



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

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

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Vol. 62

April 2026

No.4

Holy Week Schedule

Monday, March 30

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

Tuesday, March 31

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

Wednesday, April 1

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

Thursday, April 2

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 3

5:30 PM Cross procession from
TFMC to FBC

Sunday, April 5

7:00 AM Sunrise Service
Savannah Valley Memorial Gardens
Rev. Zach Washington
8:15 First Service
9:30 Sunday School
10:45 Second Service

GROUND BREAKING *Ceremony*



Atrium
April 19 6:00 PM

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

As we step into April, our hearts are centered on the most significant week of the Christian year—**Holy Week**. It is an opportunity to slow down, reflect deeply, and walk together through the final days of Jesus' earthly ministry, leading to his sacrificial gift on the cross and the victory of the empty tomb.

We begin the week with a time of fellowship and worship as we host the **Holy Week Lunches**, Monday through Wednesday (March 30–April 1) at Noon. These gatherings are always a meaningful time for the body of Christ across our community. I hope you'll join us as we worship alongside our brothers and sisters from other churches.

On **Maundy Thursday**, we will gather at 7:00 PM for a solemn and introspective service as we observe the Lord's Supper. This is an opportunity to remember Christ's sacrifice, examine our hearts, and reflect on the depth of His love for us.

Then on **Good Friday**, we will take part in the Cross Processional beginning at Thomson First Methodist at 5:30 PM and ending here at FBC Thomson. This hands-on experience is especially meaningful for families. There is something powerful about walking behind the cross along Main Street, and I always love seeing children helping carry it—reminding us that the message of the cross is for every generation.

Then comes the big celebration—**Easter Sunday!** We will begin early with our **Sunrise Service at 7:00 AM** at Savannah Valley Memorial Gardens. Pastor Zach Washington from New Hope Baptist Church will lead us in worship and share a brief message as we rejoice together in the hope of the Resurrection.

Back on our campus, we will gather for two services at **8:15 and 10:45 AM**, each featuring our beautiful **Flowering Cross**. I encourage you to bring fresh flowers or greenery to the sanctuary front steps before either service. It is a simple but powerful picture of new life in Christ. These services are also a wonderful opportunity to invite family and friends to hear the good news that Jesus is alive!

Please note that the church office will be closed on **Monday, April 6**, and due to Spring Break, there will be **no Wednesday night activities on April 8**. But that's just a pause in the activity before an exciting and meaningful milestone in the life of our church...

Our next **Quarterly Church Conference on April 19** will be a special day as we officially kick off renovation work in our Atrium, which begins the following day. That Sunday will be both a celebration and a commissioning. Together, we will reflect on nearly 30 years of ministry that has taken place in and through that space. We will honor those who gave, served, and sacrificed to make it possible. We will say goodbye to certain elements of the Atrium as it has been, and we will prayerfully prepare for what God is going to do in the days ahead.

There will also be a hands-on opportunity for everyone to participate in this moment—marking not just the start of a construction project, but the continuation of a mission. We are excited to see a refreshed Atrium that will serve our church and community for another 30+ years—truly for all generations.

This work, along with the other phases to come, is made possible through your continued faithfulness in giving to our Vision Fund, "**For All Generations.**" Thank you for investing in what God is doing here!

As construction begins, there may be times during the week and on Wednesday nights when access through the Atrium is limited. Clear signage will direct you to alternate routes, and the elevator will always remain accessible. Thank you in advance for your patience and flexibility as we move forward together.

Church family, what a season this is!

From the cross...

to the empty tomb...

to the next chapter of ministry God is writing among us.

Let's walk through it together—with faith, gratitude, and expectation.

He is risen! He is risen indeed!

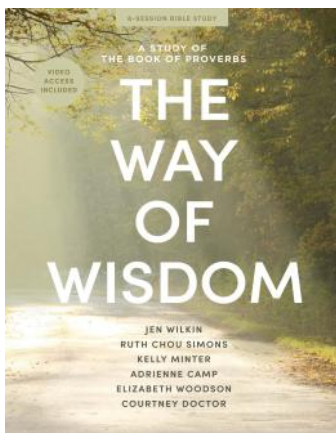


Dr. Matt Ward

FBC Women's Ministry Presents "The Way of Wisdom" A Fellowship and Bible Study Saturday, April 18, 8:00am-12:00pm

The theme for the next few women's conferences will be the **wisdom** of Proverbs and how you can plant your feet firmly on the path of life. Not only will this be a great opportunity to grow in your knowledge and understanding of God's Word, but it will also be a great time to invite your friends who have been looking for encouragement and guidance in life.

- Food and fellowship
- Worship led by our very own members
- Two video Bible study sessions led by the best women's leaders in the country
- Cost is \$10
- Childcare is available
- RSVP to the office or on the Connect Card



The FBC Women's Ministry will continue this theme in future conferences, but each date is standalone, so you don't need to worry about what your schedule is two years from now.

Plan on coming, and invite your friends now!

The Building Work Begins Soon!

You have seen the news of the project schedule for our building (barring the unexpected, of course), starting with the cosmetic work in our Atrium. The plan is that the Atrium will be off-limits the week of **April 20-24**, with the biggest impact being on Wednesday night, April 22. The gym can be accessed from the hall connected to the Fellowship Hall (and depending on the weather, the outside doors). When we get closer and know what the weather will be like, we will set plans for pick-up and drop-off.

- All of the other stairwells in the building will still be accessible.
- The elevator will still be accessible.

