

The Outlook

First Baptist Church Clayton

Show • Tell
Grow • Serve

April 19, 2026

Volume 49 Number 15

Fellowship nurtures our faith

By Dr. Len Keever
Pastor

One of the many gifts of Christ is fellowship. God creates us for both for solitude and for relationship.

In solitude we commune with God, we pray, meditate, and in reflective stillness

we discover togetherness with our creator that is uplifting and healing. In relationships with others, we join with creation in praise to God, living into our identity as people of faith.



In the church, we are encouraged to explore both parts of our nature so that we are not only reconciled to God through Christ but also form relationships with each other where we discover belonging and purpose. Matthew 19:29 tells us, “And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my name’s sake will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.”

I remember a sermon I heard years ago where the pastor said that the ‘hundredfold’ Jesus speaks about can be found in church. It is here where we become family, have many brothers and sisters, discover spiritu-

al parents who guide us into deeper faith, and younger ones to share our stories with. I love that image.

So, how do we nurture these kinds of relationships? We do so when we fellowship with one another. We discover these relationships when we are a part of a Sunday school class, participate in choir, become a member of an organization like Women on Mission or Baptist Men.

Our Wednesday night activities provide many opportunities for fellowship for all age groups. Our meals are family meals; the laughter is contagious! At these gatherings we become a church family. It is in community that we discover how precious our love is for one another.

On Wednesday night, May 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., we will gather in the church yard for an evening of fellowship to celebrate being First Baptist Church of Clayton. We will invite our neighbors to join us praying they will discover the joy of our church community.

We will enjoy a meal of hotdogs and the trimmings prepared by Baptist Men. There will be bouncy houses for the children, games for all ages, (we might even see if we can get the youth to teach us how to play

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Join us Sunday, April 26 at WLFJ

On Sunday, April 26, First Baptist Church Clayton will take its once-monthly turn to serve those in need of a helping hand at the With Love From Jesus house.

If you would like to serve, please let Rudy Oliver know as soon as possible and come to the WLFJ house at 4 p.m. for sign-in and instruction. We will distribute food, clothing and share the Gospel until around 7 p.m. You can also bring any items you would like to donate to the ministry.

They are currently in need of nonperishable items. WLFJ often has over 80 guests come for food and clothing items.

The WLFJ house is located at the southeast corner of West 2nd and South Robertson streets. Rudy can be reached at 919-271-1178, or email him at reholston@gmail.com.

Give Hope to a Child Today

Baptist Children's Homes of N.C. Food/Supply Roundup

Please join the First Baptist Church Clayton WMU (Women's Missionary Union) as we partner with the Baptist Children's Home of North Carolina for their annual Food/Supply Roundup. Items needed are food, household/cleaning supplies and toiletries.

These donations help provide meals, comfort and stability for neglected and/or abused children, as well as show the love of Jesus. Supply lists are located throughout the church. Gift cards to Sam's, Wal-Mart, Food Lion and Lowe's are also accepted. Please put the receipt with the gift card.

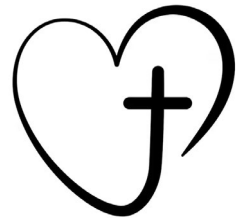
Please note that out of date food items cannot be accepted by state law.

A collection box is located by the church office. The deadline for items to be received is Wednesday, April 29.

For more information, please contact Cathy Paschal or Jackie Tarkington.



thank you



First Baptist Church Clayton would like to express our most sincere thanks to Lisa Bass for a job well done as our Interim Pianist. Your talents greatly enhanced our music ministry and worship experience. We wish you the best and thank God that He sent you our way.

– Love and many blessings from the church family.



Welcome to the First Baptist family

We are happy and excited to introduce our newest members to First Baptist Church Clayton. On this past Sunday, Mitch and Caroline Boyette (left) joined by statement of faith. They are pictured with their daughters, Emma and Hope. On April 5, Avenlei Petit (center in photo on right), came forward and professed her faith. She is awaiting Baptism. Avenlei is pictured with her father, Eric and step-mother, Jennifer Petit. We look forward to growing in Christian faith with our newest family members.

Young adults invited to Echo

What is Echo? It is a gathering of younger adults (and those who think young) sharing what they've heard in the worship service. It is an opportunity to share what continues to reverberate after the benediction. Younger adults face different challenges when it comes to building relationships in church. We are offering time to drink coffee, get to know one another, and discuss issues that are unique to their lives. If you want to come and check it out, we meet in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunday morning worship service. We look forward to seeing you!

– Dr. Len Keever

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Ga-Ga ball).

Our prayer ministry will have a prayer tent set up for community care. There will be Bingo games and a Cake Walk where cakes baked by the WMU will be wonderful prizes.

Our Praise Team will provide music. Mostly, it will be a chance for us to express our thanksgiving to God for calling us together to be Christ's church in this place, providing Jesus' love for one another and making us one in the Spirit of God.

At First Baptist, we have so much to be thankful for! Let's take advantage of this opportunity to get to know one another better, to express our gratitude to God for giving us this community.

Memorials and Honorariums

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR GIFTS TO THE

General Fund in Memory of

- Jerry Carroll by Judy Wood
- Jerry Carroll by Andy and Gloria Pleasant
- Jerry Carroll by Tom and Ida Mayes
- Jerry Carroll by Gerald and Glenda Toler
- Jerry Carroll by Chris and Diane Pearce
- Jerry Carroll by Timothy Grady
- Jerry Carroll by Erwin and Kay Carroll
- Jerry Carroll by Jiles and Kim Harrell
- Jerry Carroll by The Monsees Family
- Jerry Carroll by Dr. William and Carol Smith
- Jerry Carroll by Jim and Judy Nappier
- Jerry Carroll by Martha McCullen
- Jerry Carroll by Ronald Crowder and Debbie Ragland

Organ Fund in Memory of

Jerry Carroll by Jo Ann Hardee

Charles and Josephine King, Jacqueline Nacewski and W.T. Matthew Dakin by Anita Marie Dakin

Capital Reserve, Benevolence and Missions in Memory of

Charles and Josephine King, Jacqueline Nacewski and W.T. Matthew Dakin by Anita Marie Dakin

First Baptist Church Family,

I am so grateful for the acts of kindness you have shown during my recent surgery and ongoing recovery. Thank you for the cards, texts, visits and wonderful food that you provided. Above all, thank you for your prayers. I have felt each one of them. I am truly blessed to have the support of such a loving church family. I truly miss worshipping with you, and I am working hard to be able to join you again soon. I covet your continued prayers as I continue in my recovery.

Blessings – Joy Tribble



Weekly Reports

Baptisms this Year.....	4	New Members.....	10
Worship Attendance			
Sunday, April 12.....	155	Sunday, April 5.....	308
Sunday School Attendance			
Sunday, April 12.....	135	Sunday, April 5.....	102
General Fund Giving			
Sunday, April 12.....	\$11,793	Sunday, April 5.....	\$22,930
2026 Weekly Needs.....	\$17,470		