



April 2025

Volume LXXVII, No. 04



Holy Week

Sunday, April 13—Palm Sunday

Children will process with palm fronds at the beginning of the service.

Special Music: "At the Cry of the First Bird" —Chancel Choir

Thursday, April 17—Maundy Thursday

Family Meal 5:30 pm

Service 6:30 pm

Scripture: Luke 18: 28-40

Sermon: "Full to the Brim—Take Off Your Shoes" by John Uldrick

Special Music: "I Love Thee Medley"

Bell Tower Trio, Betty Walker, piano

(Childcare available for babies and toddlers)

Sunday, April 20—Resurrection Sunday

Flowering of the Cross and photos by Trinity Photography

9:00 am Breakfast

(Reservations are not required; however, if you know you are coming, please call the church office with a head count to help the cooks prepare plenty of food.)

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Sermon: "Full to the Brim—An Expansive Life" by John Uldrick

Special Music

"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"—

Jean O. Wood Handbells, Brass, Organ

"Christus Resurrexit" (Christ Is Risen) and "Hallelujah Sing"

Chancel Choir



A Note from the Pastor

We rejoice in the blessing of a strong financial finish to fiscal year 2024! Did you know that we ended the year with a \$28,000 overage thanks to faithful giving and careful stewardship? In a spirit of generosity and vision, the Stewardship Committee voted to allocate these funds to Missions, Youth, Children, Properties, and Music ministries—empowering them to think creatively and expand their impact in new and meaningful ways. We were able to make this choice even in the midst of a slow start to 2025 because of our strong fund balance and the diligent work the staff continues to do managing expenses.

This moment of abundance aligns beautifully with our Full-To-The-Brim Lenten journey, reminding us that God's blessings overflow and that we are called to share that abundance. As we prepare our hearts for Easter, we look forward to the ultimate proclamation of new life: Christ is risen! We invite everyone to begin this joyous day by gathering for a church-wide Easter breakfast at 9:00 a.m.—a time of fellowship and celebration as we share in the joy of the resurrection together.

One of our Easter traditions is the flowered cross, a visual representation of resurrection and renewal. We encourage everyone to bring fresh flowers on Easter morning to transform the cross into a vibrant display of hope. This tradition reminds us that God takes what is broken and breathes new life into it - leveraging resurrection power.

The Flower Ministry continues this sacred work, ensuring that the beauty of Easter is shared with all. During breakfast, before Sunday School, and after worship, families and individuals are encouraged to take part in professional photos with Trinity Photography in front of the flowered cross. The cross will be placed under the covered driveway, providing ideal lighting for photos and a meaningful way to celebrate Christ's victory over death. After Trinity shares the images with FBC, the church will make digital versions of family photos available.

With Full-To-The-Brim hearts, we move forward in faith, celebrating God's provision and the opportunity to invest in ministries that will continue to bless our church and community.

Your Pastor,

John



Worship in April

Sunday—April 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: John 12:1-8, Isaiah 43:16-21

Sermon:
"Full to the Brim—Brazen Acts of Beauty"
John Uldrick

Special Music:
"At the Cry of the First Bird"
Chancel Choir

Sunday—April 13 Palm Sunday

Scripture: Luke 18:28-40
Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Sermon:
"Full to the Brim—
Even the Stones Cry Out"
John Uldrick

Special Music:
"Hosanna" - Chancel Choir

Thursday—April 17 Maundy Thursday

Scripture: Luke 18: 28-40

Sermon:
"Full to the Brim—Take Off Your Shoes"
John Uldrick

Special Music:
"I Love Thee Medley"
Bell Tower Trio, Betty Walker, piano

Sunday—April 20 Resurrection Sunday

Scripture: Luke 24:1-12

Sermon:
"Full to the Brim—An Expansive Life"
John Uldrick

Special Music:
"Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"
Jean O. Wood Handbells, Brass, Organ
"Christus Resurrexit" (Christ Is Risen) and
"Hallelujah Sing"
Chancel Choir

Sunday—April 27 Second Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 5: 27-32, Psalm 150

Sermon:
"Rumors of the Resurrection:
Can I Get a Witness?"
John Uldrick

Special Music:
"Since By Man Came Death"
from *Messiah* - Chancel Choir



Community Lenten Pilgrimage

April 2—Main Street UMC

April 9—First Presbyterian Church

April 16—Morris Chapel

Some reminders:

First Lunch at noon

Service at 12:30 pm

Second lunch at 1:00 pm

The cost for lunch is \$2.00.

Offering will be taken and given to
Greater Greenwood United Ministry.



