



**Lent**, a season of introspection, begins on Ash Wednesday and continues for the next 40 days (not counting Sundays), culminating on Easter Sunday. Traditionally during this time, the mood and tone in worship are subdued. Flowers are removed from the worship area and certain words of celebration (i.e.: “alleluia”) are not uttered until the day we observe Christ’s resurrection. All of this is done to remember Jesus’ time in the wilderness as he prepared himself for the journey ahead.

**If you would like to know more** about becoming a member of First Baptist or about making a profession of faith, please see Thomas Quisenberry in the Narthex after the service. A time will be arranged when you can speak together about the next steps to take in finding your place in our church family.



**Christmas Gong Show, tonight, March 8, 6:00PM, Fellowship Hall**

The Gong Show (with a Christmas theme) is a Youth Choir Fundraiser for the youth summer trip to Passport Missions. Dessert and coffee are being served prior to the show. There will be a few tickets (\$15 each) available at the door this evening.

**Adult Ministry Luncheon, Sunday, March 15, 12:15PM, Fellowship Hall**

All adults are invited to join in fellowship as we enjoy a St. Patrick’s Day-themed time together. The menu includes shepherd’s pie, soda bread, green salad, and dessert. Tickets are \$10 each and are on sale in the Lobby/Narthex areas and in the church office during the week. An online option for payment is available under EVENTS/ADULT MINISTRY LUNCHEON. To verify tickets purchased online, please email frances@fbcchattanooga.org.

**Join us for GriefShare, a grief support group**, as you experience the loss of a loved one through death. This program consists of 11 weekly sessions **beginning Tuesday, March 10, from 6:30-8:00PM**. The sessions are accompanied by small group discussions led by trained facilitators, along with a workbook, *From Mourning to Joy* (\$20). Please contact Jim Schwall with any questions (423.280.7998). To register, go to [www.fbcchattanooga.org/griefshare](http://www.fbcchattanooga.org/griefshare).

**Mark your calendars!** We’ll observe Spring Break (along with Hamilton County Schools) the week of March 15. Youth will have no evening activities on Sunday, March 15. Also, on Wednesday evening, March 18, we’ll all take a break from regularly scheduled FBC activities.

**Kids (toddlers thru 2<sup>nd</sup> graders) and your families**, please plan to join us for a **Family Movie Night on Saturday, March 28**, from 5:30-7:30PM. Wear your comfy clothes and bring pillows/sleeping bags to lounge on. We’ll watch *Meet the Robinsons* on the big screen in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza, snacks, and drinks will be provided, too.



**With this QR code**, you can donate to our budget, pay for event tickets, give to a mission opportunity, and more. Please contact the church office with any questions.

**CHURCH CALENDAR**

**Sunday, March 8, Third Sunday in Lent**

- 9:00AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
- 9:15AM Youth Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
- 9:30AM Sunday School/Bible Study
- 10:30AM Fellowship Time – Lobby
- 10:30AM Library Open until Worship Begins
- 10:50AM Songs of Community – Sanctuary
- 11:00AM Worship – Sanctuary
- 12:15PM Missions Committee – Conference Room
- 6:00PM Christmas Gong Show – Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, March 10**

- 10:00AM Prayer Shawl Ministry Group – E211
- 11:00AM Lunch & Learn – Youth Area
- 5:30PM Moving Forward CJC Classes – Lower Chapel Area
- 6:30PM GriefShare – E213

**Wednesday, March 11**

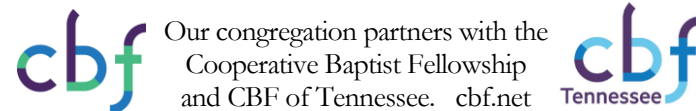
- 5:30PM Fellowship Time (BYOF) – Fellowship Hall
- 6:15PM Preschool Music/Missions – E107
- 6:15PM Children’s Choir – E111
- 6:15PM Youth Gathering – Youth Area
- 6:15PM Epiphany (study/discussion/action group) – E217
- 6:15PM Midweek Study (Pastor led) – Fellowship Hall
- 7:00PM Gym Time (school-age kids/youth)
- 7:15PM House & Grounds Committee – Conference Room
- 7:15PM Personnel Committee – E211

**Friday, March 13**

- 8:30AM Habitat for Humanity Workday – Off Campus

**Sunday, March 15, Fourth Sunday in Lent**

- 9:00AM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Choir Suite
- 9:30AM Sunday School/Bible Study
- 10:30AM Fellowship Time – Lobby
- 10:30AM Library Open until Worship Begins
- 10:50AM Songs of Community – Sanctuary
- 11:00AM Worship – Sanctuary
- 12:15PM Adult Ministry Luncheon – Fellowship Hall
- 5:00PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Fellowship Hall
- No Evening Activities for Youth – Spring Break



