



125 Sedgefield Street  
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

## THE FIRST WORD

March 2022

First Baptist Family,

January feels like it will never end, but February seems to be over by the time you blink. That's happened again for me this year, and now we're in March. Now, the weather is slowly warming up. And now, the calendar is beginning to fill up, too. We'll officially enter the Lenten season this month, which means that we'll begin our journey towards Easter and the empty tomb. If you haven't already, I want to invite you to pick up your Lenten Devotional book. You can find copies in the vestibule as you enter the sanctuary and in Rosser Hall. I also want to invite you to grab your calendar. We've got a lot planned for this month, and it's a lot that I know you don't want to miss!

**Our festivities kick off on Tuesday, March 1. That evening at 6 PM in Rosser Hall we'll be having our Annual Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper.** As you know that event is always a big hit. We'll have pancakes, bacon, some fruit and cheese trays, pastries, and a King Cake from Blackbird Bakery. The cost for this meal will be the same as our regular Wednesday night meals. **It will be \$7 for adults, \$3 for children, and a maximum of \$20 for families. If you're planning on coming, please sign up with the church office.** We want to make sure that we have enough food for everyone. We'll also have a photo booth with beads and masks. And we'll have masks for kids to decorate as well, so it'll be a fun event for the whole family. **Then, the very next day, also at 6 PM, we'll have our Ash Wednesday service in the chapel. This will be a solemn, powerful service that you will want to attend. Please remember that we will not be having our regular Wednesday night meal that evening.**

**Our next event is on Sunday, March 6. That Sunday we'll be joined in worship by my friends, Josh and Jessica Hearne.** You've heard of Josh and Jessica before. **They are CBF missionaries serving in Danville, Virginia.** Josh and Jessica were supposed to join us in person back in 2020, but then COVID hit. They joined us via Zoom on a Wednesday night last June, but this will be the first time you'll be able to meet them in person. The work that Josh and Jessica do in Danville is inspiring! I think you will be just as inspired as I am when you learn more about what they do. Who knows, they might even help us dream up some new ways to help people here in Bristol. **After worship on the 6th, we'll make our way from the sanctuary to Rosser Hall, where we'll have our Youth Spaghetti Fundraiser and Cake Auction. All the proceeds from this fundraiser will go towards our youth mission trip.** It will also give you the opportunity to talk with Josh and Jessica one on one.

**Monday, March 7 at 11 AM, we're launching a new women's book group. The facilitators are Leigh Gleib, May Tabor, and Sue Hughes, and they'll be leading discussion on Max Lucado's *You Were Made for This Moment*.** If you're interested,

**please sign up in the church office. Then, on Wednesday, March 9, Leigh will begin a book study on *The Women of Easter* by Liz Curtis Higgins, while I will lead a discussion on the book *Devotional Classics*.** If you aren't joining us on Wednesday night already, this is a perfect time for you to get plugged in. We have supper every week, you'll have two Bible study options to choose from, and both our children's and youth programming are running wide open. Lent is not only a great time for spiritual renewal, but it's a great time to get more involved in the life of the church.

A few final calendaring items I want to bring to your attention. **Our Youth Spring Retreat will be Friday, March 25 through Sunday, March 27.** Ben will be taking the group to Wafloy Christian Retreat Center outside of Gatlinburg, TN. **If you know of a teenager interested in going, please contact Ben. Also, that Sunday, March 27, we're going to be joined by some more guests in worship, Gennady and Mina Podgaisky.** Many of you will remember Gennady and Mina. **They're CBF missionaries serving in Kiev, Ukraine, though thankfully they're currently in the United States.** Gennady and Mina visited First Baptist Bristol several years ago, and they joined us last June via Zoom. Thankfully, we will get to see them in person again on Sunday, March 27. **We will also have a church-wide breakfast that morning during the Sunday School hour, so you can learn more about the good work that they do and ask them any questions you may have.**

All in all, March is shaping up to be a great month in the life of the church! We'll have opportunities for fellowship. We'll raise money for our Youth Mission Trip. We'll be inspired by missionaries faithfully serving God both a few hours down the road and on the other side of the world. We'll have new discipleship opportunities. And I'm sure we'll have some service opportunities sprout up, too. Simply put, we have a lot of good ways you can prepare your heart for Easter. I hope you'll join us for as many of these events as you can. I know that you'll be glad you did. As always, it is a joy to be your pastor.

Grace and Peace,

Kris

# Calendar

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022—6:00 p.m.**  
Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper  
(Call or email the church for reservations)

**Wednesday, March 2, 2022—6:00 p.m.**  
Ash Wednesday Service  
(No prayer meeting or meal this week)

**Sunday, March 6, 2022—12:00 p.m.**  
Guest Speakers & Youth Fundraiser

**Monday, March 7, 2022—6:00 p.m.**  
Ladies Book Study

**March 25-27, 2022—6:00 p.m.**  
Youth Retreat

**Sunday, March 27, 2022—6:00 p.m.**  
Guest Speakers

# DISCIPLESHIP

## Ladies Book Study

Mondays, 11 a.m., March 7-April 11, 2022

*You Were Made For This Moment* by Max Lucado  
The spring growth group for ladies will meet one hour per week on Mondays at 11 a.m. from March 7 through April 11. It's just enough time to grow in your faith, learn something new, and make new friends without feeling like you're making a big commitment. The book is *You Were Made for This Moment* by Max Lucado.

