



First Baptist Church of Mount Holly

THE MESSENGER

August 2026



"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

Matthew 7:24

Change is coming.. so is God's plan.

CHANGE IS A GOOD THING

Change... a word many wrestle with. A word that pulls us away from the comfort we have. A word that requires us to experience something new, something unknown, something different from the way that things have always been. Change requires us to let go a little, to be open to new experiences, to be willing to accept that things are not always going to be the same.

As school begins this month, many will face the changes that a new school year brings. Teachers will welcome new faces to their classrooms, students will be among different groups of peers, and bus drivers will no longer pick up those who have moved to middle or high school but will pick up eager 5-year-olds ready for kindergarten. Principals will have new responsibilities; Sunday School teachers will have the chance to share the word of God with bright new faces.

As children grow, they experience a great deal of change. Parents and grandparents watch as the years pass and each moment grows shorter. Children become teenagers, who become young adults, in the blink of an eye. While change is necessary and inevitable, it can be difficult. Things are not the way that they once were.

The good news is that change often reveals God's plan for our lives. As children and teenagers grow, they become the people God created them to be. Their gifts and talents begin to shine. Their mark on the world starts to form. This year, as change approaches our students and staff, continue to cover them in prayer for all that they will experience and that the changes they face will reveal many blessings upon them.

// The good news is that change often reveals God's plan for our lives. //

Upcoming Schedule

Sundays

9:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.

**Sunday School
Worship**

August Events

Aug 1		Farm Share
Aug 2		Church Conference/SGC Report
Aug 7		Girl Scout Sleepover
Aug 13	11:30 a.m.	Holly Seniors Lunch
Aug 16	6:00 p.m.	Illumination Pool Party
Aug 22	8:00 a.m.	Circles Men's Breakfast
	2:00 p.m.	Gaudete Ministries Concert
Aug 23		Back-to-School Celebration
	6:00 p.m.	Ice Cream Social
Aug 30		Illumination Slime Museum

Fall Events

Sept 9	Wednesday Night Kickoff
Sept 13	Journey to Jubilee Conversation
Oct 18	Trunk or Treat
Nov 12	Holly Seniors Lunch
Nov 26	Thanksloving



A VIEW FROM MAIN STREET

by Jeff Allen

Pastor

jeff@fbcmountholly.org

As the summer draws to an end and our conversation "Summer on the Mount" closes, I keep thinking how our time on the mountain reflects the season we have been in. We climbed through blessing, light, and a righteousness deeper than rule-keeping, through the steep, hidden, hard-to-release parts of following Jesus. We soon arrive at the summit: Solid Ground.

That title is not accidental. Matthew 7 ends with two builders caught in the same storm, standing on different foundations.

// Jesus is not asking whether we enjoyed the climb. He is asking what we are standing on when the weather turns. //

And the weather is changing. As I write this, our students will swap pool days for backpacks, and our whole community shifts rhythms: new schedules, new classrooms, new routines. Change tests our foundation. It is easy to build on sand when everything around us is already in motion.



That is why our conversation ends where it does. The Sermon on the Mount was never meant to stay on a mountain in our imagination. It is meant to become the ground we stand on Monday morning, in a carpool line, at a desk, before a new boss or teacher. Solid ground is not found by avoiding change. It is built by practicing these words before the storm arrives.

So as we send our students back to school and we all prepare for the fall, I would ask: what are you building on this year?



Ministry Spotlight

Spiritual Gifts Committee

Every believer has been given gifts by the Spirit — and one of the quiet but vital ministries of our church is helping members discover those gifts and put them to use.

That's the calling of our **Spiritual Gifts Committee**. This faithful group works behind the scenes to identify the gifts God has given and to help place members in roles where their abilities can flourish. Their work reminds us of a beautiful truth: the church is strongest when every member is serving in the place God designed for them.

To the committee: Thank you — Kasey Petersen (chair), Leah Allen, Julia Harrison, Roger Hawkins, Jo Ann Rollins, and Carolyn Snead — for the thoughtful, prayerful work of helping our congregation live into its gifts.

To the congregation: Take a moment to thank a committee member when you see one. And if you've ever wondered how God might be calling you to serve, reach out to Kasey or any member of the team — they'd love to help you find your place.



