



**February 18, 2026**

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Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, a time of reflection that leads us toward Easter. The ashes remind us of Genesis 3:19: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” These words humble us, reminding us of our frailty and our need for God.

Ash Wednesday calls us to two realities: our mortality and our repentance. Yet this day is not about despair; it is about returning to God. God invites us to examine our hearts, confess our sins, and seek spiritual renewal.

The cross stands at the center of this journey. Jesus came to this broken world and died for our sins so that repentance leads to restoration, not condemnation.

As we begin Lent, may we slow down, turn back to God, and seek to humbly worship Him with thanksgiving and joy this Easter season.

In His Service,

Matt

**SPOTLIGHT:**

**Committee Chairs:** Please remember to reserve rooms for meetings with Karen in the church office.

**Church Office hours:**

- 8:30 am – 5:00 pm Mondays through Thursday
- 8:30 pm – 12:30 pm Fridays

**Ash Wednesday Service:** The FBCJ Ash Wednesday service will be in the sanctuary tonight at 6:30 pm. The regular Wednesday Night Meal will be served beforehand, at 5:30 pm.

**FBC Jefferson Shirts and tumblers are for sale:**



“Ladies’ cut” shirts available!

**FBC Shirts and Tumblers are for sale!**  
**Shirts - \$22**  
**Tumblers - \$10 (white or blue)**  
**Call or email the Church Office to place an order.**

**NEW MEMBERS:** We are excited to welcome two new members to our First Baptist Church Jefferson family!

Chris Gates comes to us by letter, and we are so grateful the Lord has led him to join our church.

We also celebrate Oliver Gates, Chris and Rachel Gates’ son, who will join by baptism — a beautiful public declaration of his faith in Jesus Christ. What a joy to witness this important step in his spiritual journey!

Please take a moment to welcome Chris and Oliver and let them know how thankful we are to have them as part of our church family.

**PRAISE:** We rejoice in sharing that Caroline Ferguson made the wonderful decision to accept Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior on February 15, 2026. Caroline has entrusted her heart and life to Him and begun her walk of faith with the Lord. What a joy it is to celebrate this beautiful step in her spiritual journey! Please join us in



*Caroline Ferguson and her parents, Jessica and Brian Ferguson*

praying for Caroline as she grows in her relationship with Christ and continues to follow Him faithfully.



**WE NEED PICTURES:** We are looking for photos of the AWESOME things happening at FBC Jefferson to include on the front of each week's bulletin. We'd love to have enough to change the photos weekly! Almost everyone carries a cellphone with a camera these days – pull out that phone and take pics at your gatherings! Then send them to Karen at [admin@fbcjefferson.org](mailto:admin@fbcjefferson.org) – or you can text them to her. **And if you see Vernell this week, wish her a HAPPY 90<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY!**

### **THIS WEEK IN THE CHURCH:**

#### **Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>: Ash Wednesday**

- 10:00 am – Faithful Followers Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30 pm – Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30 pm – Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)

#### **Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

- 10:00 am – Sunday School
- 11:00 am – Worship Service
- 5:30 pm – Student Gathering

#### **Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>:**

- 10:00 am – Faithful Followers Bible Study (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:30 pm – Wednesday Night Fellowship Meal (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:00 pm – Wednesday Night Bible Study (Fellowship Hall); Choir Practice (Choir Room); Connect Run/Walk (Adult II SS Classroom); Children in Action (CiA) (Educational Building); Student Ministry Bible Study (Student Center)

**PRAYER CONCERNS:** The list of prayer concerns can be found at the end of this newsletter.

**MINISTRY & MISSION OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Adult Choir:** The Adult Choir rehearses each Wednesday in the choir room across from the Children's Suite at 6:00 pm to prepare for each Sunday's anthem. If you enjoy singing, please join us.

**Children's Ministry:** We always need volunteers to help in the Children's Ministry! If you'd like to help, please contact Teresa Wood at [children@fbcjefferson.org](mailto:children@fbcjefferson.org), or call the church office at 706-367-8332.



