



# THE MESSENGER

March 2026



*Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing love;  
according to your great compassion  
blot out my transgressions.*

**Psalm 51:1**

*The journey to the cross and empty tomb is*

## JOURNEYING TO EASTER

As we approach Holy Week, our hearts and minds turn toward this sacred season. Lent serves as a time for us to prepare for our journey alongside Jesus, from His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, to His final meal with His disciples, His suffering on the cross, and ultimately, His resurrection. We invite you to participate in the various planned opportunities, some familiar and others new. Join us for:

**“Lent is not just about giving something up — it is about making room for God. (Billy Graham)”**

### Upcoming Schedule

#### Sundays

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 3:00 p.m. Graceful Praise Rehearsal\*
- 3:30 p.m. Girl Scouts\*
- 4:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 5:00 p.m. Illumination Student Ministry

\* Does not meet each week; see leaders for details

#### Wednesdays

- 2:30 p.m. Afterschool Program
- 5:15 p.m. Wednesday Night Supper
- Children's Choirs
- 6:15 p.m. Prayer/Bible Study
- 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

#### Special Events

- March 8 Daylight Savings Begins
- Girl Scout Sunday
- March 20, 6:00 p.m. FBCJST Spring Gala
- March 21, 2:00 p.m. Doug Vancil Organ Recital

#### Palm Sunday Weekend

- Saturday, March 28 10:00 a.m. Kingdom Kids Easter Egg Hunt
- Sunday, March 29 10:15 a.m. Community Palm Sunday Gathering
- 10:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Service

#### Holy Week

- Thursday, April 2 6:00 p.m. Church-wide Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service
- Friday, April 3 11:00 a.m. Community Prayer Labyrinth
- 3:00 p.m. Veiling of the Cross

#### Easter Sunday

- Sunday, April 5 7:00 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service
- 7:30 a.m. Church-wide Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Combined Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Easter Worship



# A VIEW FROM MAIN STREET

by Jeff Allen  
Pastor  
[jeff@fbcmountholly.org](mailto:jeff@fbcmountholly.org)

We recently tried a new soup recipe – actually, Jennifer found it online and told me to try it. We enjoy cooking new things, especially to see if we can get the whole family to eat the same meal.

If you're familiar with recipe blogs, many have a "Jump to Recipe" link at the top that bypasses all the commentary. A few days before soup-making, I clicked it, got the ingredients, and went to the store.

*“...how often do we rush through the preparation itself, skipping the parts that matter most?”*

I ended up making the soup for the first time for the recent youth SOUPer Bowl fundraiser. Since I needed it early Sunday morning, I prepped a few things Saturday night to make it easier.

When I started putting it together Sunday morning, I noticed two different sets of instructions and two sets of ingredients. They were similar, but the



differences were significant. I panicked – I hadn't read thoroughly enough to catch them.

As our journey through Lent continues through the month of March, it is striking how much of our life is spent getting ready for something. But how often do we rush through the preparation itself, skipping the parts that matter most?

Lent is an invitation to slow down and read the whole story rather than jumping ahead. The wilderness has to be walked through, not around. What we skip in our hurry has a way of catching up with us.

## Ministry Spotlight

### Girl Scouts Ministry Team



The goal of the **Girl Scouts Ministry Team** is to instill courage, character, and confidence in girls. Here's how:

*“Since we moved to Mount Holly shortly before Kindergarten, Becca didn't know anyone at school and neither did we. Girl Scouts opened the door for Becca to make friends & brought our family into a church where we've always felt welcomed. Her favorite things are spending time with friends, horseback riding and selling cookies at the cookie booths.”* (Julia Harrison)

*“I love Girl Scouts because we get to make people happy by selling cookies. I also love going on adventures and spending time with my friends. My favorite events are the daddy-daughter dance and learning about new cultures ... Girl Scouts is fun because I get to learn new things and try new experiences!”* (Olivia McCotter)

*“I'm so thankful for her to be in Girl Scouts. I think it's so important for her to experience fun and learning with a group of her peers...(scouts) gives her female role models who encourage her, teach her, love her, and show her how to be a leader.”* (Lauren McCotter)

We are thankful for **Troop 10164**, under the leadership of Kasey Petersen and Jennifer Allen. Church, thank you for supporting this vital ministry.



# TELLING STORIES

by Tori Freeman  
Minister of Youth and Children  
[tori@fbcmountholly.org](mailto:tori@fbcmountholly.org)

I enjoy being prepared. I have “just in case” bags stashed in various places. The one in my car has an emergency blanket, a first-aid kit, a variety of snacks, diapers, wipes, and changes of clothes for the boys and me. You never know what lies ahead. We might break down on the side of the road and need blankets or snacks. We could be out and about and run out of wipes. Whatever the case may be, I hopefully have stashed something in my bag for that very moment.

