



From the Pastor...

Our Sesquicentennial Celebration continues into October as we focus on our priority of worship. Yes, this is something we do every Sunday, but we still need to pay attention to worship. This is why we are going to explore the who, why, what and how of worship.

We start this Sunday asking the question, "Who Worships?" This is especially relevant as Sunday, October 5, 2025, is World Communion Day. Christians around the globe will take communion and come to the Lord's table to remember that we belong to the Church universal.

I hope you will join us for this exciting Sunday. You don't want to miss a worldwide event! The rest of the month will also be special as we explore the many facets of worship. In fact, you will get to hear our Minister of Music, James Martin, preach for the first time in his sixteen years of ministry with us.

Here is the schedule:

October 5, 2025	Who Worships? (World Communion) Psalm 150
October 12, 2025	Why Do We Worship? (James Martin Preaching) Psalm 96:1-9
October 19, 2025	What is Worship? Romans 12:1-2
October 26, 2025	How Do We Worship? (James Martin Preaching) Psalm 95

Remember, November 16, 2025, is the day our 150th Anniversary Celebration culminates. Please make plans to be here for our celebration worship and luncheon. We're also counting on you to get the word out to your families and former members.

Schedule

Sunday, October 5

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

11:15 After Worship Sunday School

Monday, October 6

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, October 8

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 Wond. Wed. After-School Program

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Music & Missions, Youth on Mission,
Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, October 9

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, October 12

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

1:15 After Worship Sunday School

Monday, October 13

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, October 15

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 Wond. Wed. After-School Program

5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal

6:00 p.m. Music & Missions, Youth on Mission,
Adult Bible Study

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, October 16

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

A Message from Minister of Missions Elizabeth Kilby

I returned from a missions conference this week and how encouraging it is to be in a room filled with 1,000 like-minded missions organizations and ministers focused on spreading the gospel in our communities and world. I heard story after story of things that others hoped they could change in their congregation and was so encouraged to share things that we do to inspire missions both locally and internationally. Thank you for our commitment to making Jesus known locally and globally.

Our next big event will be White Christmas, more information will be out on that event soon.

Many thoughts and prayers,
Elizabeth



Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
Mrs. Kristina Kyles.....Children's Ministry Associate / Preschool Director
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

Spiritual Statistics

	9/21	9/28
In Person	166	185
Live Stream	22	16
Sunday School	80	89

Financial Statistics

	September	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	62,687.00	811,013.00
Budget Receipts	62,121.00	798,089.00
Goals Not Met	(566.00)	(12,924.00)

Prayers of the People: The Gift of Grandchildren

By Greg & Sue Smith; CBF Field Personnel Emeriti

www.cbf.net/blog

Have you ever found yourself staring at something—or someone—so intently that, without realizing it, you were crying? It could be a beautiful landscape vista that created in you an amazing sense of awe. Or a masterful painting that penetrated your soul more deeply than anything ever had before. Or an act of kindness so genuine and compassionate that it reminded you, despite humanity's waywardness, that God did pronounce our creation to be "very good."

I have. I recently found myself brushing away a tear. It happened when I beheld, as if for the first time, the gift of my grandchild. Just the thought of that moment even now brings tremendous life, joy and peace to my soul.

Sue and I have six grandchildren, each a gift of salvation. Together, a gift more wonderful than words can describe. A gift that saves me time and again.

Whether my gift comes...

- When one of my grandchildren cries out "Pappa" or "Abuelo" (I go by both!); or
- When I kneel next to the younger grandchildren and watch the helicopters and airplanes take off and land at the local airport; or
- When I hang a picture on our wall or a drawing created with care on our refrigerator; or
- When I toss a ball or shoot hoops and we talk about the day; or
- When I watch them play with their friends with such joy and enthusiasm; or
- When I hold our youngest in my arms and gaze at a big, toothless smile looking back.

It's all the same. Each is a precious, wonderful and joyful gift from a loving and saving God. The biblical Ruth couldn't contemplate life without her family. That is the essence of her plea to her mother-in-law Naomi not to send her away. While I cannot "cling to" my grandchildren as Ruth clung to Naomi, I share her sentiment of life as unbearable apart from the ones who give meaning and joy to our own.

If I had enough space here, I would also include Sue, my children, my parents, my sister and her family and others as God's gifts of salvation in my life.

But the faces, smiles, laughter, silliness—even the mischievousness—of my grandchildren signify at this stage of my life a vital, yea critical, way God is saving me.

¡A Dios sea la gloria!

—Greg

Pray, Practice, Ponder

Who or what brings so much joy to your life that imaging it moves you to tears? Today, ponder how God might be using this gift as a part of God's salvation, your restoration and your wholeness.

*Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

Psalm 95:2





Volume 82 Issue 20

October 5, 2025

Announcements

After-Worship Sunday School

Many have mentioned that they would like more Bible Study, but that 9 am on Sunday morning is not a good time for them. Dr. Hersey Miller offers an "After Worship Sunday School Class." It uses the same curriculum as our regular classes, but meet from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm. If you are interested, join Dr. Miller in room 102 of the Education Building (Heritage Hall Two). If you have children and plan to attend, please let Melissa Wilson know.

Children's Music & Missions Day Saturday, November 8, 2025 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

CBFNC is holding a Children's Missions Day for K-5th graders on the theme of Serving Together on Saturday, November 8 at First Baptist Statesville. Please join us for a comprehensive mission day sponsored by the CBF Children's Ministry team. The day includes a focus on Jesus as he fed the 5,000 with music and a missions project. Sign up with Melissa and Kristina.

A Note of Appreciation from N.B. Mills Elementary School

Words cannot explain the smiles your notes brought to our teachers! They arrived at the perfect time, and the thoughtful snacks were very much appreciated as well. Your kindness and encouragement truly made a difference.

Thank you so much for supporting our staff in such a meaningful way.

N. B. Mills Elementary School



Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 26 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.



Children of all ages are invited for a fun evening of trunk or treating. Please let Melissa know if you'd like to decorate your trunk. We will need LOTS of candy.



Save the Date



November 16, 2025

Please join us for a special worship service and celebration luncheon.

The Book of Revelation - God Wins! Wednesday Evening Series

October 8

The Blowing of the Trumpets
(Revelation 8:6-11:19)

October 15

The Defeat of the Dragon and the
Emergence of the Two Beasts
(Rev. 12-13)

October 22

Life from the Lamb or Wrath from the Bowls
(Revelation 14-16)

October 29

The Overthrow of "Babylon"
(Revelation 17:1-19:10)