



# THE WINDOW

A publication of The First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, North Carolina

Volume 56

March 8, 2023

No. 3

## A Second Weekly Worship Offering

I realize we have only just begun. However, I see much potential in our new Wednesday worship offering. Lent is the current inspiration for our Wednesday worship service that lasts from 6:15 PM to 6:55 PM in our newly refreshed fellowship hall. For the Wednesdays in Lent, we have added this worship experience and I asked you to consider adding it to your Lenten journey. The service is simple and informal. We hear a brief sermon (10-12 minutes) and then we share communion together. Finally, we sit in silence for 3 minutes with one another and God. It's been good, very good.

I wonder if this second weekly worship offering might maintain traction after Lent concludes this year.

In the past, our congregation discussed two Sunday morning worship services. In fact, we had two Sunday morning worship services during covid out of necessity. However, the consensus view was that we did not want to split our congregation on Sundays. Once that decision was settled, we considered moving our Sunday morning worship time from 11 AM to 10 AM. In fact, we voted on this proposal. In the end, our church decided to stay with the 11 AM start time for Sunday worship. I had no preference regarding our Sunday morning start time – 11 AM or 10 AM was fine with me. On the one hand, I was curious about the 10 AM time. Would that make a difference? Would more people make their way into our sanctuary at 10 AM compared with 11 AM? On the other hand, I struggled to see what difference one hour would make in our congregational context. The obstacle we face is a lot of our people are out of town on Sundays. On most Sundays, more than half of our resident membership is not in our sanctuary for worship. If many people are not in town on Sundays, this reality will remain during the 10 AM hour as well as the 11 AM hour.

A Wednesday night worship service, however, appears to fit the context of our congregation much better than a second Sunday morning worship service. I offer a few observations about this worship opportunity going forward. 1) As this service is very different from the 11am Sunday morning worship encounter, those who are able should participate in both worship services – Sundays at 11 AM and Wednesdays at 6:15 PM. The Wednesday service has a different sermon, different music, and a different feel as it meets in the fellowship hall. 2) For people, however, who simply find it difficult to make Sunday morning worship with regularity, this midweek time for gathered worship might meet a significant need in our congregation. Perhaps you cannot make it to worship many Sunday mornings because of your work schedule, or because you travel, or because you provide care for a family member. Whatever your exact situation, a second service on Sundays to gather for worship and instruction in the Christian life does you no good. A worship service on Wednesday, however, hits the spot. 3) Do you remember our 12 Sundays challenge from 2019? That was a good time in the life of our congregation. Perhaps the new challenge becomes: all resident members of the First Baptist Church of Ahoskie make it their goal to connect with one of these two worship offerings each week. Ideally, you connect with both worship offerings. This will be possible for some but not possible for others. Therefore, participate in at least one worship service per week. 4) I do not want the two worship services to compete with one another. Nonetheless, I know that some people prefer more elaborate worship experiences (Sunday mornings at 11 AM) and other people prefer more simplistic worship experiences (Wednesday nights at 6:15 AM).

Gathered worship, like baptism, is essential to make the Christian experience complete. During worship, we give thanks to God for what God has

accomplished for us through Jesus the Christ. And, during worship, we proclaim the riches of God's glory to every set of ears present. I hope you will find your place, on a regular and consistent basis, in one of these two weekly offerings or both!

In Christ,  
Paul

## Holy Week 2023

**Sunday, April 2**

◆ **11:00 AM Worship Service**

*We remember the beginning of Christ's last week before His crucifixion. We will offer our praise to the Christ, who rode to Jerusalem on the back of a donkey while followers waved branches and shouted, "Hosanna, Hosanna!"*



**Thursday, April 6**

◆ **6:00 PM Meal**

◆ **6:45 PM Worship Service**

*We remember the night Jesus met in the upper room with His disciples, the night Christ instituted the Lord's Supper.*



**Friday, April 7**

◆ **7:00 PM Worship Service**

*We remember Jesus' betrayal, arrest and crucifixion for crimes He did not commit. The Adult Choir of Edenton Baptist Church will join with our Sanctuary Choir to present Mary McDonald's Holy Week cantata, "It Is Finished."*



**Sunday, April 9**

◆ **11:00 AM Worship Service**

*We celebrate the risen Savior!*



### Worshipping Together

**March 12, 2023 | 11:00 AM**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

*Peace with God*

*Romans 5:1-11*

**Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III**



### Welcome New Members



On March 5, 2023, we welcomed Winnie Matthews and Delores Benthall into church membership. We're grateful to have you!

### Thank You

Dear Church Family,

I cannot begin to tell you all how much it touched my heart for you to help with the mission project at The Gathering Place in support of Roanoke Chowan Christian Women's Job Corps. The food, the painting, the energy and the fellowship was wonderful. Painting goes quickly when you are laughing and we learned more about each other. Thank you for helping our community with this project and putting our Faith into action. God Bless You All.