Register with Niki in the church office

[niki@fcbristol.org](mailto:niki@fcbristol.org).

Order your book from your favorite book supplier.

## Meet the Author, Carol Ann Boyles-Jernigan

*The Safety Deposit Box Shock*

**April 26, 2022, 11 a.m.**

Hear the author's story of her father and how the contents of the safety deposit box revealed his secrets.

It's a mystery!



### March 25-27

Youth spring retreat – Wafloy Christian Retreat outside Gatlinburg

### April 22-24

Youth Mission Madness – Missions around Bristol with worship services at FBC

### May

Youth Yard Sale Fundraiser – specific weekend to be determined

### May 15

Graduation Recognition

### June 12-15

Vacation Bible School – evenings starting Sunday through Wednesday. Theme to be determined.

### June 19

VBS Children's Worship presentation –

### June 27 – July 1

Youth Camp Unidiversity Theme “The Relentless Love of God” cost \$180 total for early bird registration – now through March 1. Total cost for regular registration March 2 through May 10 \$220. To Register - \$50 of total cost will reserve a spot. All Youth are invited to work fundraisers to offset their costs. Registration is open now. Contact Ben, fill out information sheet and either pay \$50 to register or work for registration cost.

### July 17-24 –

Youth Mission Trip – Location and cost is to be determined. More info soon!



## Notes from Leigh...

It's hard to believe that spring is just around the corner! I, for one, am looking forward to longer days and warmer weather. I love being outdoors – mowing the grass, planting flowers, and playing golf are some of my favorite activities. I also enjoy walking through the town of Wise and the campus of UVA-Wise. I have several routes that I use – anywhere from 1.5 miles to 4 plus miles. These routes are familiar and safe – all sidewalks and no unwanted dogs.

I have been walking in Wise for so many years that people who don't even know me think they know me, so they blow the horn and wave! Walking is a prayer time for me. I pray for businesses and their owners; for the schools, the students, and the teachers; for individuals as I pass by their homes who I know are struggling; for churches and their congregations. I pour out my heart and I give thanks. It is a wonderful way to exercise and to spend time with God.

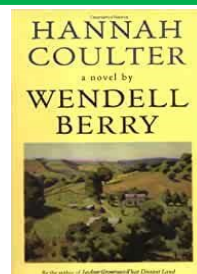
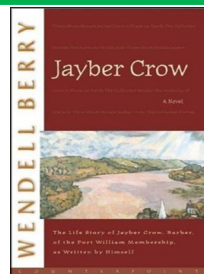
We are entering the season of Lent, which is the important time of preparing our hearts for Easter. During Lent we repent, we reflect, we contemplate the wondrous love of Jesus. Often, we will choose to “give up” something (chocolate, coffee, Facebook) for the 40 days of Lent. This is a very good practice. But I also believe we could use those 40 days to add something to our lives like: doing unexpected acts of kindness, adding a quiet time to your day, taking long prayer walks, calling friends, writing notes of gratitude, singing or playing an instrument, sharing a meal, or \_\_\_\_\_. Be creative. Ask God to lead you – He will.

There will be many opportunities for worship during this season. I encourage you to participate in as many activities as possible – you will be blessed, and you will be a blessing for others.

Blessings,

Leigh

## Library Lines March 2022



# Wendell Berry

### ~May Tabor


In the introduction to his February 20 sermon, our pastor spoke of one of his favorite authors, Wendell Berry. Ronnie Brewer also admired his works. Two of his novels, *Jayber Crow* and *Hannah Coulter* are in our church library. In *Jayber Crow*, Berry tells an unforgettable story of a young man who, orphaned early, abandoned his plans of becoming a minister to become the town barber instead. In this tribute to the dignity and grace of ordinary people the redemptive power of love and community unfolds. From *Hannah Coulter*: "Love is what carries you, for it is always there, even in the dark, or most in the dark, but shining out at times like gold stitches in a piece of embroidery."

## 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

Mr. Dennis Thomas.....Sexton  
 Mrs. Marcine Robinette.....Parish Nurse  
 Ms. Terri Thomas ..... Church Administrator  
 and Financial Secretary  
 Ms. Niki Judy..... Administrative Assistant



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 You can also find us on  
 Facebook. 



### FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

125 Sedgefield Street  
 Bristol, VA 24201

### Deacon of the Week for March

March 06, 2022	Mark Fuller
March 13, 2022	Linda Pruner
March 20, 2022	Melissa Roberts
March 27, 2022	Nelson Gwaltney



### FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

March. 05 & 06: Rev. Ben Ondrak (423) 217-8934  
 March. 12 & 13: Dr. Kris Aaron (803) 225-0795  
 March. 19 & 20: Rev. Ben Ondrak (423) 217-8934  
 March. 26 & 27: Dr. Kris Aaron (803) 225-0795