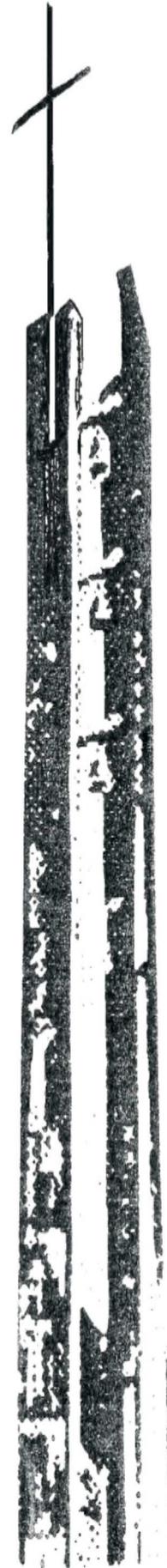


# *First Baptist Church*

*February 25, 2018*

*And He summoned the multitude  
with His disciples, and said to them,  
“If anyone wishes to come after Me,  
let him deny himself,  
take up his cross, and follow Me.”*

*Mark 8:34*



**The Body of Christ Gathers in Worship & Praise**  
**Sunday, February 25, 2018**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**Saying “Yes” to the Cross**

*10:55: Please take time to greet one another,  
warmly welcoming visitors in the name of Christ.*

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Welcome Rev. Kevin Wilson

Prelude *I Will Arise and Go to Jesus* Linda Denney, organ  
Setting by Don Hustad

Invocation Rev. Wilson

Call to Worship Corbin Kerley, Congregation  
The Lord is merciful and gracious,

**slow to anger and abounding in love.**

Jesus calls us to be his disciples.

**We take up the cross to follow him.**

Let us worship God.

Hymn 184 *Beneath the Cross of Jesus* ST. CHRISTOPHER

Children’s Moment Marie Niland  
Following the children’s moment, children ages five through first grade should meet their leaders at the door by the organ to proceed to Kids’ Korner.

Litany of Saying “Yes” Rev. Meadows, Congregation  
We lay before the cross today the nails with which we pierced the hands and feet of God’s Son. Nails are usually used for construction. We used these nails, however, for destruction. They forever symbolize our attempt to destroy God’s true temple.

**Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us. Forgive us for our violent rejection of Your truth. Help us say “No” to destroying one another. Help us say “Yes” to the cross.**

The nail-scars on Christ’s hands and feet remind us of a Suffering Servant who brought redemption through His obedience unto death, even death on a cross. He let us fasten Him to a cross, that we might never be separated from His love.

**Lord Jesus, have mercy upon us. We cannot grasp your love that suffers for us. We often fail to love like that; we turn from the suffering of others. Help us say “No” to our self-centered nature. Help us say “Yes” to the cross.**

With nails we implemented our condemnation of Our Lord. They remind us of our bent to condemnation, our frequent inability to forgive ourselves and to extend forgiveness to others.

**Lord Jesus, you have had mercy on us! There is now no condemnation, for You, our God, are for us. We cannot lose Your love. Help us say “No” to our condemnation of others. Help us say “Yes” to the cross.**

Let us pray together:

**All: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: give us Your grace in our self-centeredness. Help us take up our cross and spend ourselves on a life that cannot be taken away. We thank you that nothing can separate us from Your love. Transform us by that love, we pray. Amen.**

Anthem *I Choose Love* Mark Miller  
Sung by students, teachers, administrators, school support staff,  
general supporters

In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,  
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.  
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,  
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.  
When my world falls down, explanations can’t be found,  
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.  
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,  
I await the sun again, I choose love.

Offertory Prayer

Ben Cooke

Offertory                      *Ah, Holy Jesus*                      David Hicks, trumpet  
Setting by Dallas Blair

Scripture                      Mark 8:31-38                      Rev. Meadows  
Pew Bible page 1196

Anthem                      *Take Up Your Cross*                      Chancel Choir  
Thomas Keeseker

“Take up your cross,” the Savior said, “if you would my disciple be;  
Take up your cross with willing heart, and humbly follow after me.

Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;  
Christ’s strength shall bear your spirit up, and brace your heart and  
nerve your arm.

Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and let your foolish pride be  
still;  
The Lord for you accepted death upon a cross on Calvary’s hill.

Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down;  
For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Sermon                      *Embarrassing God*                      Rev. Meadows

Hymn 505                      *Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone*                      MAITLAND

Benediction                      Rev. Meadows

Postlude                      *Toccata in F Major*                      Dietrich Buxtehude

We are delighted that you have chosen to join us in worship today. It is  
our sincere hope and prayer that you will know the saving presence,  
power, love and authority of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and that  
you will leave encouraged and spiritually refreshed.

*I Choose Love* text by Lindy Thompson ©2016 Choristers Guild.  
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\*\*\*\*\***BULLETIN BOARD**\*\*\*\*\*

**Wednesday, February 28**

**Menu:** Vegetable Beef Soup w/Toasted Cheese, Salad, Dessert

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**Crockpot Creations: Today, Sunday, February 25, 5:30pm**

To add more variety to our usual menu of chili, we're asking folks to also bring their favorite soup, stew, or dessert. There will not be a judging for this event but just a good time of fellowship. Sign up sheets will be in your Sunday School class or you may call the church office. The meal will begin at 5:30pm.

