



125 Sedgefield Street  
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

## THE FIRST WORD

March 2025

First Baptist Family,

March promises to be a full month in the life of the church! Consequently, I'd like to highlight several things happening this month. **First, on Sunday, March 2, we'll have Family Breakfast before Sunday School and then later that day in worship we will take communion together. On Tuesday, March 4 at 6 PM, we'll have our annual Fat Tuesday/Shrove Tuesday celebration. Rather than pancakes, however, we're going to have a seafood boil! Don't worry, though, we'll still have King Cake. This is always a popular event, so I want to encourage you to please sign up in the church office. We want to make sure that we have enough food for everyone. Then, the very next day, we'll have our Ash Wednesday service in JoAnn Feazell Chapel, also at 6 PM. Please note that we will NOT have a Wednesday Night Meal on Wednesday, March 5.** The youth and the choir will meet like normal after our service, though. Our Ash Wednesday service is always solemnly powerful, so I know that you will want to be here for it, even if you don't normally come on Wednesday nights.

Since Sunday, March 9 marks the first Sunday in Lent, I'm going to be starting a new sermon series entitled "The Promises of Lent." Since Lent is a season that focuses on frailty, sinfulness, and our need for repentance, those are largely going to be the themes in the sermons. Still, Lent also reminds us that we are part of something bigger than ourselves and that God can do amazing things with dust. That's why the series and this season are going to have hopeful notes to them as well.

**On Sunday, March 23, we're going to be joined in worship by our friend, Jessica Hearne.** As I'm sure you remember, Jessica is a CBF missionary serving in Danville, Virginia. Jessica will preach in worship that Sunday while also updating us on the good work that she's doing in Danville, particularly as she seeks to build community while addressing housing and food insecurity. **Then, finally, Sunday, March 30 also promises to be a busy day. Our very own Rev. Leigh Clark will be preaching as we join in with Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) and celebrate the ministerial giftedness of women.**

I'm sure Leigh will share a few updates of her and Mark's trip to Germany, too! **Then, after worship, our Youth will have their annual fundraiser. They'll be having their annual Spaghetti Luncheon and Cake Auction. While the event is to raise money for youth missions, it always provides a good time.** There will be good food, even better fellowship, and the opportunity to bid on and buy some absolutely beautiful desserts – with all of the money going to a good cause, of course! Consequently, you don't want to miss it.

You hear me say regularly that good things are happening at First Baptist Bristol, and what we have planned for this month is proof of that. That's why I want to encourage you to be present for as many of these events as you can. Bring some people with you, too. I don't think people will find a better church in town, but they aren't going to know about us unless you invite them and bring them with you! As we make the Lenten journey together and move towards Resurrection Sunday, now is naturally a time in which people will begin to show more interest in church. So, tell them about what God is doing in your life and how you have been blessed by First Baptist Bristol. Tell them how God is moving through this church. And most importantly, tell them not to take your word for it, but invite them to come and see it for themselves. They'll be blessed if they do, and I know that you will, too.

As always, it is a joy to be your pastor.