***Sunday School: Jesus was a true trailblazer—not just for his time, but for all time! Jesus' teachings and way of life often went against the grain of what people expected, showing us a whole new way to live and love. While blazing new trails, Jesus never wavered***

***from the path of following God, and he paved the way for us to follow his lead. In this 4-week series, kids will learn to trust Jesus even when it's not easy, show others the way to God, let God's love take the lead, and pray the way Jesus prayed.***

***Sunday School: Trailblazer***

***Big Idea: Let's pray the way Jesus prayed.***

***Bible: The Lord's Prayer: Matthew 6:5–15; Psalm 32:1–7***

***About this Week: This week, kids explore Jesus' teachings about how to talk to God through the Lord's prayer. Saying the same prayer over and over can feel like walking the same trail many times without noticing the beauty all around you. This week, we'll learn how Jesus taught us to talk to God through the Lord's Prayer, showing that prayer isn't about fancy words or routines but about a real connection with God. By following Jesus' example, let's pray the way Jesus prayed!***

***Children in Action: February 18th: Ash Wednesday Service at 6pm (No CiA tonight)***

***February 25th: Game Night***



**CentriKid Camp:** We are excited to share with you our church was able to pre-register our group at camp last summer for this year's camp.

**WHEN AND WHERE:** Centri-Kids Camp at Ridgecrest Conference Center in North Carolina for July 19-23, 2026.

Camp Cost: 380.00 per person  
Deposit: 125.00 (Covered by Children Ministry)  
Each Camper Cost: 255.00  
Due by: July 5th, 2026

Easter Egg Hunt:



The poster features a light blue sky background with white clouds. At the top center is the FBC Jefferson logo, which consists of the letters 'FBC' in white on a dark green circular background with a splatter effect, and the word 'JEFFERSON' in white below it. To the left, a diagonal banner with a white cloud background says 'Lunch will be provided' in a green, cursive font, accompanied by a small orange and white striped egg. The main title 'EASTER' is written in large, red, block letters with a white outline, decorated with small yellow chicks, blue butterflies, and colorful Easter eggs. Below it, 'Egg hunt' is written in a large, blue, cursive font. The event details are in a green, cursive font: 'Join us on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm (right after worship) for some egg-citing fun, food, and fellowship!'. At the bottom, a list of Sunday Service Times is provided in a smaller green, cursive font. The bottom of the poster is decorated with a green grassy field, a white rabbit on the left, a brown rabbit on the right, and several colorful Easter eggs (blue, red, orange, and striped).

Lunch will be provided

FBC  
JEFFERSON

Families & Kids!  
Hop on over for our

**EASTER**  
Egg hunt

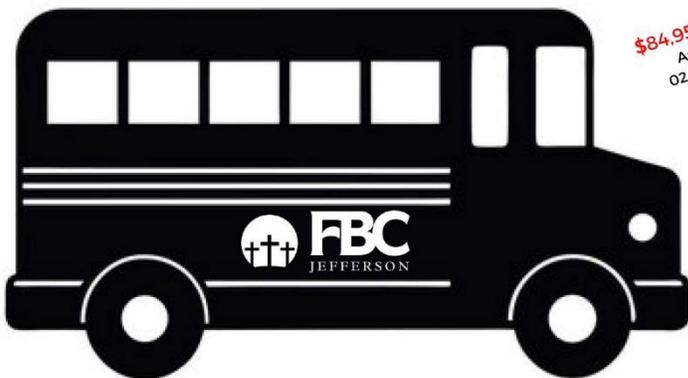
Join us on  
**March 29<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm**  
**(right after worship)**  
for some egg-citing fun,  
food, and fellowship!

Sunday Service Times:  
Palm Sunday: 10:00 am - Sunday School  
11 am - Worship Service  
Easter Sunday: 7:30 am - Easter Sunrise Service  
8:00 am - Breakfast Fellowship  
9:00 am - Early Worship Service  
10:00 am - Sunday School  
11:00 am - Late Worship Service

**Church Bus:** If your group would like to reserve the church bus, please contact Karen in the church office for availability. All dates to use the church bus must be approved by Matt (since he's the only driver at the moment!). Also – we are encouraging everyone to help us reach our goal of \$130,000 to pay for the new church bus, so please, consider giving extra contributions to the FBCJ Bus Fund! Use the QR Code in the following graphic to pay online!



