



Our Pastoral and Ministerial Staff

Rusty Guenther	Lead Pastor
Chad Martin	Youth Minister
Houston Sloan	Youth Minister
Sid Greene	Worship Pastor
	Children's Minister

Administrative Staff and Support

	Office Administrator
William Tugman	Property Manager

Livestreaming every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. on Facebook/ YOUTUBE or the churches APP or website.

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Phone: 828-295-7715
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office@firstbaptistblowingrock.com
www.firstbaptistblowingrock.com

Wednesday Evenings

Worship Team Practice	5:30p.m.
Worship Choir Practice	6:30 p.m.

Temporary Office Hours:
Mondays-Thursdays
9:00 A.M. –2:00P.M.

APRIL 2025 VOLUME 71

Monthly Newsletter
of First Baptist Blowing Rock



We hope you can join us for both services of Holy Week; Palm Sunday on April 13th and Easter Sunday, April 20th for a special time of worship at 9:00 and 10:30 as we remember and celebrate the death, burial and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ. On Palm Sunday we will be remembering Jesus' last supper with his disciples as we celebrate communion as a church family with special music from our Worship Choir and our children's ministry. On Easter Sunday, Pastor Rusty will start a new sermons series "Been with Jesus" that examines some of the personal encounters that Jesus had with everyday people throughout the Gospels by looking at those who encountered Jesus on the day of his crucifixion.

Easter is always a wonderful time for you to invite friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to join us for worship and we hope you can help get the word out as you invite those in your life who are not involved in a church or might be looking for a church. We will not have adult or teen life groups on Easter Sunday.



**FIRST BAPTIST BLOWING ROCK
NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

9:00 A.M.

Worship	Worship Center
0-3Nursery	Nursery
Children's Bible Study	Fellowship Hall/Room 6&4
Youth Life Groups	Youth House
Adult 1 - Pat Ball	Room 1
Adult 2 - Nathan & Ginny Anderson	Room 5
Spanish Language Life Group	Room 2
Children will go directly to classes after checking in at 9:00	

10:30 A.M.

Worship	Worship Center
0-3 Nursery	Nursery
Children's Church	Fellowship Hall
(Will be dismissed from worship after the music portion)	
6th Grade Life Group	Room 4
Adult 1 - Reggie Bray	Room 1 *
Adult 2 - Linda Craig	Room 6
Adult 3 - Jeff Foster	Room 2

*Room changes from previous class time

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

"In their fright, the women bowed down with their faces on the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead?' He is not here, He is Risen!"

Luke 24:5-6



I hope you will plan on joining us for our Holy week celebrations on both Sunday worship services on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday as we celebrate the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Even though we live in the shadow of the crucifixion, in a world filled with evil, pain, suffering and struggle, the promise of Easter Sunday and the resurrection reminds us of the hope we have in a secured eternity as we experience our own resurrections thanks to the redemption we can experiences through a relationship with our Savior. On Palm Sunday we will be following the example of Jesus on the last night he spent before his arrest with his closest followers by celebrating communion together. We will also have some special music from our worship choir and band along with music from our children's ministry. This will be a great way to prepare our hearts for Holy Week culminating in a special Easter worship service.

I will be kicking off a new sermon series Easter morning that will take us through the Summer entitled, "They

Have Been With Jesus" from the description of Peter and John given by the Jewish Leaders in Acts 4:13 "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus." This series will examine ordinary people who had an encounter with Jesus and how those encounters changed their lives. On Easter Sunday, we will look at several people who encountered Jesus on his path to the Cross and how those encounters changed their lives. Easter is a wonderful time to invite friends, families, neighbors and co-workers to join us for worship and I hope you will take some time for the Lord to put on your heart someone you can invite or bring with you for worship. It would be wonderful to have both worship services full on this special day.

This summer, I will celebrate my eighteenth year serving here as your Pastor and one of the things I have learned with that longevity is that staff transitions are a part of a growing church. As I reflected back on that time, I noted that we have been blessed with 5 different children's ministers, 3 student ministers, 4 worship Pastors and 3 office administrators. That includes how we have been incredibly blessed to have Sid Greene here leading our worship who will celebrate his 15th year as our worship Pastor in August. If we trust that God leads the right people here to serve our church, then we must trust that he also might lead them to another place of service or that the time may come where we need to part ways in the best interest of the church. Whatever the reason, transitions happen, and I choose to believe that as we find ourselves currently in a time of transition, this is a wonderful opportunity to position ourselves to continue to grow and move forward as a faith community as well as preparing us for an unlimited future in reaching the region for Christ.

