



First Baptist Church

Growing Toward Christ

Whiteville, NC

THE CONTACT MONTHLY NEWSLETTER APRIL 2017 VOLUME 52, NUMBER 4



HOLY WEEK

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed."

1 John 4:10

EVENTS AT A GLANCE

- APRIL 5, CALLED BUSINESS MEETING,
6:30 P.M.
- APRIL 6, FAMILY LIFE CMTE & CHILDREN'S
CMTE VBS MEETING, 6:00 P.M.
- APRIL 9, PALM SUNDAY
- APRIL 13, MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
AND COMMUNION, 6:30 P.M.
- APRIL 15, EASTER EGG HUNT, 10:30 A.M.
- APRIL 16, RESURRECTION SUNDAY
- APRIL 17, CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
- APRIL 18, DEACONS MEETING, 7 P.M.
- APRIL 19, NO WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES
- APRIL 22, CELEBRATING LIFE AND LOVE
PARTY, 2-4 P.M.
- APRIL 23, CHURCH COUNCIL, 3 P.M.
- APRIL 26, CHURCH CONFERENCE, 6:30 P.M.
- APRIL 29, OPERATION INASMUCH

COMPLETE MONTHLY
CALENDAR ON BACK.

TO ADD AN EVENT TO OUR
CALENDAR, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE:
(910) 642-2139

PASTOR'S CORNER:

“ACT 2017”

Acts 10:39-43

“We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

A couple of weeks ago, we had a conversation in Sunday worship about the Samaritan woman at the well. We recalled the excitement and passion she had to share the Good News with her city that the Messiah had come. In light of her passion, we discussed what it means for **us** to share the Gospel, the Good News, with the world. Like the Samaritan woman, we are excited to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, but we must also remember that our context demands examination.

If we think of Church history like a continuation of the book of Acts, we can see that God helps His church to respond greatly to the needs of the world as they exist in that specific time period. In 2017, we would do well to know our culture and ask God how we might be creative in our response.

We live in a country where the majority of citizens know Jesus (or at the very least know *about* Jesus). Yet still, church attendance across our nation is declining rapidly. The main reason is because people are losing hope – again, not in Christ, but in the Church. Similar to the Samaritan woman at the well, and all of those who have been personal witnesses to the Messiah, we need to get excited about sharing the Good News with people. But in the 2017th “Act” in the span of the Gospel story, the Good News that we must share is not just about Jesus, but specifically about the bridegroom of Christ.

How wonderful it would be to proclaim with confidence to the world, “Our Church is now fulfilling its true purpose in the world and is carrying out God’s mission in the most powerful way! Our church is working to bring Good News to the poor, working to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and we’re working to let the oppressed go free!” Some have lost hope in that kind of church, because, to be blunt with you, churches aren’t really about the work of Christ in that sense. Instead, churches have become a safe haven for people who look, act and think the same.

Excitement about participating in the Body of Christ, if we are indeed witnesses of Christ, will be at the forefront of our Good News. People are hungry and thirsty for Christ’s Church to finally carry out the mission that Jesus calls us to. People are thirsty for churches that are using language that is inclusive and loving and are showing the world that they are open to diversity...and open to adding new people who may even change the dynamics of the way that particular local church functions. If we are to share the Gospel with anybody, it is that **our church is that kind of church!** And then we have to live into that proclamation.

The world looks different now. It’s scary, I know. But God has a response. And I promise you, that response has nothing to do with tuning the world out and pretending it doesn’t exist. Christ’s followers are called to be witnesses of His glory, not just in word, but in deed.

Well, fellow witnesses, let’s testify to the world the exciting work we’re doing together!

- Rev. Ryan Clore

April 2: Fifth Sunday of Lent
“Lazarus, Come Out!”
John 11:1-45

April 9: Palm Sunday
“Disrupting the Balance”
Matthew 21:1-11

April 16: Resurrection Sunday
“Witnesses”
John 20:1-18

April 23: Second Sunday of Easter
“See, Touch, Feel and Believe”
John 20:19-31

April 30: Third Sunday of Easter
“Hope Removed”
Luke 24:13-35



Music in Ministry



The Music Ministry is preparing music for the upcoming services for Palm Sunday (April 9), Maundy Thursday (April 13) and Resurrection Sunday (April 16).