If you know me you know I struggle with the unexpected, which is why I carry around a “just in case” bag.

The truth is that I could pack these “bags for every corner of my life

and still be unprepared. There is no way to be prepared for every situation.

As much as I like to be ready, I am often reminded that being prepared for my future in Heaven is really the only thing that matters.

“ Jesus has already prepared the way for us. ”

Jesus has prepared the way for us. He has gone before us, packed all the “just in case” amenities we might need, and is waiting for us to follow him without a constant need for a safety net. Let him prepare your heart this Lenten season without worry of what tomorrow may bring.

## Easter Egg Hunt

JOIN US FOR AN

# EASTER EGG HUNT

AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF MT. HOLLY

MARCH 28TH | 10-11AM

300 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
MT. HOLLY, NC 28120



# ORGAN RECITAL

21 SATURDAY  
MARCH FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
MOUNT HOLLY  
2PM

Doug Vancil, Organist



# MUSIC NOTES

by Cole Freeman  
Minister of Music  
[cole@fbcmountholly.org](mailto:cole@fbcmountholly.org)

“Preparation” in music, refers to the notes or chords that give context to the changes in harmony. This is also known as “anticipation”. When these notes are played, our ears can’t help but expect the harmony that is to follow.

Similarly, in the church calendar we have times of preparation, such as Lent, that anticipate the arrival of glorious moments, like Resurrection Sunday.

During this season of preparation, listen for familiar tunes such as *What Wondrous Love is This* and *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, as we look forward to singing *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today* on Easter!

“ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. ”

Romans 8:24-25

# NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



## March OCC Item

New COLORFUL washcloths!  
(No white, gray, or black, please)  
New cheerful washcloths  
with the tags intact!  
GOAL: 600

Kay MacIntosh: 980-253-7180  
KayMacIntosh@hotmail.com

## FBCJST Event

Friday, March 20 6:00 PM

Churchwide Event  
All Adults are invited  
Entertainment: "Men Of Note"  
Catered by: The Sports Page

\$35 Per Adult  
Registration closes Wed March 11

## History Day

Sunday, April 19 11:30 AM

Save the date for a slideshow and  
guided displays highlighting the history  
of our church's music, Sunday School  
and pastors.

Potluck lunch - bring a dish and a friend  
Childcare provided: Infants - Kindergarten

## In Sympathy

Our deepest condolences to the  
family of Evelyn Rodden.

## Donations

In Memory of Martha Jean McFarland by Randy and Ginger McLean to the Library Fund.

In Memory of Lib Wiles by the Fellowship SS Class to the General budget.

In Memory of Evelyn Rodden by Mary Jane Hinkle to the Library Fund.

In Memory of Evelyn Rodden by The Throneburg Family to the General budget.

In Memory of Evelyn Rodden by Jean Robinson to the General budget.

In Memory of Evelyn Rodden by the Fellowship SS Class to the Holly Seniors.

In Memory of Evelyn Rodden by Gospel Baptist Church to the General budget.

In Honor of Randy & Ginger McLean by Lancy Rhyne to the Holly Seniors.

In Honor of Zoe & Lizzie Petersen by Lancy Rhyne to the Children's Ministry.

## January Finances Update

January Receipts	\$29,065
January Expenses	\$34,491
Receipts YTD	\$29,069
Actual Expenses YTD	\$34,491
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$44,825
Annual Budget	\$537,901



# First Baptist Church of Mount Holly



## Contact Information

Address 300 South Main Street  
PO Box 385  
Mount Holly, NC 28120  
Phone (704) 827-2481  
Website [fbcmontholly.org](http://fbcmontholly.org)

## Staff

Jeff Allen, Pastor  
Cole Freeman, Minister of Music  
Tori Freeman, Minister of Youth/Children  
Rebecca Hope, Administrative Assistant  
Sheila McDaniel, Church Accompanist

## Email

[jeff@fbcmontholly.org](mailto:jeff@fbcmontholly.org)  
[cole@fbcmontholly.org](mailto:cole@fbcmontholly.org)  
[tori@fbcmontholly.org](mailto:tori@fbcmontholly.org)  
[rebecca@fbcmontholly.org](mailto:rebecca@fbcmontholly.org)

## Follow Us!

YouTube [@fbcmontholly](https://www.youtube.com/fbcmontholly)  
Facebook [fbcmontholly](https://www.facebook.com/fbcmontholly)  
Instagram [fbcmontholly](https://www.instagram.com/fbcmontholly)

## Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

## Follow Us!