Help us reach our goal!



Make your additional contributions towards the bus fund today!

**TOTAL RAISED AS OF JANUARY 20, 2026: \$84,957.41**

**STILL NEEDED TO MEET OUR GOAL OF \$131,000.00: \$46,052.59**

**College/Young Adults (CYA):** Our college and young adult ministry meets weekly in a home group format, open to all 18–25-year-olds. For more information, please contact Ben at (803)341-7191 or [bhall@fbcjefferson.org](mailto:bhall@fbcjefferson.org). Here's what CYA will be studying in February:

**A LOOK IN THE MIRROR**

**A SERIES ON HUMILITY**

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
<b>LUKE 17:7-10</b> AS BORN AGAIN CHRISTIANS, WE ARE CALLED TO STRIVE TO LIVE LIKE CHRIST. TIME SPENT IN SCRIPTURE, FORGIVING THOSE WHO WRONG US, LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR, AND SHARING THE GOSPEL AREN'T AWARD WORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, BUT EVERYDAY EXPECTATIONS.	<b>PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11</b> THE ONE PERSON TO WALK THIS EARTH AND EARN THE RIGHT TO BE ARROGANT AND BOASTFUL - WAS NOT. WHAT GIVES US THE RIGHT TO BE?	<b>1 PETER 5:5-7</b> GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO ARE HUMBLE ENOUGH TO TURN TO HIM, AND TRUST HIS GUIDANCE IN EVERY SITUATION. ANYTHING WE GIVE TO GOD WILL BE CARED FOR BETTER THAN WE CAN CARE FOR IT OURSELVES.	<b>LUKE 6:37-42</b> WE CANNOT JUDGE OTHERS WITHOUT FIRST LOOKING AT OURSELVES. WHEN WE TRULY TRUST GOD, WE TRUST THAT WE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR REGARDLESS OF ANY ACTION OF ANYONE ELSE, AND WHEN WE TRULY TRUST GOD, WE GIVE WITH JOY AND NOT GROANING.

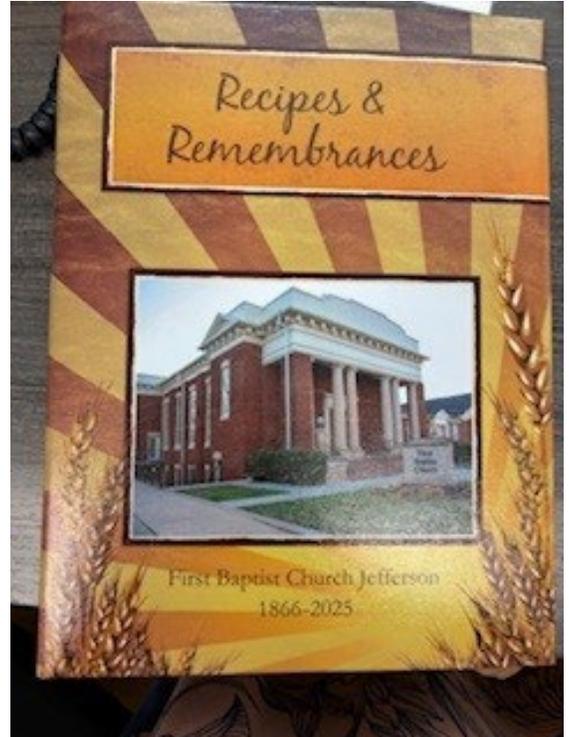
**Connect Run/Walk Group:** Connect Run/Walk Group meets on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. Connect is for anyone interested in running/walking with others to grow and improve spiritually and physically, and to follow the teachings of the Lord. We will have a small devotion, prayer concerns, and praises. Join us and run/walk with others, bring a friend for our Christian fellowship. We will support you physically, mentally, and spiritually while walking, running, and sometimes trotting. We will run/walk the rolling scenic hills of Jefferson on different routes. Bring a friend. We have water and Gatorade waiting for you afterwards. Wear warm reflective clothing.

