

Gemma Hinceman has fun at preschool.

THE INTERIM

Volume 80 Issue 5



February 26, 2023

From the Pastor...

Lent has begun. Whether or not you are “giving up” something for Lent, I hope you will commit to focus on your spiritual journey in these forty days. To help you do so, I will be preaching on *Lenten Encounters*. We will see how encountering Jesus can change our lives.

Our Lenten Encounters include:

- *Satan: Overcoming Temptation*, Matthew 4:1-11, February 26, 2023
- *Nicodemus – Finding New Life*, John 3:1-17, March 5, 2023
- *The Woman at the Well – Replenished by Living Water*, John 4:5-42, March 12, 2023
- *The Man Born Blind – Seeing with New Eyes*, John 9:1-41, March 19, 2023
- *Lazarus: Overcoming Grief*, John 11:1-45, March 26, 2023

Wednesday evenings in Lent will offer another opportunity to focus on spiritual growth. Lent was originally a time to teach new Christians the basics of the faith. This Lenten Season we will use our Wednesday times to remember the essential practices of Christian life.

The Essential Practices of Christian Life include:

- *Worship: Centering Our Lives on God*, March 1, 2023
- *Fellowship: Sharing Our Lives Together*, March 8, 2023
- *Discipleship: Growing in Faith*, March 15, 2023
- *Ministry: Showing Christ’s Love*, March 22, 2023
- *Mission & Witness: Sharing Our Faith*, March 29, 2023
- *Stewardship: Using God’s Resources Wisely*, April 5, 2023

Everyone laughed last Sunday when I told the joke about the little boy who was asked what he was giving up for Lent. His response was, “We’re Baptist and we don’t give up nothing for nobody.” That might capture our independent spirit, but I pray it doesn’t capture our true feelings on Lent. Let’s not miss this opportunity to grow in Christ.



Schedule

Sunday, February 26

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday, February 27

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, February 28

10:00 a.m. "Jesus In Me" Bible Study

Wednesday, March 1

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wed. After-School Program
5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal
6:00 p.m. Preschool Choir, Children's Choir,
& Missions
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 2

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Friday, March 3

6:00 p.m. Parents Night Out

Sunday, March 5

9:00 a.m. Sunday School
10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream
Eddie Steele Fund Alms Offering

Monday, March 6

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Tuesday, March 7

10:00 a.m. "Jesus In Me" Bible Study

Wednesday, March 8

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal
6:00 p.m. Preschool Choir, Children's Choir,
& Missions
6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 9

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions
Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri
Tel: 704-873-7231

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Happy Birthday

March 1

Michael White

March 3

Judy Jackson

March 5

Connie Minnix

March 6

Jacob Palmer

March 7

Caroline Bentley

Ruby Kate Lowrance

March 8

Luke Williams

March 9

Bob Dellinger

Brent Winston

March 10

Clarence Poole

March 11

Margaret Barnard

March 12

Nathan Rash

March 13

Johnie McLeod

March 14

Donnie Bowers

Kelby Houston

Kevin Houston

March 16

Barbara Price

Ian Rushton

Tim Tobey

Stan Williams

March 17

Joel Wilson

March 19

Andrew White

March 20

Hailey Wiseman

March 23

Tammy Tillery

April Waugh

March 24

Kristina Kyles

March 25

Bill Eubanks

Hersey Miller

March 27

Lori Fincannon

Steve Koontz

Jud Van Zee

March 31

Donna Abercrombie

Don Daniel

Luke Wimpy

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of February 12 & 19, 2023

	2/12	2/19
Live Stream Views.	n/a	38
In-Person.	112	143
Sunday School.	56	105

Financial Statistics

	February	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	70,634.00	436,050.00
Budget Receipts	24,661.00	373,897.00
Goals Not Yet Met	(45,973.00)	(62,153.00)
Alms	832.00	7,676.00
Designated	1,759.00	30,804.00

Baptismal Study Report

Thanks to all who participated in our baptismal study and discussions. Over the past two months we looked at: Our Stories of Baptism, A Historical and Biblical Review, Understanding Other Traditions, and Core Baptist Principals. We also discussed our thoughts on our current baptismal policies.

Together we learned that:

- First Baptist Church can discuss a conflictual issue in a gracious manner so that we each feel heard and valued.
- A substantial number of people would like to find a way to include Christians from other traditions more deeply into our fellowship.
- A significant number of people see immersion as a distinct way of identifying as a Baptist.

