

Celebrating 175 Years of  
Loving God  
Loving Others



First Baptist Church  
Rutherfordton

First Baptist Rutherfordton Newsletter | February 18, 2026



**First Sunday of Lent**  
**February 22, 2026 | 10:55 a.m.**

### **Songs of Worship**

*Come and Find the Quiet Center*  
*Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*  
*Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho (First Ringers Handbell Choir)*  
*Precious Peace in the Valley (First Ringers Handbell Choir)*  
*You Sought Me*  
*I Will Arise*  
*Will You Come and Follow Me*

### **Sermon**

"Jesus Sought Me"  
Luke 5:1-11  
Aimee Hobbs

[WATCH THE SERVICE HERE](#)

## **A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a normal human trying to figure it all out – just like we are.

Faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows, seeks and wanders. Wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. Through his journey of wandering, Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people – in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

We'll begin the season of Lent tonight at our Ash Wednesday Service by reflecting on our humanness, our need for forgiveness, and our connection to Jesus' last days. These themes are symbolized by the imposition of ashes on the forehead, with the words, "You are dust and to dust you shall return..."

As we wander together, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

Grace and peace,  
Aimee

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## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE TONIGHT AT 6:30 P.M.



Join us tonight for dinner and the Ash Wednesday Service.

On the menu is chicken and dumplings, green beans, ranch potatoes, and biscuits (\$8/adult, \$5 children, \$20 family max).

**5:30 p.m.** Dinner

**6:15 p.m.** Children's Programming (older children will attend the Ash Wednesday Service; younger children will attend a portion of it)

**6:30 p.m.** Ash Wednesday Service

**7:30 p.m.** Adult Choir Rehearsal

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## CHILDREN'S CAMP FUNDRAISER

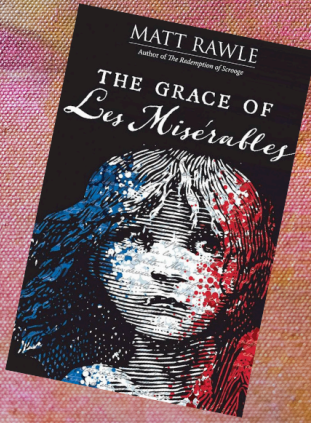


**We are halfway to our goal!** We want to say **THANK YOU** to our church family in supporting us on our venture to attend Passport Children's Camp in July. We are sending five children and two chaperones to camp. Camp has been shown to have a major impact on the lives of children who attend. Unfortunately, camp is expensive, and often an out of reach expense for families of young children. We ask that each member of the church, as part of your commitment to support your church family, consider giving toward the cost of camp. A contribution, in any amount, will help. Then, please add to your prayer list the children and chaperones attending.

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THE GRACE OF  
*Les Misérables*  
LENTEN STUDY

Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.  
February 25-March 25



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## SENIOR ADULT VALENTINE LUNCH



## Community Lenten Services

Join us each Wednesday of Lent for a short service and simple (free) lunch. All services begin at Noon; no RSVP necessary.

**Feb 25**

**Location: Advent Lutheran Church, Spindale**

*Speaker: Lance Smith, pastor of First Presbyterian Forest City*

**March 4**

**Location: Rutherfordton Presbyterian**

*Speaker: C. Pierson Shaw, pastor of Advent Lutheran Church*

**March 11**

**Location: First United Methodist Rutherfordton**

*Speaker: Stencil Quarels, pastor of Union Grove Missionary*

**March 18**

**Location: First Baptist Church Rutherfordton**

*Speaker: Henry Kerns, pastor of Gold Hill Missionary Baptist*

**March 25**

**Location: New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Spindale**

*Speaker: Larry Gregg, pastor of First Baptist Church Spindale*

Hosted by the Rutherford Ministerial Alliance



you're invited  
to join us for the

BRIDAL  
SHOWER  
*honoring*  
STEPHANIE  
RZONCA

march 7, 2026 at 2pm  
first baptist church rutherfordton  
rsvp by february 21  
to nell at 828-429-9129  
stephanie is registered at  
[theknot.com/srzoncajbourne](https://www.theknot.com/srzoncajbourne)



**WELCOME, BABY LEAH ELIZABETH JACKSON**

Congratulations to Sarah and Patrick Jackson on the birth of their daughter Leah Elizabeth, today at 5:43 AM, 8 lbs, 21 inches. Proud grandparents are Tammy and Robbie Daniel.

**CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING:**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH!** | This year, we are celebrating 175 years! Join us for a birthday party and churchwide talent show on Saturday, March 14 from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. Bring a finger food to share - we'll provide the cake! Have a talent to share? Sign-up for our churchwide talent show - we need individuals and group acts. Have a talent that should be displayed instead? Photography, quilting, painting, etc? We've love to have a display of your talent included, too! **Click here to sign up.**

**EASTER EGG HUNT** | Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, March 28 at 11:00 a.m. and we need eggs and fillers! Can you help? We'll be collecting donations until March 22. Thanks for supporting this fun spring event for our community!

**PRAYER TEAM OPPORTUNITY** | Every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m., a small group gather with a deacon to pray for our congregation and our world. We have a few open Sundays on our schedule. You can sign-up as a couple, individual, or even family with children! If you're interested in joining the prayer team ministry, or learning more, contact Jane Simpson (828-429-4843).

**BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM** | Did you know the Outreach Class is available to attend via Zoom each Sunday? The class meets at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday. Simply [CLICK HERE](#) and enter the password **138147** to join via Zoom.

