

We celebrated Baptist Women in Ministry Month of Advocacy on Sunday, March 15 with Minister of Children and Students Melissa in the pulpit.



THE INTERIM

Volume 83 Issue 6

March 22, 2026

From the Pastor...

Easter is one of the best times to invite someone to church. Many people are looking for a place to worship on Easter, and we do a great Easter Celebration. You can also bring them to the 9:00 a.m. Easter Brunch, where they can meet folks in a more casual setting.

Yes, I want our church grow, but that is not why I want you to invite folks for Easter. Church growth is a side effect of ministry, not its purpose. Our purpose is to share the love of Christ.

People know when you want something from them and it's not attractive. People also know when you care about them, and it's transformative. The best reason to invite someone for Easter is because you have experienced the Risen Lord and want to share that experience!

It is easy to simply focus on our Easter worship. We want to see our friends at church. We want to have family time. But those who truly experience Easter will want to share the Good News!

The women who found the empty grave became the first evangelist. The disciples, who saw the risen Lord, started the church. And, the Church is called to continuously share the hope of the risen Christ.

I urge you to pray about inviting someone to join you this Easter Sunday. Ask the Lord to reveal to you someone who needs a word of hope. Contact that person and share how much Easter at First Baptist Church means to you. That's how we truly celebrate Easter.

**Holy Week at
First Baptist Church**

Palm Sunday
March 29, 2026

Maundy Thursday Service
April 2, 2026
7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday
Community Service**
April 3, 2026
12:00 p.m.
St. John Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday
April 5, 2026
9:00 a.m. Breakfast
10:00 a.m. Worship

Schedule

Sunday, March 22

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream
- 11:15 a.m. After Worship Sunday School

Monday, March 23

- 8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, March 25

- 8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
- 2:00 p.m. Wond. Wed. After School Program
- 5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 6:00 p.m. Music & Missions & Youth on Mission
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, March 26

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Sunday, March 29

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

Monday, March 30

- 8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, April 1

- 8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball
- 2:00 p.m. Wond. Wed. After School Program
- 5:15 p.m. Family Night Meal
- 6:00 p.m. Music & Missions & Youth on Mission
- 6:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, April 2

- 1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

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

Message from Minister of Mission Elizabeth Kilby

We are excited about our upcoming mission trip to Colorado. Things are being finalized and our team gathers soon to begin all the preparations. We have over 15 going on this trip. Please pray for our participants and our partner church that has been identified and the work we have ahead of us. We are looking forward to our Missions Lunch fundraiser on Sunday, April 19. Please make sure you are joining us for that.

We have many good things that are going on with our partners. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Powercross Ministries, and we are super excited for the next chapter for them. Iredell Christian Ministries just received a \$10,000 Missions Grant from First Presbyterian and served 2,451 families, and 7642 individuals. Yokefellow Ministries received \$15,000. from Speedway Children's Charity, served 9,657 families, and helped 26,476 individuals in 2025. So many more good stories from other partners I hope to share with you soon.

Our partners are doing big things with wonderful results. We are thrilled to work with them to make their missions impact possible. Thank you for praying and investing in them.

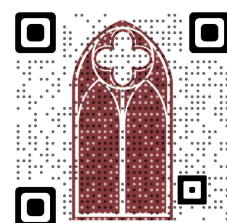
Spiritual Statistics

	3/8	3/15
In-Person	141	178
Online	16	21
Sunday School	80	90

Financial Statistics

	March	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	83,308.00	565,455.00
Budget Receipts	48,467.00	441,344.00
Goals Not Met	(34,841.00)	(124,111.00)
Eddie Steele Fund	3,441.00	14,377.00
Designated	1,089.00	92,325.00

Scan the QR code to give online.





Announcements

Welcome to Our Church Family!



Linda Dawbarn joined our congregation at the worship service on Sunday, March 8, 2025. Welcome to our church family!