On **Palm Sunday** our **Youth Handbells** will accompany the **Chancel Choir** with a selection chosen especially for this day of worship. Several of us will also attend the **Raleigh Ringers** concert in Lumberton, Sunday afternoon.

Plan now to join us for our **Maundy Thursday Communion and Tenebrae Service** (Service of Shadows) on Thursday, April 13, 6:30 p.m. This service begins with communion and continues with scripture readings and music reflecting the scenes and events of Holy Week. **The Chancel Choir** will provide music for the service.

On **Resurrection Sunday**, we will celebrate the Risen Christ with help from the **Chancel Choir** and one of our **Youth** trumpeters.

Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound
(Children's Choir Hymn for the month of March)

One of the most popular and beloved of all hymns, *Amazing Grace*, was penned by John Newton of England in the 1700s. The hymn relates the pilgrimage of its author, who was radically transformed by the grace of God.

John Newton's devout mother dedicated him early to the ministry and began his religious training at an early age. He could recite the catechism and hymns by the age of four. His mother died when he was seven, and at the age of eleven, after several years of school away from home, he went to sea with his sea captain father. Later he served in the British Navy, deserted, and when caught was put in irons and whipped in public.

Then Newton abandoned the religious principles taught by his mother and embarked on a life of such debauchery that his friends despaired of his sanity. He signed on a slave ship and soon was master of his own ship, dealing in the monstrous evil of bringing slaves from Africa. With a whip in one hand and a gun in the other, often given to drunkenness, he sank into the deepest depths of sin.

In 1748, at the age of twenty-three, he ran into a savage storm that threatened to carry him and his ship to the bottom of the sea. Newton thought of himself, like Jonah, as the cause of the mountainous waves and raging wind that threatened to engulf the boat and its passengers. This close brush with death set him thinking about the true meaning of life and led him to read at sea Thomas a Kempis' classic, *Imitation of Christ*.

The Holy Spirit used the storm and the book to convict him of his need of Christ. Sick of his pitiable condition and of the filthy slave business, he was led to leave the slave trade and ultimately to go into the ministry. All through his life, John Newton never ceased to marvel at the grace of God that transformed him so completely. While pastoring his church in the town of Olney, he wrote his spiritual autobiography in a song that God gave him from the dark night of his soul.

Most people who sing his words about God's grace "That saved a wretch like me" do not feel that they have been "wretches." But that is exactly what John Newton realized he was when Christ saved him. Wherever he went to preach, large crowds gathered to hear the "Old converted sea captain." He declared, "Had you known that my conduct, principles and heart were still darker than my outward condition—how little would you have imagined that such a one was reserved to be such an instance of the providential care and exuberant goodness of God." His testimony has resonated around the world in his beloved hymn *Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound*.

(adapted from *Songs in the Night* by Henry Gariepy)

Join us on Wednesdays for Supper (5:45 p.m.) and Prayer Meeting (6:30-6:45 p.m.)
nursery is available after supper.

Wednesday Night Supper



Called Business Meeting
April 5
John & Peggy Norosky

Nursery
Mary Alice Stanley
Kathrine Scott

Matthew 27-28
April 12
Carlton & Mary Jean Prince

Nursery
Tricia Sanderson
Leah Sanderson
Carly Sanderson

April 19
No Wednesday Activities

Church Conference
April 26
Bring a Covered Dish

Nursery
Brenda Carter or
Genie Carter & Kate Carter

APRIL MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

2 Grayanna Young
9 Gina Morningstar
16 Katherine Jordan Scott
23 Tricia Sanderson
30 Sherry Waters

WORSHIP SERVICE GREETER

Brenda Carter

DEACONS OF THE WEEK

2 Glenn Waters / Sylvia Walker
9 John Sauls / Kirby Sanderson
16 Brownie Cook / Bobby Hensley
23 Emory Worley / Merle Worley
30 Stephen Prince / David Jordan

