hall)
WATCH 10:30am Foundation Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins, including Family Dedication
11:30am Children's Ministry Event: Love Lunch with Senior Adults (Fellowship Hall)
- 2/14 **9:00am** Holy Rollers to Lunch at Dillard House Restaurant (Dillard, GA)
- 2/15 **Wednesdays at First Activities**
WATCH 6:15pm MidWeek
 Fellowship (Fellowship Hall) with the Foundation
- 2/16 **5:00pm** Dinner Party for Parents of Preschool, Children and Youth (Fellowship Hall)
- 2/19 **WATCH 10:30am** Transfiguration Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Tony Hopkins
- 2/20 AYMC and Church Offices Closed

Sympathy

...to Jim and Emily Fayssoux and family in the death of his sister.

Introducing



Austin and Betty Connors joined FBG during worship on Sunday, January 22.



Dan and Rachel Sims also joined FBG during worship on Sunday, January 22. Dan is employed with Greenville County. They are members of the Link Class and have three children: Lincoln, Mila and Izzie.

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Wednesday Night Supper

Make your reservations by noon on Monday. Menus and reservation information are available at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

February 1

Adult: Pork Piccata with Lemon Caper Sauce, Angel Hair Pasta, Asparagus Spears, Salad, Roll, Dessert

Child: Buttered Noodles and Cheesy Bread, Fruit, Cookie

February 8

Adult: Chicken a l'Orange, Brown Rice, Stir-fry Veggies, Salad, Roll, Dessert

Child: Pizza Bread, Fruit, Cookie