Catch Up Offering

Due to snow and ice, we missed two in-person worship services this winter. Because of this, we have fallen 20% behind our budget goals (around \$120,000). To address this need, we are collecting a special "catch up offering," on Palm's Sunday, March 29, 2026.

If you missed an offering, take this opportunity to "catch up." If you're able, give an additional gift to help the church "catch up." Our Business Management Team and Staff will lead the way in this. We are grateful for all your gifts. You make a difference!

Good Friday Community Service

April 3, 2026 - 12:00 p.m.

Each year, the downtown churches rotate sponsoring a Community Good Friday Service. This year's service is noon, at St. John's Lutheran Church, 740 North Center Street Statesville, NC 28677.

Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 4, 2026 - 10:00 a.m.

All children are invited for a fun morning of hunting eggs on our front lawn. We need your help stuffing eggs. Please take home a bag of plastic eggs, stuff with individually wrapped treats or other treats, and return to the rack outside of the sanctuary.

Happy Birthday

April 2

Betty Dyckes
Taylor Osborne
Gavin Williams

April 5

Amanda Church

April 6

Kevin Beale

April 7

Jack Devine
Darbee Lewis

April 8

Shirley Deal

April 11

Art Fincannon
Eleshia Lorias

April 12

Marc Poole

April 14

Jane French

April 16

Anna Gordon
Chris Hedrick
Lois Hawkins

April 17

Will Kyles
Jeffrey Templeton
Susan Webb-Shultz

April 18

Susan Plyler
Jim Van zee

April 20

Mary Elliott Moore

April 21

Brock Lowrance
Bob Turnipseed

April 23

David McDaniel

April 25

Melissa Tompkins

April 26

Leah Johnson
Mary Jane Rash

April 27

Peggy Yeckley

April 28

Sandra Henderson
Max James

April 30

Allen Lippard



Baptist Women in Ministry Month of Advocacy

On Sunday, March 15 we celebrated Baptist Women in Ministry Month of Advocacy with our Minister of Children and Students Melissa Wilson giving the message. To learn more about the Baptist Women in Ministry, you can visit their website www.bwim.info

In 2024, Baptist Women in Ministry released *Midwives of a Movement* which chronicles the stories of the women who boldly birthed a movement to seek greater visibility and opportunities for women in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in the 1970s and 1980s. Despite great opposition, their courage blazed pathways for advancing women in ministry and leadership among Baptists over the last 40+ years.

During a time when women in ministry among Baptists are hearing negativity surrounding their call and service to God, BWIM will join in solidarity with all women who serve among Baptists to share a positive message of affirmation and hope. One that proudly demonstrates that when women are pushed down and marginalized, we always rise up!

You can view *Midwives of a Movement* now on YouTube.

Film Synopsis

Midwives of a Movement features interviews with eleven women who were active in the early days of the women's movement within the Southern Baptist Convention in the 1970's and 1980's, archival material from these years, and commentary from Baptist Women in Ministry Executive Director, Meredith Stone, and Baptist Historian and Baylor University professor, Mandy McMichael.

The feature documentary film begins with a prologue of reflections on the beginnings of the women's movement within the Southern Baptist Convention through the 1978 SBC Consultation on Women in Church Related Vocations in Nashville, Tennessee. Following these reflections, the women interviewed tell of how they came to feel called to ministry within the Southern Baptist Convention, the opposition they faced, and what they needed as they began seek opportunities to live out their calling.

The chronological aspect of the film picks back up in 1983 as women began organizing to form an organization that would serve their needs and advocate within the SBC. They reflect on the successes of their movement and organization in 1983, but also describe the backlash against them that occurred within the SBC in 1984. Despite the opposition, however, the movement only grew.

Like any movement, there were ups and downs as well as areas of conflict on which the women offer retrospective insight which resounds with the continued story of advocating for women in ministry. The film ends as each of them reflect on what their involvement in this movement means to them today.