The Property and Space Committee also hopes to be working on some other projects around the building during April and May. That will include a workday in May, and we will tell you more about that in next month's newsletter.

Worship and Evangelism

I would be a poor leader indeed if I did not also encourage all of you to participate in as much of the Holy Week opportunities for worship and prayer as you could. The details are covered elsewhere in this newsletter. Everything about who we are as Christians and what we do as a church is rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord; it is a small thing to ask for a little more attention in the days leading to Easter.

Separately, I want to encourage us to be a part of our association's Great Commission Rally on April 26 at 6:00 at Sweetwater Baptist Church. Those of you who attended the inspirational meeting we hosted on March 23 were encouraged and challenged, and we get more of the same at this annual rally.

Our church is a part of a voluntary association of like-minded Baptist churches in our area, and part of our charge is to assist and encourage one another as we are able. Supporting a rally like this, where we are all called upon to fulfill the Great Commission, is a part of that charge. I hope you're able to come!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Ward".

Rev. Ben Tarver

Spring has been full of opportunities to celebrate what God is doing in and through our church family, and we are grateful for His continued work among us.

On Sunday, March 22, we experienced a special time of worship as our Cornerstone Preschool children helped lead in a couple of songs. It was a joy to see them pointing our church to Christ. Laura also recognized our preschool ministry and the families it serves each week. We were especially encouraged by a testimony from Mark and Shelby Watkins, who shared how God has used this ministry in the lives of their children and family. We are also thankful for our preschool committee for helping provide the meal and for the families who stayed and participated following Preschool Sunday.

We are also excited about a new addition to the Faith @ Home Center in the atrium—a display shelf for family resources. Currently featured is *The Easter Story Egg, a creative retelling of Holy Week*. It includes a storybook about the resurrection and seven colorful, hand-painted nesting eggs that help walk through the Easter story. It is a great tool for families as we prepare our hearts for Easter and disciple our children at home.

Our Upward Basketball Celebration Night on Saturday, March 14, was a wonderful evening filled with joy and Gospel impact. Mark Lippard joined us and delivered an incredible performance with juggling, unicycles, fire breathing, and fun interaction with players and coaches. More importantly, he clearly shared the Gospel. Through our commitment cards, five individuals made first-time decisions to follow Jesus, and several others expressed interest in baptism. I have already begun following up with these families and praise God for what He has done.

On Monday, March 23, Thomson High School hosted the FCA “Courts of Faith” event. Our church was honored to serve as a gold sponsor, one of the primary sponsors for the evening. We had a table set up with giveaways and information, allowing us to connect with many students and families. The night included worship, powerful student testimonies, and a message from Jonathan Rosier, encouraging students to trust Jesus, pursue Christ-centered friendships, and stand firm in today’s culture. I also had the opportunity to serve as a decision counselor, helping speak with students who came forward in response.

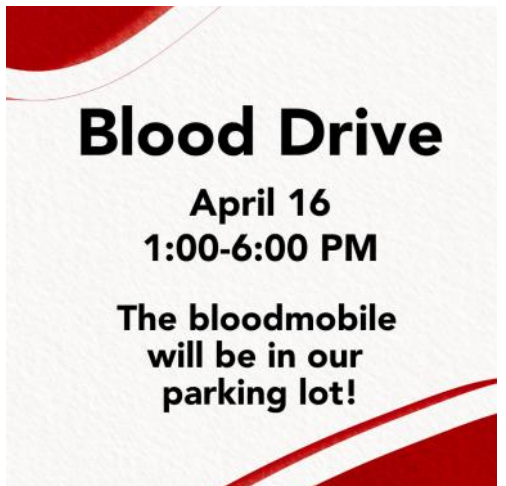
As we look ahead, please be in prayer for our upcoming Easter services. This season gives us a special opportunity to invite others and share the hope of the resurrection. Pray that hearts would be open and that we would be faithful witnesses.



Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship (in person)	Morning Worship (online)	Sunday School	We Gave
March 1	318	289	250	\$22,166.50
March 8	295	241	250	\$19,334.19
March 15	309	393	229	\$19,470.00
March 22	384	346	233	\$15,103.19
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET RECEIPTS		
Required	\$159,928.00	Cap. Improvements	\$995.00	
Received	\$145,606.45	Vision Implementation	\$35,210.66	
Disbursed	\$156,442.58	Go & Tell Mission Fund	\$4,501.00	

*End-of-
February
Final
Finances*



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

April

April 1, 2026

12:00 PM Holy Week Lunch, FBC

April 2, 2026

7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service

April 3, 2026

5:30 PM Good Friday Cross Procession (TFMC to FBC)

April 5, 2026

Easter

7:00 AM Sunrise Service at Savannah Valley

8:15 AM First Service

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:45 AM Second Service

April 6, 2026

Church Office Closed

April 6-10, 2026

Spring Break; No Wednesday Night Activities

April 13, 2026

6:00 PM Property and Space Committee Meeting

April 14, 2026

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM Deacons Meeting

April 16, 2026

1:00 PM Blood Drive

April 18, 2026

8:00 AM Women's Spring Conference

April 19, 2026

6:00 PM Quarterly Church Conference and Atrium
Ground Breaking Ceremony

April 26, 2026

6:00 PM KBA Great Commission Rally, Sweetwater

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	<i>Disciples Pathway</i> (Adults, Fellowship Hall)
		Women's Study, Craft Room
		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, Choir Room
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)
	5:15	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