

2026 CBF OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS

During the month of March we will collect an offering for CBF Global Missions.

100% of your gifts will support the long-term presence of CBF Field Personnel serving in the United States and around the world.

OUR GOAL: \$45,000

Embracing
Neighbors  Nurturing
Hope



FROM OUR PASTOR

We Are Here for You

One of my great joys as your pastor is serving alongside the other ordained ministers on our staff. They are gifted, compassionate, and devoted followers of Jesus. We love one another, and we love you — the members and friends of our church. I speak for all of us when I say: We are here for you.

We do our best to ensure that no one in our church family is neglected or overlooked. If you are facing illness or frustration, trouble or temptation, sorrow or stress, we hope you will reach out. Call us. Text us. Stop by the church. Set up a time for us to sit together so we can listen, pray, and seek God's guidance and care with you.

In case you are unaware, there are intentional ways we organize our availability. Each minister has a designated weekday when he or she is the primary person responsible for hospital visits and checking on members in need. Currently, I cover Mondays, Kristen covers Tuesdays, Keith covers Wednesdays, Suzanne covers Thursdays, and Gwen covers Sundays.

You may be wondering, "What about Fridays and Saturdays?" I'm glad you asked. On those days, we rely on our rotating

Minister on Call schedule. The Minister on Call is responsible for contacting and visiting members in the hospital on Fridays and Saturdays. In addition, you may call or text the on-call minister whenever a need arises — an illness, a need, hospitalization, death, or other crisis. You can always find the name and phone number of the Minister on Call in The Spire, the e-Spire, and in the Wednesday night prayer bulletin shared at supper and via email each week.

Each of your ministers carries particular responsibilities and leads specific ministries. We are uniquely gifted for the callings God has given us. But together, we are one team of caring pastors, committed to walking with you. We hope you will invite us to rejoice with you in seasons of celebration and to stand beside you when life is heavy.

Your pastor and friend,

David

CHILDREN'S CORNER

PLAYGROUND DEDICATION

We will have a playground dedication Sunday, March 1, following worship. There will be a ribbon-cutting and cookies, so don't miss out!

PARENTAL LEAVE

Kristen is now scheduled to be on parental leave March 24 - May 19, about a month earlier than originally planned. She is working on getting coverage in all areas, but could use some help as the earlier leave now encompasses Palm Sunday, Easter egg hunts and Easter Sunday. If you would be willing to help, please come talk to Kristen!

EASTER EGG HUNT - SUPPLIES NEEDED!

Our three age-graded egg hunts will be Wednesday, April 1. As many of you know, we don't fill the eggs with candy but instead have an "Easter store" where children purchase things with their eggs after the hunts. We would love donations for our Easter store, which typically includes things like candy, stuffed animals, coloring books, and more from stores like Dollar Tree, Walmart and Five Below for prizes. Donations can be brought to Kristen Mathis' office.

HELP NEEDED DURING SUMMER

We will need some extra help in the Sunday morning worship care rotation this summer as college interns return home for a few months. If you are willing to serve on a Sunday morning during the worship hour in June, July or early August, please reach out to Kristen.

STUDENT NEWS

YOUTH-LED SERVICE THIS SUNDAY!

This year's Youth-Led service will be Sunday, March 1, at 5 p.m. in the Chapel. Please add this date to your calendar and make plans to support our youth!

THE EDGE FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

The next meeting of The Edge is Sunday, March 22, at 5:30 p.m. Tamara Smathers will discuss the Clifton Strengths assessment and how it can be useful to students as they start their first year in college. Participants should complete the Strengths Assessment with Tamara a week before the meeting. Contact her at tillmans-mathers@gmail.com for more information.

