

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

March 5

6:00pm Ash Wednesday Service
(Sanctuary)

Make supper reservations at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

WORSHIP

March 9

10:30am in Fellowship Hall

First Sunday in Lent

Proclaimer: Matt Rollins

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Service Musicians: Fred DeFoor
Benjamin Barker, Hammered Dulcimer

If you would like to provide flowers for this or one of our future services, email kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or call 864-233-2527, ext. 128.

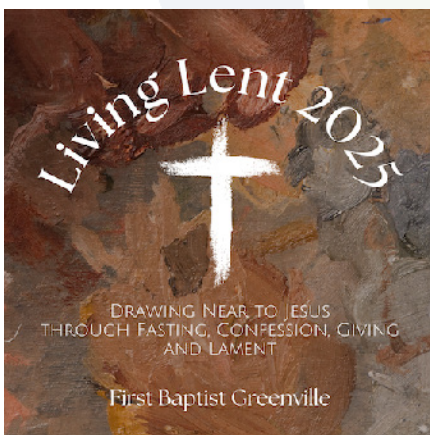
March 7-9, 2025
Churchwide Retreat at Lake
Junaluska

<https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/church-retreat-2024-creation-calls-and-i-must-go/>

March 9, 2025

No Sunday School

10:30am Worship in Fellowship Hall
Worship Care for 3 & Under



From the Senior Minister

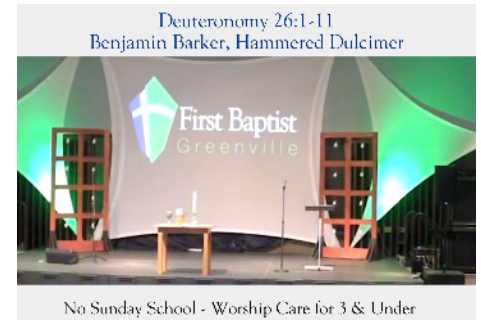
CAROL MCENTYRE

**Ash Wednesday Worship—
March 5, 6:00pm in Sanctuary**
Join us in the Sanctuary for an interactive worship service that invites all ages into the sacred journey of Lent. Children and youth are encouraged to participate as we enter this season of reflection, repentance and renewal. (During the service, Worship Care is available for those 3 and under, if needed.)

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time set apart to draw near to God, to walk with Jesus step by step to the cross. As part of worship, we will receive ashes on our foreheads—a symbol of our mortality and our deep dependence on God's grace. This year, our Ash Wednesday service will also introduce our Lenten Worship Series, *Living Lent: Drawing Near to Jesus through Fasting, Confession, Giving and Lament*.

We live in a world that prefers celebration over contemplation, Easter joy over the road to the cross. Yet Jesus himself calls us to follow him to Jerusalem—not just to the triumph of resurrection but through the arduous journey that leads there. In Matthew 20, when Jesus tells his disciples that he will be handed over, mocked and crucified, they barely hear him. They are too busy asking for places of honor in his kingdom. Instead of rushing ahead to Easter morning, Lent shapes us, forming us into people who are ready not just to celebrate resurrection but to be transformed by it.

As James K.A. Smith reminds us in *How to Inhabit Time*, we are not isolated individuals but part of a vibrant, living tradition, sustained by time-honored practices. Lent provides an opportunity to engage in these sacred rhythms, the ways the Church has long sought to encounter God in both times of struggle and renewal. By embracing practices like fasting, confession, giving and lament, we find ourselves drawn deeper into the story of God's love unfolding in the world—rooted in the wisdom of the past yet always moving towards the hope of resurrection.



Sunday Worship—March 9, 10:30am in Fellowship Hall

On Sunday, March 9, many in our First Baptist family, including several members of our Sound and Broadcast Team, will be away on retreat. As a result, we will gather for a simplified worship service at 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall.

Matt Rollins will bring the message, and Fred DeFoor will lead us in music. There will be no Sunday School that morning, but Worship Care for those 3 and under will be available during worship. We look forward to this time of worship together and invite you to join us in this more intimate setting as we continue our Lenten journey.

—Carol

Engage the Lenten Season

Every year before Easter, the church calendar guides Christians through a preparatory season called Lent. Observing the season of Lent helps us realign our lives and hearts with Jesus as we remember his journey to the cross. In our Children's Ministry, we call Lent "getting ready for the big mystery of Easter."

The season of Lent begins with the observance of Ash Wednesday, which falls on March 5 this year. On that day, MidWeek Supper will be held as usual in the Fellowship Hall from 5pm until 6pm, followed by an experiential Ash Wednesday service at 6pm in the Sanctuary. The service will introduce us to

Carol's Lenten sermon series, *Living Lent: Drawing Near Jesus through Fasting, Confession, Giving and Lament*. There will be time for reflection and action during this service. The service will culminate with the imposition of ashes, symbolizing our mortality and dependence on God.

