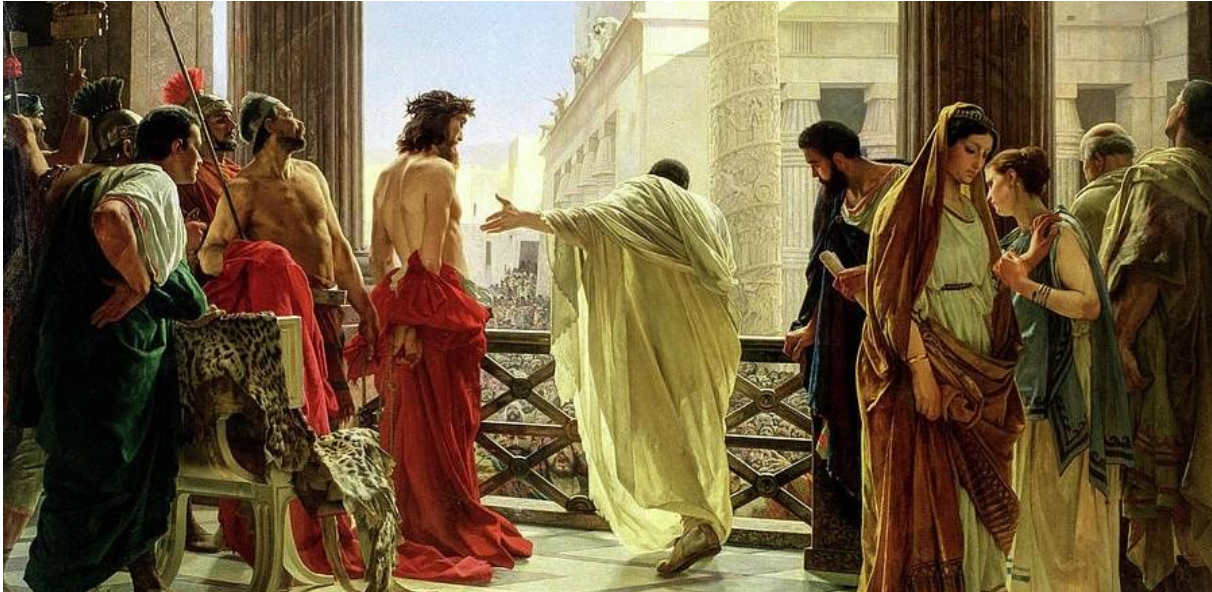




THE TIE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SOUTHERN PINES



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Lent begins
- Feb. 21 - 3rd & Final Congregational Conversation

THOUGHTS FROM OUR TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

WELCOME TO THE SEASON OF LENT!

Surprise! Surprise! First Baptist Church Family:

I can hardly believe I am writing to you relative to the Christian season of Lent. Did we not just complete Advent? February does find us on the doorstep of another major Christian season. Time does move on.

The Christian season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (February 14) this year and continues until Palm Sunday (March 24). Lent is the forty-day period of special focus on discipleship leading up to Holy Week which comes early this year (March 25- 30) and then Easter Sunday arrives on March 31.