A TRIP TO THE ROME EMPERORS

Following worship Sunday, April 19, students grades 6-12 and their families are invited to join us for the Rome Emperors game vs. Jersey Shore. Tickets are \$10 per person. We will gather to eat lunch (on your own) and then sit together and enjoy fellowship and baseball! You must register with April Lucas by March 22. Be on the lookout for the registration link coming soon!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP US CELEBRATE KEITH REAVES

In preparation for Keith Reaves' retirement, we are asking our congregation to send in any photos you have of Keith, Hilary, and family throughout his ministry at FBC. Please bring photos to the office for Gwen Stephens, or email ghstephens@fbcrome.org with digital photos.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY NIGHT SEMINARS

- **"A Call to Endurance"** – A Bible study led by David Brooks focused on passages from the book of Hebrews. Meets in the Dining Room
- **"Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart"** – a continued discussion of relating to those who are suffering led by Gwen Stephens. Meets in the Conference Room.
- **"A Different Kind of Fast"** – a focus on fasting from those things that do not draw us closer to God so we might embrace the character and heart of God more intentionally. Led by Suzanne Reece and meets in the Community Room.
- **Young Men's Lenten Conversation Group** – led by Coleman Fannin and will provide the opportunity for young men to gather around the themes and scripture shared in the "Journey to the Cross" devotions for further exploration and conversation. This group will meet in room 302.

UPCOMING SPECIAL MUSIC

Mark your calendars as we welcome special music guests to worship in the next few months:

March 1: Tara Suswal, cello and Stefanie Cash, flute

March 15: Former FBC Intern and Grammy winner Jamie Barton

March 22: Former FBC Intern Flynn Allen and Paula Pasqua, violin and Tara Suswal, cello

March 29: Palm Sunday; String Quartet and James Douglas

April 5: Easter; Brass Ensemble

April 26: Keith's last Sunday; full orchestra with special music by the Sanctuary Choir, former music interns Steve Rotz, Bethany Irby Okie, and Matthew and Sydney Godfrey-Becher

LENTEN WEEKLY PRAYER GATHERING

During Lent, you are invited to be a part of a weekly, experiential prayer gathering each Thursday at Noon in the Chapel. We will share a brief time of scripture and prayer together as we walk through the Lenten season toward the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Please make plans to join us!

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS!

Before you go to sleep on Saturday, March 7, make sure to "spring forward" one hour.



MISSIONS

HANDS OF CHRIST DAY

The 2026 HOC Day will be Saturday, April 18. Please add this date to your calendar. Stay tuned for more information coming soon!

MARCH MISSION PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

Good Neighbor Ministries (GNM) is our March Mission Partner Focus. The mission of GNM is to empower families by securing safe, affordable housing while providing the resources, skills, and support needed to maintain stable homes and build promising futures. Two of the services GNM provides are housing assistance and utility support. GNM helps individuals and families with rental assistance, security deposits, and housing applications. In addition, they provide assistance with utility bills, payment plans, and energy-saving education. The Executive Director of GNM is Pamela Clark. Be in prayer for Pamela and the staff of GNM as they seek to provide assistance to our neighbors here in Rome.

MISSIONS LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

On Sunday, March 22 we will be joined by CBF Field Personnel, Karen Zimmerman. Karen is currently serving in Waco, Texas, where she is the Minister of Student Formation and Community Engagement through a ministry called Open Table. This ministry is a partnership between local churches in the Waco area and Baylor University. Karen's role is to help shepherd this ministry by working with local churches to invest in the lives and faith development of students. All adult Sunday School classes will join together on March 22nd to hear more about Karen, her ministry, and to learn how we can support her work through our prayers and through the CBF Offering for Global Missions.

SUNDAY FLOWERS

The flowers in the Narthex for Sunday, March 1, are given to the glory of God and in honor of Ben Bagley by his parents, Harris and Fran Bagley.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, March 1, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Don Clements by the Clements family.

The flowers in the Narthex for Sunday, March 8, are given to the glory of God and provided through the Jo Huffman Flower Fund.

The flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday, March 8, are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of William and Nancy Thompson, beloved parents and grandparents, by Margaret and Jason Marion, Blythe and Archer.

There are openings on the flower calendar in March and July. Please contact Karen Garrett in the church office if you are interested in providing a beautiful arrangement in the Narthex or Sanctuary.