Opportunities to Honor or Remember for Easter



On Easter Sunday, First Baptist will publish a list of donors and those honored or remembered through a special offering during Lent. Honoring and memorial donations may be designated for the purchase of lilies, for the Beverly Greer Offering for State Missions, or for the Ministry Plan. After worship on Easter, lilies may be picked up by the donor or recipient. Flowers not picked up will be given to shut-ins. The cost of lilies is \$22.00, and orders must be received no later than Wednesday, April 9. Checks for lilies should be payable to The Floral Case. All other checks should be made payable to First Baptist Church. A form is in the church office for donors to indicate where the donation is to go and who is being honored or remembered.



Music Notes

The Flood Has Receded... Noye's Fludde Was a HUGE Success

The flood waters have receded, the rainbow has appeared, and God's covenant has been extended to all. *Noye's Fludde* was a massive undertaking, and a huge success. With an initial investment of \$25,000.00 from the FBC Foundation, and generous donations during performances totaling over \$1,800.00, we were able to meet our expenses as we presented this free event and gift to the larger Greenwood community.

I want to thank Tom Gordon and the FBC Foundation for their tremendous generosity and financial support of this project. I want to thank the parents, youth, and children for their participation in rehearsals, performances, and backstage. I want to thank so many volunteers who helped with painting, sewing, creating, housing, and advertising. Beverly Psomas is an angel as she helped with all of these things and more, and she played in rehearsals. Thank you, Beverly! And, I thank all of our guest artists and local and area musicians who helped make this wonderful opera a monumental success.

Noye's Fludde was a beautiful event in the life of our church and community. It was seen and experienced by over 800 people over the two performances. To say I am grateful for your support, kind and sweet words, and encouragement over the last year of preparation is an understatement. This church family has embraced this wonderful, beautiful, meaningful work fully, and I am beyond thankful. I am also immensely proud of our children, youth, and all who made this story come to such vivid life in song, dance, and drama. Our church family should celebrate this huge success for our church and community. Thank you to all!

Keith



Spring Semester Building Blocks

April Building Blocks

April 2, 9, 23 —Building Blocks

- *Parables and Passion*
Jesus Stories for the Days of Lent
Taught by John Uldrick
- Growing on Grace Street

Holy Week April 16 NO Activities

April 17 Maundy Thursday

April 18 Good Friday

April 20 Easter

April 23 —End of Spring Building Blocks

April 30—Music & Missions Night

(Last Wednesday Night Meal
until fall/new school year
schedule begins)

FBC Ladies' Game Day

Saturday, April 12, 2025

11:30 am-2:30 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

Lunch will be served

Games Available

Scrabble Uno Trivial Pursuit

Mexican Train Bridge

Shanghai Rummy Partners

Bingo Skip Bo

Sponsored by Rosemary Benjamin Circle



HAVE
FUN!

WIN
PRIZES!

**Please use this QR code or the link in
the e-news to sign up. By Friday,
March 28.**





Diaconate Update

In lieu of an in-person March Diaconate meeting, the Diaconate Executive Committee decided to handle the March meeting via email. In addition to receiving reports from the staff, pastoral care updates and February financials, the Diaconate approved two items of business.

- 1) February 2025 minutes
- 2) A recommendation from the Personnel Committee to separate staff job descriptions from the Personnel Policy Manual.

'24-'25 Volunteer Openings

- **Children's Church Adult-** First Sundays in February, April, June, August, October, December
- **2 Toddler Extended Session-** Fourth Sunday in February, April, June, August, October, December



We will reflect on the strengths and challenges identified in our last meeting and begin to dream together about what God has in store for our future.

Your voice matters—we hope to see you there!

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of

- Eva Mitchell Watson, sister of Ruth Collins
- Elbert Bowers, father of Susan Sims

Self: Rose Whaley

Greenwood Rehab: Jo Stevenson

Home: Jackie Dewberry, Bill Whaley, Dolores Watson, Laura Hollingsworth, Rachel Stephens, Polly Harvin, Lewis Walker, Evelyn English, Karsyn Beard,



Show Off Your Easter Bonnets

The Heritage Committee requests the brief loan of any Easter Bonnet worn by you or any member of your family and/or dapper Easter Bow Tie for display in the FBC Heritage Room throughout April. Please leave your precious contributions in the FBC office along with your name, the name of the wearer and approximate year (or decade). Thank you in advance, we promise to take excellent care of your family heirloom!



Our team is doing our best to be accessible during office hours.

Please note that the office **may be closed between 1:00 pm–2:00 pm each weekday** if coverage is unavailable. If you visit while staff members are away, please know that we will assist you as soon as possible.

