



EXPLORE FIRST





Pastor's Welcome

Welcome to Explore First! Thank you for joining us for lunch and allowing us to tell you more about what God is doing in and through First Baptist. We are grateful for God's call on our church to "make disciples who make disciples by giving themselves away." We want to impact our community and the world for Christ and we would be honored for you to join us on this mission.

This luncheon is designed to give you a better view of our church. What are we about? Who serves our church? How are we organized? Who can you contact for information about our ministries? Who can you contact to learn about opportunities to serve? Where can I find discipleship and Bible study opportunities for me and my family? What does First Baptist believe? Can I be a part of the mission? We hope to answer these and other questions you have about our church.

Enjoy the lunch. Meet new friends. Learn about First Baptist. Consider God's call on your life to be part of the family of faith called the church. Pray about your place in the church. Ask questions. And know that we are praying for you and available to help you navigate your next step of faith.

In Christ Alone,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Jolly". The signature is written in black ink.

Lead Pastor

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

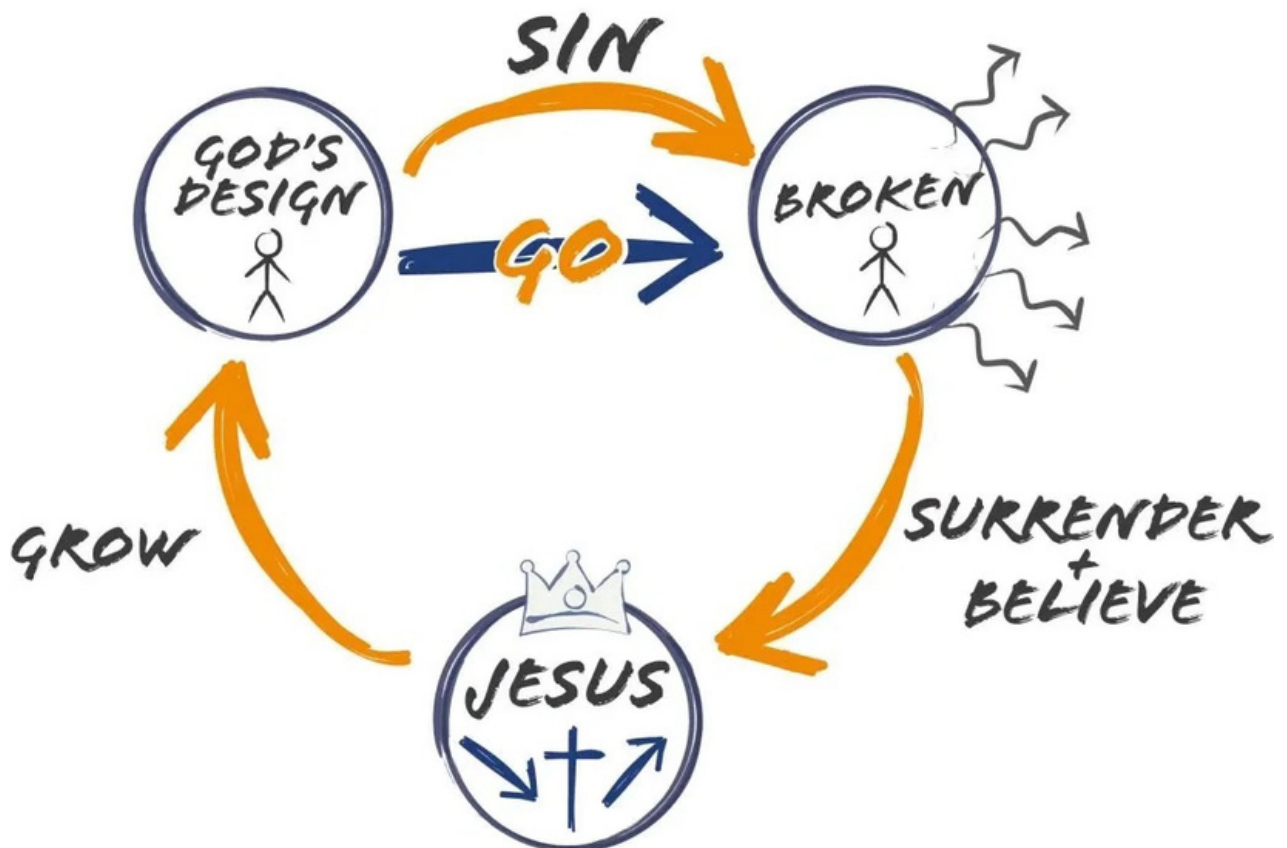
WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

“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. Rick Forbus, Executive Pastor & Classic Worship Director

rick@fbccumming.org (404.509.6167)

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)

Will Nixon, Middle School Director

will@fbccumming.org (678.429.7723)

Joshua Sunderraj, Friends of India Pastor

jsunderraj@fbccumming.org (678.899.3636)

Wanderson Goncalves, Multicultural Ministry Pastor

wanderson@fbccumming.org (770.895.6761)

