



EXPLORE FIRST





Pastor's Welcome

Welcome to Explore First! We are glad you are here. This luncheon is designed to give you a glimpse of the heart of First Baptist Church of Cumming. In the following pages, we share with you our efforts to impact our world for Christ. You will find contact information for pastors and leaders who can help you join us in this mission. We've also provided contacts for you and your family if you are ever in need of help or support. There is listing of Connect Groups as well as local and global partners where we invest our resources. You will also find our core doctrinal beliefs as a church. I hope this time offers you a look at the things that are happening at FBC, in our community, and our world. I hope it encourages you to ask questions and meaningfully pray about joining our church family. We are praying for you. Thank you for being with us today!

Bob Jolly, Lead Pastor

FBC Cumming 2021. All rights reserved.
1597 Sawnee Drive, Cumming GA 30040
P: (770) 887-2428 | F: (770) 844-5732
Sunday Worship Times 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study Times 6:30 PM

contents

4

WHAT IS THE
GOSPEL?

5

FBC MISSION
AND VISION

6-7

LEADERSHIP AND
MINISTRY AREAS

8-9

MISSIONS AND
ACTS 1:8 PARTNERS

10-11

DISCIPLESHIP
AT FBC

12-13

STUDENTS AND
CHILDREN

14

WORSHIP
AT FBC

15

BAPTISM AT FBC

16-17

WHAT WE
BELIEVE

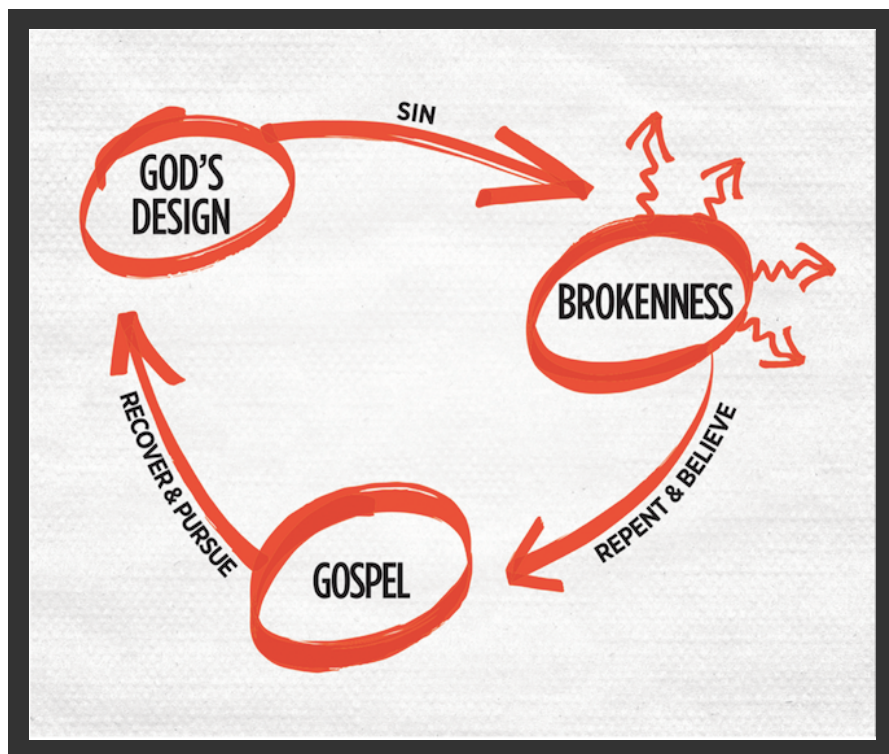
WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

“The gospel is the good news that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died for our sins and rose again, eternally triumphant over his enemies, so that there is now no condemnation for those who believe, but only everlasting joy. That’s the gospel.”

John Piper

HOW TO BEGIN A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

God desires a relationship with you. Your sin separates you from God and leads to brokenness. Because of His love, God sent Jesus to rescue you. If you turn from your sin and surrender your life to Jesus, you will be forgiven and find purpose in life.



