



# THE MESSENGER

April 2026



*You are my God, and I will praise you; you are my God, and I will exalt you. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.*

**Psalm 118:28-29**

**He is risen! He is risen! He is risen indeed!**

## SOMETHING BRAND NEW

The empty tomb changes everything. This Easter season, discover what it means to truly begin again—not by trying harder or becoming someone else, but by connecting to the power that raised Jesus from the dead. Whether you've walked with God for years or you're just starting to hear His voice, you're invited home. Join us as we celebrate the God who makes all things new, and bring someone with you to experience the crucifixion, death, and resurrection of our risen Lord.

**“Easter was when Hope in person surprised the whole world by coming forward from the future into the present.” (N.T. Wright)**

### 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

- April 2 Maudy Thursday
- April 3 Good Friday
- April 5 Easter Sunday
- April 6 Church Office Closed
- April 8 No Wednesday Night
- April 19 History Sunday

<b>Maudy Thursday</b> April 2	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Church-wide Dinner Maudy Thursday Service
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<b>Good Friday</b> April 3	11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	Community Prayer Labyrinth Veiling of the Cross
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<b>Easter Sunday</b> April 5	7:00 a.m. 7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service Church-wide Breakfast Combined Sunday School Easter Worship
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# A VIEW FROM MAIN STREET

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

I was working on my laptop the other day, frustrated that the battery kept draining even though it was plugged in. I checked the outlet, wiggled the cord, restarted the computer – nothing worked. My frustration pushed me to start considering if it was time to get a new machine. Finally, I looked down and realized my mistake: I'd plugged the laptop into the iPad charging cord. It was the same kind of plug but the wrong power source entirely.

**// The resurrection of Jesus isn't only about going to heaven someday — it's the beginning of God's plan to renew everything. //**

I think we do this all the time without realizing. We plug into things hoping they'll give us life — productivity, achievement, relationships, staying busy, even good things like serving at church — but we still feel drained. And when nothing seems to work, we wonder if maybe we need to start over completely, become someone different.




## Unstoppable Kingdom

AN EASTER SERIES

Starting in April, we're beginning a new sermon series called "Unstoppable Kingdom." Throughout the Easter season, we'll explore how God is making all things new. Not replacing us, but restoring us. The resurrection of Jesus isn't only about going to heaven someday — it's the beginning of God's plan to renew everything.

Here's the good news: God isn't asking you to become someone else or try harder. He's inviting you to connect to the right power source — the same power that raised Jesus from the dead and promises to make all things new, including you.

**Sunday, April 19**  
**HISTORY DAY**  
Immediately following worship



**Step back in time and celebrate the faithfulness of God with us at History Day at First Baptist Church.**

- A Potluck lunch (bring your favorite dish to share!)
- A slideshow and guided displays - highlighting the history of our church's music, Sunday School, and pastors
- Childcare provided - infants through kindergarten

Come enjoy fellowship, memories, and stories that remind us how God has been at work through the years. We'd love for you to be part of it!

**All are welcome - Invite a friend!**

*Ministry Spotlight*  
**Flower Ministry Team**


One of the most beautiful parts of our ministry is provided by our **Flower Ministry Team**. The flowers in worship and around our building add life and color to our congregation.

"Sometimes we provide flowers to celebrate milestones—birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions," shares Missi Fortsch. "But mostly, we place flowers in the sanctuary because we feel blessed to be part of FBC and want to share God's beauty with the whole congregation."

Every week, someone is in the building watering, pruning, and caring for the living beauty around our church. We're deeply thankful for our **Flower Ministry Team**, led by Suzanne Griffin and Ann Little.

**To the team:** Your time and creativity add so much to our worship and fellowship. Thank you.

**To the congregation:** Take a moment this month to thank someone on the team. And if you'd like to join them in this beautiful service, contact Suzanne or Ann.