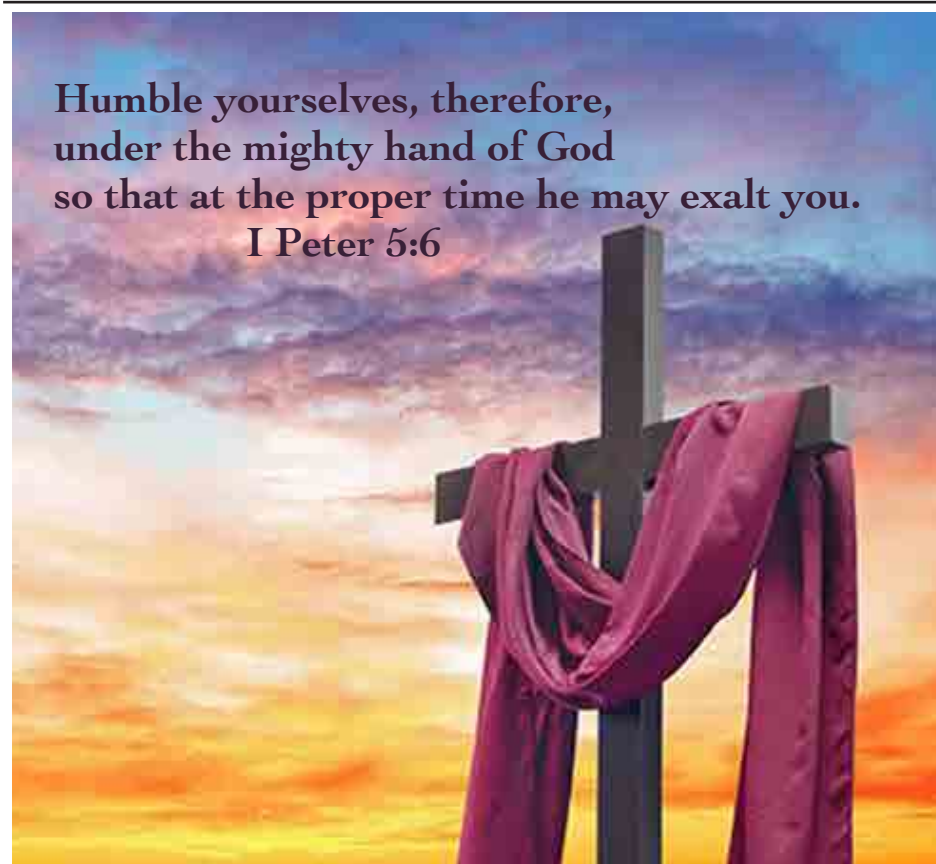
In today's often polarized world, having a frank but respectful discussion is no small feat. Being able to do so makes us a stronger congregation.

Our staff and deacons, however, recognize that we have not reached a consensus on these matters. We will continue to prayerfully seek way to move forward, while honoring all involved. If you have ideas, we encourage you to talk to us as we continue to process these discussions.

A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

We are super excited about the upcoming Operation Inasmuch that will be Saturday, April 22. Please mark your calendars to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve and reach our community. More information will be coming soon about our projects and the sign-up for the locations to serve. Please be in prayer for this day and who we are able to reach and impact.

We will have our Missions Yard Sale on April 22 as well. So plan on bringing your famous yard sale items beginning Sunday, April 16 - Friday, April 21. We will not collect clothes or TVs for the yard sale. We will have the Clothes Closet open on April 22, 8:30 -11:30 a.m. for anyone who is in need of items within our community.





Announcements



Welcome to Our Church Family!
Joe Stephens joined our congregation on Sunday, February 19. Welcome to our church family!

Wednesday Evening Menus

March 1

baked potato and salad bar

March 8

breakfast for dinner

No reservation is needed.
Cost is \$5.00/adult and \$4.00/child.

Parents Night Out Friday, March 3, 2023 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Children (birth- grade 5) are invited for a fun evening of recreation, pizza, crafts, and a movie. Cost is \$5.00/child. Use the QR code to register or call the office at 704-873-7231.



Eddie Steele Fund March Alms Offering - March 5, 2023

Our March Alms offering will be put toward the Eddie Steele Fund at Fifth Street Ministries in memory of our dear friend Eddie Steele. Eddie was a brother in Christ, a friend, a co-worker, a volunteer, and a caretaker of our campus. Eddie passed away in June of 2016. Each March (Eddie's birthday month), we remember him with a contribution to the fund set up in his name that helps other homeless individuals get back on their feet.

Senior Adult Luncheon Thursday, March 23, 2023 11:00 a.m. - FLC

This month's entertainment will be an hour of gospel music with the Gospel Voices. The menu includes BBQ, baked beans, slaw, and dessert. Please make your reservation by Monday, March 20 at 12:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parents Night Out

Friday, March 3 - 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Eddie Steele Fund

Alms Offering

Sunday, March 5

Palm Sunday

April 2

Maundy Thursday Service

April 6 - 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday Community Service

April 7 - 12:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 8 - 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday

Breakfast - 9:00 a.m.

Service - 10:00 a.m.

Operation Inasmuch

Saturday, April 22

Mission Trip Yard Sale

Saturday, April 22

Church Directory Photos

April 25-29

Vacation Bible School

July 24-28

