

*The 3-year-old preschool class learns the Pledge of Allegiance.*



# THE INTERIM

Volume 80 Issue 4

February 12, 2023

## From the Pastor...

I'm always amused by Punxsutawney Phil and his Groundhog Day prediction. Apparently, the little fellow saw his shadow a couple of weeks ago, so we will have six more weeks of winter. Of course, poor Phil has only been right about 39% of the time, so I'm not too worried.

No one knows how much winter weather we will have in the next few weeks, but I predict that winter will end at some point. This is true whether we're talking about the actual temperature or one of those "cold" times in our lives. Winters come, but thank God, they also go.

One way the Church marks the ending of winter and coming of spring is the season of Lent. Though Lent seems like a dark time focused on sacrifice, it actually focuses us on light. Lent literally means to "lengthen," as the days are growing longer.

Here are some important Lent/Easter dates to remember:

- February 22, 2023 – Ash Wednesday (6:15 p.m. Service in Sanctuary)
- April 2, 2023 – Palm Sunday
- April 6, 2023 – Maundy Thursday (7:00 p.m. Service in Sanctuary)
- April 7, 2023 – Good Friday (We host the Community Noon Service)
- April 9, 2023 – Easter Sunday (Brunch at 9:00 a.m. / Worship at 10:00 a.m.)

As you prepare for Lent, I encourage you to think about doing more than "giving up something." The practice of self-denial is a good exercise, but we need to do more than deny. We also need to focus on the way Jesus would have us to live.

I recommend the Lenten Devotionals that can be found online at [d365.org](http://d365.org). They help us to pause, listen, think, pray and go. You can get the devotionals by visiting the website ([d365.org](http://d365.org)) where you can read them or sign up for daily emails. You can also download the d365 app.

Lent can be a very meaningful season that prepares us for Easter. I hope you will find ways to make this time impactful to your faith. I look forward to seeing you on each Sunday as we finish up Epiphany and move into Lent.

## Schedule

### Sunday, February 12

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream
- 11:00 a.m. Baptism Discussion

### Monday, February 13

- 8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

### Tuesday, February 14

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

### Wednesday, February 15

- 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, February 16

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

### Sunday, February 19

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

### Monday, February 20

- 8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

### Tuesday, February 21

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

### Wednesday, February 22

- 8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
- 2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wed. After-School Program
- 5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 6:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

### Thursday, February 23

- 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

### THE INTERIM (USPS 581-800)

Published Every Two Weeks  
 by First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Avenue,  
 Periodicals postage paid at Statesville, NC 28677

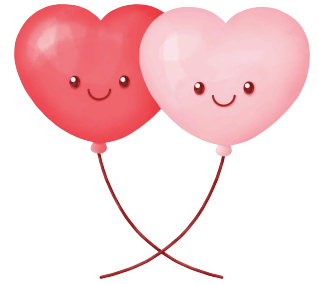
POSTMASTER: send address changes to: THE INTERIM  
 First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677-5310

## A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

Happy Valentine's Day.

There is so much love all around, but there are also so many people who feel alone and left out. To be honest, I have never been a huge fan of Valentine's Day. I always try and focus on the meaning behind the day and live that out throughout the year. How can we be loving, reaching out, and a helping hand? For me it is hard to try and do all the things and not feel like you are missing out or leaving someone left out. However sometimes I think it is the pressure that we put on ourselves that we don't feel like we do anything to make a difference. The pressure to feel like we didn't impact everyone messes with our minds to leave us in this complacent place. What if we just focused on one small simple thing that impacted one person or one family and made a difference? What would that look like to you? What could you do that would make a difference? Could it be taking a meal to someone, sending a card, giving someone a call or maybe just meeting for dinner somewhere? May that be our goals for the month, maybe even the year so that we can do one thing that takes us to the next step to meet people and help them walk with God.

Many thoughts and prayers.  
 Elizabeth



## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of January 29 & February 5, 2023

	1/29	2/5
Live Stream Views. . . . .	41	77
In-Person. . . . .	117	142
Sunday School. . . . .	90	101

## Financial Statistics

	February	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	70,634.00	436,050.00
Budget Receipts	16,481.00	365,717.00
Goals Not Yet Met	(54,153.00)	(70,333.00)
Alms	762.00	7,606.00
Designated	1,663.00	30,708.00

