



1 VIRGINIA STREET
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

March 2019

First Baptist Family,

This month we will begin our Lenten journey together. On Tuesday, March 5, we'll have a pancake supper in Rosser Hall. This celebration, commonly known as Fat Tuesday, will be a time of food, fellowship, and fun. I hope you can make it. On Wednesday, March 6 at 6 p.m., we will have a short Ash Wednesday service in the chapel. We will not be having supper that night. Ash Wednesday serves as the official beginning of Lent. Ashes will be placed on the foreheads or the hands of those who wish to participate. This ashen cross serves as an invitation and a reminder. It reminds us that we are sinful creatures who need God's mercy, and it invites us to enter a period of self-examination, repentance, self-denial, fasting, and prayer.

This period, known as Lent, extends for 40 days excluding Sundays. It mirrors the 40 days Jesus was tempted in the desert. During this period of time, you are encouraged to be more intentional about your relationship with Christ and acknowledge what separates you from God. Give something up or start something new. Give up dessert or practice a new spiritual discipline. Fast or start a prayer journal. Whatever your choice, preparing yourself for the Lenten season is indeed a journey. It's a journey where we encounter mortality and eternity, sin and grace, life and death. Before we can celebrate the resurrection on Easter,

we must acknowledge our own finitude. We have to go through the cross to reach the empty tomb. Lent is a time in which we set our faces towards Jerusalem remembering that we came from dust and to dust we shall return, and it is a time in which we remember, thankfully, that the cross is not where our journey ends.

During this season, you'll discover that we have a mixture of new events along with familiar church traditions to help you spiritually. Ben and I will be wearing robes and stoles in worship during Lent this year. You'll see the new vestments connoting a special time in the life of the church. Children and youth will begin serving as acolytes in worship, lighting the candles to remind us of Christ's presence and leading us in a Call to Worship. Finally, we will have a Tenebrae service on Good Friday this year. Our church traditions will also remain. We'll continue with our drop-in service on Maundy Thursday. Our children will wave palm branches, and the choir will perform their Easter Cantata on Palm Sunday. And all of this will prepare us for a wonderful service on Easter Sunday. We'll even have the blooming cross out front. As we start this journey together, I invite you to be intentional on it. It will make our celebration all the more special.

Grace and Peace,
Kris



2019 FBC Lent Schedule

Tuesday, March 5	Pancake Supper 6 p.m.
Wednesday, March 6	Ash Wednesday Service 6 p.m.
1 st Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 10	"Give Back" Deuteronomy 26:1-11
2 nd Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 17	"Unencumbered Allegiances" Philippians 3:17-41
3 rd Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 24	"Bearing Fruit" Luke 13:1-9
4 th Sunday of Lent Sunday, March 31	"The Parable of the Loving Father" Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
5 th Sunday of Lent Sunday, April 7	"Pressing On" Philippians 3:4b-14
Sunday, April 14	Palm Sunday Easter Cantata: "Victor's Crown"
Thursday, April 18	Maundy Thursday Service 6-7 p.m.
Friday, April 19	Tenebrae Service 6 p.m.

FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

March 5, 2019

6 p.m. in Rosser Hall

First Baptist Church

Bristol, VA

Food, Fun, & Fellowship

DONATIONS

ONLY!!

Gluten Free options will be available



The Last Thing You Surrender by Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Leonard Pitts Jr., is a new historical page-turner, an American tale of race and war set against a backdrop of racial conflict on the front lines and the home front. It explores the powerful moral struggles of individuals from a divided nation. What does it take to change someone's mind about race? What does it take for a country and a people to move forward, transformed?

For our children, there's *The Flyaway Kite* by Steve Bjorkman, award-winning author/illustrator. There was a boy who had a kite that he loved very much. Every day they would have a new adventure, but one day the kite made a terrible decision that changed everything. Could one little kite survive in the world all by itself? The story is a clear portrait of redemption, capturing the essence of God's redeeming grace.



On Friday, March 15, we will travel to Chuckey, Tennessee, for lunch at the famous Farmer's Daughter Restaurant.

The Farmer's Daughter serves family-style meals and is only open on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Their food is always fresh, local and in-season. The Farmer's Daughter selects their foods from local farms or the North Carolina Farmers Market. We will leave the church at 10 a.m. Call the church office to sign-up. We would love to have you join us!



VBS 2019

JUNE 3-7

6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

ALL AGES: Babies - Adults

save
the
date

Start your spring cleaning early! Our youth are sponsoring a church-wide yard sale April 5-6 to raise money for this year's mission trip, camp, and summer activities. You can call and arrange for pick-up on March 16 or 23. You may also drop off donations yourself any Friday in March between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Let's make this one the biggest sale yet!

