



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

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

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*Holy Week Schedule Inside*

*Spring*  
**EXTRAVAGANZA**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 29**  
**11 AM- 2 PM**

# Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

Dear FBC Thomson Family,

I once again want to thank you all so much for your prayers during my surgery and throughout this past month of recovery. Your prayers were definitely felt by myself and my family, and I know God heard and has answered them. My recovery continues to go well, as I'm slowly getting back to a normal schedule and workload. For all the cards, messages, gift cards, and meals, on behalf of my family, thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your kindness and generosity reflect the heart of our gracious and compassionate God. I'm excited to move forward now into a busy month of worship and ministry together with you, as we seek to make disciples for Jesus from all generations, both among our neighbors and the nations.

This month of course brings Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Please keep the schedule in mind for Spring Break week, and I hope you can be a part of as many of these worship opportunities as possible. The Holy Week luncheons will feature myself, Dr. Steve Dodson from FUMC, and Dr. Leslie Holmes from TPC. Each of these are also fantastic for bringing with you someone who doesn't know Jesus or has been disengaged from God's people. We will enjoy a light lunch and have you out in an hour. I hope you are prayerfully considering inviting someone with you to any of our Holy Week services, but especially to celebrate our Risen Lord on Easter Sunday. Dr. Holmes will also be speaking at the Sunrise Service at Savannah Valley.

Beginning on Easter Sunday, I'll be preaching a five-message sermon series on the meaning of Easter and what Jesus' resurrection means for our lives today and for our own future resurrection in Christ. I appreciate your prayers as I study and prepare to bring these sermons. Again, any one of these are powerful messages for a lost person to hear the Gospel and the hope available to them through Jesus. And they will help each of us have hope for our tomorrow, no matter what the future brings.

This month also brings a fun, family-oriented ministry outreach to our community through our Spring Extravaganza. Matt will tell you more about this in his article, but I want to emphasize that this is one way in which our church strives to reach our neighbors with the Gospel, to make disciples of all generations, and to give our people an opportunity to serve and go and tell the Good News. I hope you will pray for this event, spread the word, and find a way to be a part of it. There are a variety of ways you can serve, before as well as the day of the event. Most importantly, bring your family and friends and enjoy the day, meet new people, tell them about Jesus, and invite them to worship with us.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David".

# Dr. Matt Ward

## **Celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus with Us!**

Every so many years, Easter falls on “Master’s Sunday”, which means that Holy Week falls on Spring Break. For some of you, that’s your one chance to take a vacation during the spring, so enjoy a vacation with your family! But if you simply have a habit of “taking it easy” over Spring Break, I’m going to ask you to modify your routine this year. You see the schedule of Holy Week events in this newsletter — we would love for you to join us at as many of those events as you can. Easter—the day we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus—is the most important event on any calendar, and it is worth every moment we can give to it. (And we’re taking the Wednesday of Spring Break “off” as usual, so there’s a “break” for you, right?)

Watch a Jesus movie as a family this Spring Break. I’ve seen several for free on YouTube, so I’m sure you can find them somewhere else for free, as well. In particular, there’s the Visual Bible version of Matthew, Luke and John. They might not be as “dramatic” as some of the old classics like King of Kings or Jesus of Nazareth, but they stick to the text, and I have enjoyed each of them.

## **Consider Giving a Love Offering to Cornerstone Preschool**

I’m writing this the day after “Preschool Sunday”. It was a wonderful morning — the kids were magnetic, the testimonies were just the right kind of encouraging, and I think we all caught a glimpse of what God can do and has done through this ministry. We can’t show too much support for Laura and her team. I would love for all of our members to consider designating a gift to our preschool. On your giving envelope, you can indicate what is for the preschool (and you can do the same online).

Yes, we’re going to have to emphasize our Go and Tell Mission Fund as soon as Easter is past (we’re pretty far behind already), so I think it’s more than worth letting our preschool be our special giving emphasis for a few weeks.

## **Spring Extravaganza on April 29**

There’s one way in which we’re not going to fight the Spring Break reality — we are moving our Spring festival to the end of the month. It’s going to be a great time. (If you came last year, you know what we’re talking about.) We will have the food trucks, the games, the bounce houses, the rock climbing wall, the petting zoo, and more. And we may end up throwing in a “spring egg hunt” just because the kids seem to really enjoy it. (I’m just waiting for somebody to invent invisible eggs—then I’ll get as excited about it as they do.)

We will spread invitations to the appropriate schools. But you can help us by letting your friends with kids/grandkids know. Everyone has a lot of fun, plus they will hear the good news about Jesus. This year, because the event is after Easter, we will invite everyone to our regular activities and put a special emphasis on VBS.

I say a big thank you to everyone who has already signed up to help. We always need more help at events like these — people to welcome, people to monitor the preschool areas, people to vulture over the bounce houses, and things like that. We will divvy up assignments in the weeks to come based on everyone’s availability.