Adults, Youth and Children are all encouraged to attend. Worship Care will be provided for those 3 years old and younger.

This year's FBG Lenten Devotional follows Carol's theme of classic Lenten disciplines, or practices: self-denial (fasting), confession, lament, and charity. These devotionals, written by staff

members and congregants of all ages, are collected by the Spiritual Formation Committee and compiled into a free booklet for anyone to use. Pick up a Lenten Devotional following the Ash Wednesday service on March 5, or at the Reception Desk on March 6 or later.

In addition, the Children's Ministry has a Lenten Kit available for families with children. If you have children in your household, pick up one of these kits following the Ash Wednesday service or later.

—Bridget Kokolis, Minister to Children
—Camille Loomis Rehnborg, Minister of Spiritual Formation and Outreach

Intergenerational Zoo Day

for the day if you register by March 5. After March 5, tickets will be normal price and will be purchased at the zoo. For those who ride the bus: we will leave First Baptist at 9:00am on March 20 and return by 4:30pm. This promises to be a fun adventure and a great way to connect with our FBG family. You can find out more details and register on our website at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/engagedagingevents/> Scroll down to Roadrunners Events for March 20 and tap the blue CLICK TO SIGN UP button and more information will be shared.

—Michael McEntyre, Minister of Engaged Aging

The Roadrunners invite all who are interested to join us for a Church Family Trip to the Riverbanks Zoo & Garden on March 20. The cost is only \$12



Focus on Missions in March: Pendleton Place

Pendleton Place is a Greenville non-profit whose mission is to assist children and youth who are experiencing homelessness, poverty, foster care and other forms of trauma by offering programs that offer housing, hope and healing. They offer an Emergency Homeless Shelter for youth ages 12-21, and a Foster Care Youth Home for 10 youth ages 12-21, which focuses on independent living skills and

provides a sense of normalcy. The Street Outreach Program provides drop-in services where youth, up to age 24, experiencing or at risk of homelessness can access food, showers, laundry and social support. Learn more about this non-profit at work in our community at www.pendletonplace.org.

Pendleton Place has asked for our assistance in providing 1) twin bed sheets, 2) bath towels and

3) emergency thermal blankets. If you would like to help, please bring your donations to the Reception Area of the church.

The church is always accepting donations of canned fruit for United Ministries as well as canned pasta for the Mission Backpack food bags. As always, thank you for your generosity.

—Nancy Schlepffhorst,
Missions Committee

Update on the Family Faith Everyday Grant for Children's Ministry

A couple of weeks ago, I had the chance to travel to Chicago to learn more about the grant that we received for families with young children. I came away from this trip so excited for the next few years! In 2025 our Parenting Circle will focus solely on families with children under 3 years old, but the subsequent years will expand to include families with children birth through fifth grade.

We are currently gathering five families to join this Parenting Circle and are almost there! We will meet 8 times using the Faithful Families Toolkit, exploring how to engage with faith at home practices in simple yet meaningful ways. Each session will be about 90 minutes. Members of this Parenting Circle will be invited to participate in the research component of this study. The research gathered will be shared with Dave Csinos and Traci Smith—experts in the fields of faith formation—to be used to help develop ways to equip families to feel comfortable and confident in approaching spiritual education at home.

As a minister, I have been deeply shaped by the work that both Dave and Traci have done over the years in faith formation. The opportunity for us to be in this pilot group, to not only grow together but also help shape spiritual education and resources in the future, is a deep honor and joy. I hope that this will be something that positively impacts FBG families for generations to come.

The grant will cover the cost of childcare and weekly meals together. I hope that our families will think of this as an opportunity to make some new friends, learn ways to talk about faith/incorporate faith practices at home, have dedicated childcare, and enjoy a meal that they don't have to cook or clean up afterwards! We are excited to get this group together in the next couple of months. If you are interested in joining this parenting circle or one in the future (with expanded ages), please let me know!

—Bridget Kokolis, Children's Minister

Caring for Those Who Care

Remember when people used to go to the hospital to be sick? Seems like ancient history! These days people with conditions that once warranted weeks in the hospital are being treated and sent home within hours! Some are being admitted and discharged on the same day!

There may be good reasons for that, but it often feels like the burden and responsibility of care has shifted to family members who find themselves— literally overnight— in the roles of nurse, wound-care specialist, medication schedule supervisor, meal service provider, physical therapist, exercise physiologist, psychologist

and spiritual director, all at once. They don't feel equipped! They aren't prepared! Their lives were already full with other responsibilities!

The result is that often those caregivers become patients themselves. Their bodies cry "foul!" Their brains cry "uncle!" When the patient has a cognitive problem, statistics say caregivers can wind up with debilitating or life-threatening conditions of their own!