Youth News

Youth Summer Camp - "University 2019" July 22-27

Registration Information: Thanks to our FBC youth budget, and the cost offsetting events we have already held, each student need only to pay a \$50 registration fee and another \$125 balance as long as they participate in eight hours of church service to members of the community. Set up your church service through Ben in the church office any time between now and camp. If anyone needs to help with the registration or balance payment, this can be worked out. Just let Ben know! If a student chooses to not work eight hours of church service to offset their cost of camp, they will be responsible for paying the \$365 cost of camp to Unidiversity. (FBC never wants a youth to be restricted from participation because of financial commitments.)

To Register for Camp: Registration is open now until February 28 with a \$50 deposit. After February 28 the cost of registration goes up \$35 to include a late fee.

Youth Mission Trip June 16-23: We will be traveling to North Charleston, SC to help the Metanoia Ministry. They work with inner city families to get them set up in new or refurbishing housing. They also run programs for inner city kids. They have a wonderful volunteer house in which we will be staying. To register and reserve your spot, a registration fee of \$75 and a medical release form for 2019 must be turned in by May 20, 2019. There are limited spots available, so be sure to sign up ASAP!



The Handbell Choir presented two beautiful pieces on February 17 during the morning worship service. I appreciate this group of twelve ringers for all of their efforts that they put forth in preparing music for worship services. This choir has to work as a team in so many ways, and it certainly made a wonderful addition to our service.

The Children's Choir will be rehearsing on Wednesday evening at 6:30 and on Sunday after the children exit from the sanctuary during the worship service. Parents, please note this new opportunity for your children to come and participate in music on Wednesday evenings.

Sanctuary Choir will be presenting the Easter cantata on Palm Sunday, April 14, during the morning worship service. Please help us spread the word with your family and friends.

In Christ,
Eric



During the 2019 Lenten season, we will include our children and youth as Acolytes in the morning worship services. All children and youth in Grades 4-12 are encouraged to take this opportunity to serve our church and be involved in the worship. There will be an orientation on Sunday, March 3, in the sanctuary following worship service. Please contact Tabettha Palumbo at tabetha@fbcbristol.org or call the church office if your child or youth is interested in participating.



Congratulations to Jarrett Fuller and Allison Pigeon who are expecting a baby boy in March. The Shower Team has set up a basket in the church office where you may drop off gift cards or gifts for Jarrett and Alison. Gift

Cards for purchasing diapers and other baby supplies are always appreciated.

Invite a Friend to the Movies!! Fifth Sunday Night March 31, 2019 Free Admission

This is a great opportunity for you to introduce First Baptist Bristol to your family, friends, and neighbors. Hosted by the Membership Team, there will be movies for all ages--one in Rosser Hall and one in the Youth Room (TBA). Complimentary "snack bars" will be serving hotdogs, potato chips, chips n' salsa, drinks, popcorn, ice cream and more. Come out and join the fun.

It's hard to believe that it's been almost three years since we kicked off our Capital Campaign for church improvements. Our final payments are scheduled to be complete by July.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Capital Campaign Committee we thank each of you for your commitment to making these much-needed improvements. Thank you for helping to continue the legacy of FBC. **Here Today** – on this corner, in this town, offering Christ's love to people before us now. **Here Tomorrow** – for all of those who will need this strong, healthy church to continue the unique ministry of FBC Bristol to our town and the world.

Terri will be sending a letter and a progress report regarding your pledge.

Thank you again,

Joyce Crockett
Capital Campaign Chair

Our Staff

Rev. Kris Aaron
Rev. Ben Ondrak
Mr. Eric D. Hicks
Mrs. Angie Hicks

Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Minister of Music
Assistant Minister of Music

Mrs. Jackie Burnette
Mrs. Tabetha Palumbo
Ms. Kay LaSpina
Ms. Terri Thomas

Pianist
Children's Director
Sexton
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

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P.O. Box 116
Bristol, VA 24203

FBC Pastor Weekend Call Schedule:

March 2-3: Rev. Kris Aaron 803-225-0795 (Cell)
March 9-10: Rev. Ben Ondrak 423-217-8934 (Cell)
March 16-17: Rev. Kris Aaron 803-225-0795 (Cell)
March 23-24: Mr. Eric Hicks 423-534-8188 (Cell)
March 30-31: Ms. Terri Thomas 423-963-7576 (Cell)

Ushers for the Month of March

Head Usher: Harry Scanlan (423)-217-9347
Gilbert & Young Ja Coleman
Jamie & Karen Barger
Terri Cook & Andrew Ondrak

Greeters:

Dean & Diane Cloyd

Deacon of the Week for March

March 3 - Leroy Doran
March 10 - Steve Talbert
March 17 - Tom Makres
March 24 - Gary Malcolm
March 31 - Linda Pruner