

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

March 1, 2026

Volume 49 Number 8

Be alert for the Holy Spirit

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

For many of us, rhythm creates boundaries that provide safety and structure to our lives. Without rhythm, we can feel discom-
bulated, confused, and out of sorts. Our

bodies thrive on rhythm, need discipline, function better when there is a predictability to life.

Just think about how hard it is to adjust to Daylight Savings Time or to a new time for our

favorite television show. On the other hand, rhythm can also make us drowsy like a baby with a wind-up mobile that lulls them to sleep.

A broken rhythm can increase our awareness, awaken our senses, heighten our anticipation. It is good to be alerted to the ever-moving work of the Holy Spirit.

The season of Lent has the potential to break us from those routines that lull us into complacency. This pilgrimage awakens our need for attentiveness. God's surprises, Satan's attacks, angels ministering compassion, are all a part of this journey.

God's goodness and Evil's deceptiveness are all around us. Only when we are alert

can we truly tell the difference. May we not be lulled to sleep in complacency, but in hopes of seeing God's work on our behalf.

A Lenten Prayer

You woke me in the early light
From dreams of fear and dread
Thoughts of you began to form
Before I left the bed

This day is filled with terrors harsh

But we face them not alone
Your Spirit lives within my heart

In Awe inspiring moans
Wrap me in your light this day

That I not fall or lose my way
Be my muse, my Savior, guide

Always remain by my side

That I may walk with you alone

That by your mercy my sin atoned

To be your servant night and day

To point to Christ in all my ways.

– Len Keever –

2-20-2026

On Wednesdays at 12 noon during Lent, and each day during Holy Week (March 30-April 3), Dr. Keever will be live-streaming a short midday devotion. These devotions will be streamed the same as our Sunday Morning services. Please make plans to join us as we journey toward Easter together.

Update from the CDC

Tara Senarian resigned as CDC Director on Tuesday, February 17. Please join us in prayer for our CDC during this transition period and search for a new director.

The CDC Oversight Committee welcomes your partnership in helping share the job posting once it is live.

First Baptist Church Friends,

There truly are no words to fully express how grateful our family is for the love, prayers, and unwavering support you have shown us—not only in recent days with Dad's passing, but also throughout the years when Mom was ill and Dad was caring for her. Your kindness carried our family through some of our hardest seasons.



Mom and Dad both loved their church family dearly. So many of you were not just fellow members, but cherished friends. After Mom passed, the way you continued to surround Dad with love—through visits, meals, and thoughtful gifts — meant more to him than we could ever say. He felt cared for, remembered, and deeply loved.

In these past few weeks since Dad passed away, your phone calls, flowers, cards, and the generous donations made to the church in his memory have touched our hearts beyond measure. Honoring him in that way would have meant so much to him, and it means so much to us.

While our hearts are so broken at the loss of Mom and Dad, we hold tightly to the promise that this goodbye is not forever. We find comfort in knowing they are together again, and we know that one day we will be reunited with them.

All our love,
Gary & Lisa Lovering and the Lovering Family
In memory of George & Frances Lovering

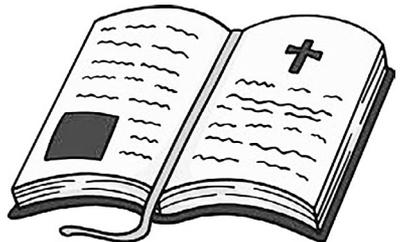
Thanks and love to friends of First Baptist Church Clayton,

You showered me with love wishes in so many ways; cards, calls, songs and visits – each one cherished and appreciated. I love you all! God has blessed me with family and friends. Indeed, God is love.

Love,
Mary Baker

“Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it.” – Luke 11:28

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.
– Joshua 24:15



“Night Crossing” to show on Senior Adult Movie Night

Senior Adult Movie Night is set for Friday, March 13 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pizza from Big Cheese Pizza in Clayton, popcorn and drinks will be provided. Please bring a side, snack or dessert to share.

The featured movie is “Night Crossing,” a 1981 Disney production about the true story of the Strelzyk and Wetzel families who made a daring and death-defying escape from East Germany to West Germany in their own hand-crafted hot air balloon 1979. “Night Crossing” stars John Hurt, Jane Alexander and Beau Bridges.

Please notify the church office no later than March 11 if: 1) you are on the permanent list but cannot attend or 2) you are not on the permanent list, but plan to attend.

So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!”

– John 12:13 ESV



**WE'RE
HIRING!**

Youth Minister

(full-time)

- Lead our Middle & High School ministry
- Mentor & guide students in their faith
- Build relationships with students
- Collaborate with volunteers & church staff

Pianist/Accompanist

(part-time)

- Accompany Sunday worship and rehearsals
- Support choir and special services
- Collaborate with the Minister of Music

**Please spread
the word!**



Hurricane Helene mission trip March 22-27

First Baptist Church Clayton will team up with the North Carolina Baptist Men Disaster Relief group once again this year. Mission teams will travel to Swannanoa, N.C. to work in homes damaged by Hurricane Helene.



shower trailer and cafeteria. Three meals per day will be provided.

Volunteers from our church will depart on Sunday, March 22 at 11 a.m. following a commissioning during the morning worship service. Please meet in the parking lot

The work will consist of installing insulation, hanging sheetrock, plumbing and electrical and new builds. You do not have to be skilled at any of these trades. Just show up and do whatever you can. Your hands and feet will do the work of the Lord.

that morning at 8:30 a.m. to pack your bags in the church bus.

There will be a stop for lunch on the way. Our team will return home on Friday, March 27 with a 9 a.m. departure.

Homeowners will most likely be on site so you will have an excellent opportunity to Show God's love, Tell the Good News, Grow spiritually and Serve your neighbors in western North Carolina.

The First Baptist team consists of men and women over the age of 18. We're limited to 20 so we need firm commitments. Sign-up sheets are located in the southeast vestibule. Please prayerfully consider joining us on our third relief effort to Swannanoa.

We will sleep in the Swannanoa Baptist Church. You will need to bring a single blowup mattress or cot. The church has a

If you have questions, please call or email Richie Johnson at 919-669-1687 or irj02201959@gmail.com.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

- Ricky Dean Barbour and Betty Matthews by David and Jo Earp
- Betty Matthews by Cleveland and Betty Connell
- Ricky Dean Barbour and Betty Matthews by Frankie and Tracy Tant
- Betty Matthews by the Tim Matthews family
- Jean Lee by Robert and Faye Boyette
- Betty Matthews by Roger and Deloris Jarrell
- Helen Ellerbe by Robert F. Grissom

General Fund in Honor of

- Jackie Smith by the Bill O'Neal Circle

Organ Fund in Memory of

- Betty Matthews by Teresa Calton

Music Fund in Memory of

- Bobbie Sue Batts by Curtis and Elaine Moore

Youth Ministry Fund in Memory of

- Milton Crawford by Curtis and Elaine Moore

Baptist Men Special Project Fund in Memory of

- Betty Matthews by Curtis and Elaine Moore

Senior Adult Ministry in Memory of

- George Lovering by Nuel and Frances McCauley

Weekly Reports

Worship Attendance

Sunday, February 22.....248	Sunday, February 15.....192
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Sunday School Attendance

Sunday, February 22.....165	Sunday, February 15.....123
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General Fund Giving

Sunday, February 22.....\$10,732	Sunday, February 15.....\$11,968
2026 Weekly Needs.....\$17,470	