



Service

March 2, 2022

6:30pm

Please join us for this service on Wednesday, March 2 to prepare our hearts for the season of Lent. It will be a unique worship experience for you and your family. This service is a time of prayer, reflection, lament, and a pastor-moment where we observe the imposition of ashes together.

Get Ready for Lent!

For the past few years, our church family has grown in its understanding and practice of Lent. Baptist churches in general do not have much experience with Lent, but over the past 2 -3 decades, many Baptist congregations have rediscovered the season of Lent as a time for deep spiritual reflection and growth.

What Is Lent?

The word "lent" comes from an old English word that means "Spring." Lent is not found in the Bible, but it is the season the church has celebrated for centuries as preparation for Easter. Lent refers to the forty days before Easter (excluding Sundays) and it is a time where followers of Jesus focus on the sufferings of Jesus through repentance and spiritual renewal. Historically, the church has encouraged three spiritual habits during Lent (found in Matthew 6): Prayer, Fasting (Giving something up), and Almsgiving (sacrificial generosity). By participating in these three habits in deeper ways, we identify and connect with the sacrifice of Jesus. One note: when you fast in Lent, your fast does not extend to Sundays. Sundays are always feast days in celebration of the resurrection, even in Lent.

Did You Say “Fasting?”

Fasting is not talked about or practiced much in Baptist churches, but it is a crucial part of Lent. When we fast from food, we intentionally re-focus our minds and hearts on God. You can also fast from another action during the entirety of Lent to draw your focus toward God. You can fast from social media, TV, desserts, or anything else. When you fast from something you desire, you recalibrate your life to your deepest desire: God. During Lent at FBCNN, you will have the opportunity to commit to individual fasting and to participate in a corporate fast day.

When Does Lent Begin?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which is March 6. We will begin Lent together as a church family with our Ash Wednesday at 6:30 pm. During the Ash Wednesday service, attendees are invited to have ashes imposed on their foreheads to symbolize their sin, repentance and mortality. Throughout the Bible, ashes were a symbol of repentance, and the imposition of ashes indicates our intention to walk through the Lenten season embracing the suffering of Jesus, emphasizing our repentance, and seeking renewal from the Holy Spirit.

I hope you will join us for the Ash Wednesday service and commit to the journey of suffering, prayer, renewal, and repentance that embodies the season of Lent.

New COVID 19 Building Protocols Forthcoming

As of Tuesday, February 22, the COVID 19 positivity test rate in Newport News was 9.7%. This is down 3% from last week and is very close to the VDH and CDC recommended threshold of 8%. Along with the decrease in case numbers and hospitalizations in our area, this signals that it is time to adjust the COVID protocols for our church building and activities. The staff and Vision Team are working on these adjustments. Please watch your email, social media, and the church app for an update on Friday, February 25 at 5:00 pm. These updated protocols will go into effect Sunday, February 27.

Important Information for One City Marathon on Sunday, March 6

Join us as we support the runners in One City Marathon on Sunday, March 6! One of



our staff members, Kolby Keller, will be running the marathon as well as a couple of our church members. There will **not** be an 8:30am service, or Bible Study for children or youth, so we can cheer on the runners as they pass in front of our building. Individual adult Bible Study classes will decide whether or not to meet. Nursery will be available during this time and the 11am service will occur as usual. Please be mindful that the traffic flow on Warwick will be down to the two lanes closest to our building. The whole marathon begins at Newport News Park and the half marathon begins at Menchville High School, and both start at 7am.

Upcoming Events

March 2 Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30pm (See article for more information.)

March 6 One City Marathon (See information in article above.)



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Our New App Is Here!

You can download our app on your phone, smart TV or Roku player. This will give you the opportunity to get push notifications (notifications that pop up on your phone) that will allow you to stay informed. In the event of bad weather, we will be able to notify everyone if we need to make changes to our Sunday morning services and Bible Study or Wednesday night activities. You can also watch past and present services, see upcoming events, and more. If you need assistance in downloading the app contact Ethan or a member of our Tech Team for help.

Introducing AXIS Academy!

For years, the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) has offered Youth and Children's Ministry Certificate programs for any lay person or ministry leader who wanted sound, engaging ministry training but was unable to attend seminary. Our own Susie Webb received her Certificate in Children's Ministry through this program and later, served as a faculty member.

Now, the BGAV has expanded this program in partnership with Truett Seminary at Baylor University. The program is now called AXIS and it offers an academy of courses taught by Virginia pastors and leaders to help anyone interested in Biblical and ministry training.