That's why for the fourth year in a row, we are inviting the caregivers we know to a day of rest. At the Caregiver Respite Luncheon, we invite the caregivers we know to the Terrace Level of the AYMC where they find multi-sensory expressions of love and support: chair messages, relaxing stretch-

and-breathe exercises, art supplies and games, the mood-lifting affection of therapy dogs, a meditative labyrinth walk, veteran caregivers with whom to share and learn, and a delicious meal they don't have to cook or clean up after.

For all that to happen, we need a guest list! Please send me the names of anyone you know who has slipped— maybe even without realizing it— into the caregiving role and needs a break. Let's make sure they get the message from their church: we see you, we care, and we want to help!

Call the church office or send it to my email, kyle.matthews@firstbaptistgreenville.com

—Kyle Matthews,
Minister of Pastoral Care

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

3/5 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level)

Wednesdays@First Activities

6:00pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Service (Sanctuary) *Ash Wednesday, marking the beginning of the Lenten season, serves as a reminder of human mortality and the need for reconciliation with God. Worship Care for ages 3 and under is available.*

3/7-3/9 Churchwide Retreat at Lake

Junaluska *The church family gathers for an extended period of time to commune with God, each other and nature.*

3/9 10:30am First Sunday in Lent Worship Service Only (Fellowship Hall) with Proclaimer Matt Rollins and Benjamin Barker, Hammered Dulcimer

No Sunday School; Worship Care for Ages 3 and Under

3/11 9:30am-3:30pm Holy Rollers Visit Folk Art Center in Asheville, NC

3/12 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study Group (AYMC Terrace Level)

Wednesdays@First Activities

6:00pm Sharing Our Stories: My Neighbor's Voice with Springfield Baptist (Fellowship Hall)

3/13 9:00am-4:00pm Engaged Aging Hike: Oconee Station, Walhalla Steak House Cafeteria and Cherokee Museum

3/14 10:30am-1:00pm Friday Lunch & More (Media Center, Fellowship Hall) with Program, "Two Sons of Atlanta," by Baxter Wynn

3/15 10:00am-1:00pm Inasmuch Day—Yard Sale Setup (Practice Gym)

3/16 **WATCH** 10:30am Second Sunday in Lent Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Family Dedication and Will Jordan, Soloist

3/19 Breathe Week—No *Wednesdays@First* Activities except Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

3/20 9:00am-4:30pm Roadrunners & Church Family Visit Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens

3/21 Noon-1:00pm GAPS Group (AYMC Walking Track, Media Center)

3/23 **WATCH** 10:30am Third Sunday in Lent Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Kyle Matthews

Wednesdays@First Schedule

Exceptions and details noted in calendar

4:00-7:00pm *Youth@First*: Youth Hang Time (AYMC Terrace Level)

5:00-6:00pm Supper and Prayer Time (Fellowship Hall)

Children@First

5:30-7:00pm Childcare for Ages 3 & Under (C208, C214)

5:45-7:00pm K4 & K5 Co-Creator Block & Playtime (B422)

5:45-6:10pm 1st-5th Grades Choir (B423) Gathering Time (Media Center)

6:15-7:00pm Co-Creator Block (B424)

6:00-6:50pm *Adults@First* (MidWeek Classic & Other Adult Education Offerings) (Fellowship Hall)

7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)

Wednesday Night Supper

Please make reservations by noon on Monday at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

March 5

Adult: Chicken Pot Pie, Rice, Butternut Squash, Salad, Fruit, Italian Bread, Dessert

Child: Chicken Tenders, Tater Tots

March 12

Adult: Beef Stroganoff with Egg Noodles, Broccoli Normandy, Salad, Fruit, Italian Bread, Dessert

Child: Buttered Pasta, Cheese Bread

Sympathy

...to the family of Clark Mizell.

...to the family of Annie Mae Clark.

...to Melissa Pressley in the death of her mother.

...to Ellen Wilson and family in the death of her cousin's husband.

Congratulations

...to Betsy and Ford Riddle on the birth of a daughter, Helen Elizabeth Riddle, born January 17. Her proud grandparents in our church are Joe and Julie Freeman.

Annual Church Yard Sale

To donate items to the Annual Church Yard Sale, contact Matt Rollins at matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com. Regular receiving times are Thursdays, 10am-1:30pm.

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Revenue Report

2/25/2025 YTD: \$505,219

2/28/2024 Actual: \$472,501

2/28/2025 Budget: \$497,000



Scan here to support the financial needs of First Baptist Greenville.

For After Hours Pastoral

Care, please call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, leave a message by pressing the number "2" for "Pastoral Care"

or email pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com. One of our staff ministers will respond to your message.