**Worship Leaders**

- Dr. Thomas Quisenberry -----Senior Pastor
- Rev. Jeff Parker-----Minister of Music and Worship
- Rev. Kelly Kunf -----Interim Minister of Youth and Children
- Dr. Darryl Miller-----Organist
- Ms. Jenny Parker-----Pianist

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HONEST QUESTIONS

*Deeper Faith*

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**

Chattanooga, Tennessee

March 8, 2026

## GATHERING

SONGS OF COMMUNITY

*John Steele*, piano

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

GREETING

*Thomas Quisenberry*

The voice of God gathers us this day;  
**the warmth of God brings us together as one people.**

So we come with joy and with sorrow,  
**with confidence and with insecurity,**  
with kindness and with selfishness,  
**with doubt and with faith.**

We offer the fullness of our lives to God.  
**May that be our best as we worship this day.**

PRELUDE

arr. E. Whittsett

*My Faith Looks Up to Thee*  
(Hymn 829)

## APPROACH

PRAYER OF ADORATION

*Thomas Quisenberry*

\*HYMN 401

GATHER US IN

*Here in This Place*  
stanzas 1, 2 & 4

(All children are invited to come forward during the last stanza.)

CHILDREN'S TIME

*Kelly Kumpf*

OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Rose Thomas*

*Exodus 17:1-7 (NRSV)*

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Rose Thomas*

Holy God, we have been on every side of this story.

**We have been the one who is thirsty and in need of compassion,  
and we have been the one with a bucket and a deep well.**

So today we wonder:

**How often have we missed the opportunity  
to share water with our neighbors?**

**How often have we forgotten that we have a bucket and the power share?**

**How often have we decided that compassion is not worth the work?**

Forgive our fragile hearts and remind us  
that it was you who worked through your servant to provide.

**It is still you. With hope we pray, amen.**

(silent confessions)

ANTHEM

C. Courtney

*Father, Forgive Us*  
Youth Choir

Father, forgive us  
each time we close our eyes to a bruised and wounded world,  
the shattered, broken lives,  
empty ones who die alone forsaken in their shame.  
Ev'ry time we turn away we crucify again.

Father, forgive us  
each time that we disown mothers who have lost their sons,  
the children with no home,  
thousands crying out in thirst, the prisoners in pain.  
Ev'ry time we turn away we crucify again.

Father, forgive us,  
our hearts remain unmoved by suffering and poverty,  
we know not what we do.  
When we fail to hear the voice of Christ in ev'ry cry,  
when we do not recognize the Savior in their eyes,  
we crucify again.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

*Brandon Oakes*

Our sins are forgiven. Nothing can ever separate us from God's love.

I am loved!

**I am loved!**

I am held in grace!

**I am held in grace!**

I belong to God.

**I belong to God.**

\*HYMN 435

IN BABILONE

*There's Wideness in God's Mercy*

## PROCLAMATION

GOSPEL READING

*Thomas Quisenberry*

*John 4:5-26 (NRSV)*

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

*Thomas Quisenberry*

*Will We Be Vulnerable?*

## RESPONSE

\*HYMN 735

NEED

*I Need Thee Every Hour*

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

*Jeff Parker*

PREPARATION FOR GIVING

*Jeff Laseter*

Our giving this morning,  
whether we have been lost and wandering, or secure and safe,  
expresses our firm conviction that God is with us, no matter what.  
Let us gather our gifts together  
and offer them to God in gratitude, heartfelt commitment, and praise.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

E. Hagenberg

*O Love*  
Chancel Choir

O Love, that will not let me go; O Love, I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give thee back the life I owe,  
that in thy ocean depths its flow may richer, fuller be.  
O Joy, that seeks me through the pain,  
O Joy, I cannot close my heart to thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain  
that morn shall tearless be. O Love, that will not let me go.

\*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

OLD 100<sup>TH</sup>

Praise God, the Source of life and birth; praise God, the Word, who  
came to earth; praise God, the Spi - rit, ho - ly flame; all  
glo - ry, hon - or to God's name! A - men.

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*Jeff Laseter*

\*WORK OF THE CHURCH

*Thomas Quisenberry*

\*WORDS OF BLESSING

\*CHARGE

*Thomas Quisenberry*

\*BENEDICTION

BUNESSAN

(Hymn 702)

**Christ be beside me; Christ be before me;  
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.  
Christ be within me; Christ be below me;  
Christ be above me, never to part.**

POSTLUDE

J.S. Bach

*Prelude and Fugue in g minor, BWV 558*

Following the postlude, please exit at your convenience.

\*Please stand, if able.

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