# Rev. Ben Tarver

The 2023 Upward Basketball season ended Saturday, March 11. The season was capped off with a wonderful celebration! The entertainment was The Crazy Tie Guy & The Dorrell Family. This family does a great job at juggling, entertaining and delivering the gospel message! We had a total of 10 decisions for Jesus, several more interested in baptism, and several smaller children showed interest in the Gospel. Thank you to all the Sunday School classes, families and individuals that gave monetary donations, gift cards and various prize games and toys. We had a wonderful selection of items to give away. The kids, parents and coaches had a blast! Thank you to all my wonderful volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, referees, and scorekeeper for all their hours of service and love to the kids.

It was a joy to preach on Cornerstone Preschool Sunday this past Sunday, March 19. Thank you everyone for your prayers and words of encouragement. It is a bittersweet feeling seeing my son in the K5 class, knowing this is my last one to attend with a child in preschool. It makes me realize how quickly the years pass. I am very grateful for Laura and the teachers who are assisting families like mine with a foundation in Christian education. We enjoyed a wonderful meal after the service!

As a reminder, the nonrefundable deposit of \$50 is due for the youth summer camp at *Look Up Lodge* in Travelers Rest, SC by Sunday, April 5. The camp is from July 11-16 and open to rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders through 12<sup>th</sup> grade graduates. This is an amazing camp on a beautiful lake-front property with trails and all sorts of fun recreation elements for games and free time. The total cost is \$320 but will come down some with the offset of a fundraiser from last November. *Look Up Lodge* has wonderful times of chapel, large group and small group teaching. Their staff is top notch and well trained. Our group had a blast going to this camp for the first time last year and cannot wait to get back!

The *Faith @ Home Center* currently has a Spring Outdoor Bible Scavenger Hunt for families to look up clues from scripture then to collect items or take photos. Soon we will be putting an activity out for Holy Week. This activity page will have a Scripture chart for a day-by-day breakdown of events in the last week of Jesus' life before the Crucifixion and Resurrection. Be sure to stop by and check those out in the upcoming weeks.

*Ben*

## ***Last Month***

We Came	Morning Worship	Sunday School	We Gave
February 26	334	209	\$16,043.00
March 5	322	225	\$22,421.80
March 12	342	180	\$15,721.73
March 19	490	232	\$20,969.00
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET	
Required	\$153,542.84	Cap. Improvements	\$2,507.70
Received	\$144,355.60	Ferguson Property	\$1,055.00
Disbursed	\$134,524.81	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$4,286.73

## ***End-of- February Final Finances***

## Holy Week Schedule:

### Monday, April 3

12:00-12:45 Holy Week Luncheon  
Menu: Sub Sandwiches  
Dr. Leslie Holmes (TPC)

### Tuesday, April 4

12:00-12:45 Holy Week Luncheon  
Menu: Salad Bar  
Dr. David Lambert (FBC)

### Wednesday, April 5

12:00-12:45 Holy Week Luncheon  
Menu: Chicken Salad and Pimento  
Cheese Croissants  
Dr. Steve Dodson (FUMC)

### Thursday, April 6

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service

### Friday, April 7

5:30 PM Cross procession from  
FBC to FUMC

## FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER

*Wednesdays, 5:00 PM*

*Fellowship Hall*

April 12

Poppyseed Chicken

April 19

Hamburger and Hotdogs

April 26

Sub Sandwiches

\$5.50 ADULTS - \$3.00 UNDER AGE 12  
PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY NOON ON MONDAYS



No Wednesday Night  
Activities April 5



7:00 AM Sunrise Service— Savannah  
Valley Memorial Gardens

8:15 AM First Service at FBC

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Second Service at FBC



Quarterly Church Conference  
Sunday, April 16  
6:00 PM

## Senior ADULT TRIP

To Hillcrest Dairy Farm  
April 18

The group will be leaving the church  
around 10:00 AM to tour Hillcrest  
Farms and have lunch.  
\$10 (plus money for lunch)  
RSVP by Friday, April 14

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)
	10:00	Church Staff Meeting, 402
	5:00	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
	5:30	Open Warehouse
	6:00	<i>Disciples Pathway</i> (Adults, Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TinyKID (Ages 3-K), Chapel
	6:00	TeamKID (Grades 1-6), Gym
	6:00	Elevate (Grades 7-12), WH
	7:15	Adult Choir Rehearsal, S
THU	6:30	<i>Stand in the Gap</i> Prayer Group, Parlor
	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
	5:00	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

Sunday, April 2

Name Tag Sunday

Palm Sunday

Monday, April 3

12:00 PM Holy Week Luncheon, FBC

Tuesday, April 4

12:00 PM Holy Week Luncheon, FBC

Wednesday, April 5

12:00 PM Holy Week Luncheon, FBC

No Evening Activities

Thursday, April 6

7:00 PM **Maundy Thursday Service with Lord's Supper**

Friday, April 7

5:30 PM Cross Procession (Starting in FBC Sanctuary)

Sunday, April 9

7:00 AM Sunrise Service at Savannah Valley

8:15 AM First Service

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Second Service

Monday, April 10

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, April 11

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

Sunday April 16

6:00 PM Quarterly Church Conference

Tuesday, April 18

10:00 AM Senior Adult Trip to Hillcrest Dairy Farm

Sunday, April 23

6:00 PM KBA Great Commission Rally at Fort Creek

Saturday, April 29

11:00 AM Spring Extravaganza