OUR MISSION:

BE A CHURCH OF DISCIPLES WHO MAKE DISCIPLES

The Mission of FBC Cumming is “Making Disciples Who Make Disciples.” Jesus commissioned the church to make disciples. What is a disciple of Jesus? A disciple of Jesus is a person who is committed to following Him, spending time with Jesus, and becoming more like Him.

“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

OUR VISION:

BE A CHURCH THAT GIVES ITSELF AWAY

Our mission is what we do and our vision is how we do it. The way First Baptist Church fulfills our mission, Making Disciples Who Make Disciples, is by “Giving Ourselves Away.” Jesus made disciples by giving Himself away. He gave his time. He gave his teaching. Ultimately, He gave His life to make disciples.

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Philippians 2:5-8 ESV

FBC LEADERSHIP

PASTORS

Dr. Bob Jolly, Senior Pastor

robert@fbccumming.org (770.833.9836)

Dr. Michael O'Neal, Evangelism and Missions Pastor

michael@fbccumming.org (502.641.4168)

Cole Wilkins, Discipleship/Young Pros Pastor

cole@fbccumming.org (678.429.2035)

Scott Carpenter, High School/College Pastor

scott@fbccumming.org (678.231.5020)

Brian Weaver, Middle School Pastor

brian@fbccumming.org (678.633.9740)

Joshua Sunderraj, Friends of India Pastor

joshua.aruna@gmail.com (678.899.3636)

DIRECTORS

Greg Deeter, Church Administrator

greg@fbccumming.org (513.368.4494)

Laura Nixon, Children's Director

laura@fbccumming.org (404.444.2988)

Edna Bridges, Preschool Director

edna@fbccumming.org (404.242.6675)

Bryan Isbell, Worship Arts Director

bryan.isbell@fbccumming.org (678.630.0632)

Dr. Rick Forbus, Classic Worship Director

rick@fbccumming.org (404.663.6166)

Carrie Ann Sienkiewicz, Communications Director

carrieann@fbccumming.org (404.520.4568)

MINISTRY AREAS

We encourage your partnership in any of the following areas.

Adult Discipleship	Cole Wilkins: cole@fbccumming.org
Buses and Transportation	Scott Carpenter: scott@fbccumming.org
College	Scott Carpenter: scott@fbccumming.org
Connect Team.....	Michael O'Neal: michael@fbccumming.org
Deacons	Allen Bowns: abowns@johnscreekdental.com (Benevolence, Widows/Orphans, Handymen, Hospital visits, Shut-in, Bereavement)
DivorceCare	Jim and Sylvia Gibson: sagibson2005@gmail.com
Encouragement (Stephen Ministry)	Shelly Smith: shelly.smith@morganstanley.com
Grief Share	Bill Blalock and Paula Gault: paulagault@gmail.com
Financial	Cole Wilkins: cole@fbccumming.org
Hospitality/Special Events	Connie Bowers: cpowers@bellsouth.net
Marriage Mentors.....	Greg and Lorraine Lane: gslane@bellsouth.net
Media/Audio/Visual	Bryan Isbell: bryan.isbell@fbccumming.org
Men's Ministry.....	Brian Weaver: brian@fbccumming.org
Missions.....	Michael O'Neal: michael@fbccumming.org
Prayer	Michele Rabanal: rab6@bellsouth.net
Senior Adults	All Ministerial Staff
Single Moms	Nancy Thorne: nkthorne@comcast.net
Sports and Recreation	Scott Carpenter: scott@fbccumming.org
Tutoring Ministry	Gary Clark: clarkgg@comcast.net
Weekday Preschool	Mary Paige Jones: mary.paige@fbccumming.org
Women's Ministry	Karen Isbell: karen@fbccumming.org
Worship	Gwenn Fox: gwenn@fbccumming.org
Young Professionals	Cole Wilkins: cole@fbccumming.org