# TELLING STORIES

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

Every morning that we wake up, we begin a new day. Each day brings a unique set of circumstances, some good, some trying. Regardless, each day is a new opportunity for us, a chance to begin again and try harder to emulate Jesus and the life that he lived.

Jesus came so that we might have life and life more abundantly. More importantly, Jesus came so that we could have a new life. The old life is gone, the new life has begun.

I love seeing children and teenagers profess their faith in Jesus and step into the baptismal waters.

We see the old life leaving and the new life beginning right before our eyes.

Through our relationships with Jesus, we have the chance to blossom. We have the chance to grow as we lean into our new life in Jesus.

As we celebrate His resurrection, I encourage you to reflect on the new life you have in Christ. If you have never made a profession of faith, I encourage you to think about the gift that the new life is for your future. God desires for you to choose to follow Him. I hope you do just that.

**“We have the chance to grow as we lean in to our new life in Jesus.”**

## Save the Dates

We have many exciting things coming up.

May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Youth Sunday & Youth Fundraiser Kickoff

May 9<sup>th</sup>  
Muffins with Moms

May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Parent-Child Dedication

May 17<sup>th</sup>  
Graduation Sunday

\*More details to come\*

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.”*

*2 Corinthians*

*5:17*



# MUSIC NOTES

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

Through the Lenten months of February and March I mentioned the bittersweet and sometimes uncertain chords in music that lead us back to resolution and our tonic, or home key. There is another concept of motion in music known as modulation where one key changes into another, sometimes over the course of many measures, sometimes abruptly.

Many composers use modulation as a way to take musical material that was introduced earlier and transform it into something entirely different. Often this transformation is from a darker, minor key into a bright and cheery major key for a rousing ending.

We all have experienced modulation in our own lives through Christ. For some it was a slow process over many years of us realizing the hand of God moving in subtle and even mysterious ways until we found ourselves in a place distant from where we began. For others, salvation came in an instant, like Saul on the road to Damascus. This Eastertide, let us take the time to reflect on our journey with Christ. Then, ask God what modulation is yet to take place in our life; where does the Composer of our life want us to go next?

**“Where does the Composer of our life want us to go next?”**

# NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



## April OCC Item

SMALL NEW  
Stuffed Animals  
Goal: 150 for Boys & 150 for Girls

Thank you for supporting OCC!

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

## FBCJST Event

Saturday, April 25 10:00 AM

Sullenberger Aviation Museum  
\$20 Admission Fee  
Burton's Grill (Lunch on your own)

Questions? Please see Jacquely Denison,  
Randy McLean, Linda Smith,  
Nancy Wrenn or Pam Surratt

## April Softball Schedule

Thursday, April 9 @ 6:30 PM  
Monday, April 13 @ 8:30 PM  
Monday, April 20 @ 8:30 PM  
Monday, April 27 @ 7:30 PM  
Thursday, April 30 @ 8:30 PM

All games played at FBC Stanley

## In Sympathy

Our deepest condolences to the family of Linda Mullis.

Our deepest condolences to Page Medlin on the death of her mother, Annette Cantrell.

## February Finances Update

February Receipts	\$92,048
February Expenses	\$43,371
Receipts YTD	\$121,115
Actual Expenses YTD	\$77,862
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$89,650
Annual Budget	\$537,901

## Donations

In Memory of Evelyn Rodden by Verna Jo Ellis to the Landscaping Fund.  
In Honor of Jennifer Allen by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Huff to the Girl Scouts Ministry.  
In Honor of Kasey Peterson by Mr. & Mrs. Mike Huff to the Girl Scouts Ministry.  
In Memory of Linda Mullis by Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Horton to the Bible Fund.  
In Memory of Linda Mullis by Mary Jane Hinkle to the Homebound Ministry.  
In Memory of Linda Mullis by Becky Causby to the Operating Budget.  
In Memory of Linda Mullis by Bill Flowers to the Operating Budget.



# 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!

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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!