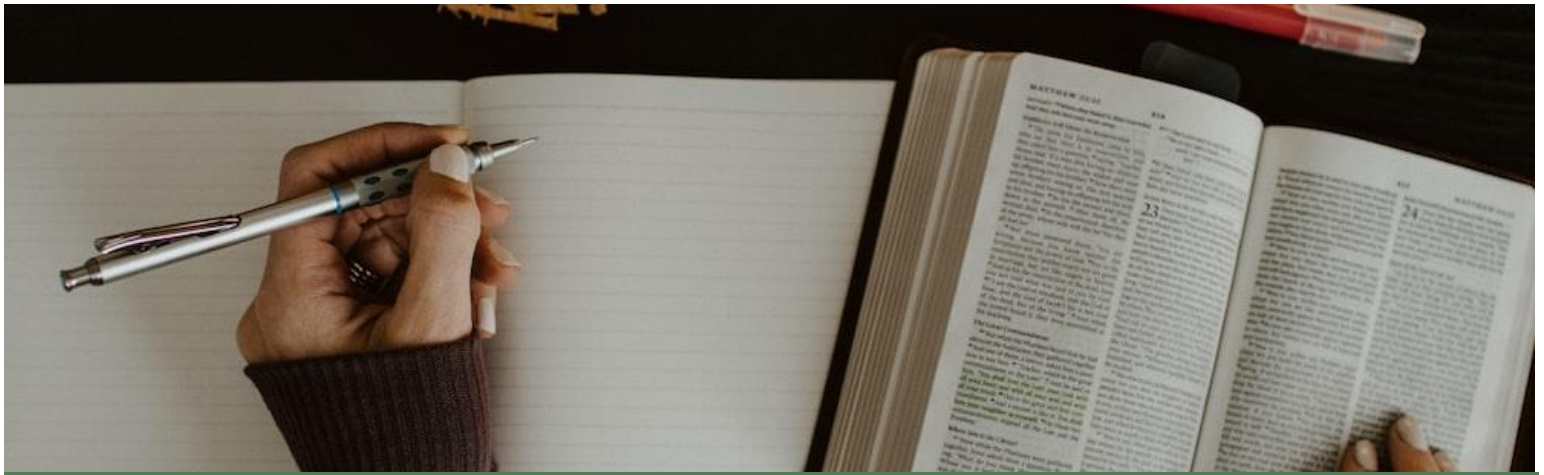
Lent is a time when Christians are encouraged to do serious reflection, seek to walk closer to Jesus, and be reminded of the great gift of salvation from our sins. Marjorie Thompson, a Christian writer, calls Lent “the spring cleaning of the Church.” Indeed, this season is a time to fight back against those things in our lives which pull us away from faithful and obedient discipleship. Our church will enhance our Lenten observance with special Lenten services on Wednesday nights and sermons on the six Sundays during this period.

A popular tradition of Lent is to give up something for 40 days. The idea behind this tradition is to show the same discipline and obedience that Jesus showed during his 40-day battle in the wilderness with Satan. (I will be glad to give up liver for Lent!) But if “giving up something” is not your thing, try this: add something for Lent. How about one of these? Add more joy and less bitterness; add more hope and less pessimism; and add more God’s book and less Facebook. Any takers?

On the first Sunday of Lent (February 18), we will remember the time when Jesus wrestled with the devil in the wilderness. We wrestle with the devil as well. Lent is a time to fight back, and not let the devil do us in. We can strive to say with Jesus, “Be gone, Satan. You shall worship the Lord our God and him only shall you serve.” This affirmation about God is surely the true goal of Lent.

Michael G. Cogdill,
Transitional Pastor





JOYS, CONCERNS, NOTES

RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS

- George Griffin
- Lorena Arnold

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

- to the family of Analeah Walden upon her dying unto Christ on December 29.
- to Ray Long upon the dying unto Christ of his wife, JoAnn Long, on January 2 and to Kay Leonard upon the dying unto Christ of her mother.

NOTES OF GRATITUDE

Thank you very much for your recent donation for our residents here at Bethesda Halfway House. Some of your older members may remember that there would probably not be a Bethesda Halfway House without their dedication and willingness to give to help others. We are continually blessed that you choose to remember us.
Sincerely, Glenn Greene, Director

On behalf of the staff, patients and volunteers of Moore Free & Charitable Clinic, we would like to thank you for your generous donation. You are truly making a difference in our community. Because of your support, we can help uninsured residents of our county receive quality primary care and chronic disease management. Your donation will help our 1,751 patients get their much care and medication. Again, thank you for your generosity.
With gratitude, Anthony "Tony" Price, CEO

Dear Church Family,
 Thank you so much for your love, prayers, and support in the loss of my mother, JoAnn Long. The gracious spirit and kindness of our church members brought my family comfort during a difficult season. We will never forget your expressions of love and honor for my mother. This church

is a blessing to our family and the congregation meant a great deal to my mother. We love you.
In Christ, Kay Leonard

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Giving Goals for JAN 14, 2024	25,157.00
Budget Offerings Received on JAN. 14, 2024	12,141.25
Total Budget Offerings Received in 2024	28,706.25
Giving Goal Thru JAN 14, 2024	40,408.00
Receipts to Date Comparison with Goal:	(11,701.75)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



PEYTON CRAIG
 Joined December 24, 2023



MAKOA LUA
 Joined January 14, 2024



LUKE & ALISON ARNO
 Baptized January 21, 2024



JULIAN & DEB BUNN
 Joined January 21, 2024

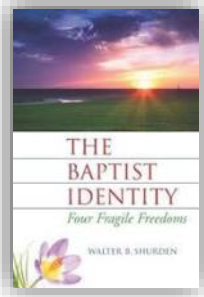


NEWS & NOTES FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION & ADMINISTRATION

WINTER BRIDGEPOINT

The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms

This four-week study answers the question, ‘What makes a Baptist a Baptist?’



