



THE CORNERSTONE **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** **THOMSON**

*Loving God, Loving People,
Making Disciples of Jesus*

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Vol. 61

April 2025

No.4

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, April 14

12:00-12:45 Holy Week Luncheon @ TFMC

Tuesday, April 15

12:00-12:45 Holy Week Luncheon @ TFMC

Wednesday, April 16

12:00-12:45 Holy Week Luncheon @ TFMC

Thursday, April 17

6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 18

5:30 PM Cross procession from
FBC to TFMC

Sunday, April 20

7:00 AM Sunrise Service
Savannah Valley Memorial Gardens
Dr. David Lambert
8:15 First Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Second Service

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

For All Generations: This past Sunday marked a significant milestone in our "For All Generations" campaign, and I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the incredible support and commitment demonstrated by our church family. As we gathered for worship and fellowshiped with lunch during our Commitment Sunday, the atmosphere was charged with enthusiasm, excitement, and generosity. Many came forward to present their commitment cards and give first fruits offerings to the Lord, a testament to our shared vision for the future of our church.

Our journey leading up to this day has been profoundly shaped by the dedication and talent of many. I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Alice Gary, our campaign director, whose leadership has been instrumental throughout our campaign thus far. The creativity and impact of John Holloway's videos, along with the powerful testimonies shared both in these videos and in person, have touched many hearts and spurred us to action.

A special thanks to Bryan Youngs for his expertise in designing our inspiring campaign logo and thematic elements that perfectly capture our vision. Our devotional writers provided daily reflections that enriched our journey, and Stephen and Betty Sue Plamer and Christy Tarver, along with their teams, did an outstanding job on these devotionals.

We are also immensely grateful for everyone involved in organizing and executing our churchwide events, especially Jay and Kelli Poston and their team and all those who helped make the Commitment Sunday lunch a welcoming and memorable occasion. Lastly, our 24-hour prayer emphasis last weekend was a powerful time of seeking God's guidance and blessing, and I am thankful for everyone who participated.

Our leadership event was a remarkable success, with over \$657,000 committed by key leaders in our church, setting a strong foundation as we moved into Sunday. Before this weekend, we had already received \$108,470 in first fruits offerings, a strong start that speaks volumes about the commitment and excitement of our church family.

As we look forward to revealing the final totals of our commitments and first fruits on April 13th during our Palm Sunday worship service, let us continue to pray and work together for the growth and renewal of our church community. Your generosity and faithfulness are shaping a legacy that will bless many generations to come.

Next Steps: As I mentioned, we will reveal and give God thanks for the total amount of commitments and first fruits on Palm Sunday, April 13th. I hope you'll be there to rejoice with us in what God is doing in our church. And I hope you'll begin to work your plan for a committed follow-through in your regular giving to the "For All Generations" Campaign and the Vision Fund that it supports. Continue to pray for God's guidance and wisdom for our leaders and church in the coming months as we make decisions based on the commitments and gifts. Please make plans to be present at our April 27th Quarterly Church Conference as we plan on making some initial decisions that night.

Holy Week and Easter: I'm excited as we approach Holy Week and Easter, as I'll be preaching on how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy in his suffering and death and resurrection. Please make note of the opportunities to worship and reflect on the great sacrifice Jesus made for us and the powerful, world-changing miracle of His resurrection.

We are excited to join our brothers and sisters in Christ throughout our community in Holy Week lunches at Thomson Methodist Church on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week. I hope you'll be in worship with us on Maundy Thursday as we observe the Lord's Supper together.

On Good Friday, the cross procession will begin in our sanctuary at 5:30pm and will end at Thomson Methodist Church. I truly hope you'll come and be a part of this vivid experience and witness to our community. It is such a great event for families to participate in together.

Invite someone to join you on Easter Sunday for one of our three worship experiences, beginning with the Sunrise Service at Savannah Valley Memorial Gardens at 7 AM. I'm honored to bring the message there this year. And we have two worship services here that morning.



