

FBC Commerce is a family of faith who believes in experiencing and extending Christian community through authentic worship, spiritual formation, impactful ministries, global missions and relational fellowship.

SEEDS FROM THE PASTOR

REV. PHILIP VESTAL

“Again, he took the Twelve aside and told them what was going to happen to him. ‘We are going to Jerusalem, Jesus said and the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and kill him. Three days later he will rise.’” (Mark 10). Notice the following phrase again, “We are going to Jerusalem.” Jesus not only knew his destination, but also his destiny. In other words, Christ had a single purpose and he was determined to not only move towards it, but complete it.

We have begun the journey to the cross and the tomb. One of the challenges in traveling with Jesus is trusting His leadership to an unknown future. Due to uncertainty, our growing fears increase because we don’t know what lies ahead. We must believe in the One who holds the future and set our gaze on the direction he invites us to travel. And those steps require prayer. A prayer that has had profound influence in helping shape my own journey is a prayer by Thomas Merton and I offer it to you today. May it help point and empower you as you make the Lenten journey towards Golgotha and beyond.

“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end, nor do I really know myself; and the fact I think I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have the desire in all I am doing. I hope that I will I never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear for you are ever with me and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.”

May the love of Christ be your companion...it is the key that opens the doors to this season. I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday!

*Blessings,
PV*

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

New Members Luncheon

Sunday, **March 3rd at 12:15 PM** in the Fellowship Hall is a luncheon for new members and those who are interested in joining. The meal is complementary and afterwards you will receive a New Members Packet followed by a Q&A. To register contact the Church Office.

Men's Community Breakfast

Come for a wonderful time of good food, great fellowship and an opportunity to join other men of faith as we explore the theme "Living the Legacy." The breakfast is complementary, but donations are welcomed. For more information, please contact the Church Office.

Sunday, February 25th, 2024

7:30 AM: Breakfast

8:30 AM: Program

Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Commerce

(A joint ministry partnership of First Baptist Commerce and Mt. Calvary Baptist Church)

Lord's Supper

March 10 during morning worship.

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday March 24

Easter Cantata

March 24 at 6:00 PM



March 25: FBC Lenten Lunch 12:00-1:00 PM

March 26: CPC Lenten Lunch 12:00-1:00 PM

March 27: FUMC Lenten Lunch 12:00-1:00 PM



March 28: FBC Maundy Thursday 7:00 PM

March 29: CPC Good Friday 7:00 PM

March 31: FUMC Easter Sunrise Service

7:00 AM (with breakfast)



March 5 at noon will be the next Jolly Agers luncheon. This month's program will be Janis Mangum, the Sherriff of Jackson County, discussing safety. Bring a covered dish and come enjoy this time of good food and fellowship.

March 14

The Jolly Agers are going to Jaemor Farms! There will be shopping and lunch. Please be at the church at 9:45 AM to leave at 10:00 AM. Participants will be asked to share in the gas money for the trip, and lunch is not covered. If you would like to go, contact the church office by **March 13**.

Mission Madness

Mission Madness for the youth will be March 15-17. For more information contact Todd Chandler.

Photo Directory

The Portrait Cafe is now taking appointments for the new FBC Directory. Current open scheduling dates are April 14 (12:30-6:00 PM) and 15 (1:00-8:00 PM). Once those have been filled, April 16 (1:00-8:00 PM) will become available. A link to make the appointments will be emailed to everyone in the church along with instructions, including a phone number to call should you prefer to schedule by phone. Every family who participates in the photography will receive a complimentary 8x10 professional portrait, one printed directory, smart phone app access, and online directory access. All appointments are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so make your appointment today! We need everyone to participate to help make this directory complete. Additional quality family portraits will be offered at competitive prices. Thank you for your participation!

Quick Tip for your photos: Please avoid wearing green, as we will be using Green Screen Technology to photograph (Like what they use in action movies!)



Basket-Paws and Claws: A PassportKids Camp Fundraiser



In true March Madness style, FBC will have our own bracket – of cute pet pictures! Look for the bracket on the bulletin board outside the church office. Vote for your favorites by donating to PassportKids. Our Sweet Sixteen will begin on Sunday, March 3rd.

Needed: pictures of your adorable pets! Please send to cara@fbc-commerce.org or give to Cara before **March 1st**.

- The Children's Ministry is in need of helpers for our younger and older children's Sunday School classes. Requirements are only that you care about the kids of FBC and are willing to be a loving presence once a month during the Sunday school hour. No prep work or teaching required!