February 28 - March 13

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sunday, March 1

Extended Family Ministry Team, Conf. Rm.	8:30 am
Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ AM 1410)	9:00 am
Bible Study	9:45 am
Worship	11:00 am
Available on: FBC Website	
YouTube Channel	
Comcast Channel 44 (delayed by one week)	

Playground Dedication	12:00 pm
Youth Choir Rehearsal	3:45 pm
Youth Led Worship Service, Chapel	5:00 pm

Monday, March 2

Weekday Preschool Dr. Seuss Week	
Women's Bible Study, D.R.	10:00 am
History Committee, Conf. Rm.	1:00 pm
First Baptist Ringers	5:15 pm

Wednesday, March 4

Weekday Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary	9:50 am
Properties Committee, Conf. Rm.	12:00 pm
Family Night Dinner, F.H.	5:00 pm
Children's Choirs Rehearsals	5:45 pm
Student Discipleship, Student Rm.	5:45 pm
Adult Seminars	6:00 pm
Children's and Collide Missions	6:30 pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	6:45 pm

Thursday, March 5

Lenten Prayer Gathering, Chapel	12:00 pm
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Saturday, March 7

Prayer Team, Chapel	11:00 am
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Sunday, March 8

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Scrap Iron Broadcast (WLAQ AM 1410)	9:00 am
Bible Study	9:45 am
Worship	11:00 am
Available on: FBC Website	
YouTube Channel	
Comcast Channel 44 (delayed by one week)	

Mission Committee Lunch & Retreat	12:00 pm
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Monday, March 9

Women's Bible Study, D.R.	10:00 am
Ruble-Whitworth Mission Group, D.R.	11:30 am
Finance Committee, Conf. Rm.	12:00 pm
First Baptist Ringers Rehearsal	4:45 pm
Deacons' Meeting, F.H.	5:30 pm

Wednesday, March 11

Weekday Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary	9:50 am
Family Night Dinner, F.H.	5:00 pm
Children's Choirs Rehearsals	5:45 pm
Student Discipleship, Student Rm.	5:45 pm
Adult Seminars	6:00 pm
Children's and Collide Missions	6:30 pm
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	6:45 pm

Thursday, March 12

Lenten Prayer Gathering, Chapel	12:00 pm
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THIS WEEK: MARCH 1

SUNDAY WORSHIP

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

LENT WORSHIP SERIES: *Jesus Is the Answer*

SERMON: "When We Are Hungry...Jesus Is the Answer"

PREACHER: Rev. David Brooks

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 3:1-8

ANTHEM: *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms...*

arr. Eric Nelson

SPECIAL MUSIC: Stefanie Cash, flute;

Tara Suswal, cello

THE ORDINANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

YOUTH-LED WORSHIP SERVICE

5 p.m. Chapel

FAMILY NIGHT MENU

MARCH 4

Mixed Green Salad, Baked Cod with Lemon-Garlic Butter, Rice Pilaf, Sauteed Green Beans with Almonds, Cherry Cobbler and Ice Cream

Children's Option: Chicken Fingers, Sliced Pears, Cherry Cobbler and Ice Cream

WEEKEND MINISTER ON CALL (FEBRUARY 27 - 28):

Suzanne Reece 205.907.7484

NEXT WEEK: MARCH 8

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

SUNDAY WORSHIP

LENT WORSHIP SERIES: *Jesus Is the Answer*

SERMON: "When We Are Thirsty...Jesus Is the Answer"

PREACHER: Rev. Kristen Mathis

SCRIPTURE: JOHN 4: 5-15

ANTHEM: *Living Water of Life...David Lantz III*

SPECIAL MUSIC: First Baptist Ringers

FAMILY NIGHT MENU

MARCH 11

Spinach Salad with Oranges, Craisins, and Walnuts, Chicken and Andouille Jambalaya, White Rice, Breaded Okra, Cheese Cake.

Children's Option: Pancakes with Syrup

WEEKEND MINISTER ON CALL (MARCH 6 - 7):

Kristen Mathis 502.693.5644

THE SPIRE

SUNDAY SERVICES

BROADCAST ON
COMCAST CHANNEL 44 AND
VIA WWW.FBCROME.ORG

FBC BROADCAST

*Did you know
FBC Rome has a
Sunday morning
radio broadcast
hosted by FBC
member Jimmy
Gentry? Tune into
WLAQ on 96.9FM
every Sunday
morning from 9
- 9:30 a.m. Not
in front of the
radio during that
time? Stream it on
WLAQ's website at
any point during
the week!*



Please visit us for more information:
www.fbcrome.org

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