**YOKEFELLOW FOOD PANTRY** | Continuing in February, we are collecting pork & beans. Cans can be either the small or regular size. Contributions can be left in the church office or near the Sanctuary doors. We hope that you can add a can or two to your weekly grocery shopping to help our neighbors in need.

**SPINDALE ELEMENTARY BACKPACK COLLECTING** | During the school year, we are collecting breakfast items for Spindale Elementary's Backpack Program. Individuals or groups can drop off items such as breakfast bars and Pop-Tarts in the church office or at the Sanctuary doors. We deliver them to the school on a monthly basis.

**PRAYER UPDATES BY EMAIL** | If you'd like to receive prayer request updates throughout the week, in addition to the prayer list found in the weekly newsletter, request to be added to our new prayer distribution email list! Just **click here and add your name and preferred email address**. You can also join by calling or **emailing** the church office.

# FIRST BAPTIST PRAYS

## WEEKLY PRAYER LIST



[CURRENT PRAYER LIST](#)

[SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST](#)

### PRAYER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**Feb. 22** - Frank Jones

Gayle Youngblood, Charlotte Epley

**Mar. 1** - Jane Simpson

Laura Hodge, Amy Revis

### WORSHIP CARE SCHEDULE

**Feb. 22** - Bob Smith, Rachel Tompkins

**Mar. 1** - Laura Hodge, Violet Nyamiwa

### MEALS ON WHEELS SCHEDULE

**Feb. 20** - Scott & Jolie Kelly

**Mar. 6** - Belinda Camper & Penny Parker

### USHERS FOR FEBRUARY

Todd Hodge (Coordinator), Daryl Camper, Jamie Knox, Mindy Miller

### BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

Feb. 20 - Eddie Bennett

Feb. 20 - Penny Ann Parker

Feb. 20 - Drew McClain

Feb. 20 - Gaines Bond

Feb. 22 - Savannah Camper

Feb. 22 - Don Ledbetter

Feb. 24

### YOKEFELLOW ITEM OF THE MONTH

Pork & Beans

February Goal: 30

Collected: 39

January Collected: 36

### SPINDALE ELEMENTARY WEEKEND BACKPACK COLLECTION

#### Items needed:

Breakfast Bars & Snack Bars

February Collected: 12

January Collected: 12 boxes

## 2025-2026 Church Leadership

### Deacon Council

Debbie Bumgarner - Chair (2026)  
Lori Herrick - Vice-Chair (2026)  
Beth Archer - Secretary (2027)  
Dale Heffner (2026)  
Jane Simpson (2027)  
Frank Jones (2027)  
Ben Moore (2028)  
Penny Parker (2028)  
Belinda Camper (2028)

### Administrative Leadership Council

Andy LaBreche - Chair (2027)  
Chip Bond - Vice-Chair (2027)  
Jessica Godfrey - Secretary/Church Clerk (2026)  
Faith Archer (2026)  
Kurt Parker (2026)  
Gayle Youngblood (2027)  
Laura Hodge (2028)  
Carolyn Keever (2028)  
Mike Stephenson (2028)

You can give online through our website! Click "Giving" at the top of our website, or click the button below.

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE](#)

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financial Records for February 15, 2026  
Budget Offering: \$5,615.70

Weekly Budget Requirement: \$8,802.94  
YTD Budget Received as of February 15: \$187,353.47  
YTD Needed as of February 15: \$176,058.80

Annual Budget: \$457,753

## Upcoming Schedule

### February

18 - Ash Wednesday Service | 6:30 p.m.  
22 - First Sunday of Lent | Deacons Meeting 4:45 p.m.  
25 - Lenten Noonday Service | The Grace of Les Miserables Lenten study begins

### March

1 - Communion | Youth Lunch and Mission Project  
4 - Lenten Noonday Service  
7 - Bridal Shower for Stephanie Rzonca  
9 - ALC Meeting | 6:00 p.m.  
11 - Lenten Noonday Service  
14 - Church Birthday Party and Talent Show | 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
18 - Lenten Noonday Service  
19/20 - CBF North Carolina Annual Gathering | Hayes Barton Baptist Church, Raleigh  
22 - Youth Trip to Top Golf  
25 - Lenten Noonday Service  
28 - Easter Egg Hunt | 11:00 a.m.  
29 - Palm Sunday | Youth Worship Event

### April

1 - No Mid-Week Gatherings (Holy Week)  
2 - Maundy Thursday dinner | 5:30 p.m.  
3 - Good Friday Stations of Peter  
5 - Easter Sunday  
8 - No Mid-Week Gatherings (Spring Break)  
13 - Welcome Table

Rev. Aimee Hobbs - Senior Pastor  
704-534-3267  
[aimee@fbcrutherfordton.org](mailto:aimee@fbcrutherfordton.org)

Rev. Beth Heffner - Minister of  
Music & Senior Adults  
828-980-2761  
[beth@fbcrutherfordton.org](mailto:beth@fbcrutherfordton.org)

Rev. John Miller - Minister of Youth  
704-472-5860  
[johnfbc@gmail.com](mailto:johnfbc@gmail.com)

Donna Sand - Minister of Children &  
Administration  
704-953-2453  
[donna@fbcrutherfordton.org](mailto:donna@fbcrutherfordton.org)

Alison Moore - Pianist

Pam McNeil - Organist

Garry Cuthbertson - Facilities Coordinator  
[garry@fbcrutherfordton.org](mailto:garry@fbcrutherfordton.org)

Debbie Ford - Financial Secretary  
[finance@fbcrutherfordton.org](mailto:finance@fbcrutherfordton.org)



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