Grace and Peace,

Kris

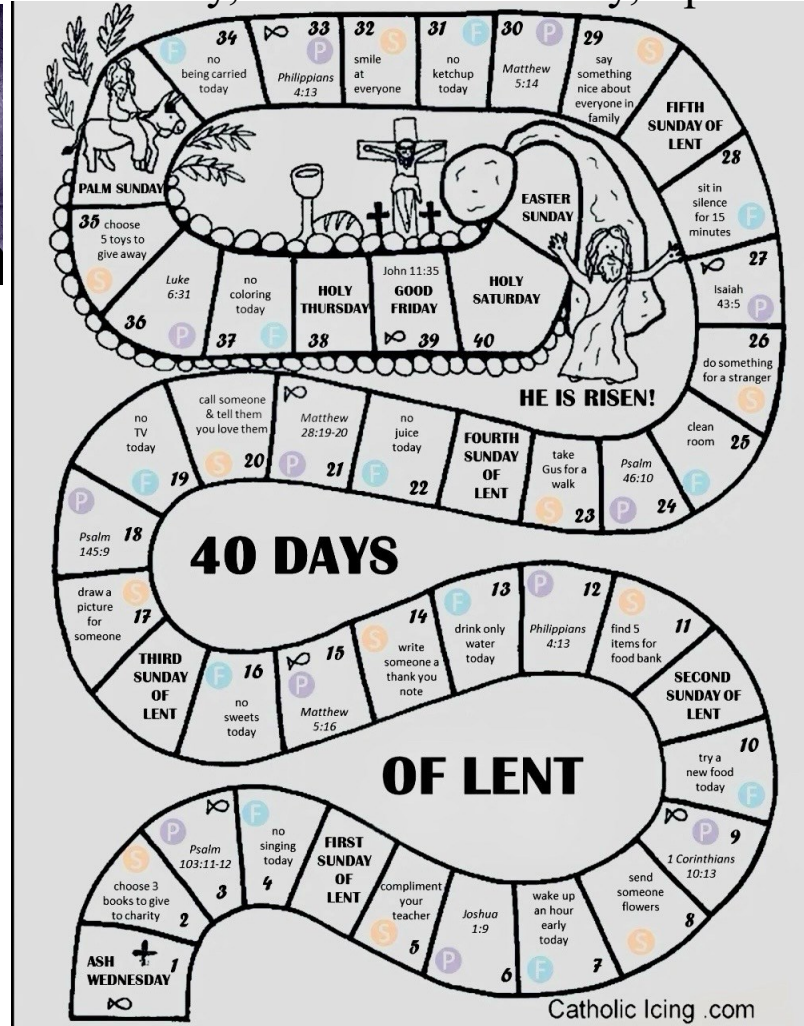
Wednesday, March 5—Saturday, April 19



# YOUTH MISSION TRIP

**May 30-June 06, 2025**

1. THE COST IS \$175 OR 17.5 COMMUNITY HOURS.
2. ALL MEMBERS OF THE MISSION TEAM ARE COMMITTED TO TRAINING FOR OUR WORK SIGHT. TRAINING TBA.
3. YOU WILL NEED AN ADDITIONAL \$35 FOR ONE FREE-DAY ACTIVITY AND \$35 FOR MEALS THAT WE WILL EAT OUT AND ON THE ROAD



## YOUTH CAMP 2025 UNIVERSITY TO MARYVILLE COLLEGE

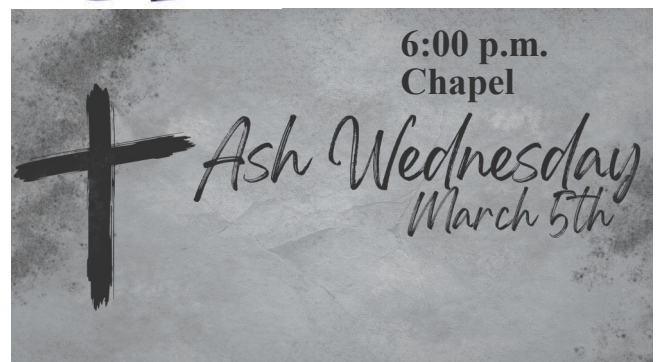
**July 7-11**

1. COMMITMENT TO COME PAY - OR WORK FOR \$200 TOWARD THE COST.
2. COMMITMENT TO WORK AT THE FUNDRAISER.
3. WILLINGNESS TO FOLLOW ALL RULES.
4. FILL OUT AND SIGN A CAMP COVENANT.

**To register: Turn in registration, \$100, and Medical Release for 2025.**



Sponsored by  
Jeff and Jackie Burnette  
and  
Tom and Susan Makres.  
Donations will be  
accepted at the door.



## Notes... from Leigh

By the time you read this, Mark and I will be settling into our home away from home in Germany. We have been alternately excited and anxious. But we are thankful to God for the opportunity that Mark will have to do his research and that I am able to go with him. Thank you for your prayers. Again, special thanks to all of those who are leading in my absence. We plan to see you at the end of the month!

Plans for the Adult Mission Trip are underway! We are heading back to Charleston/Folly Beach, SC. We will once again share housing and meals with the youth at the mission house on the beach. We had a wonderful experience last year. If you would be interested in going this year, here are the details so far: May 30-June 6 (Friday-Friday), \$175/person (\$100 deposit due March 16), we will partner with Habitat for Humanity, God's Goods retail store, and Folly Beach Baptist Church. Please give your deposit to Debbie Gwaltney or Terri Thomas.

Finally, I would like to wish my mom, Willene McNeal, a.k.a. Little Dawg, a wonderful birthday! She will turn 85 on March 25. She is a fierce mama who believes in her girls and her grandchildren; she is a loyal, loving, funny, strong, woman of faith. She has demonstrated her love and her faith over and over and she has taught me to do the same. I am blessed beyond measure!

Blessings,

Leigh



Sunday, March 02, 2025  
9:00 a.m.

## Rosser Hall

There will be a full or partial breakfast available at no charge. So, come and enjoy a meal and some fellowship before heading off to Sunday School.




## First Baptist Church of Bristol Staff

Dr. Kris Aaron.....Senior Pastor  
 Rev. Ben Ondrak.....Associate Pastor  
 Rev. Leigh Clark.....Minister of Music  
 Mrs. Jackie Burnette.....Pianist  
 Mrs. Andrea Pennington .....Organist

Ms. Marcine Robinette.....Parish Nurse  
 Mrs. Emma Vance.....Ministry Asst. for Children  
 Ms. Terri Thomas ..... Church Administrator  
 and Financial Secretary  
 Ms. Niki Judy..... Administrative Assistant



**Contact Information:**  
**Church Phone:** (276)669-8191  
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**Hours:** [info@fbcbristol.org](mailto:info@fbcbristol.org)  
**Website:** [www.fbcbristol.org](http://www.fbcbristol.org)  
 You can also find us on  
 Facebook. 



### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

125 Sedgefield Street  
 Bristol, VA 24201

### Deacon of the Week for March

March 02	JoAnne Barbour
March 09	Tom Makres
March 16	Bob Love
March 23	Terri Cook
March 30	Darin Denton

### March FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

March 01 & 02	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
March 08 & 09	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
March 15 & 16	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
March 22 & 23	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
March 29 & 30	Terri Thomas	(423) 963-7576