## Update from Cassidy Barker, Missionary to Tanzania

These past few months have been busy but fruitful. In early November, I met a woman at church one Sunday (I'll call her Esther). I found out that Esther is the sister of previous witch doctor, Tabitha. Moved by her sister's choice to leave behind a life of witchcraft to follow Jesus, she decided that she wanted to leave a life of prostitution to follow Jesus. Soon after I met her that Sunday, Esther was baptized. Doto (my missionary partner) and I decided that we should visit her often to encourage her to keep following Jesus. During our first visit to her house, Esther told us that she was concerned for her 11-year-old daughter, Hope (not actually her name). She told us that Hope left home the day before and didn't come back until the next morning. Hope had apparently slept over a friend's house. During our visit, Doto tried to talk to Hope to get a better understanding of why she left home without telling her mother. It soon became evident that Hope's friend was trying to convince her to attend the upcoming tohara. Hope's friend told her that the tohara was how you become a real women. She told her that it's just an injection and that you'll get free candy and gifts if you go. She told her everyone would celebrate her and that she would be ready to get married. Hope had been easily swayed by her friend, so Doto explained to her about what the tohara actually is, how badly it would hurt her, and that it is irreversible. She also explained that our team was going to be hosting a camp to protect girls from the ritual and that she is welcome to come. By the end of the conversation, Hope agreed to go to the camp instead of the tohara. She was afraid that if she stayed home she would be persuaded to go the tohara with gifts such as new clothes and new shoes. Hope is just one of the girls that was protected from the tohara this year. I feel incredibly blessed and thankful that I got to play a small role in protecting this girl and affirming her value in the Lord.

The camp started in early December, but unfortunately, I wasn't able to participate the first few days because I picked up typhoid. This was challenging, but after taking some antibiotics, I felt much better. Once I recovered, I was able to help out at the camp by simply playing games with the girls and talking with them about their lives. Many of the girls had to stay at the camp during Christmas, so we decided to go that day and cook a Christmas meal for them. Although they were away from their families, I think they really enjoyed Christmas this year. We've mainly spent January trying to get back on a normal schedule after the girls camp. I'm continuing to meet with my women's discipleship group. As we have continued to meet, I have seen how the Lord has been helping each of these women to be His faithful disciples. During our last meeting, a couple women showed up soaking wet because they walked through the pouring rain. Tanzanians absolutely hate the rain and will not usually go anywhere if it's raining. There have been many times when our group hasn't met at all because it was raining, but I think these women are beginning to see that although following Jesus is hard, it is worth it. With only a few months left here, my hope and prayer is that these women will be able to continue following Jesus faithfully and that they will have the confidence to share Him with others.



### How to Pray for the Mission

1. Pray for the missionaries in Tanzania - for their health, spiritual growth, and faithfulness in difficult seasons of ministry.
2. Pray that the discipleship groups will produce fruit in the lives of those who attend.
3. Pray that God's Word will convict people of their sin to live in the freedom of Christ.
4. Pray that God will lead us to people of peace who are ready to hear the Gospel and accept it with eagerness.
5. Pray that God will work in the hearts of the people of Tarime to be faithful in making more disciples.
6. Pray that the ministry will be according to the will of God and be sensitive to the Holy Spirit.
7. Pray for those experiencing heartache over the loss of a loved one as well as those experiencing fear about being able to meet their everyday needs.

"Now to Him to is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, according to the power within is, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen." - Ephesians 3:20-21



# Announcements

## Wednesday Evening Menus

**February 15**  
Sub Express sandwiches

**February 22**  
boston butt

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

## Baptismal Small Group Listening Sessions

Two opportunities to participate in the small group listening sessions:

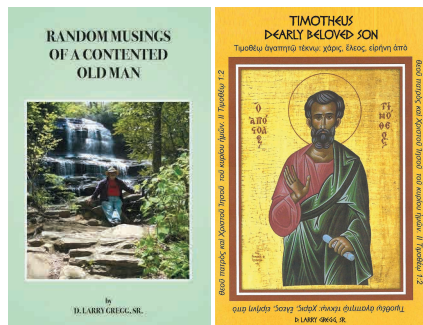
- 11:00 am, February 12 (Alternate time if you cannot do Wednesdays)
- 6:00 pm, February 15, 2023 (Preferred time if possible)

## Books by Larry Gregg for Sale

Two books by Larry Gregg are for sale in the church office

- *Random Musing of a Contented Old Man* (\$18.95)
- *Timotheus: Dearly Beloved Son* (\$23.95).

If you would like to purchase these books, please see Mary Jane Rash in the church office.



## Pictorial Directory Photos April 25-29, 2023

We are planning to put together a new pictorial church directory. Please save the date to plan to have your photo taken - April 25-29.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
February 22 - 6:15 p.m.

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

**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