Facilitators: Mike Cogdill & Jamie Kipfer

Times: Wednesdays, 6PM

Dates: January 17 - February 7

Location: Room 216

This study will be recorded for those who cannot attend in person. You can find the link to watch at www.fbcsp.org/bridgepointrecordings. Recordings will be posted each week a few days after the study takes place.

FINAL CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION

The 3rd (final) Congregational Conversation will be held February 21 at 6PM. Please sign up using Realm or calling the church office.



LENTEN SEASON

Contemplative Worship will be held on Wednesday

evenings at 6:00 p.m. from February 28 through March 27 in the Sanctuary. This is a time of confession, communion, and reflection.

SHROVE TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13 AT 6PM.

Cost is \$3.

Join us for a Pancake Supper. New this year a **TOPPING BAR!**

Various topping to add to your pancake making it irresistibly delicious!!
RSVP - bit.ly/fbcpancakes or by calling the church office,



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

FEBRUARY 14 AT 6:00PM



There will also be a **12:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service at Brownson Memorial Presbyterian Church** for local community churches.



SMAL L GROUP BIBLE STUDY

FBCSPYG HAPPENINGS



FEBRUARY 2024 SCHEDULE

Sundays 4, 11, 18	
Sunday School	9:45-10:45am
JuBELLation	4:00-4:45pm
Youth Choir (9-12)	5:00-6:00pm
Youth Bible Study (6-8)	5:00-6:00pm
Youth Supper (6-12)	6:00-6:30pm
Youth Choir (6-8)	6:30-7:30pm
Youth Bible Study (9-12)	6:30-7:30pm
Sunday, February 25	
Worship	8:30am
Sunday School	9:45-10:45am
Worship	11:00am
JuBellation	4:00-4:45pm
Youth Choir (6-12)	5:00-6:00pm
Youth Supper	6:00-6:30pm
Youth Crazy Night	6:30-7:30pm

WINTER RETREATS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2-SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2024
 We will leave at 12 noon on Friday and spend all day Saturday on the ski slopes, finishing up Sunday morning with a time of praise, worship, and reflection before we return home. Everyone going on this trip will be required to wear a helmet **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

2024 RETREATS

COLLEGE MISSION TRIP - ORLANDO!
SUNDAY, MAY 19 - SATURDAY, MAY 25
 We plan to return to Orlando from May 19-25 to work with the Orlando Rescue Mission and Second Harvest Food Bank. If you are interested in putting your name on the list, have questions, or would like more information, email me at bmoore@pinehurst.net. A deposit of \$200 will hold your spot. The total cost of the trip is \$450. This will be due by Sunday, May 5. Please let me know if you are interested.

YOUTH HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP - NASHVILLE, TN
SATURDAY, JUNE 15 - SUNDAY, JUNE 23
 This summer, our youth will be on a mission to Nashville! Our mission will be to share the love of Christ through construction projects, working in community centers, and serving meals. This will be a mission trip only and a good opportunity for our youth to give of themselves to others who are in need. If you are interested in signing up, a \$100 deposit will hold your spot. The total cost of the trip is \$350. A payment schedule for the balance will be sent in Jan/Feb. There are 30 spots for this trip, so sign up soon.

YOUTH OUTREACH PROJECTS 2024

Feb. 24	Roadside Trash Pickup - Youth help clean up the community by picking up trash on the roadside between the church and US 1
Mar. 1-31	Community Food Drive - Youth will collect food for the Sandhills Coalition of SP.
Jun. 24-28	Vacation Bible School - more information coming.

YOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL TRIP - ASHEVILLE, NC
SUNDAY, JUNE 9-WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12
 This summer our Middle School students (grades 6-8 grade) will be in Asheville, NC to share the love of Christ through serving in food pantries and other community projects. 13 students and chaperones have signed up so far for this trip. Total cost of the trip is \$350. Sign up now!