Dr. Matt Ward

Reminder: “First Impressions” Training on March 30, 3:00-5:00

You should see this before Sunday, so let me remind everybody about this training event. It is designed for our Greeters, Ushers, Deacons, and Safety Team members — specifically covering how we work together to make the best impression on our guests, and also how these groups work together to resolve special situations.

If you have ever considered joining our greeter team, **or if you just want to know how you can help our church be the most welcoming place we can be for guests**, you are also invited!

Thank You for Your Support of Our Campaign

Speaking on behalf of the Property and Space Committee, I say a huge thank you for every financial contribution to this capital stewardship campaign. We have worked very hard over the years to keep up with our campus and the critical needs we have. We have been able to address significant projects like the elevator, large HVAC systems, exterior painting, and more, entirely through our budget and gifts to our Capital Improvements Fund. But some of the projects looming in our future exceed our ability to fund through those means, and your willingness to jump in and help us take care of our facility is so uplifting. We look forward to working with our long-range vision team in implementing the best future we can for our campus.

Holy Week and Easter Is Upon Us!

Speaking for myself, it seems that the year has flown by. Yes, we have had a lot of important things happening (shout out to everyone who made our Spring Festival such a great time!), but let's turn our eyes to a hugely important event on our Christian calendar — the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We celebrate the resurrection every Sunday (that's why our worship services are on Sunday!), but once a year we focus on the entirety of what Jesus did for us, starting with the Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), going through the Last Supper, trial, and crucifixion, and culminating in the Resurrection (Easter Sunday). We call that Holy Week. David has more details about it, and I hope to see you at all of those events you can attend.

Flowering Crosses. Please remember that we ask our church members to bring fresh flowers for us to decorate the crosses in both of our Easter services!

FBC Serve Day on April 26, 8:00-12:00

We will have more details in the days to come, but I want to put this date on your calendar. We are putting together a list of simple projects we think we can do for members of our church — some yard cleanup and some very basic maintenance. We would love for you to join us; the more hands, the more work we can accomplish.

In the fall, we did a Serve Day that focused on hurricane cleanup. The people we were able to help were thankful, and I believe we were truly a blessing to them. Save this date, and be on the lookout for signup opportunities.

Do you know of a church member with a need? Maybe they still have some yard cleanup, or some fence damage, or even just cleaning out a gutter? **Please let me know.** I can't guarantee that we will have the manpower to get it done, but we can sure try.



Rev. Ben Tarver

Commitment Sunday was a wonderful time of worship, as we came together as a church family to dedicate our commitments to the Lord. One of the most impactful moments was seeing families with their children drop their commitment cards into the Chest of Joash, a powerful reminder that this campaign is about more than just a building—it's about faith, legacy, and investing in the next generation. Watching children participate alongside their parents showed the heart of this effort: we are building something that will bless not only our church today but for years to come.

As we continue this journey, our children's collection banks will be an exciting way for kids to participate in giving. On the first Sunday of each month, children can bring their money as an offering toward the campaign. We will tally the total each month and provide updates, celebrating the progress together. As the children reach certain milestones, we'll mark the occasion with a group prize or party—making this a fun and memorable way for them to see how their generosity makes a difference.

I encourage all of us to keep praying and giving cheerfully as we move forward in faith. God is at work through this campaign, and it is incredible to see how He is using the people of First Baptist Church to build something that will have a lasting impact for His Kingdom.

With the arrival of baseball season, I recently wrote an article in the Faith @ Home Center about the spiritual lessons we can learn from the game. Whether it's the importance of perseverance, teamwork, or keeping our eyes fixed on the goal, baseball—like life—is full of opportunities to grow in faith. Everything we do, we do for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31), and when we take time to look, we can see His hand at work in every aspect of our daily lives.