EVANGELISM & MISSIONS

Jesus told us in Acts 1:8 that we are to be His witnesses wherever we go. As a church, we give ourselves away to the world by being witnesses in our local community and in global cities around the world. Because of what Jesus has done for us, we have hope. And that hope is too good to keep to ourselves. God made us for a mission—to be His witnesses everywhere we go and to make disciples. How will First Baptist stay laser-focused on this important mission? We're going after four big goals by the end of 2020. By God's grace and power, we will impact our local community and the global cities with the hope of Jesus Christ. As the Evangelism and Missions Pastor, I have the privilege of leading FBC to pursue our Acts 1:8 H.O.P.E. Mission:

HELPING every member live on mission

OFFERING opportunities to engage global cities with our mission partners

PLANTING churches locally and globally

EQUIPPING missional disciple-makers

Our giving to the Acts 1:8 H.O.P.E. Mission is only possible through our Acts 1:8 H.O.P.E. Offering, which enables us to pursue these goals. As an Acts 1:8 church, we have mission partners around the world, from our local community to Thailand. Will you partner with us as we seek to make and multiply disciples locally and globally? Will you pray, give, and go? God wants to use you to bring eternal hope to the world!

Come join us as we ask God for more opportunities to give ourselves away!

- Michael O'Neal



ACTS 1:8 MISSION PARTNERS

LOCAL



Cumming Home Ministries
Face Painting Outreach
Family Haven
FCA
Feed Forsyth Children
Friends of India Ministry
NAMB Disaster Relief
Night to Shine
Orphan Ministry
The Place
Whispering Hope

US CITIES



Atlanta, GA
First Baptist of Iranians
Arabic Baptist Church
Refuge Church
Gospel Hope Church
Columbus, OH:
Watermark Church
Lynch, KY:
Club 180 Ministry

GLOBAL CITIES



London, England
Pattaya, Thailand
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Birmingham, England

“Every saved person this side of heaven owes the gospel to every lost person this side of hell.”

David Platt

DISCIPLESHIP

As a follower of Jesus, growing in the gospel together with other believers is essential to your spiritual health. COVID has made that obvious.

We have learned some important lessons and we are using some creative ways to safely do this! We are very excited to be offering new online, in person, and hybrid Bible Study options for groups.

We'd love to help you connect with others through any and all of our discipleship environments.

- Cole Wilkins



CONNECT GROUPS

Gospel-centered communities living on mission together.

Our Sunday morning Connect Groups are listed on the right side of your page. Please note that some are currently meeting online, hybrid, and in person.

NEW SHORT-TERM BIBLE STUDIES

Short online, in person, and hybrid midweek studies focused on specific topics to help deepen your spiritual leadership and growth.

Please visit fbcdiscipleship.org to view the ever-growing list of groups. You can click on each to see a brief description and sign up!

DISCIPLESHIP "ON THE GO"

Digital content shared consistently through social media to encourage, inspire, and grow your faith.

This year we are emphasizing prayer and "spiritual disciplines for spiritual resilience."

9:30 AM CONNECT GROUPS

For Young Adults

College: The Porch

Young Pros (20s): Room 324-B

For Adults (Family Emphasis):