Love In Christ,  
Pat Byrd



### Lenten Homily & Communion

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023 | 6:15 PM**

**Fellowship Hall**

*Don't Go Back | Exodus 14:1-7*

### Stewardship Statement

**March 5, 2023**

Weekly Need	\$ 9,550.14
Weekly Offering	\$ 8,375.10
Difference	\$ <b>-1,175.04</b>
YTD Needs	\$ 95,501.40
YTD Offerings	\$ 94,539.83
YTD Difference	\$ <b>-961.57</b>

Benevolence	\$ 325.00
Global Missions Offering Total	\$ 8,343.18

***Thank you for your generous gifts!***

### In The Meeting House







**March 5, 2023**

Sunday School      63 People  
Worship              127 People



# April 2023

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  Palm SUNDAY	3  Selton Vaughan's 5 <sup>th</sup> Staff Anniversary!	4 • 10 AM WMU Groups 2 & 4	5	6  Maundy THURSDAY	7  Good FRIDAY	8 • 10 AM Easter Egg Hunt   The Pierce Farm
9  Easter SUNDAY	10	11	12 <i>No afternoon or evening activities.</i>	13 • 7 PM Building & Grounds Mtg	14	15 <i>Anita Thompson's 21<sup>st</sup> Staff Anniversary!</i>
16	17	18 • 6 PM Deacon's Mtg	19 • 12 PM Ahoskie Woman's Club   <i>The Gathering Place</i>	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						
<b><u>Sundays</u></b> • 9:45 AM Sunday School • 11 AM Worship • 2 PM Chairo	<b><u>Mondays</u></b> • 3 PM Staff Mtg	<b><u>Wednesdays</u></b> • 5:15 PM Children's Music & Missions • 6:15 PM Lenten Homily & Communion, <i>Fellowship Hall</i> • 6:15 PM Youth Group   Grades 6-12 • 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir • 8:00 PM Vocal Ensemble			<b><u>Fridays</u></b> • 9 AM - 3 PM Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC)   <i>The Gathering Place</i>	

## April Birthdays

1 Lou Riddick  
4 Adalyn Britt  
5 Colby Hauser  
5 Mike Neal  
5 Debbie Sisler

7 Rebecca Cale  
7 Carolyn Mitchell  
12 Claire Presley  
15 Gloria Freeman  
16 Debbie Magette

16 Kathy McCaskey  
16 Mary-joe Turner  
17 Nancy Cobbs  
18 Abby Alexander  
20 Miracle Deloatch  
22 Arthur Brown  
23 Austine Evans  
24 Sarah Newbern  
24 Anna Pierce

25 Wally McKeel  
26 Anna Dawson  
26 Gray Pierce  
26 Walt Pierce  
28 Jane Hollingsworth  
28 Will Chamblee  
29 Pace Davis  
30 Josh Brinkley

*If we have neglected to acknowledge a birthday, please let us know by calling the church office.*

# SERVING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

## Week of March 12 - 18, 2023

### Minister on Call

Rev. Anita Thompson, 395-0061  
anita@fbcahoskie.org

### Deacons on Call

Josh Brinkley, 287-7776  
Walt Pierce, 642-7445

### Childcare During Worship - March 12

Ages 1 & 2: Joyce Leary & Taylor F. Rose  
Ages 3 & 4: Elizabeth Davis, Leah & Ben Woodard  
Kindergarten: Melanie Byrum & Winnie Matthews

### Ushers - March 12

Heath Britt, Doug Cobbs, Tim Frei,  
Perry Newbern, Gloria Freeman, Henry Pierce;  
*Balcony:* Brad Hauser

### Sound System Operator - March 12

Frank Britt

### Security Monitor - March 12

Jordan Harrell

### Floral Offering - March 12

Family of Hannah & Ollie Brown

### Home Delivered Meals - March 13

Austine Evans & Penny Rose

### Food Pantry - March 17

Kay Byrd & Vicky Overman

## Week of March 19 - 25, 2023

### Minister on Call

Rev. Dr. Paul R. Gilliam III, 398-7321  
paulrgilliam@fbcahoskie.org

### Deacons on Call

Josh Brinkley, 287-7776  
Walt Pierce, 642-7445

### Childcare During Worship - March 19

Ages 1 & 2: Kari Pierce & Cheryl Slachta  
Ages 3 & 4: Claire & Jordan Harrell  
Kindergarten: Avery & Harriet Byrum

### Ushers - March 19

J. C. Doughtie, Pike Harrington, Bill Magette,  
Nat Riddick, Justice Zoch, Reagan Zoch;  
*Balcony:* Walt Pierce

### Sound System Operator - March 19

Brandon Zoch

### Security Monitor - March 19

Michael Harrell

### Floral Offering - March 19

Scott & Lisa Outlaw

### Home Delivered Meals - March 20

Georgia Copeland & Joyce Leary

### Food Pantry - March 24

Carolyn Arrington & Melanie Byrum