



# NEWS and VIEWS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
LENOIR, NORTH CAROLINA

May 2023

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## A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

It is my distinct honor to tell you that we at First Baptist Church have hired two full-time ministers that will be joining our staff in short order. After the retirement of Dr. Thomas Hinton, we hired Dr. Aaron Rice to be our Interim Music Minister. Aaron has done a wonderful job leading us in worship and making sure the music ministries at First Baptist have continued to thrive. With that said, I am pleased to announce that we have a new Associate Pastor of Music, Worship, and Adult Ministries beginning on August 1<sup>st</sup>. His name is Rev. Michael Jennings, and he is currently serving as Minister of Music and Senior Adult Minister at First Baptist Church St. Simons Island, GA.

Michael is coming to Lenoir with his fiancé, Judy Cauley, on May 13-14 to meet the choir and the congregation. On Saturday, May 13 at 9 AM, there will be a breakfast for the choir, followed by a choir rehearsal with Michael. That afternoon, from 2-4 PM, there will be a drop-in meet and greet time for you to connect with them. On Sunday, May 14, Michael will participate in worship with us for the first time.

Michael is engaged to be married to Judy on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. He is the father of two children, Peyton and Allison. He grew up in Knoxville, Tennessee, and is looking forward to being closer to his childhood roots

and his beloved Tennessee Vols. (I'll be honest with you...that is the only flaw I can find in his character.) Michael is an outstanding minister who could not have been more highly recommended. I appreciate all of you who have helped us work through this period of discernment as we looked for a new Music Minister and I humbly believe that we have found the person to help lead us as we walk forward.

Secondly, as Thomas retired, Becca Lawing became our Interim Youth Director in addition to overseeing the Children's Ministry here at FBC Lenoir. Becca not only brought a steadying hand, but a renewed energy that has been felt across the entire ministry at FBC. As we were discussing the future staffing needs of our fellowship going forward, it became abundantly clear that Becca Lawing was exactly the person we need going forward in our ministry. With that said, I am pleased to announce that Becca will be our new full-time Youth, Children, Missions, and Connections Minister at First Baptist Lenoir. She will begin here in this new role on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We will recognize Becca's new position and transition on Senior Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you to the deacons and Personnel Team for unanimously hiring these new positions. Michael and Becca are wonderful people who will bring so much to our church. This is a glorious moment in time for First Baptist, and I have to tell you how proud I am to serve alongside them as we walk together in ministry.

Blessings on you and yours,  
Josh Hughes

### CALENDER

#### Sundays

Sunday School 9 AM  
Worship 10 AM  
Adult Choir 11:15 AM  
Handbells 5 PM  
Youth Supper & Program 6 PM

#### Wednesdays

Supper Served 5:15-6 PM  
Adult Bible Study, Youth Bible Study, Children's Activities 6 PM

#### Saturday, May 6

Room at the Table 4 PM

#### Saturday, May 13

Choir Breakfast/Practice 9 AM  
Meet & Greet with Michael & Judy 2-4 PM

#### Thursday, May 18

FBC Preschool Graduation

#### Sunday, May 21

Senior Sunday  
Recognition of Becca Lawing

#### Monday, May 22

Deacons Meeting 7 PM

#### Wednesday, May 24

Last Wednesday Supper/Bible Study

#### Sunday, May 28

Outside Worship with Hamburger/  
Hot Dog Lunch

#### Monday, May 29

Memorial Day—Office Closed

Dear Church Family,

*thank  
you*

My words are inadequate to express my thanks for all your words and acts of kindness and sympathy during Steve's illness and death. I appreciate all the many cards I received, the visits and prayers, especially from Pastor Josh and Dr. David Smith while Steve was hospitalized. I want to thank the ladies who provided and served the family meal. The meal and post service refreshments were so greatly appreciated.

Also I have just received the names of all who donated gifts to FBC Music Ministry in memory of Steve. I will cherish all these loving memorials as I treasure my own memory of my loving husband for years to come. It's a loss almost too much to bear. Thank you from the bottom of my heart,

Reba Austin

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to my church family for all the prayers, calls, texts, and great meals that were sent to me during my time of recovery from knee surgery.