PAYMENT SCHEDULE FOR YOUTH HIGH AND YOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

	Due Date	Amount Due
Payment 1	Feb 4	\$200
Payment 2	March 3	\$50.
Payment 3	April 7	\$50.
Payment 4	May 5	\$50.
		Total due = \$350.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDIES

Pinecrest Boys
 Tuesdays 7:45am @ Chick-Fil-A

Union Pines
 Thursdays 7:45am @ Bojangles, Carthage

Pinecrest Girls
 Wednesdays 7:45am @ Chick-Fil-A



CHILDREN & FAMILIES' MINISTRY



Here's what's coming up for the Children & Families' Ministry at First Baptist Church.

SUNDAY MORNING

Sunday School is provided for all ages beginning at 9:45 on Sunday mornings. During Sunday School, children learn stories from the Bible and how they apply to our lives today.

MUSIC & MISSIONS - WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Join us on Wednesday nights for Music and Missions. We offer programming for kids ages 3 years old to 5th grade. Here's the schedule:

- 5:00-6:00 PM Supper
- 6:00-7:15 PM Music and Missions
- 6:00-7:15 PM Nursery (for children under 3)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024! SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendars for **Monday, June 24 to Friday, June 28** for VBS! Registration will open first to the FBCSP congregation/families and Sonshine Learning Center students in early March. Registration will open to the greater community in April.



More Events Coming Soon!

Stay tuned via the weekly "Three Things on Thursday" emails regarding more events to place on your calendars for our Children and Families' Ministry.

ARE YOU READING TO MAKE AN IMPACT ON THE NEXT GENERATION?

We are actively seeking volunteers to lead in the Children's Ministry! Here are the specific needs:

Sunday School Teachers: We are seeking volunteers who can build relationships with children, point them to Christ, and have a lot of fun while doing so. Our Sunday School teachers work together in teams each week to lead classes of babies, preschoolers, and grade-school kids from 9:45-10:45am using an excellent curriculum which includes creative lessons and activities. Training is provided for these teachers!

Ms. Lauren sends out a weekly email called "Three Things on Thursday" to keep families in the loop and we also have a private Facebook group for FBCSP Kids – Parent Info (www.facebook.com/groups/fbcspkids).

PARENTS, STAY CONNECTED!

Please contact Ms. Lauren, lcraig@fbcsp.org or 336-971-0900, if you are willing and able to serve in any of these areas.

Praying for you and your family,
Lauren Craig,
Director of Children and Families' Ministry



SENIORS
ON THE **MOVE** 

MUSIC MINISTRY & SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY



We are nearing the Holy season of Lent, the time that Christians use to prepare for the pinnacle of the church year—

Holy Week. The roots of the word “lent” refer to the lengthening days as springtime approaches. Spiritually, Lent is a time of preparation for a celebration. If you have ever thrown a dinner party, you know the hours of preparation involved in such a feat. To celebrate well, one must prepare well.

The real aim of Lent is, more than anything else, to prepare believers for the celebration of the death and Resurrection of Christ. The better the preparation, the more glorious the celebration. We can more meaningfully experience this mystery with purified minds and hearts.

Lent represents an opportunity to try to separate ourselves from sin and selfishness. As we do this, we can more intently focus on God’s will for our lives and his kingdom’s work by allowing it to become fully alive in our hearts.

So, how do we prepare? Typically, Christians observe three disciplines throughout Lent: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These three practices are often referred to as the *three pillars of Lent*. Almsgiving, which focuses on the needs of others, is probably the least understood of these pillars. It has most often been thought of as taking care of the needs of the poor; however, it does not have to end there. Perhaps the more current expression “acts of kindness” is closer to the essence of almsgiving.

The Lenten season can be a meaningful time for those who are devoted to prayer. St. Augustine described fasting and almsgiving as “the two wings of prayer” because they are signs of humility and charity. I believe St. Augustine’s statement is a fantastic way to sum up a time-honored view of Lenten preparation.

I would add *worship* to this discussion as an indispensable action that helps us prepare for Lent, because worship is a time when we can meet with the living God while we pray for and encourage each other.



Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year—a rare meeting with Valentine’s Day. Ash Wednesday focuses on two main ideas: the fallen nature of human beings and our own mortality.

One of my post graduate professors would occasionally remind the class of our human condition by quietly stating, “Remember, you are dust.” *All go to the same place; all come from dust, and to dust all return.* (Ecclesiastes 3:20). This year, with the meeting of Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day, perhaps we can redirect our thoughts to consider another idea: “Remember, you are deeply loved.” The depths of God’s love brought Jesus to the manger, and love took him to the cross. Then, in victory, Jesus rose victorious over sin and death. We are deeply loved.