Raising Disciples (20s-30s): Room 347


Courageous Parenting (30s-40s): Room 322

Marriage Builders (30s-40s): Room 323

Solid Family Foundations (40s-50s): Room 325


Homebuilders (40s-50s): Room 212


For Adults

Impact (30s-50s): Room 321-B 


The Why Files (40s-50s): Room 303

Abundance (40s-60s): Room 348

Sojourners (40s-60s): Room 206 

Hear & Do (40s-60s): Room 208 

Life Application (50s-60s): Room 213

Empty Nesters (50s-60s): Room 321-A 


For Women

Ladies S.O.S. (30s-50s): Room 324-A

11:00 AM CONNECT GROUPS


For Adults


The Branches (30s and up): Room 321-A


Single Purposed (35-55 singles): Room 212 


On Mission (30s-60s): Room 206


Bible Explorers (40s-60s): Room 317

Grace (40s-60s): Room 321-B 


Unity (50s-70s): Room 208 

Lost and Found (Senior Adults): Room 324-B 

Agape (Senior Adults): Room 323 

Salt and Shakers (Senior Adults): Room 322 

For Women

Harmony (50s-70s): Room 213 

For Men

Iron Men (30s-70s): Room 348

*Welcome, Advocates, Gleaners, Genesis
and Ruth classes meeting by email only.*



HYBRID



VIRTUAL ONLY

HIGH SCHOOL

"Two42" is the theme of our High School Ministry at FBC and is based on Acts 2:42:

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers.”

Our high school program is made up of students in 9th - 12th grade from all of the Forsyth County high schools as well as home school and Christian schools. The High School Ministry at FBC equips students to know, own, share, and grow in their faith in Christ.

We look forward to meeting you and your high schooler! Let us know how we can serve you.

- Scott Carpenter



Text your name to (678) 231-5020
for high school reminder alerts
Follow us on Instagram @ FBC242_

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School Ministry at First Baptist Cumming, 678@FBC, exists to provide a place for middle school students to belong as they learn how to become disciples of Jesus through connection and community.

The name 678@FBC signifies that our ministry at First Baptist Cumming is for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students and that Romans 6:7-8 teaches them that the death and resurrection of Jesus gives them a new identity.

Our desire is for them to begin their own faith and head down a path of being followers of Jesus understanding their identity and their purpose in this world.

Come be a part of the great things happening in Middle School ministry!

- Brian Weaver



Text @FBC678 to 81010 for
middle school reminder alerts
Follow us on Instagram @ 678fbc
Follow us on Facebook @ 678 FBC

CHILDREN

FirstKidz is our ministry to families of Kindergarteners through 5th graders and partners with parents to equip children with the tools to know, follow, and share Christ. We believe Christ-centered teaching is vital to develop a strong relationship with Jesus so families can be lifelong, confident disciples who impact the world for Him.

Come grow with us!

- Laura Nixon



Text @1STKIDZ to 81010 for FirstKidz reminder alerts

Follow us on Instagram @ firstkidz_fbc

Follow us on Facebook @ Firstkidz Fbc

PRESCHOOL

FBC's Preschool Ministry provides some of the earliest impressions a child will have about God, Jesus, and the church. We introduce preschoolers to God and help them understand how much He loves them. We seek to build the spiritual foundation on which our children come to understand their need for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are committed to giving each child love, acceptance, and understanding as we ensure a safe and nurturing environment each week.

- Edna Bridges



WEEKDAY PRESCHOOL

The Weekday Preschool of FBC exists to provide a safe and secure Christian environment in which preschoolers can be cared for and taught. We operate on a part-time basis to provide parents with time away from their children while they can be confident of the care their child is receiving. We strive to obtain high standards with a Christian emphasis. For more information, please contact Mary Paige Jones.

- Mary Paige Jones



FIRST BAPTIST CUMMING
Weekday Preschool

JOHN 13:34



WORSHIP ARTS

The mission of our Worship Arts department is to come alongside the mission of the church as a whole: to make disciples. We do that by cultivating a movement of worshipping disciples. We seek to create an environment each Sunday for people to encounter Jesus through engaging and interacting with people of FBC, both on and off the stage, by celebrating the things God is doing in our church, community and world, and by equipping our people to be sent worshippers, no matter where God leads them. We hope you'll join us for worship!

- Rick Forbus and Bryan Isbell



Rick Forbus
Director of Classic Worship



Bryan Isbell
Director of Worship Arts
and Modern Worship

CLASSIC WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM

FBC's Classic Service is led by our Celebration Choir and Orchestra. In this service, you'll discover a multi-generational, blended worship experience. We use music from several hundred years of Christian music history ranging from the greatest hymns of our faith to the latest worship choruses. The criteria for music is biblical, theological, and spiritually engaging.