Sandi Triplett

## YOUTH activities

### Wednesday, May 3

Wed. Night Youth Bible Study 6 PM

### Sunday, May 7

Regular Schedule 6 PM

### Wednesday, May 10

Wed. Night Youth Bible Study 6 PM

### Sunday, May 14

Happy Mother's Day!  
No Youth Activities

### Wednesday, May 17

Wed. Night Youth Bible Study 6 PM

### Sunday, May 21

Senior Sunday 10 AM Worship  
Regular Schedule 6 PM

### Wednesday, May 24

Wed. Night Youth Bible Study 6 PM

### Sunday, May 28

TBD

### Wednesday

Wed. Night Youth Bible Study 6 PM



## Join Us for VBS

June 19-22, 8:45-11:45 AM

Following Jesus Changes the Game

Make Your Ways Known to Me, Lord: Teach Me Your Paths. Psalm 25:4

**IT'S TIME TO LEVEL UP VBS!** Spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play to win! You'll need to bring your A-game for this VBS. Twists & Turns is a fantastical celebration of games of all kinds. From classic tabletop games to video games and more, kids will play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. They'll find that even when they mess up it's never "game over."

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED VBS NEEDS YOU!** Join in the fun this year at VBS! If you would be interested in helping with VBS, please call the church office or let Becca know (828-310-7603). We need Group Leaders (no teaching involved), Missions Leader (involves teaching), Bible Story Helper, Snack Helpers, Music Helpers, Recreation Leader and Helpers, Craft Helpers, Decorating Helpers. Enjoy the benefits of watching our young children learn more about Jesus and grow in their faith! What better way to spend a few mornings this summer!



**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

*meal*

Wednesday suppers are served from 5:15-6PM. Please contact the church office by noon on Tuesday each week to make a reservation for that Wednesday or you may place your name on the permanent reservation list.

- May 3 .....Marry Me Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Dessert
- May 10 .....Baked Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Salad, Dessert
- May 17 .....Poppy Seed Chicken, Rice, Sweet Peas, Slaw, Rolls, Dessert
- May 24 .....TBD

**WORSHIP**

**volunteers**

**May**

Libby Tucker  
 Seth Stilwell  
 Jeni Stilwell  
 Gwyn Icenhour

Liz Icenhour  
 Judy Raby  
 Eddie Winkler  
 Lisa Winkler

David Sellers  
 Hadlie Nichols  
 Zeke Frye

**WELCOME**  
**NEW MEMBERS**



We welcomed Nancy Moore and Tommy & Lillie Ruth Melton into the membership of FBC on April 16.

We are grateful for each of you and what you mean to this church family.

You are a blessing to us!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

- 5/2 A P Anderson  
Faith Barlow (21)
- 5/3 Anne Early  
Kim Ester  
Gary Pritchard  
Hugh Wilson
- 5/5 Cade Ellis
- 5/6 Henry Rice (7)  
Helen Underdown
- 5/7 Martie Barnes  
Rahn Chase  
Maggie Davis
- 5/8 Courtney Poarch  
Tyler Sime
- 5/9 Aaron Blevins
- 5/10 Brian Fox
- 5/11 Robert Reid
- 5/13 Chris Annas  
Andy Stewart (5)  
Palmer Tucker (17)
- 5/14 Nan Benfield
- 5/15 David Tucker
- 5/16 Becky Gibbons  
Angie Story
- 5/18 Peg Ellis
- 5/19 Scott Martin  
Ann Miller
- 5/20 Shirley Davis
- 5/21 Jen Whittington
- 5/22 Savannah Clapsaddle (21)  
Maddox Craig (11)
- 5/23 Cotton Triplett
- 5/24 Chris Cloninger  
Myra Dickson  
Jenny Greene
- 5/25 Griffin Bryson (20)
- 5/26 DJ Brown
- 5/29 Avery Hall (10)  
Nancy Moore
- 5/30 Corrine Annas (20)  
Maggie Earp (21)  
Michael Parker
- 5/31 David Barlow

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Budget Needs for 2023

**\$865,650.00**

YTD Budget Receipts

**\$332,621.53**

## **STAFF**

**Rev. Josh Hughes**

SENIOR PASTOR

**Dr. Aaron Rice**

INTERIM MUSIC MINISTER

**Dr. David B. Smith**

ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF

PASTORAL CARE

**Rebecca K. Lawing**

CHILDREN'S & INTERIM

YOUTH MINISTRY

**CARLA REID**

ORGANIST

**Gary Johnson**

BUSINESS MANAGER

**Diane Palmer**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

**Brenda Walters**

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Kathy Keck**

MISSIONS ADMIN. ASSISTANT

**Nicki Blevins**

CHURCH HOSTESS

**Robert Benfield**

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

**Bill Wakefield**

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

**Krista Hamby**

CUSTODIAN