TELLING STORIES

by Tori Freeman
Minister of Youth and Children
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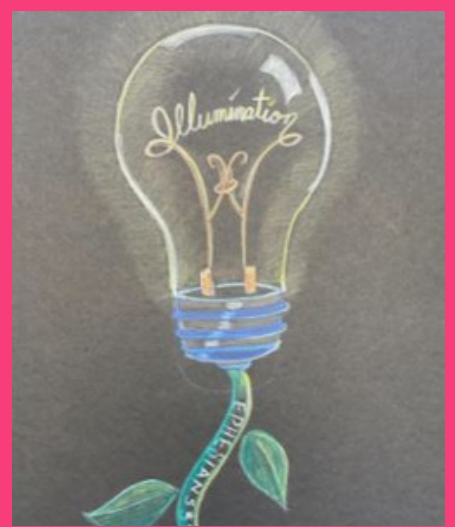
"Into the unknown, into the unknownooooown!" If you just sang along in your head, you've seen or at least heard this song from the movie Frozen II. Bonus points if you went full on Idina Menzel and belted it out, out loud. (or at least in your head!) This song, while it might be a cheesy start to this article, has a great lesson for us all.

Elsa, one of the main characters, has to decide between staying in her castle of comfort and familiarity, or stepping out into the unknown, risking the change that might come with that. At the end of the song, she's much more inclined to accept the change and to face the unknown and what lies ahead.

Change can be difficult. A new school year brings about significant changes for our students. I remember being nervous to walk into a new classroom, and I have never really enjoyed change. I like things to stay exactly as they are, all the time if possible. We know that life is not that way and change is inevitable.

As our students face the unknown of a new school year, we want them to know that what the year holds may be unknown to them, but it is known to God. God is all-knowing, and whatever they face, whatever we face, whatever changes come our way, we are never experiencing them alone.

// Change is inevitable... //



Illumination Youth Events

August 16th - Pool Party @ The Smith's

August 23rd - Ice Cream Social

August 30th - Sloo Moo Slime Institute

PRESENTING...

GAUDETE MINISTRIES

David Masterson, Piano
Beth Allen-Gardner, Soprano
Cole Freeman, Violin

**AUGUST 22, 2026
2:00 PM**

First Baptist Church of Mount Holly
300 S Main Street
Mt. Holly, NC 28120

Join us for an afternoon of worship through word and music with the Gaudete Ministries, led by Rev. David Masterson, free of charge at 2pm on August 22nd!



MUSIC NOTES

by Cole Freeman
Minister of Music
cole@fbcmountholly.org

The need for change in music is self-evident. Playing the same note over and over could barely even be called music. Similarly, playing the same song repeatedly, even your favorites, would eventually get old. Imagine your favorite three hymns and then imagine singing them in church every single week. At some point they would get very old, and perhaps even lose their sense of meaning. I think this may be why we admire the artists who have a series of popular works more than the "one hit wonder". Creating a masterpiece is impressive, but to create multiple requires the courage to not rest on one's laurels and constantly strive for improvement.

It is a human tendency to seek equilibrium. Our bodies are constantly working to maintain the status quo. Naturally, when we find a routine or a habit that we find comfortable, we resist any change to this routine. While there is nothing wrong with having routines, how many times have we discovered something amazing just by branching out from the norm? This could be listening to a new genre of music, trying a new cuisine, or maybe having a discussion with a person whose worldview is different from ours. As uncomfortable as change may be initially, I believe God has beautiful things in store for us just beyond the discomfort.

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

August OCC Item



Sock It to August!

Goal = 600
Ages 2-14

Colorful socks are encouraged--
the brighter, the better!
Please avoid camouflage or war-themed
designs; keep tags intact.

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



Holly Seniors Community Lunch

Thursday, Aug 13 - 11:30 AM-1:00 PM

Guest Speaker: Nancy Wrenn
Mt. Holly Historical Society
Registration Ends August 7

Register at FBCMH - there is a form in The
Gathering Place or Email Randy McLean at
isaiah41@duck.com



MEN'S MINISTRY



SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2026



8:00AM - 9:30AM



FELLOWSHIP HALL

300 S. Main Street, Mount Holly, NC 28120

Come for fellowship, learn more and share
the journey. All are invited to attend.

CIRCLES - MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY

If you hold to my teachings, you are really my disciples.
- John 8:31

HOSTED BY FBC'S CIRCLES

Questions? Ask Randy McLean, Aubrey Horton,
Mark Hudome, Carson Dean or Matt Williamson

OPEN TO ALL - BRING A FRIEND

Help us help others...

Farm Share

August 1
8:00 AM

Church-wide Summer Fellowship

HOMEMADE ICE CREAM SOCIALS

All are invited to
bring homemade
churns of ice cream,
cake, and/or cookies.
Drinks will be
provided

AUGUST 23

On the Front Lawn
(weather permitting)
or Fellowship Hall

6:00 PM

Thanks to our Deacons for
organizing this time together!



June Finances Update

June Receipts	\$30,923
June Expenses	\$40,120
Receipts YTD	\$282,491
Actual Expenses YTD	\$253,258
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$268,950
Annual Budget	\$537,901



First Baptist Church of Mount Holly



Contact Information

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Cole Freeman, Minister of Music
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Office Hours

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

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