



FIRST SUNDAY
in
LENT

The Worship of God ✠ February 22, 2026

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

312 West Main Street ♦ Post Office Box 649 ♦ Ahoskie, North Carolina 27910

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The First Baptist Church of Ahoskie is a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship congregation.

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

February 22, 2026 ✠ 11:00 AM

The Season of the Church Year: The First Sunday in Lent

GREETING TO WORSHIPERS Greg Barmer

CHIMING OF THE HOUR Jordan Martin

PIANO PRELUDE Take My Life and Let It Be arr. Victor Labenske
Leah Newsome, piano

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES AND OPENING OF THE BIBLE
Lily Ann Brinkley & Bryant Brinkley, Acolytes

CALL TO WORSHIP Claire Presley

Friends, today we step into Lent, a season that's honest, hopeful, and full of grace.

It's a journey through the wilderness, but we do not walk it alone.

We've come this morning ready to meet and walk with Jesus.

Jesus knows the wilderness. He faced temptation. He felt hunger.

He trusted His Father every step of the way.

Remind us Lord, that when we feel weak, You understand;

That when we are tempted, You are our strength.

That when we are confused, You are the answer.

Lent is an invitation to slow down, to clear away the noise, to turn our hearts back to God.

Help us Jesus, to turn to You and bring all that we are.

You are our only Hope, our righteous Healer, and our holy Friend.

Praise and glory to You Jesus, a friend for sinners like ourselves.

+HYMN OF PRAISE 422 *Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners* HYFRYDOL

CHILDREN'S TIME & BLESSING Ann Cook

People of God, what is our prayer for these children?

Our prayer is that they grow up to be like Jesus - strong and brave, full of grace and truth, and that we will help them.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Ephesians 4:17-24 Greg Barmer
In Pew Bible, page 237 of New Testament

This is the word of God for the people of God;

Thanks be to God.



ANTHEM *I'm Trying to Be Like Jesus* arr. Bradford
*I'm trying to be like Jesus; I'm following in his ways.
I'm trying to love as He did in all that I do and say.
At times I am tempted to make a wrong choice,
But I try to listen as the still small voice whispers,
"Love one another as Jesus loves you. Try to show kindness in all that you do.
Be gentle and loving in deed and in thought, for these are the things Jesus taught."*

MORNING PRAYER Greg Barner

+HYMN 471 *Come Ye Sinners Poor and Needy* RESTORATION

+OFFERTORY PRAYER Claire Presley

OFFERTORY Jordan Martin

+ LENTEN DOXOLOGY, Hymn 171, stanza 3 WONDROUS LOVE
*"To God and to the Lamb, I will sing, I will sing; To God and to the Lamb, I will sing.
To God and to the Lamb who is the great "I Am,"
While millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
While millions join the theme, I will sing!"*



+GOSPEL LESSON Mark 8:31-38 Greg Barner
In Pew Bible, page 53 of New Testament

This is the word of God for the people of God;
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Reconditioning* Greg Barner

INVITATION
It is our tradition to offer a time of response near the end of worship. A response may take the shape of a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and desire to be baptized, a request for church membership, or the sharing of a prayer concern or praise which may be communicated with the congregation or safely kept between the sharer and minister. Please respond as you feel led during the Hymn of Response.

+HYMN 474 *Softly and Tenderly* THOMPSON

+BENEDICTION Greg Barner

LENTEN RESPONSE arr. Mark Edwards
Jesus, keep me near the cross: there a precious fountain,
Free to all, a healing stream, flows from Calvary's mountain.
In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever,
Till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

+CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

As we leave, let us remember that we do not leave the church. We leave as the church to go into the world and make disciples . . . in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

POSTLUDE

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ANGEL'S STORY

+Those who are able are invited to stand.

Today's altar flowers are given by Duck & Jerri Harrell to the glory of God and in honor of our great grandchildren Hudson, Liza & Amelia Harrell.

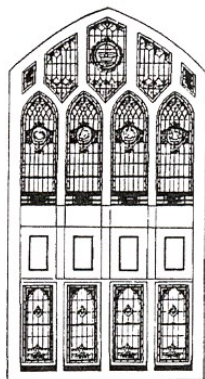
OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Dr. Greg Barmer
Interim Minister of Music

Dr. Jesse J. Croom
Pastor Emeritus

Mrs. Leah Newsome
Pianist

Mr. Jordan Martin
Organist



A Window on the Weeks Ahead

February 22, 2026

First Baptist Church of Ahoskie, NC

✘ Worship Notes

◆ **Worship Childcare** – *We give thanks for those caring for our young ones today while we worship:*

Crib: Anna Dawson & Kari Pierce

Ages 1 & 2: Debbie Greene, Sarah & Olivia Jenkins

Pre-K & K: Michelle Boyd & Henry Pierce

✘ Remember in Prayer

•AT Byrum •Trey Byrum •Lynell Eure •Earl Futrell •Susan Joyner •Virginia Minton •Eunice Sellars

✘ From the Deacons: Called Church Conference | February 25 | 6:15 PM

There will be a called Church Conference on Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:15 PM in the church fellowship hall to address the recent resignation of our Interim Pastor. Please make plans to attend.

✘ Youth Fundraiser at Napoli's | Saturday February 28, 2026

Breakfast: 7:00 AM-11:00 PM | Lunch: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM | Dinner: 4:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Please show your support by bringing family friends and fellow pizza lovers. All tips earned will go directly to support the youth's mission work in the Dominican Republic.