Digital Details

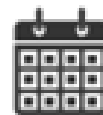
In the digital world live in, it's also important for churches to have an online presence. From our website to social media, FBCC is committed to using modern technology as a resource to connect with it's members and non-members. The statistics below provide real insight as to the effectiveness of our online resources and the reminder people rely on them. For those who utilize them, thank you, and we invite more to join our various platforms. We are grateful for Cameron Shirley who coordinates our social media ministry and helps us remain informed on all the good things happening in and through our church.

Here are a few stats:

1. On the public Facebook page, we have 610 followers and 528 likes.
2. 442 members in the private Facebook group
3. We have 207 followers on Instagram

Home	927
STAFF	72
WATCH	66
CALENDAR	44
Contact	24

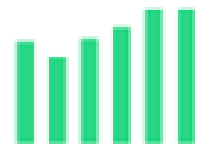
TOP FBC WEBSITE PAGES VIEWED IN THE LAST 30 DAYS



30 Days

1858

Visitors



February 22:
Joyce Bradshaw
Colin Chandler

February 25:
Catherine Dezotell
February 27:
Linda Bryant

February 28:
Chanda Palmer
Trey Bowen

March 2:
Adam Shirley
March 4:
Ron Dundore

SERVANTS @ A GLANCE

DEACONS

Feb. 25: Adam Fouche &
Terry Canup

March 3: Nicky Wilbanks &
Ann Rhoads

COUNTERS

Feb. 25: Pam Canup &
Deborah Adams

March 3: Trell Wilson &
Shirley Willis

GREETERS

Feb. 25: Beth Bray

March 3: Don Howard

USHERS

Feb. 25: Adam Fouche, Deborah
Burell, Melissa Vestal, Kenneth
Bridges, Stone Shirley, Blake Wilson

March 3: Marilyn Henderson, Ann
Rhoads, Bob Greco, Paula Langston,
Trell Wilson, Vickie McElroy

OUTREACH LEADER

February Deborah Adams
March Trisha Massey

NURSERY WORKERS

Feb. 25: Cameron Shirley &
Sumer Hill

March 3: Marsha Perry &
Vickie McElroy



**Meals on
Wheels**

Feb. 26: June Kirk &
Emily Perry

Feb. 27: Janis Miller

Feb. 28: Patsy Simmons &
Vickie McElroy

Feb. 29: Marsha Perry

March 1: Cindy Owensby

March 4: Bob Greco & Susan Harper

March 5: Gail Allen & Brenda Puckett

March 6: Bob Harper

March 7: Jon Massey

March 8: Johnny & Geraldine Bridges



Feb. 26-March 1:
Ann Rhoads

March 4-8:
Sharon Highsmith

Notes and Reminders



Dear Brothers & Sisters at First Baptist Church,
Thank you for your kind words and your prayers. They really mean a lot to me.

Love you,
Bob Greco (and Susan)

Dear First Baptist Church,
Thank you for your donation to the Banks Jackson Foodbank. Your support helps to provide food to others. As we prepare the food boxes for families, we are grateful to those that continue to make this ministry successful.

Board of Directors
Banks Jackson Foodbank

First Baptist Church Ministry,

Just a note to thank you and the children for the Valentine goody bag. It was such a sweet and thoughtful gift to receive. It was full of useful things and I'm certain it was filled with love as well. The stickers made my heart smile knowing they were sharing the love of Christ.

May God continue to grow his church at First Baptist and do great things for God's Kingdom.

Love in Christ,
Yvonne Sosby



Memorials and Honorariums

General Budget in memory of John Rylee
General Budget in honor of Sharon Highsmith

Reports



Stewardship Reports as of February 21

Monthly Giving Required	\$38,334.00
Monthly Giving as of Feb. 21	\$33,689.00
YTD Giving Required through February	\$191,670.00
YTD Giving Received through Feb. 21	\$213,695.07



Attendance Report for Feb. 11 & Feb. 18

Sunday School	74	53
Morning Worship	111	91

Upcoming Meetings



Church Conference

Sunday, **Feb. 25** after
Morning Worship



Sunday,
March 10 at
8:30 AM



The WMU will be
meeting **March 13**
at 10:00 AM in the
Fellowship Hall.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

- 9:45 AM Bible Study
- 11:00 AM Morning Worship
- 6:00-7:30 F4-Youth

Wednesday

- 5.30 PM Family Supper
- 6:00 PM The Gathering
- 6:15 PM Choir Rehearsal