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)

Mary Paige Jones, Weekday Preschool Director

mary.paige@firstbaptistcumming.org (678.982.7313)

Bryan Isbell, Worship Arts Director

bryan.isbell@fbccumming.org (678.630.0632)

Martin Eason, Production Director

meason@fbccumming.org (404.316.3978)

Rick Kuter, Director of Senior Adults/Stephen Ministry

rkuter@fbccumming.org (678.708.3496)

Carrie Ann Sienkiewicz, Communications Director

carrieann@fbccumming.org (404.520.4568)



MINISTRY AREAS

Adult Discipleship	Cole Wilkins: cole@fbccumming.org
Buses and Transportation	Scott Carpenter: scott@fbccumming.org
Children.....	Laura Nixon: laura@firstbaptistcumming.org
College	Scott Carpenter: scott@fbccumming.org
Connect Team.....	Michael O'Neal: michael@fbccumming.org
Deacons	Bobby Wilson: bwcw31@gmail.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
High School.....	Scott Carpenter: scott@fbccumming.org
Grief Share	Kathie Pettit: kathie.pettit@gmail.com
Financial	Greg Deeter: greg@fbccumming.org
Media/Audio/Visual	Martin Eason: meason@fbccumming.org
Men's Ministry.....	Jason Turner: jpturner73@yahoo.com
Middle School	Will Nixon: will@fbccumming.org
Missions.....	Michael O'Neal: michael@fbccumming.org
Prayer	Craig Woodrow: cwoodrow1973@comcast.net
Preschool	Edna Bridges: edna@firstbaptistcumming.org
Senior Adults	Rick Kuter: rkuter@fbccumming.org
Single Moms	Kathie Pettit: kathie.pettit@gmail.com
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 Arts	Bryan Isbell: bryan@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 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

A light blue silhouette map of the state of Georgia, with a list of local mission partners overlaid on it.

Cumming Home Ministries
Family Haven
FCA
Feed Forsyth Children
Friends of India Ministry
Multicultural Ministry
Everlove Korean Church
NAMB Disaster Relief
Night to Shine
Orphan Care Ministry
The Place
Whispering Hope

US CITIES



GLOBAL CITIES



GA Baptist Mission Partners

“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. This is an exciting privilege and call.

We are very excited to encourage you toward growth in Christ and with others by offering meaningful Bible Study group options.

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

- Cole Wilkins



CONNECT GROUPS

Connect to Jesus, the church, and the world through these Gospel-centered communities living on mission together.

Our Sunday morning Connect Groups are listed on the next page.
Visit a few and find your spiritual family.

NEW SHORT-TERM BIBLE STUDIES

Short midweek studies focused on specific topics to help deepen your spiritual leadership and growth.

Please visit fbcdiscipleship.org (or hover your camera phone over the QR code at right) to view the ever-growing list of groups.
You can click on each to see a brief description and sign up!



“GROW ON THE GO”

Digital content to encourage, inspire, and grow your faith.

9:30 AM CONNECT GROUPS

For Young Adults

Young Pros (20-30s): Room 324-B

For Adults (Family Emphasis):

Pairs & Parents (30s): Room 346

Raising Disciples (30s): Room 325

Courageous Parenting (30s-40s): Room 347

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

Solid Family Foundations (40s-50s): Room 322

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 (Any Age): Room 208

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

For Women

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

Single Mom's Circle (20s-50s): Room 210

11:00 AM CONNECT GROUPS

For Adults

The Branches (30s+): Room 325

Single Purposed (35-55 singles): Room 212

On Mission (30s-60s): Choir Suite

Bible Explorers (40s-60s): Room 349

Empty Nesters (50s-60s): Room 317

Advocates (50s-70s): Room 323

Unity (50s-70s): Room 208

Better Together (50s-70s): Room 321-A

Agape (60s+): Room 206

Salt and Shakers (60s+): Room 322

Welcome (60s+): Room 211

For Women

Ruth (30s-70s): Room 324-A

Harmony (50s-70s): Room 213

For Men

Iron Men (30s-70s): Room 215



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!

- Will Nixon



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:

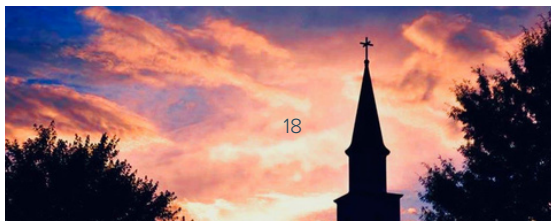
Communion, or the Lord's Supper, is an ordinance given to all believers by Jesus Christ to remember His sacrifice for us and to symbolize the new covenant. The elements of bread and wine or juice are symbols of Christ's broken body and shed blood. Communion is not a means of salvation. Rather, it is 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
P: (770) 887-2428 | F: (770) 844-5732

Sunday Worship Times 9:30 AM | 11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study Times 6:30 PM

