



On that first Easter morning, Mary approached the tomb expecting to find death and a finality to the work of Jesus. Instead, the earth shook beneath her feet, the stone was rolled away, and the angel present pronounced that Jesus was not there anymore. The world around her was no longer certain, and yet the Gospels record that she ran from that place filled with joy. This Eastertide season, for 50 days, we will explore the texts of 1 Peter and seek to find our own ways to run into the uncertain world around us and share the joy found in the Good News of Easter. We hope you will journey with us while discovering a joy within you worthy of sharing.

Cover artwork by Stella Paulino; colored by Nevaeh Vines.

The floral arrangement today is given in loving memory of Jerry Bowman by Nancy Bowman and family.

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.



The FBC Festival Choir will sing as part of Worship on Sunday, May 3. If you would like to be a part of this group, please join us for rehearsal in the Sanctuary choir loft right after Worship today. A second rehearsal will be held next Sunday morning at 8:45AM.

Sabbath Week, April 26-May 2

As we near the end of spring activities and gear up for summer fun, the church will honor a SABBATH WEEK from April 26 - May 2. Regular churchwide activities for Sundays after worship and Wednesdays will PAUSE for this week. *The Gateway* (newsletter) will not be issued. We also ask that committees refrain from planning gatherings this week. The intent is for our community of faith to REST, to encourage families to have time together, and to prepare for a busy, fun summer ahead. We plan to have another SABBATH WEEK at the end of October.

May will be a \$1 month. We will collect \$1 bills as part of our offering each Sunday during the month to be used to help fund items needed by our community such as prescription medications, gas cards, bus cards, and IDs. (These needs are not covered as budgeted items.) We encourage you to place your dollar bills in the offering baskets as they are passed during Worship.

You are invited to Moving Forward Christian Job Corps' Spring Graduation next Sunday afternoon, May 3, at 3:00PM in the Chapel. A reception will follow in the Parlor. Come help us celebrate the accomplishments of these impressive women.

Graduation Recognition Sunday, May 10

Our **High School Class of 2026** will be celebrated on May 10. Those families have already been contacted by the Youth Ministry regarding plans for that day. We would also like to commend **collegiate and graduate students** completing degrees since summer 2025 (associate, bachelor's, master's, or doctoral). Please email the following information to frances@fbcchattanooga.org: name, degree, college/university, degree honors (if applicable) by **Tuesday, May 5**.



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, April 26, Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 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 Festival Choir Rehearsal – Choir Suite
- Sabbath Week Begins

Tuesday, April 28

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

Wednesday, April 29

- 5:30PM Sabbath Week; No Evening Activities

Sunday, May 3, Fifth Sunday of Easter

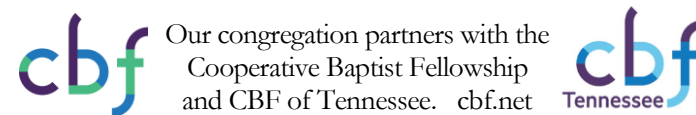
- 8:45AM Festival Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary
- 9:30AM Sunday School/Bible Study
- 10:30AM Fellowship Time – Lobby
- 10:30AM Library Open until Worship Begins
- 10:50AM Songs of Community – Sanctuary
- 11:00AM Worship – Sanctuary
- 3:00PM Moving Forward CJC Graduation – Chapel
- 4:30PM Youth Choir Rehearsal - FH200
- 5:30PM Youth Supper & Passport Parent Mtg – Youth Area
- 6:30PM Youth Bible Study

SAVE THE DATE: FBC to the Lookouts Game, Sunday, May 31, 1:00PM. Ticket information will be announced soon.

