



First Baptist Church

JEFFERSON CITY TENNESSEE

*Breaking down barriers to proclaim the love of Christ.*

# THE MESSENGER

## MARCH 2025

### FROM MAJOR TREADWAY

Each year, we begin the sacred season of Lent with the reminder from Genesis 3:19, “remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” These words call us all the way back to the Garden of Eden, reminding us of our mortality, and that one day, when we have breathed our last, our bodies will begin the process of decay and transformation that will, eventually, leave them as dust, dirt, soil, earth.



The season of Lent is an annual opportunity to reflect on our lives and what excesses and deficiencies are keeping us and others from drawing nearer to God. Throughout much of the history of the Church, Christians have taken up practices of prayer, fasting, and self-denial during this season as a means of correction. These, of course, are not the only practices to which one might commit in this season.

Many folks will commit to some sort of self-denial or some new practice – reducing excess or correcting deficiency. One of the dangers in our current culture of goal setting, achievement, and self-help, is that in committing to a Lenten practice, we can feel like a failure if we make a mistake, and then like so many New Year’s resolutions, we give up.

However, Lent is not a season for this kind of keeping score. Rather, it is a season of drawing nearer to God, a season of penitence and preparation. And like any other activity we might take up in life, Lenten commitments and practices require just that – practice. So, if you have made a commitment, and you find that one day you have not measured up to your commitment, extend to yourself the same grace that Jesus does. Then, consider what can be learned, and try again. Because if this season is to help us draw nearer to God, through prayer, fasting, self-denial, and new practices, we are going to make mistakes, and we are going to need to learn from them, recommit ourselves, and continue our journey with Jesus, toward the cross.

# HYMN HIGHLIGHT

By Nenetta Measels, Minister of Music and Worship

## MIDWIVES OF A MOVEMENT: A STORY OF CHALLENGING BAPTIST PATRIARCHY

On the eve of the SBC's final vote for a constitutional amendment to disfellowship churches where women serve as pastors of all kinds, Baptist Women In Ministry released the documentary, *Midwives of a Movement* which chronicles the stories of the women who boldly birthed a movement to seek greater visibility and opportunities for women in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in the 1970s and 1980s. Despite great opposition, their courage blazed pathways for advancing women in ministry and leadership among Baptists over the last 40+ years.

During a time when women in ministry among Baptists are hearing negativity surrounding their call and service to God, BWIM has joined in solidarity with all women who serve among Baptists to share a positive message of affirmation and hope. One that proudly demonstrates that when women are pushed down and marginalized, they always rise up!

*You all have done something big here, something powerful and profoundly Spirit-infused. . . It was so impactful and beautiful for me to glimpse this part of the process of shifting congregational culture.*

You are invited to participate in the screening of this powerful documentary on Sunday, March 23, 4:00-6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall. Carolyn Blevins and Nenetta Measels will host a time for Q & A following the viewing. Snacks will be served.



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## Summary of Operational Budget Income & Expense through January 2025

### 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 01/31/2025) = \$96.16

	November	December	January	February
<b>Income</b>	\$28,308.19	\$69,622.68	\$25,601.16	\$25,327.05
<b>Expenses</b>	\$27,100.68	\$33,158.08	\$37,738.36	\$31,429.19
<b>Net</b>	\$1,207.51	\$36,464.60	(\$12,137.20)	(\$6,165.14)
<b>YTD</b>	\$15,298.38	\$51,762.98	(\$12,137.20)	(\$18,302.34)

## ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
February 2	41	94
February 9	53	105
February 16	57	97
February 23	49	100

## DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

**March 2:** Carolyn Blevins/Peggy Dalton/Major Treadway

**March 9:** Susan Garber/Betty Watkins/Chad Hartsock

**March 16:** Carolyn Blevins/Karen Smith/Nenette Measels

**March 23:** Leon Shoemaker/Jim Wilson/Major Treadway

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Bethany Davenport, Chair, Children and Youth Committee



**Easter Egg Hunt**  
Saturday, April 19th  
10:30 to 11:30 am  
FBC Jefferson City  
The Easter Story, Crafts,  
& Egg Hunting (of course)!  
Food trucks on site to purchase  
lunch afterwards!



**WIDE OPEN SPACES**  
PASSPORT  
June 17-20, 2025  
Berea, KY  
\$368 per camper/  
chaperone  
We're heading to Passport!  
PASSPORTkids | passportcamps.org

Be on the lookout for information concerning camp fundraisers! Let Bethany know if you want to sponsor a camp participant.

The 2025 Jefferson County Celebrity Waiter Dinner for the American Cancer Society was recently held. We have received a note which we wish to share with you:

Dear Members of Jefferson City First Baptist Church,

Thank you for your help and encouragement with our 2025 Jefferson County Celebrity Waiter Dinner for the American Cancer Society. We had a very successful event this year raising over \$56,000.00.

My children have informed me that next year will be my last Celebrity Waiter Dinner. They think thirty years is a good stopping place. Hopefully we will reach the one million dollar mark next year. I am not sure our church ever dreamed of raising this much money when they helped start the event. It has truly been a success story.

Thanks again,  
Robbie Pinkerton

\*Robbie was recognized by the Chamber of Commerce, as the Volunteer of the Year for Jefferson County. This is for her efforts to raise money for the American Cancer Society. In the last 30 years she has raised more than \$900,000.00.

Thank You and Congratulations!

## Upcoming Sermons

**Mar 9**

**The Wilderness Between**

*Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Luke 4:1-13*

**Mar 16**

**Recalling Calling**

*Genesis 15:1-12 17-18; Psalm 27*

**Mar 23**

**Ways and Figs**

*Isaiah 55:1-9; Luke 13:1-9*

**Mar 30**

**Looking for Bread in All the Wrong Places**

*Joshua 5:9-12; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21*



# DAWNINGS

Join us in discerning together God's calling for  
FBC into the future.

**February 23**  
**March 30**  
**April 27**  
**May 18**

Meetings will take place in the Fellowship Hall,  
directly following the service. Lunches provided.

(Please attend as many gatherings as possible.)

## 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](http://www.fbcjeff.org) or follow us online on *Facebook* and *YouTube*

## STAFF

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