We are currently taking applications for our Children's Minister position and we hope to have someone here by the summer. A wonderful thank you to all our volunteers for helping to fill in and even expand our children's ministry during this time of transition and as we continue

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

April Birthdays

- 2- *Olivia Williamson*
- 3- *Brown Abernathy*
- 3- *Ellington Tester*
- 4- *David McLean*
- 5- *Gail Kinser*
- 6- *Lois Norris*
- 6- *Reggie Bray*
- 8- *Becky Guinn*
- 9- *Nicole Barker*
- 11- *David Jamison*
- 13- *Kasey Triplett*
- 15- *Steve Joyce*
- 18- *Don Gossett*
- 18- *Brielle Watson*
- 19- *Gary Woolard*
- 21- *Blake Bance*
- 21- *Hope McCollum*
- 22- *Mitchell Abernathy*
- 22- *Russell Patterson*
- 22- *Stephen Logue*
- 24- *Finley Gore*
- 24- *Ann Whiddon*
- 25- *Jack Garrett*
- 25- *Robinson Strickland*
- 26- *Jim Duggins*
- 27- *Rob Moore*
- 30- *Noah Clark*

April Wedding Anniversaries

- 8- *Kevin & Ann Clark*
- 11- *Tony & Jan Todd*
- 21- *Jeff & Linda Foster*
- 27- *Steve & Diane Joyce*

April Tellers

Bill Pitts
Linda Craig
Kate Blalock

***a place to believe • a place to belong •
a place to become***

February Financials

<u><i>Budget</i></u>	<u><i>Received</i></u>
<i>\$63,113</i>	<i>\$74,675</i>
 <i>YTD</i>	
<u><i>Budget</i></u>	<u><i>Received</i></u>
<i>\$123,660</i>	<i>\$180,608</i>

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

We will be celebrating all our families that have new additions on Sunday, May 11th in both worship services with a time of baby and family dedication. If you have a newborn to two-year-old child who has not been dedicated, we would love for you to take part in this special service. Baby Dedication is a time where the church family has an opportunity to pray with and over your child, you as parents and your extended family. We also have a time of commitment and dedication welcoming your child into our church family. If you would like to participate or have questions, please email the church office (office@firstbaptistblowingrock.com) and we can give you more details and what information we will need for the dedication.



“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it” Proverbs 22:6



Please join us after the 10:30 service on May 25th for a BBQ fundraiser to support Blakely Woolard. BBQ made by none other, than our very own Roachel Laney, accompanied by slaw, baked beans, a roll, and homemade dessert. All proceeds will be going to fund Blakely on an upcoming school trip this summer to Barcelona, Paris, and London. We hope you can join us for some delicious food and a chance to support her on this incredible trip.

FROM THE PASTOR'S HEART

While we are searching to fill some spots, I am excited that we hope to fill one of our searches later this month. After a lengthy process, I am excited that we have a candidate coming the weekend of April 26th-27th for our Associate Pastor position. This candidate has met with both the personnel committee and deacon board, and both are recommending him to the church for a vote. I have spent a lot of time with him these last several months and I believe he is the perfect candidate and give him my highest recommendation. We will be telling you more about him, his family and ministry in the coming weeks and we will have a churchwide fellowship on Saturday evening, the 26th for anyone who can come, to be able to come and meet him and his wife in an informal setting. He will also be sharing and teaching in both worship services on Sunday, the 27th followed by a vote by the church for his candidacy. If approved, his responsibilities will be overseeing and organizing our small group and discipleship ministries, ministry teams and church engagement and connections, developing missions and evangelistic events as well as helping me with the general operation of the church. Please be in prayer for him and his family as well as our church family as we proceed in this important decision for the life of our church.