401 Gateway Avenue, Chattanooga, TN 37402
www.facebook.com/fbcchattanooga
423.265.2257 www.fbcchattanooga.org



*Go with Joy into an
Uncertain World*



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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Chattanooga, Tennessee
April 26, 2026

GATHERING

SONGS OF COMMUNITY *Jenny Parker, piano*

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

GREETING *Thomas Quisenberry*

We gather together to worship our Good Shepherd:
**who cares so well for us,
 who safely leads us,
 who gives us strength for the journey.**

We gather together to worship our Good Shepherd.
**The Lord is our Shepherd,
 whose unfailing love is always here waiting for us.**

PRELUDE *arr. S. Wright*
The Lord's My Shepherd

APPROACH

PRAYER OF ADORATION *Kelly Kunf*

*HYMN 385 *OLD HUNDRETH*
All People That on Earth Do Dwell
 (All children are invited to come forward during the last stanza.)

CHILDREN'S TIME *Jim Boles*

PSALM READING *Verbie Prevost*
Psalm 23 (NRSV)
 The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM *J.S. Bach, arr. J. Winfield*
Sheep May Safely Graze
 Chancel Choir

Sheep may safely graze in pastures in a faithful shepherd's sight;
 so may we, while God is guiding, live secure in peace abiding,
 in a land with joy made bright. In a faithful shepherd's sight.

When I walk in death's dark valley, I will fear no evil,
 for his rod and staff will comfort me.

He spreads a table here before me, and my cup is overflowing.
 Goodness shall follow me.
 And I will dwell in the house of God forevermore.

LITANY OF AFFIRMATION *Verbie Prevost*

I believe I need a shepherd:
**because I am sometimes timid and other times overconfident,
 because I often don't know the best path,
 because I rush into dead ends or lead others into hazardous places,
 because the things I crave may not be what is good for me.
 I need a shepherd.**

I believe in Jesus, the perfect shepherd:
**his wisdom leads me to the best opportunities,
 his word comforts me when I'm anxious or afraid,
 his arm steadies me when I feel weary and heavy-laden,
 his gaze looks for me when I have wandered away.
 Jesus is the perfect shepherd.**

Jesus, the Good Shepherd:
**he loves me with a love that is to be shared with others,
 he calls me by name as he does each of his children,
 he welcomes me into the fold that welcomes everyone.**

Jesus is the Good Shepherd
and we are the sheep of his pasture.

*HYMN 187 *BRADBURY*
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

PROCLAMATION

EPISTLE READING *Thomas Quisenberry*
I Peter 2:19-25 (NRSV)
 The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE *Thomas Quisenberry*
Ground Endurance

RESPONSE

*HYMN 816 *WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT*
If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY *Jeff Parker*

PREPARATION FOR GIVING *Laura Warren*
 Just as the women ran joyfully from the empty tomb
 to share the good news of the resurrection,
 may we joyfully provide the means by which that same good news
 can be shared with our neighbors here and throughout the world.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS *K. Matthews*
We Have a Shepherd

We are willful and stubborn and we're sure we know best,
 though we need one another some rush on up ahead,
 and by nightfall we find some were lost, some were left,
 and we cannot save them all.

But we have a shepherd, a shepherd who will not sleep
 until he has found us and brings home the last lost sheep.

We are blind to the dangers and so quick to believe
 when the wolves in sheep's clothing come to prey on the weak,
 and they have us surrounded before we can flee,
 and we cannot save ourselves.

But we have a shepherd, a shepherd who loves so much
 that when we are helpless he lays down his life for us.

Still my heart's prone to wander from the path I have known
 to the wild barren desert unprotected, alone,
 'til I'm starving for meaning, my hope has run dry
 and I cannot find my way.

But I have a shepherd who leads where the green grass grows
 and there, by still waters, the shepherd restores my soul.

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS *OLD 100TH*

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 *Laura Warren*

*WORK OF THE CHURCH *Thomas Quisenberry*

*WORDS OF BLESSING

*CHARGE *Thomas Quisenberry*

*RESPONSE *ACCLAMATIONS*

**This is the threefold truth on which our faith depends,
 and with this joyful cry worship begins and ends:**

Christ has died! Christ is ris-en! Christ will come a-gain!

POSTLUDE *arr. D. Busarow*

Lift High the Cross
 (Hymn 826)

Following the postlude, please exit at your convenience.

*Please stand, if able.

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