These classes are perfect for Sunday morning Bible Study leaders, deacons, church leaders, church members who want to deepen their understanding of the Bible, and persons called into ministry who cannot go to seminary at the present time. These classes are a great value and opportunity for the price (\$150 a course) and are taught on Zoom. Follow the link below to see the upcoming classes:

<https://axistraining.org/what-we-offer/ministry-academy/>

In addition, Pastor Randy Shepley and Pastor Kevin Swann of Ivy Baptist Church are co-teaching an Axis Academy class called *Conversations in Racial Reconciliation* as part of the Spring Axis term. If you want to register for this (or any other) class, you can do so at the link below:

<https://vbmb.wufoo.com/forms/2022-axis-ministry-academy-course-registration/>

Registration for the *Conversations in Racial Reconciliation* closes on February 22. Other classes have different registration deadlines so check them out. Axis is a fantastic opportunity for people to grow in their knowledge of the Bible and ministry skills.

Finally, if you didn't see the video of Pastor Randy and Pastor Swann talking about their upcoming Axis class, check it out:

<https://vimeo.com/673306794>



First Baptist Preschool Now Registering!

Registration for the 2022-2023 school year has started. The preschool has classes for ages 2-4 years old. If you would like more information, please contact Lindsay Rew at 757-930-0911 (ext. 222) or preschool@fbcnn.org.

A Great Way to Help Campbell Webb

Church Family,
Many of you know that Susie and Jeff Webb's daughter, Campbell, has been battling leukemia since the spring. The family has suffered tremendous heartbreaks and prolonged hospital stays, but on September 7th, Campbell was blessed with a bone marrow transplant. The journey will continue to be long, and challenges no doubt lay ahead, but we are rejoicing about Campbell's road to recovery.

As your prayers have been the greatest gift, cards, Facebook messages, and gift baskets have also blessed the Webbs. That being said, many of you have asked about other ways to support this special family.

In response, Jeff and Susie have partnered with the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). COTA is a nonprofit organization that receives tax deductible contributions to help offset transplant-related expenses. Transplant families, like the Webbs, are the beneficiaries of COTA funds. If you would like to find out more about this organization or give to COTA in Campbell's honor, please visit

www.COTAforCampbell.com. The site also features personal updates and future fundraising events specific to [COTA in honor of Campbell](#). Contact Lisa Mason for more information, lmason@fbcnn.org.

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, February 27 at 8:30am and 11am! Randy Shepley will be leading us in worship.

If you have any technical difficulties watching the service on Facebook Live, please send us a direct message on Facebook so we can help troubleshoot the issue.

The following is a list of weekly events that can be accessed on the First Baptist Church of Newport News Facebook page. Learn more about children's events on Facebook and youth events on their Instagram page-@fbcnnyouth. The 8:30 and 11 Sunday worship services are streamed directly to our [website](#), and can be accessed by clicking on Sermon Library in the Resources tab.

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Children's Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Infant-Preschool Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Youth Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m. Extended Session - infants through age 4
12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

Mondays

7:00 p.m. Young Single Adults

Wednesdays

5:00 p.m. Library Open
6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Adult Spiritual Formation Groups
6:30 p.m. Youth Group Gathering and Worship
6:30 p.m. Children's KMotion (Music, Missions, and Fun!)
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

New Online Giving Platform

As we move forward, we would like to inform you that we are switching our Online Giving Platform to Subsplash. This new platform offers substantially lower transaction fees, ACH transactions, and an option for donors to cover the cost of online giving so that your entire offering can go to the work and ministry of the church. Subsplash will also provide a phone and TV app for our church that will integrate with our website and become a home for our sermons, media, group messaging and notifications, and event information. We are excited to go on this new journey with you! Click on this [link](#) to give now. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks to our new FBCNN app, we are able to stream our services directly to our website! Click on the link below to watch the service from 8:30 or 11 this past Sunday. (Services are listed in chronological order with the most recent at the top.)

[February 20](#)

Make a financial contribution to FBCNN today by clicking on the Donate link.

DONATE

Donation Opportunity for Those with IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)

Congress has approved a permanent charitable giving tax break, known as the "IRA charitable rollover". The rollover is available for those who are 70 1/2, though if your 70th birthday is July 1, 2019 or later, you do not have to take withdrawals until you reach age 72. You can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA of up to \$100,000 to a charity, such as First Baptist Church. The donation will count toward your IRA required minimum distribution.

The distribution is not recognized as income on your tax return. As such, you do not take a donation deduction either. With the change in the recent Tax Legislation, the Standard Deduction has doubled thus itemized charitable deductions will no longer be needed to be kept track of. By donating all or part of your IRA RMD to the church, you receive the benefit of a reduced Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) in that the RMD to charity is not taxed, which helps the opportunity of obtaining lower cost for your Medicare Part B and Prescription Drug premiums.

The distribution must come directly from the IRA account to the church not through the owner of the account. Let our Financial Services Coordinator, Monica Garcia, know how you want the contribution designated, such as the General Fund.

Rick Elofson, Treasurer FBCNN

Staff Contact Info

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