CALENDER OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 11, 18, 25
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship/Pastor Johnathan
Monday, January 19
7:00 pm Church Council
Monday, January 26
6:00 pm Finance
7:00 pm Deacons
Tuesday, January 13, 20, 27
6:00 pm Bible Study
Wednesday, January 14, 21, 28
14 – 11:15 am Missions Committee
12 Noon Bible Study
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
NOTE
Due to Alice being parttime in 2026
the church office will be closed on
Mondays and Fridays
unless otherwise noted

First Baptist Church of Gastonia

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JANUARY, 2026
3 – Ella Cann
Steve Webb
8 – Jeff Worley
9 – Lewis Denton
James Harvey
10 – Patti Black
16 – Eli Pardo
30 – Abby Robinson
31 – Fred Jones

February
4 – Jay Gerhart
Nathaniel Hope
11 – Joyce Price
12 – Melissa Hope
15 – Jim Blalock
19 – Steve Medlin
21 – Cy Rowe
22 – Cary Craig
25 - Grace Wynkoop
26 – Wally Black
Pat Rowe
28 – Lane Cann
John Pardo

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:25

MEMORIALS
In Memory of: Susan Absher
Given by: Larry & Loretta Harris, Ann Siva
In Memory of: Carter Bond
Given by: Carol Bond
In Memory of: Wayne Eppley
Given by: Larry & Loretta Harris
In Memory of: Ben Johnson
Given by: Larry & Loretta Harris, Ann Siva
In Memory of: Ben Johnson & Kitty Holland Johnson
Given by: Ken & Cynthia Holland
In Memory of: Sandy Pardo Brother of John Pardo
Given by: Ann Siva
In Memory of: Ann Woodruff
Given by: Bill & Julia Blalock, Larry & Loretta Harris, Ann Siva

The Builder

Volume XV Number 1 January 2026

Covenant With First Baptist Church of Gastonia

Dear First Baptist Church of Gastonia,

In a church history that spans nearly 150 years we've no doubt found one constant, and that is that things change. Still, no matter how much time passes there are some things that should never change, and one of those is our love for God and our commitment to follow him. Another important constant should be the commitment of a pastor to deliver the highest level of pastoral care possible. This commitment should represent a level of quality assurance that every member of the church can count on. To that end, I enter into this covenant of care with you, and pledge to strive to deliver consistently excellent pastoral care to the best of my spiritual ability.

What does that look like? It looks like being available to walk with you during the difficult times of life, whether sickness or grief, an intentional presence there to offer love and support. It looks like an eagerness to celebrate you, and to build the type of healthy relationships that undergird any meaningful pastoral care plan. It looks like staying connected and communicating so that a crisis doesn't become our only point of contact. It looks like moving beyond a "Sunday only" culture to a more integrated approach to pastoral ministry; one that doesn't wait to be sought out, but rather, one that initiates deeper connection through listening in love, and creating opportunities for your gifts and passions to be used to the glory of God. It looks like love. This incredible thing (love) on which the whole Church is built is the foundation of my covenant with you.

I cannot do it without you, and this is why relationships are so important. I need to know if you are sick, and I need to know if you are struggling. I want to know if you are celebrating so that I can as Paul says in Romans 12:15, "Rejoice with those who are rejoicing and mourn with those who are mourning." I will be your pastor if you will allow me to be, and you can have the assurance of knowing that your spiritual needs and concerns are a priority because you are a priority to me. I will also strive to be your friend. Every person who commits to supporting a church through membership should have the assurance of knowing that the church they are supporting will be there to support them when the need arises.

I want to sincerely apologize if I, or any in this calling have failed to take seriously the privilege of serving you. I apologize for where we have failed to fulfill the law of Christ by failing to bear your burdens with you. We make mistakes, but we do not have to repeat them. We have a wonderful church with a wonderful history. This covenant represents the wonderful future that I pray we will have together, serving our God in love, and loving each other as he has privileged us to do. God bless you and keep you, and thank you again, for allowing me to witness and join in what our Father is doing in and through you.

You Are Loved, Pastor Johnathan

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

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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

MISSIONS UPDATE

The Missions Committee is so thankful for the members of First Baptist Church for your support of Missions in 2025. The totals for each of the areas we asked you to support were:

CAM:	$1,440
Rose Mission:	$2,295
Women's Shelter	$1,895
Ukraine Mission:	$ 675
Backpack Mission:	$3,905

We will support these same Missions in 2026 with this schedule:

CAM:	February - March
Rose Mission:	April - May
Women's Shelter	June - July
Ukraine Mission:	August - September
Backpack Mission:	October-December

In January the Missions committee requests that you consider putting food in the Blessings Box. Items to put in the Blessing Box: canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned meat, peanut butter, pasta, canned soup, rice, toilet paper, and bottled water. The Blessings Box empties as fast as it is stocked and your contributions at this cold time of year will be most appreciated.

Again, thank you for your support for Missions this past year. We look forward to serving people through these missions in 2026.

The Missions Committee

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(Continued from front page)

So Jesus called them and said to them, "You know that among the gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; instead, whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for *many."* Mark 10:42-45 NRSVUE

The Pinky Promise Team from the FBCG SEAM Program recently visited Terrace Ridge to share songs and the love of God with the residents and staff.

IN LOVING MEMORY
ANN WOODRUFF
DECEMBER 6, 2025

IN LOVING MEMORY
SUSAN ABSHER
DECEMBER 10, 2025

IN LOVING MEMORY
WAYNE EPPLEY
NOVEMBER 7, 2025

COMING SOON!!
First Baptist Church of Gastonia
Bible Institute
March 9-12
6:00 – 8:00 pm

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

First Quarter Bible Study: Ephesians
January 6 - March 4

Bible Institute: March 9-12 (6- 8PM)

Break: March 17 - April 1st

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

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