Ashes symbolize both death and repentance; this is a time for turning away from sin and renewing our love for God. Ashes can serve as a reminder that we belong to God. The willingness to wear ashes on one’s forehead is a sign of repentance that comes from the truth in Ecclesiastes. If you attend this service, the receiving of ashes is open to you; it is not mandatory. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, observes the experiences of Christ in the wilderness and his temptation by Satan. Believers observe 40 days of fasting and repentance to remember Christ’s experiences and learn from what he sacrificed for us. (Our service is at 6:00 p.m.)

SENIORS
ON THE **MOVE** 

Our February activity will feature a game day on Monday, February 12th. Come out at 2:00 p.m. and spend time playing some board games and fun activities with your friends. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Bingo included!

VISION




ACTION

MISSIONS, SERVING & MORE AT FBCSP

MISSION ACTION GROUP

Mission Action will meet Monday, Feb. 19. The program will be by volunteers at the Life Care Pregnancy Center: Sandy Gary, Bible study leader, and CC Edsel. Please join us. Call Bonnie Elhart, 910-420-2513 or Patricia Teague, 910-692-8867 for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Good morning, volunteers! 

The Sandhills Food Bank is looking for volunteers for the Backpack Pals Program. Backpack Pals is every Thursday morning from 8:30 am - 10:30 am. The program serves 26 schools in Moore County and on average the volunteers build 900 bags weekly. If you are interested, please sign up at this website <https://cerv.is/0225x27>.

Thanks, The Volunteer Engagement Team

Congregational Conversation #2 Pictures



COME AWAY....

TO THE PRAYER ROOM

There are times when something happens that drives us to immediate prayer. At other times we need to make a difficult decision, face the loneliness in the loss of a loved one, face financial hardship or another problem but no one close is available or does not understand the intensity of our need.

The **PRAYER ROOM** is always open.

COME SIT AWHILE... alone as Jesus often did when he visited His Father. It is a place to find solace. A place where you can find encouraging words available through Scripture, helpful written testimonies, resource materials, and if desired, someone to pray with you.

TAKE ADVANTAGE of our church **PRAYER ROOM** - our get-away private devotion corner dedicated for our church family.

OFFICE HOUR CHANGE

New FBCSP Office Hours beginning March 1.
The Church Office will no longer be open on Fridays beginning March 1.
The Office Hours will be as follows:

Monday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday - 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



First Baptist Church

www.fbcsp.org

200 EAST NEW YORK AVENUE, SOUTHERN PINES, NC 28387

TELEPHONE: 910-692-8750

FAX: 910-693-1161

SONSHINE LEARNING CENTER: 910-692-7912

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
200 EAST NEW YORK AVE
SOUTHERN PINES NC 28387

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 16
SOUTHERN PINES NC



MARCH ISSUE OF THE TIE

If you have news/information that you would like to submit for the next issue of The Tie, contact Pat Boland at pboland@fbcsp.org. The deadline for the MARCH TIE Issue is **FEBRUARY 21, 2024**.

WORSHIP ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Sunday School at 9:45am and Worship Service at 8:30am and 11:00am. We will continue Livestream at 11:00am online.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church office hours are 9:00am - 4:30pm on Monday thru Thursday and 9:00am - 12:00pm on Friday.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS are changing. Beginning March 1, 2024 the Church Office will be closed on Fridays. The new office hours will be Monday - Friday 9:00AM - 4:30 PM.

CHURCH STAFF

Michael Cogdill, Transitional Pastor - mcogdill@fbcsp.org

Jamie Kipfer, Minister of Education & Administration - jkipfer@fbcsp.org

Greg Lundberg, Minister of Music & Senior Adults - glundberg@fbcsp.org

Bryan Moore, Minister of Youth & Students - bmoore@fbcsp.org

Lauren Craig, Director of Children & Families' Ministry - lcraig@fbcsp.org

Bethany Saburro, Executive Administrative Assistant - bsaburro@fbcsp.org

Annette Saunders, Financial Administrator - asaunders@fbcsp.org

Pat Boland, Financial & Administrative Assistant - pboland@fbcsp.org

Susan Galbreith, Food Services Director - susang@fbcsp.org

Patricia Teague, Food Services Assistant

Cathy Haynes, Organist / Pianist

Luke & Alison Arno, Youth Music Coordinators

Amy Chavis, Director, Sonshine Learning Center - slcamychavis@gmail.com