MODERN WORSHIP

SUNDAYS AT 11:00 AM

The Modern Worship team leads our Modern Service at 11:00 AM on Sunday mornings. This service is led by our worship band and Worship Arts Director. We sing contemporary Christian songs you may have heard on your radio yesterday along with Christian hymns and music from the last hundred years. All songs are carefully curated to help prepare our hearts for worship and correlate with the messages we hear.



BAPTISM AT FBC

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:3-4 ESV

WHY DO WE BAPTIZE?

Not only did Jesus command it, but when we are baptized, we are following Christ's example.



"At that time, Jesus came from Nazareth and was baptized by John in the river." Mark 1:9

WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

It is a symbol of Christ's burial and resurrection, AND it is a symbol of your new life as a Christian.

"...Christ died for our sins...He was buried...He was raised on the third day..." 1 Corinthians 15:3-4



WHO NEEDS TO BE BAPTIZED?

Every person who has made the decision to surrender his or her life to Christ.

"Those who believed and accepted His message were baptized." Acts 2:41

HOW ARE WE BAPTIZED?

Like Jesus, we are immersed in water.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, He went up out of the water." Matthew 3:16



WHEN ARE WE BAPTIZED?

As soon as you have believed!

*"Those who believed...were baptized...that day!"
Acts 2:41*

WHAT WE BELIEVE

We are a Southern Baptist Church, and we affirm the Baptist Faith and Message. You may view the full document on our website at fbccumming.org. The following are statements summarizing core beliefs essential to our faith and non-negotiable for our doctrine.

ABOUT GOD:

God is the creator and ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

ABOUT THE BIBLE:

The Bible is God's word to all men. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Inspired by God, it is truth without any mixture of error.

ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS:

Human beings are made in the image of God and were meant to be like Him. They are the supreme object of God's creation. Although people have tremendous potential for good, they are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called sin. This innate rebellious attitude separates mankind from God. Through Christ, this image or ability to reflect God can be restored.

ABOUT ETERNITY:

Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and hell are places of physical, conscious, eternal existence.

ABOUT JESUS CHRIST:

Jesus Christ is the son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

ABOUT SALVATION:

Salvation is a gift from God to man. Man can never make up for his sin by self-improvement or good works - but only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

WHAT WE BELIEVE

ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily.

ABOUT BAPTISM:

Baptism by immersion symbolizes the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and is your public declaration that you have accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Baptism does not save you, but shows the world that you have already been saved. And while baptism is not required for salvation, it is a biblical command and demonstrates your love and obedience to Christ.

ABOUT COMMUNION:

Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is an ordinance given to all believers by Jesus Christ to remember His sacrifice for us and to symbolize the new covenant. The elements of bread and wine or juice are symbols of Christ's broken body and shed blood. Communion is not a means of salvation. Rather, it is a testament of Jesus Christ's atoning work of the cross.

ABOUT RESURRECTION:

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate. Moreover, because of Jesus Christ's atoning work on the cross, there will be a bodily resurrection of the just and unjust. Those whose Lord is Christ will be raised and saved to experience everlasting life (Heaven); and those whose Lord is not Christ will be raised and condemned to everlasting separation from God (hell).

ABOUT THE CHURCH:

We believe that the New Testament church is a local body of baptized believers with Christ as its head and the Holy Spirit as its guide. New Testament churches promote God's work by cooperating together for missions and many other joint efforts. The local church is autonomous and to be governed independently of outside persons, bodies, groups, or authorities. The New Testament also teaches that there is also a universal Church, the body of Christ that is made up of Christians both dead and alive - the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.



For more information about
FBC Cumming and our events,
please visit fbccumming.org and
follow us online.

FBC Cumming
1597 Sawnee Drive
Cumming, Georgia 30040
(770) 887-2428



/FirstBaptistCumming



/FBCCumming