I also wanted to encourage those of you with middle school or high school students to make it a priority to get your students here on Sunday for our new schedule of activities and to sign them up for summer camp while we still have spots. Houston and Chad have redone our Sunday morning schedule for students and between the large gathering at 9:00 in the newly remodeled youth house to the middle school discipleship time during the 10:30 service with Houston meeting with the guys and Racheal Mills meeting with the girls – your students will be challenged and blessed. Racheal has also started a Sunday night Bible Study time for High School girls at her home and we hope to expand with a time for High School guys soon, so this is a great time for your students to get connected and plugged in.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement for our staff and for your commitment to our church and what God continues to do here as we continue to grow. As we come upon the one-year mark of moving to two worship times and small group times, we are looking to start some new small groups in the late summer for various age groups like young married, singles and median adults as well as adapt some of our current groups. Small groups are one of the best ways to get connected and I hope you will find a place where you can plug in! Your willingness to be flexible and patient as we have adapted to this new schedule has been a continued blessing and I cannot wait to see what the future holds.

You can join us online or watch previous services three ways

- Go to the Church Website (firstbaptistblowingrock.com) or APP on your mobile devices and click on the link and it will take you to the page where the video is playing and prior services are available.
- Like the church Facebook page and a reminder will pop up on Sunday mornings that we are live and watch it on Facebook. Be sure to comment so we know you are joining us and share the link to your own Facebook page to help us get more views.
- Go to YOUTUBE on your computer, mobile device or smart TV and type in First Baptist Church of Blowing Rock and this will take you to the church page and simply click on the service you want to watch. Click the subscribe button and it will remind you when we have a new video posted.

STUDENT MINISTRY



Our youth group for the month of April, during the 9am service will be starting a new study.

“Welcome to a new month and a brand-new truth: “ I am set apart.” This isn’t just a catchy phrase—it’s a powerful reminder of who God created you to be.”



On 3/30, Our Middle School Students started a five-week series on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This series will continue through Easter and the rest of April.

The High School Girls Bible Study will continue at the home of Rachael Mills on Sundays at 6 p.m. Please speak with Rachael Mills for more information or how to get connected with this group.



This summer our youth will be exploring one of the Bible’s most theologically rich passages: Romans 8.

From July 28th– August 2nd our youth will be returning to Snowbird Wilderness Outfitters for their youth summer camp! A \$50 deposit is due by May 1.

Please contact Chad Martin, or the church office to reserve your spot!



WOMEN’S MINISTRY



Ladies, mark your calendars, you will not want to miss this! Our women’s ministry will be hosting a Spring Tea on May 4th from 3:00-5:00 down in the fellowship hall. Come and enjoy a time of fellowship, sweet treats, and our guest speaker former NC Senator, Deanna Ballard.



Join our Women’s Ministry as they continue their study on the book of Ruth by Kelly Minter as they explore Ruth’s story of loss, redemption and God’s faithfulness.

The study is offered two days each week on (Mondays 6pm) and (Wednesdays 10 am). This is a 7 week study but you still have time to join.

THEO of GOLDEN

Our Women’s Book Club’s next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12th from 6:00-8:00 at the church. Join them as the discuss their next read, Theo of Golden by Allen Levi . A mysterious stranger arrives in a southern city and sets out on a mission to purchase all the portraits in a coffee shop, one by one, and quietly bestow them on their 'rightful owners.' Stories are told, friendships are born, and lives are changed.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Couldn't catch me!
Better luck next year
kids!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



This year for Easter we will hold an Easter Egg Hunt during Children's Church in the 10:30 service. To make this possible we need pre-packaged individually wrapped candy and bags of plastic easter eggs. Please drop off in marked boxes or the church office within the next 4 weeks.

"Children are a blessing and a gift from God." Psalm 123:3

The children are continuing our study in the Old Testament with Team Kid. We are exploring details of God's covenants and faithfulness to Adam, Noah, and Abraham and seeing how God provides, protects, and remembers us. We are learning to be patient, obey, and wait on God to answer our prayers. Parents can continue reinforcing what we are learning by picking up a Parent Connection each week. Stay involved with what our children are learning and talk with them about it during the week.

The children will share and sing with the Choir on Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025. Lauren Greene is practicing music with the children during TeamKid, so please do your best to have your children there on Sundays so they can sing with their friends. The Volunteer team is excited for Easter this year as we will have an Easter egg hunt with prizes during TeamKid this year at 10:30. Save the date and make sure to bring your Easter baskets.

We always welcome volunteers. **The nursery team needs volunteers to cover the 10:30 a.m. service on the 1st Sunday of the month and someone to cover both services on the 2nd Sunday. We are also in need of volunteers for the children's registration desk located at the back of the sanctuary.**

If you feel led to help in the Children's Ministry, please get in touch with the church office or Kim Guenther at (423) 619-1599.



JUNE 23-26

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School this year. Our bible study will be this years Lifeway study called MAGNIFIED. VBS will be from June 23rd-26th from 5:30-8:00. As always, we are seeking volunteers to help make this years VBS possible. If you would like to sign up, please email

Office@firstbaptistblowingrock.com

JOB OPENING UPDATES

Associate Pastor – We are excited to announce that we will have a candidate for the Associate Pastor position here the weekend of April 27th . We will have a fellowship time with question and answers on Saturday, April 26th for anyone who would like to meet Him and his wife. He will be sharing and preaching in both worship services on Sunday, April 27th followed by a churchwide vote on the position. He is currently serving as a Lead Pastor with over 25 years of Pastor and Associate Pastor experience. He has met and interviewed with the Personnel Committee and Deacon Board, and both offer their recommendation that we hire him for this position. To be sensitive to the fact that he is currently serving as a Pastor at a Baptist Church in South Carolina, we will not be releasing all his personal information and job experience until Sunday, April 13th in the bulletin inserts. Please be in prayer for him and his family as he looks to follow God's will and join our staff and plan on being a part of this exciting weekend in the life of our church.

Children's Ministry Position – We are currently taking applications and resumes for our part time children's ministry job. This is a part-time position (12-15 hours a week) that is responsible for planning, organizing and overseeing all our weekly children's activities (nursery through 5th grade) as well as Vacation Bible School and other Children's events and volunteers. The pay scale is between \$23-30,000. depending on experience. Please help us get the word out to anyone you think might be interested and fit in well with our team and ministry. A full job description is available in the church office.

Office Administrator - In April we are posting the job opening for a new office administrator. This is a full-time position that oversees all the main office responsibilities and acts as an administrator for our staff. A full job description is available in the church office. This position pays between \$50-60,000. depending on education and experience. We will be taking applications and resumes through the end of April with the goal of hiring someone in early May.

Thank you to Cassidy Foster for filling in for this position part time until we fill the position. Until the position is filled full time, the church office hours are temporarily 9:00-2:00, Monday-Thursday. If you need anything outside those times, you can contact us at office@firstbaptistblowingrock.com



WORSHIP MINISTRY

² “The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; ³ my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge and my savior—. . . ³² For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? ⁴⁷ The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! Exalted be my God, the Rock, my Savior! ⁵⁰ Therefore I will praise you, LORD, among the nations; I will sing the praises of your name.” 2 Samuel 22:2-3, 32, 47, 50*



As we change seasons and near Easter I feel a shifting in my spirit. Looking around all of creation appears to be bursting in praise of its creator. I have a particular tree in my yard that I begin to watch with anticipation around this time of year. It is a visual indicator that the long cold days of winter are nearing an end and that the promise of spring and warmer days are just around the corner. The timing is usually just about perfect that it hits peak bloom right at Easter. However, with Easter later than normal I watched this tree achieve its glory the other day. Much like our lives, on this Earth, it is a vapor, here today and gone tomorrow. But for that brief moment it is glorious! It makes me question my life and how it reflects its glorious creator. As I search my heart and prepare for this Easter season, I challenge you to do the same. Let's let our lives, no matter how long or short, burst forth in praise of its glorious creator.

I am excited for the music that the choir, worship team, and children are preparing for Palm Sunday. Nothing warms my heart like seeing a cross generational time of worship. I hope it encourages you as it has me. We want to continue to “sound the call” for anyone who wishes to join the worship ministry. This is not limited to musicians. So much of our worship experience happens behind the scenes. We are always looking for individuals to help with sound, lighting, and video streaming. If this is something you wish to discuss, please reach out to me at (828) 266-1205

- Sid

Come lift your voices

Praise Team rehearsal– Wednesday 5:30

Choir rehearsal– Wednesday 6:30