**Connect Run/Walk Upcoming events:**

February 18<sup>th</sup> – No Connect Run/Walk - Ash Wednesday Service, join us in the sanctuary at 6:00 pm.  
February 25<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 pm – Adult II SS Classroom  
March 4<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 pm – Adult II SS Classroom  
March 11<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 pm – Adult II SS Classroom

**Get your name on the Connect Run/Walk Group email list – contact Barbara Gooch by email ([bgooch02@yahoo.com](mailto:bgooch02@yahoo.com)).**

**Cookbooks: WE ONLY HAVE ABOUT 100 COPIES LEFT!!! Get your copy today before they are all gone – FOREVER!** The FBC Jefferson Cookbook, "Recipes and Remembrances," is still available for purchase in the church office! With over 450 homestyle Southern recipes, this cookbook is a STEAL at \$25.00! Stop by the church office to pick up your copy today. All proceeds of the cookbook go towards the church bus fund.



**Faithful Followers Bible Study:** Faithful Followers Bible Study meets each Wednesday at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. If you can join us or know of a friend or family member who would like to experience this journey and engage in great Christian fellowship, please contact Mary Ann Brooks, 615-643-4880, [mabstitches@yahoo.com](mailto:mabstitches@yahoo.com).



**M&M's:** M&M's are planning a bus trip on Friday, March 13, 2026, at 7:30 pm to see the Anderson Senior Follies, presented

## Anderson Senior Follies

by senior citizens of Anderson University. Tickets are \$20/each - WE HAVE A LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS, so hurry, TICKETS WILL GO FAST!!! You can pay for your ticket at the church office. We will stop for dinner before the performance. Call the church office for more information.

**Student Ministry:** Our student ministry meets on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am and Sunday afternoons from 5:30-7:00 pm, open to all 6th-12th graders. For more information, please contact Ben at (803)341-7191 or [bhall@fbcejferson.org](mailto:bhall@fbcejferson.org). Here's what the students will be studying in February:

**UNAFRAID**

WEEK 1	WEEK 2	WEEK 3	WEEK 4
GOD CAN TURN FEAR INTO <b>COURAGE.</b>	GOD CAN TURN HURT INTO <b>HOPE.</b>	GOD CAN TURN WRONGS INTO <b>RIGHTS.</b>	GOD CAN TURN WORRY INTO <b>TRUST.</b>

**MAY THE HOPE OF GOD FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM, SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**  
ROMANS 15:13 (NIV)

**Fuse Weekend: (March 6-8, 2026):** Registration is open now online and will be open until 2/25. The cost is \$35/student if registered before 2/11 (\$45/per after) Volunteers are needed for this event, please contact Ben if interested.



- **Fuse Weekend Volunteer opportunities:** Volunteers needed for Friday PM and Saturday PM, please email Ben if interested.



### **VOLUNTEER NEEDS:**

#### **Friday:**

- 5:30PM - Dinner Pickup (@ Zaxby's)
- 6:00PM - Serve Dinner, reset/prep late night snack
- 6:00PM - Check-In (collect forms & payment, count students)
- 6:30PM - Depart for Maysville Baptist (bus driver & female chaperone)
- 9:00PM - Return to FBC
- 9:30PM - Session 1 Recap (guide students through discussion)
- 9:50PM - Serve Late Night Snack, cleanup trash, lock up

#### **Saturday AM:**

- 8:30AM - Breakfast Pickup (@ Chick-fil-A)
- 9:00PM - Serve Breakfast, reset
- 9:30AM - Depart for Maysville Baptist (bus driver & 2-3 CYA)
- 11:30AM - Session 2 Recap (with Mt. Olive)
- 12:30PM - Lunch (@ Maysville Baptist)
- 1:00PM - Depart for Funopolis
- 1:30PM - Afternoon @ Funopolis (Depart @ 4:30PM, arrive back @ 5:00PM)