Financials

February 2025

February Receipts:	\$ 60,977.81
February Expenses:	\$ 64240.62

February 23-March 23, 2025

Period Need	\$ 95,721.70
Period Gifts	\$ 58,003.09
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD	\$ 229,732.08
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD	\$ 144,696.21
Sunday School Att. (Avg)	172
Worship Attendance (Avg)	206



Upcoming Dates for Children and Their Families

April 13:

Palm Sunday

11:00 am children process with palms in worship

April 16:

No Wednesday Activities

April 17:

Maundy Thursday

NO Children's Choirs

or Music Activities

5:30 pm Family Night Meal

6:30 pm Maundy Thursday worship
Childcare for babies and toddlers in the toddler room. All other children will worship in the sanctuary with their parents.

April 19:

Egg Hunt, 10:00 am-12:00 pm

April 20:

9:00 am Easter Breakfast

(No RSVP needed, but please let church office know the number attending with your family.)
Trinity Photography will take pictures at the Flowered Cross (under the covered drive)

11:00 am children ring alleluia bells in worship

April 30:

M(usical) & M(issions) Night

May 3:

Strawberry Picking

May 7, 14, 21, 28:

VBS Supper 5:30 pm

VBS 6:00 pm-7:30 pm

July 15-18:

Camp PRISM

(children who have completed 3rd-5th grade)



Egg "Stuffings" Needed



Candy—gummies preferred—and small surprises are needed to help fill the plastic eggs for the children's April 19 **Easter Egg Hunt**. There are bins in the church office, narthex, or Anna's office. Monetary donations are also welcome. **Please make donations by Sunday, April 6.** Thank you for helping make this event special for the children.



Children's Easter Egg Hunt

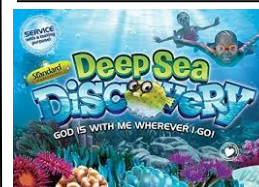
The Children's Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 19, 10:00 am-12:00 pm at the Weaver's home (450 Pembroke Rd). Bring your Easter baskets!



Calling All Children



On **Palm Sunday (April 13)**, all children are invited to carry palm fronds to the altar during the processional. On **Easter Sunday (April 20)**, children will receive "Alleluia Bells" to ring on the chorus of the great Easter Hymn, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today." (Every time the word "Alleluia" is sung the children will ring their bells.) On both of these Sundays, someone will be in the narthex at 10:45 am to distribute palms or bells.



Vacation Bible School 2025

With the shortened summer, the Children's Committee is going to try holding VBS the Wednesday nights in May.

Invite friends!

Registration will begin in April!

Supper for Children and Volunteers
5:30 pm-6:00 pm

VBS 6:00 pm -7:30 pm

If you are interested in volunteering, let Anna know! (aeburchfbc@gmail.com)



M&M Night (Music and Missions)



Wednesday, April 30
6:30 pm Fellowship Hall

Join us for M&M Night where our children's music activity group, children's choirs and CIAs will share what they have learned about this year. Your presence lets our children know you care about their spiritual growth.

Youth News



April Sunday Night Live
Sunday, April 6
5:00 pm-7:00 pm
Location TBA



Youth Trash Pick-up and Lunch

Saturday, April 5
Meet in the back
parking lot at 10:00 am
Group will carpool to
lunch
Pick-up TBA



Youth Kitchen Duty April 30

Youth will assist the kitchen crew with clean up after supper on Wednesday, April 30.

FBC Prayers for 2025

"God, who do You want us to be?"
"God, what do You want us to do?"



Audrey Adams to Entertain at April Never Grow Old Fellowship Meeting

The Never Grow Old Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, April 1, at 11:45 am, in the fellowship hall. Audrey Adams, songwriter, studio technician, and multit talented musician, will share her talents with our members and guests. A theatre and musical composition major at Anderson University, Audrey recently made her debut at the famous Nashville Bluebird Cafe. Next month she is releasing her first single.

The NGO catered meal will be turkey, dressing, gravy, broccoli casserole, and strawberry shortcake. **If you are not already a member of this lively group, please call the church office no later than Wednesday, March 26, to make your reservation** for this outstanding musical event, delicious meal, and Christian fellowship.



Each month some women deal with not having needed hygiene products. The Period Project seeks address this need and to advocate for equal and tax-free access to products essential to a woman's health, hygiene, and dignity. The Laucis-Parham Circle invites the women of the church to a Period Project event in the fellowship hall on Sunday, April 27, following worship. Please bring a potluck salad or appetizer to share. Contact Anna Burch, Catherine White, or Kathleen Snead for more information.



"Flowering" the Cross

The church family is asked to bring flowers from home to "flower" the cross on Easter. A cross with greenery will be placed under the covered drive before breakfast so flowers can be added as families arrive for breakfast, Sunday School, or worship. Trinity Photography will be on site to take pictures.



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Cheerful Cherubs

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Ministers and Staff

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Will Thomas Cleveland
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED