

THE MESSENGER

MARCH 2026



Spring flowers are blooming – a colorful seasonal marker as we continue our Lenten journey through the month of March. While beauty blossoms here, a new conflict has begun in Iran and the surrounding region. What are we, who are here, to do?

We experience effects of the conflict through anxieties that grow in response to news reports, the rising costs of fuel, and fluctuations in the stock market. We are connected to people trying to escape the conflict and return to safety. We are connected to the conflict by our tax dollars and citizenship. What are we, who are here, to do?

As with most of life's most difficult moments, there are many appropriate ways to respond. Here are few ways one might respond. Note that this list is not exhaustive, and the best response for a person or community might change from day to day.

1. **Pray.** Throughout the scriptures, God's people are called to pray: When you call up on me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart (Jer 29:12-13). Pray for those who persecute you (Mt 5:44). Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God (Phil 4:6).
2. **Gather.** It is easy to underestimate the power of being in community. When we gather and share our fears and anxieties, as well as our hopes and joys, we bear one another's burdens and catch one another's hopes. It is important to note that while there will be times for focusing more on one side only, without the honest balance of the other, the act of gathering loses its power.
3. **Do (there).** Sometimes we need to do something directly connected to the conflict on the other side of the world. Creative responses can include writing letters and engaging in resource/support-gathering for humanitarian aid organizations, etc.
4. **Do (here).** While our influence abroad can be limited, we can respond to the tragedy we see happening in our world by bringing hope, life, and joy in our community – particularly among our neighbors who, in their day-to-day life, may be more familiar with tragedy than we are.
5. **Advocate.** Our system of government is built on the idea that those who govern represent their constituents (us). We can advocate (through letters, calls, visits, demonstrations) for the kind of action we hope to see.

These responses are appropriate to most moments in our lives – particularly the ones we feel most strongly. If you find yourself burdened by the weight of this present moment and are unsure how to respond, consider trying one or more of these.

HYMN HIGHLIGHT

By Nenette Measels, Minister of Music and Worship

During this season of Lent we are called to answer difficult questions with soul-searching honesty. Can we follow Jesus to the cross and embrace this journey as selflessly as He did? Can we accept this life of joy even if it also holds pain and sacrifice? The choral anthem, "Can You Drink This Cup?" by Pamela Martin and Craig Courtney challenges us to answer this question and celebrate God's gift of everlasting life.

Can you drink this cup, embrace it in your hands?
Can you look inside and face what it demands?
In the wine you see reflections of your soul.
No one else can drink this cup that you must hold.

Can you drink the cup? Then you must lift it high
though this cup of joy holds pain and sacrifice.
When you lift your cup, raise it unafraid.
Lift it up, this cup of life, and celebrate.

Can you drink the cup until there is no more?
When the wine is gone, Christ Himself will pour,
Though you drink it all the cup is never dry.
God keeps filling it with everlasting life.*

**Can You Drink This Cup?* Lyrics by Pamela Martin,
music by Craig Courtney, Beckenhorst Press, Inc., 2001



Holy Week

PALM SUNDAY March 29	10:45 AM Sanctuary
MAUNDY THURSDAY April 2	6:00 PM Sanctuary
GOOD FRIDAY April 3	6:00 PM Sanctuary
EASTER SUNDAY April 5	10:45 AM Sanctuary*

*Please bring fresh flowers to decorate the cross!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Summary of Operational Budget Income & Expense through February 2026

Items of Interest

- **Online Giving** is simple and convenient, and you do not have to set up a Realm account to give online. Visit: <https://onrealm.org/fbcjeff/give/now> to initiate an online gift today!
- **Designated Benevolence Fund total** (as of 2/28/2026) = \$41,700.33

	November	December	January	February
Income	\$52,496.78	\$33,983.58	\$20,853.81	\$22,901.56
Expenses	\$24,481.16	\$34,392.01	\$36,571.72	\$31,319.69
Net	\$28,015.62	(\$408.43)	(\$15,717.91)	(\$8,418.13)
YTD	\$37,626.50	\$37,218.17	(\$15,717.91)	(\$24,519.39)

ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
February 1	0	0
February 8	18	99
February 15	18	74
February 22	23	94

DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

- March 1:** Jean Love/Peggy Dalton/Chad Hartsock
- March 8:** Susan Garber/Betty Watkins/Nenette Measels
- March 15:** Merci Rowlett/Karen Smith/Major Treadway
- March 22:** Cary Bible/Jim Wilson/Chad Hartsock
- March 29:** Karen Smith/Cary Bible/Nenette Measels

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Bethany Davenport, Chair, Children and Youth Committee

Thank You!

Your participation in Valentine's Bingo helped us raise close to \$500 for our campers heading to Passport Kids this summer! Thank you for continuing to support our children's ministry here at FBC.

If you would like to sponsor a Passport Kids camper, let Bethany Davenport or Karen Treadway know. Be on the lookout for other fundraisers coming up this spring!



Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 22nd

9:45 to 10:30 am

FBC Jefferson City

Join us for our third annual egg hunt!

Gather at 9:45 for age-appropriate egg hunting, followed by a doughnut breakfast!

BENEVOLENCE

Cary Bible, Leader, Benevolence Team

"I've been in the hospital," the 67-year-old Talbott resident explained, "and my bank account was hacked. I have three dollars in my bank account, and they're going to turn off my power this morning at 10:00am. I don't know what to do. The Douglas Cherokee Center told me you might be able to help."

While FBC prefers to meet with Benevolence recipients in person – to foster human connection and collectively explore other resources from which the person might benefit – we occasionally field calls that require an immediate response. In those scenarios, swift communication between FBC office staff and the Benevolence Committee can provide much needed relief to neighbors facing acute crises.

Due to this congregation's ongoing support of its Benevolence ministry, FBC was able to pay her past-due electrical bill of \$195.74 the same morning, keeping her lights on and her heat source working during a particularly chilly week of winter.

When I called to tell her the good news, she responded in a shaky voice with audible relief, "Oh thank you. Thank you. You just have no idea. I hated having to ask you. I'm so sorry. Thank you so much."

I told her an apology wasn't necessary, and that I was glad she called. Our church knows our neighbors sometimes experience circumstances where assistance like this is necessary, and her situation is exactly the kind of scenario for which these funds are intended.

She said she used to go to church and really misses it. She hopes to start going again once she has a car. "Maybe I'll come visit your church," she said. "I think I'd like to visit your church."

Whether or not she finds a home at FBC in the future, our faith family was able to share the love of Christ with this beloved neighbor.

Season of Lent at FBC

February 22 The Light of Lent
Ephesian 5:8-14;
John 9:24-41

March 1 Possessing Places
Genesis 12:1-4a

March 8 Water From A Rock
Exodus 17:1-7

March 15 Eating Death
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

March 22 This Here Valley of Bones
Ezekiel 37: 1-14



A Message to FBC from
Robbie Pinkerton

Dear Members of First Baptist Church,

Thirty years ago you joined hands with the Jefferson County unit of the American Cancer Society, to begin the Celebrity Waiter's Dinner. I don't think any of us realized what a great event we started.

Checks are still arriving, but at this time, our 2026 total is \$131,769.15, and our thirty year total is \$1,062,245.20

Thank you for your help in various ways, through our thirty years, to have so much success.

Thank You
Robbie Pinkerton

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

9:30am Sunday Bible Studies
10:45am Worship Service

CONTACT INFO

(865) 475-3826; (865) 262-9026 (Fax)
Church Office Hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Find us at www.fbcjeff.org or follow us online on *Facebook* and *YouTube*

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The Messenger (ISSN 766010) is published monthly by First Baptist Church, 1610 Russell Ave., Jefferson City, TN 37760-2299. Periodicals Postage Paid at Jefferson City, TN POSTMASTER. Send address change to *The Messenger*, 1610 Russell Ave., Jefferson City, TN 37760-2299.