#### **Saturday PM:**

- 4:30PM - Dinner Pickup (TBD)
- 5:00PM - Serve Dinner, reset/prep late night snack
- 6:15PM - Depart for Maysville Baptist (bus driver & female chaperone)
- 8:30PM - Return to FBC
- 8:45PM - Session 3 Recap (guide students through discussion)
- 9:15PM - Serve Late Night Snack, cleanup trash, lock up

**Each color represents a different volunteer slot. If you are willing to fill any of these spots, please email Ben at [bhalla@fbcjefferson.org](mailto:bhalla@fbcjefferson.org).**

**Wednesday Night Meal:**

**MENU FOR FEBRUARY 18, 2026: Baked Potato, Chili, Dessert, Drinks.**

**MENU FOR FEBRUARY 25, 2026: Smoked Chicken Salad Sandwiches, Chips, Dessert, Drinks.**

Call Karen in the church office to add your family's name to the weekly list!

The church gathers each Wednesday to share fellowship over a meal, address the church's prayer concerns and study the Bible. If you are interested in participating in the meal, please note the following:

- The cost for each meal is \$9.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children (11 years old and younger). The cost for families is capped at \$25.00.
- If you are not on the permanent list and plan to eat, please call Karen in the church office by each Monday by noon.
- If you are on the permanent list and can't make it this Wednesday, please call Karen in the church office for your name to be struck for the week and the church does not incur unnecessary costs.

**Winter Coat Drive:**



**WINTER**  
*Coat Drive*

*Mary Martha Circle is asking for new or gently used and clean coats, sweaters, scarves, hats, and gloves to be distributed to those in need in our community. Receptacles are located around the church campus, including the church office.*



**WMU Meetings:** If you are not a member of a WMU group and would like to join us, please contact DeMaris Gurley at 706-540-0866. She will direct you to the WMU group that best fits your schedule.

**Deacons of the Week:**

**Week of February 15, 2026:** Kevin Charles and Phillip Ferguson

**Week of February 22, 2026:** Christopher Howard and Steve Ross

**Opening and Closing:** Tom Emory

**Greeters and Ushers:** Sam and Jennifer Moore

**NUMBERS FOR SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026**

- Sunday School Attendance: 110
- Worship Attendance: 120
- Nursery Attendance: 10
- WORSHIP TOTAL: 130
- Offering: \$24,486.70

**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:**

- Previous services can be viewed [here](#).
- You can live stream Sunday Combined Service here: [11:00 am](#)

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JEFFERSON



## 5 WAYS TO TITHE

Online at [www.pushpay.com](http://www.pushpay.com)



Online at [www.fbcjefferson.com](http://www.fbcjefferson.com)



Mail/drop by a check to the FBCJ office



Drop into the offering plate on Sunday



Drop your tithe/offering into the offering  
box in the vestibule.





**February 18, 2026**

## **Ongoing Prayer Concerns**

Dean Andrews  
Keith Ariail  
Jerry Elliott  
Tom Fore  
Harold Harbin

Vernell Hix  
Ezra King  
Jane Kinney  
Joe & Donna Martin  
Connie Peebles

## **Homebound, Assisted Living, Etc.**

Dianne Brooks  
Glenn Bullock  
Dan Edgar  
Fred Glass  
Helen Gunnels  
Tim Harris

Raye Dean Jackson  
Eudene Johnson  
Jack Purcell  
Raynelle Sims  
Helen Whitlock

## **Friends & Family**

Anni Aldridge (The Hopkins' granddaughter)  
Alex Farmer (Sandra Farmer's son)  
Barry Farmer (Sandra Farmer's husband)  
Charles & Leasia Fleming (Teresa Fleming's in-laws)  
Dominic Haines (broken neck at the state wrestling  
tournament)

Crew Hopkins (The Hopkins' grandson)  
Jeff Key (Katie Fulcher's dad)  
Joseph Martin (Joe & Donna Martins' son)  
Tyler Truelove (Diane and Keith Ariails' son)

## **Additional Requests**

Our Ministry Team and Their Families  
Our Church-sponsored Missionaries  
Our Local Veterans  
Our Church Leadership & Staff