



The Builder

Volume XV Number 4

April 2026

CALENDER OF EVENTS

Sunday, April 5, 12, 19, 26

Easter Sunday – April 5

7:00 am Sunrise Service; 7:30 am Breakfast

9:45 am Bible Study

11:00 am Worship/Pastor Johnathan

26 – Pastor Dwayne

Monday, April 7

6:00 pm Church Council - 7:00 pm Deacons

Monday, April 27

6:00 pm Finance

Tuesday, April 7, 14, 21, 28

6:00 pm Bible Study

Wednesday, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Noon Bible Study

8 – 11:15 am Missions Committee

22 – 10: am Healthy Aging Group

12 Noon Bible Study - 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

NOTE

Alice Foy, Administrative/Financial Assistant
will be on medical leave beginning, Friday, April 10.

Approximately 4-6 weeks



First Baptist Builder (FBCBP) 191-8000 published weekly except the weeks of July 4 and Dec. 25 by the First Baptist Church, 2650 Union Road, Gastonia, NC 28054. Periodicals postage paid at Gastonia, NC. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to First Baptist Builder, P.O. Box 6298, Gastonia, NC 28054-6018.

Email: fbcgast@gmail.com

Website: www.fbcgastonia.org



April

2 – Carol Bond

3 – Sam Robinson

8 – Avis Taylor

9 – John Price

16 – Butch Carter

19 – Sybile Trammell

24 – Ann Webb

Our Christian sympathy is extended to Art Queen and family upon the death of his sister, Ateka Wiley, March 9, 2026

May

1 – Larry Harris

3 – Regina Blalock

3 – Martha Spurrier

5 – Kendra Schaffner

10 – Betty Taylor

19 – Scott Irvin

23 – Nancy Kabool

IN LOVING MEMORY

BARBARA SHORE

MARCH 9, 2026

Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Barbara Shore upon her death, March 9, 2026.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:

Susan Absher

Given By: Anne Sholar

In Memory of: Karen Conway

Given by: Wally & Patti Black

Jay Talluri

In Memory of:

Bob Froneberger

Given By: Jim & Ann Costner

Jim & Charlotte Eddings,

Jay Talluri

In Memory of: Ben Johnson

Given by: Jay Talluri

In Memory of: Wayne Moss
(Brother of Alice Foy)

Given By: Jim & Ann Costner

Jay Talluri

In Memory of: Barbara Shore

Given By: Wally & Patti Black,
Jay Talluri

The God of Newness

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Revelation 21:5

Spring is here, and in the Carolinas that could mean anything from a heatwave to a blizzard. We typically can tell when it's really springtime by the yellow blanket of pollen that settles over the South. As aggravating as the pollen can be, it's not altogether bad. After all, it is usually the sure sign that flowers and buds are blooming, and a renewed beauty is about to be unleashed on us all.

There's an old stretch of highway down in South Carolina that I love to run in the springtime. I'll get in my truck and take the backroads that let me out on Highway 11 down in Chesnee, SC and I'll run that stretch of road with my eyes fixed on one thing; the endless fields of peach orchards in bloom. It's one of the most beautiful sights that you'll ever set your eyes on, and along the way you'll find a new appreciation for God and his Creation.

Spring moves in two directions at once. It is a constant season that we look forward to, one that we know will be there, on time, each year. It is also the quintessential picture of newness as well as the celebration of all things being new. The words of Isaiah 43 come to mind, where in the first three verses God says to a weary people:

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Here we see the constancy of God and the sure and strong foundation that never changes. More constant than the seasons, is the God who sets them in their courses. This same God assures his weary people that even though he does not change he holds the power to change all things. In Isaiah 43:19 God says, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

The wilderness, the place least likely to find a path, and the desert, the place least likely to find a river, become reimagined and made new in the hand of the Everlasting God. We also, dead in our sins and least likely to be called the children of God, become sons and daughters, heirs and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17) through the blood of the New Covenant (Mark 14:24). When we celebrate the Resurrection we also celebrate the faithfulness and consistency of the Father, who in his love makes all things new.

Let us rejoice in the newness that springs from life in Christ. May God's love growing in us blossom into righteousness and obedience to his will. May God bless each of you, his beloved children.

Pastor Johnathan

First Baptist Church, Gastonia North Carolina

First Baptist Church 704-865-8576

2650 Union Road Fax: 704-865-8579
Gastonia NC 28054 -Mailing: PO Box 6298, Gastonia NC 28054-6018

A place to belong, a place to become, a place to bear witness



Dear Church Family and Community Partners,

A special thank you to Gastonia East Rotary for supporting both our Weekend Backpack Food Program and the Community Blessing Box here at First Baptist Church of Gastonia.

With their support, our Blessing Box partner list now includes 14 partners, including:

Blessing Box Partners, FBCG Child Care Ministry, FBCG SEAM After School Students

First Baptist Church of Gastonia Pickleball Players, First Baptist Church of Gastonia Scouts, Gaston Choral Society, Gaston County District Attorney's Office, Gaston County Health Department (Narcans), Gaston Literacy Council, Leigh Fibers (coats), Mann + Hummel, Piedmont Community Charter Elementary School (Third Grade – children's gloves, hats, scarves), Trotta / Knights of Columbus (new coats), Gateway Gaston, Gastonia East Rotary

We are grateful for the many individuals, groups, and organizations who help make these ministries possible and who continue to care for our neighbors in tangible ways.

Thank you all for being part of this work.



Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family Hope Ormand Walsh upon her death, March 15, 2026 in Charlotte NC. and to Ken Worley and family upon the death of his mother-in-law

Relocating 3 Children's Classes
From FMC to Sanctuary Complex
Adding 1 New Classroom (1-Year-Old Room)



What's Changing

- 3 existing classes move from FMC to Sanctuary
- 1 new classroom added (1-Year-Old Room)
- 5 new one-year-olds anticipated
- Approx. 15-25 total new students

15-25 Total NEW Students

Approx. 15% Growth

Phone: 704-865-9419

Email: charityfbccm@gmail.com



We recognized Richard and Rebecca Hart for their many years of faithful involvement in the life of our church. Their steady presence and service have been a meaningful part of our congregation for a long time.

With both Richard and Rebecca now officially retired, they will be relocating to South Carolina to be closer to their children and grandchildren. While we will miss seeing them regularly, we are grateful for their years of faithfulness and wish them well in this next chapter.

First Baptist Church of Gastonia
2026 Bible Study Schedule
Tuesdays 6 PM
Wednesdays 12 PM

Second Quarter Bible Study: Philippians
April 7 - June 3

Bible Institute: June 8-11 (6-8PM)

Break: June 16 - July 1

Third Quarter Bible Study: 1 Thessalonians
July 7 - August 26

Bible Institute: August 31 - September 3

Break: September 8-30

Fourth Quarter Bible Study: 2 Corinthians
October 6 - December 2

Bible Institute: December 7-10

Break: December 15-30

For any questions contact:

Johnathan W. Bryson, MDiv

Senior Pastor
First Baptist Church of Gastonia
2650 Union Road, Gastonia, NC 28054
704-865-8576 (w)
704-840-0710 (c)
jbrysonfbc@gmail.com