✘ Online Directory

Please ensure the church office has your updated email address for our online directory. If you need assistance downloading the online directory app, or logging in on the web browser, please contact the church office. Printed copies are available upon request, though we would like everyone to be sure their contact information is updated before we print. Thank you for all of your help.

✘ Newsletter & Bulletin Information

Please email Jessica with newsletter information by Noon on Monday and Sunday bulletin information by Noon on Wednesday. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

✘ Thank You "Soup"er Bowl Participants

✘ Youth Lunch Volunteer Schedule

Thank you, Youth lunch volunteers, for all of your help.

March 8: Joanna Dunn | March 15: Rita Myers | March 22: Lou Wilson

✘ Thank You for Cemetery Plots

Marcia Clark Blaine, daughter of the late James and Rosenell Clark, has given to the church two cemetery plots located in Highland Memorial Gardens. Marcia grew up in this church and was actively involved in the music programs. The Missions and Memorial Committees will provide more information at a later date on how these plots will be made available for use by someone in need. We are thankful for Marcia's love for Lord and her love for her home church in making this gift.

✘ Global Missions Offering Ingathering

We are receiving the annual Global Missions Offering. 100% of your gifts support the long-term presence of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship missionaries serving in the United States and around the world. This year's goal is \$9,000 and will be collected through the end of March 2026.

✘ College Scholarship Applications

Please call the church office if you would like an application. All completed applications are due in the church office by April 15, 2026.

James Wilton "Wig" & Frances Freeman Bracy Scholarship

Frances Bracy established a scholarship in honor of her family and her late husband Wig, desiring to make a college education affordable for church members who may have financial need or for whom college would otherwise be unattainable. FBCA members who will be college students during the 2026-2027 academic year are encouraged to apply.

Oscar Creech Scholarship

This scholarship is named after FBCA's longest tenured pastor who prayed that God would call persons, from among the FBCA membership, into full-time church-related vocation. Students who have sensed a call to ministry and are FBCA members, are encouraged to apply.



Friendship Fund

4th Quarter Report (October – December 2025)

31 December 2025

For this quarter the Friendship Fund met with 32 clients. The Fund assisted with 16 electric bills, 7 rent payments, 4 water bills. We had 5 appointments we were not able to assist financially for various reasons. For the quarter we gave an average of \$215 for each of the 27 clients assisted.

October	\$2,279.49	12 appointments	11 adults	5 children
November	\$1001.65	7 appointments	9 adults	7 children
December	\$2530.90	13 appointments	13 adults	10 children
4 th quarter	\$5812.04	32	33 adults	22 children

2025 annual totals for the Friendship Fund

1 st quarter	\$10,714.14	26 appointments		
2 nd quarter	\$9,546.71	23 appointments	32 adults	23 children
3 rd quarter	\$10,141.40	33 appointments	46 adults	34 children
4 th quarter	\$5,812.04	32 appointments	33 adults	22 children
2025	\$36,214.29	114		

Early days of 2025 began our managing of the Friendship Fund upon Anna and LaCount Anderson's retirement. We were coached well and now have months of experience interviewing our neighbor, listening to their situations, and recording their personal finances. It has developed in us a discernment of how best to help. Each week we encourage our neighbors by praying for each one. Most clients we are able to help financially. Our time together always finishes by relaying that they have been helped by their neighbors; members of First Baptist Ahooskie, Ahooskie Christian Center and Mercy Church.

This process is both challenging and rewarding. We are so grateful to be able to minister on your behalf. We have developed relationships with our neighbors that we consider gifts.

Bev and I will return to Australia in March/April to take care of family business. We are happy to discuss how the Friendship Fund continues in our absence.

In Christ,

Bev Baker (252) 813 2027

Woody Baker (252) 813 3390

Dear Friend and FBC Ahoskie Youth Supporter,

We invite you to partner with the First Baptist Church Ahoskie Youth Group as we prepare for an upcoming **mission trip to the Dominican Republic**. This trip will provide our youth with a life-changing opportunity to serve others, grow in their faith, and experience God's work beyond our local community.

During this mission trip, our youth will work alongside local ministries to support community needs through service projects, outreach, and relationship-building. These experiences not only meet tangible needs but also help shape our students into compassionate, service-minded leaders.

To make this trip possible, we are seeking financial support from individuals who are willing to invest in the spiritual growth and service opportunities of our youth. Donations of any amount are deeply appreciated, and sponsors may choose to support specific needs, including:

- **Flight:** \$710 per student
- **Lodging:** \$140 per night
- **Mission Supplies:** \$200 (materials and resources for mission work)
- **Meals:** \$30 per day per student

Your generosity will directly impact our ability to serve. If you are willing to support our mission trip, donations may be made to **First Baptist Church Ahoskie** with "Youth Mission Trip – Dominican Republic" noted. Most importantly, we ask that you keep our youth and leaders in your prayers as we prepare for this journey.

Thank you for your time, prayers, and consideration. Your support truly makes a difference in the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

With gratitude,

Lyndsay Britt & FBC Ahoskie Youth



PLEASE JOIN FBC AHOSKIE YOUTH AT

NAPOLI'S

As they raise money for their upcoming mission trip to The Dominican Republic

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2026
BREAKFAST: 7:00 - 11:00AM
LUNCH: 11AM - 4PM
DINNER: 4 - 9PM

Show your support by bringing family, friends, and fellow pizza lovers! All tips earned will go directly to support the youth's mission work in the Dominican Republic.