As we look ahead to Palm Sunday on April 13, we prepare to enter Holy Week, a time to reflect on the sacrifice and victory of Jesus Christ. To help families engage with this sacred season, we have prepared a Holy Week Family Guide filled with devotions and activities. These will be available at the Faith @ Home Center in the atrium, and I encourage you to pick one up to use with your family as we journey toward Easter together.

Also, keep an eye out for exciting summer events for children and youth! Plans are coming together, and we can't wait to share opportunities for our young people to grow in faith, build friendships, and have fun throughout the summer months. Stay tuned for more details soon!

God is doing amazing things in our church. Let's continue to build, give, and grow in faith as we invest in the next generation and celebrate the hope we have in Christ!



Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
March 2	324	262	282	\$25,440.30
March 9	250	338	204	\$26,213.32
March 16	214	148	207	\$25,701.88
March 23	323	205	243	\$15,602.44
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS		
Required	\$147,972.31	Cap. Improvements		\$1916.00
Received	\$168,928.32	Vision Implementation		\$4570.00
Disbursed	\$144,054.79	Go & Tell Mission Fund		\$5122.50

*End-of-
February
Final
Finances*



Young @ Heart

Tuesday, April 8
11:00 AM

Jeffery Fowler
Warren Co. Chamber of Commerce

RSVP By April 3 at Noon
Cost is \$10.00

April 13
Palm Sunday
and
Reveal Sunday

FOR ALL GENERATIONS
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
THOMSON, GA

Quarterly
Church Conference
April 27
6:00 PM

SAVE THE DATE

May 1:
National Day of Prayer

May 2:
Relay for Life

FBC SERVE DAY

April 26
8:00 AM- 12:00 PM

Be watching for more details!

\$6.50 ADULTS - \$4.00 UNDER AGE 12
PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY NOON ON MONDAYS

Family Night Supper
Wednesdays at 5:00; Fellowship Hall

April 2
Ham and Sides

April 9
Spring Break- No Activities

April 16
Chicken Strips

April 23
Hot Dogs

April 30
Meatloaf

Monthly Ministry
Donation Items:

Personal Hygiene Items
Soap, body wash, body lotion, body
spray, deodorant, wash cloths,
Loofahs

Please bring your
items and place
them in the blue
box in the atrium.

April

SUN 9:00 Cornerstone Cafe
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Morning Worship

MON 9:00 Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
9:00 Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
10:00 Stretch & Flex, Gym

TUE 9:00 Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
9:00 Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
1:30 Church Staff Meeting, 402
5:15 Firm Believers, Gym

WED 9:00 Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
9:00 Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
10:00 Stretch & Flex, Gym
5:00 Family Night Supper, FH
6:00 *Disciples Pathway* (Adults, Fellowship Hall)
Women's Study, Room 410
Men's Study, Parlor
Elevate (7-10 Grade), Warehouse
TeamKID (1-6 Grade), Gym
TinyKID (K4-K5), Chapel
TinyTots (2-3), Nursery
7:15 Adult Choir Rehearsal, S

THU 6:30 *Stand in the Gap* Prayer Group, Parlor
9:00 Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
9:00 Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
5:15 Firm Believers, Gym

FRI 9:00 Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
9:00 Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
10:00 Stretch & Flex, Gym

April 6, 2025

Name Tag Sunday

April 7-12, 2025

Spring Break

April 7, 2025

6:00 Pm Property and Space Committee Meeting

April 8, 2025

11:00 AM Young at Heart

April 9, 2025

No Evening Activities

April 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

Capital Campaign Reveal Sunday

April 14-16, 2025

Holy Week Lunches at TFMC

April 15, 2025

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting

April 17, 2025

6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service

April 18, 2025

Good Friday Cross Procession (FBC to TMC)

April 20, 2025

Easter Sunday

7:00 AM Sunrise Service at Savannah Valley

8:15 First Service

9:30 Sunday School

10:45 Second Service

April 21, 2025

Church Office Closed

April 26, 2025

Disaster Relief Training

FBC Serve Day

April 27, 2025

6:00 PM Quarterly Church Conference