**Senior Gathering, Monday, February 26**

**11:45-2:00, Fellowship Hall**

***What Does the Bible Say About Love***

**Seniors Of All Ages** ...are invited to join your friends in faith and fellowship for devotion led by Benny Robinson, beautiful musical selections on the harp, by Susie Cooper, and a delicious meal of baked spaghetti. Transportation will be provided upon request. **Please RSVP to 710-2041.**

**NC Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Annual Gathering- March 15-17**

Knollwood Baptist Church, Winston-Salem. Go to [www.cbfn.org](http://www.cbfn.org) for details and registration information, See details on hall bulletin board or talk to Becky Keesler.

**Primetimers Trip**

**"Tunes & Tales" with David Holt and Josh Goforth**

**Thursday, March 15,**

**5:00pm: Bus leaves the church**

**6:00pm: Dinner at K&W- 7:30pm: Concert**

Join the Primetimers as they travel to Winston-Salem, March 15 to enjoy a performance by four-time Grammy Award winner David Holt and rising acoustic music star and Grammy nominee Josh Goforth as they join together to bring to life the joy and spirit of old time mountain music and stories. It is a program of songs, stories and amazing musicianship that will appeal to all ages. Please call the church office to sign up. Ticket price for this event is \$25 plus the cost of your meal at K&W. Your ticket will need to be paid to the church by Monday, February 26 to secure your spot for this trip. You don't have to be a Primitimer to join this event, which is part of the NC Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Annual Gathering.

**Caswell Summerfest May 28 -June 1 "Enjoying the Journey"**

5-day, 4-night retreat for retired and semi-retired adults.

**Speaker:** Bobby Morrow; **Worship Leader:** Clyde Buckner

**Pianist:** Larry Keesler

Cost for all meals and lodging :\$330, We have 10 fully furnished rooms reserved in Fort Caswell Hotel. Call the church office by **MARCH 1** to reserve a space – you will be glad you did!!

**A Note From the Personnel Committee**

It has been our custom around this time of year to place a suggestion box in the breeze way to give every member of the congregation the opportunity to submit suggestions or concerns to the Personnel Committee. We will leave the suggestion box out for about six weeks. Please let this be an opportunity to not only voice suggestions or concerns but also to offer positive feedback and encouragement to any and all members of our ministerial and office staff. We are blessed to have a wonderful staff who work very hard to make our church, our worship, and our ministry the very best it can be as we all serve the Lord together. The scripture encourages us to be generous in supporting and uplifting our coworkers in the ministry of the church.

**Ministry for Sunday:** Rev. Jay Meadows ; **Scripture:** Mark 8: 31-38 **Sunday School Greeters:** George & Maude Speight ; **Deacon Greeters:** Ron Niland & Helper ; **Babies:** Drew & Kellye Fussell ; **Toddlers:** Chad & Erin Stanley ; **Preschoolers:** Jared & Ashley Moser ; **Kid's Korner:** Andrew & Alisha Brown ; **Children's Sermon :** Marie Niland ; **Sound:** Benny Brannock, Gina Brannock, Jeffrey Ellis

## **The Week Ahead**

### **SUNDAY, February 25**                      **Second Sunday in Lent**

9:00am      Prayer Time-Prayer Room  
9:15am      Coffee Fellowship-Fireside Room  
9:15am      Music Rehearsal  
9:45am      Sunday School  
9:45am      New Members and Prospects Class  
11:00am     \*\*The Church at Worship & Praise  
**No Children's Handbells**  
3:30pm      Granite City Ringers  
4:00pm      Griefshare Class  
4:45pm      Youth Choir  
5:30pm      Crockpot Creations-Fellowship Hall  
6:00pm      Youth Group Family Time

### **MONDAY, February 26**

11:45am     Senior Gathering-Fellowship Hall  
6:30pm      \*Cub Scouts

### **TUESDAY, February 27**

7:00am      Baptist Men's Breakfast- Olympia

### **WEDNESDAY, February 28**

10:00am     Beth Moore-Rebekah Class  
4:30pm      Grades 1-2 Music; Grades 3-5 Missions  
5:00pm      Pre-School -Kindergarten Music & Missions  
5:15pm      Grades 3-5 Music; Grades 1-2 Missions  
5:45pm      Family Night Meal  
6:30pm      Bible Study  
7:30pm      Chancel Choir Rehearsal

### **THURSDAY, March 1**

5:30pm      Feeding Friends Meal  
7:00pm      \*Boy Scouts—Scout Hut

### **SUNDAY, March 4**                      **Third Sunday in Lent**

8:45am      Youth Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser  
9:00am      Prayer Time-Prayer Room  
9:15am      Coffee Fellowship-Fireside Room  
9:45am      Sunday School  
9:45am      New Members and Prospects Class  
11:00am     \*\*The Church at Worship & Praise  
4:00pm      Children's Handbells  
4:45pm      Youth Choir  
5:00pm      Griefshare Class  
5:30pm      Granite City Ringers  
5:45pm      Youth Supper  
6:00pm      Youth Group Family Time

\*Community Ministry \*\*Hearing Assists / Valet Parking available upon request. Wheelchair spaces are available in the sanctuary for the convenience of those who need to stay in their chairs.