NURSERY

2 Jenny Clore & Helper
9 Ellis & Taylor Jordan
16 Jennifer Hall & Johnnye Burleson
23 Jennifer Hall & Holly Faulk
30 Tricia, Leah & Carly Sanderson

SOUND & VIDEO

2 Jason Schoolcraft
9 Wil Ezzell
16 Kirby Sanderson
23 Eric Kronenwetter

USHERS (CHAIRMAN: CHARLIE DUNCAN)

2 Ellis Jordan, David Carter, Emory Worley, Clint Grainger, Trent Young & John Norosky
9 Jerry Wilson, Travis Harrison, John Sauls, Buster Carter & Charlie Hall
16 Harry Ward, David Tedder, Emory Worley, Haywood Corbett & Edgar Tison
23 Buster Carter, Glenn Waters, David Heath, Grayson Ward & Charlie Hall
30 TBA

PEW STOCKER

Dale Duncan

DVD DISTRIBUTION

2 Peggy Walters
9 Hilda Butler
16 Rose Langston
23 Frances Price
30 Juanita Stanley

SUNDAY SCHOOL GREETERS

2 Clint & Carolyn Grainger
9 Bill & Jolene Lewis
16 Rose Langston & J.C. Hyatt
23 Jerry Wilson & Yvonne Bass
30 Mitchell Sauls & Lonnie Williams

HOSPICE MEAL FOR MONTH OF APRIL

Yvonne Bass

SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY AT LIBERTY

Gleaners Class

OFFERING TELLERS

Ellis & Taylor Jordan (entire month)

THANK YOU

Thank you for the bereavement meal for our mother's (Virginia Powell's) funeral.

Our entire family is so appreciative for First Baptist of Whiteville's cooperation and guidance of the delicious and bountiful bereavement meal at Westminster Church. Our large extended family and friends heard a member of Westminster's hospitality committee exclaim, "I have never seen such a large family!" Your willingness to work cooperatively with Westminster was not only unbelievably thoughtful, but made it possible for the small congregation at Westminster "to make it happen!" Our entire family will always be indebted to you and your committee for your insight and skill for knowing how to help.

With warmest regards,
Martha Powell Royster



1 Bill Lewis	14 Landon Bailey
Michael Memory	15 Harry Ward
Emily Cole	Mary Hooks
2 Karen Hall	Grayson Ward
5 John Paite	16 Brittany Lynn
6 Gina Morningstar	18 Joe Sellers
7 Ashley Taylor	28 Janie Cox
11 Audrey Black	30 Anna Kimball
12 Olene Utley	
13 Charlie Duncan	
Bill Memory	

BIRTHDAYS

Our Financial Stewardship

Worship Attendance Average: 106
Sunday School Attendance Average: 60

Feb 26, 2017- Attend 123

Budget Rec'd	\$5,840.00	Budget Needs to Date	\$180,474.14
Budget Needed	\$8,203.37	Budget Received YTD	\$131,102.60
Under	\$2,363.37	Budget Under YTD	\$49,371.54

Mar 5, 2017- Attend 101

Budget Rec'd	\$6,438.00	Budget Needs to Date	\$188,677.51
Budget Needed	\$8,203.37	Budget Received YTD	\$137,540.60
Under	\$1,765.37	Budget Under YTD	\$51,136.91

Mar 12 2017- Attend 87

Budget Rec'd	\$4,353.30	Budget Needs to Date	\$196,880.88
Budget Needed	\$8,203.37	Budget Received YTD	\$141,893.90
Under	\$3,850.07	Budget Under YTD	\$54,986.98

Mar 19, 2017- Attend 110

Budget Rec'd	\$6,370.14	Budget Needs to Date	\$205,084.25
Budget Needed	\$8,203.37	Budget Received YTD	\$148,264.04
Under	\$1,833.23	Budget Under YTD	\$56,820.21

Mar 26, 2017- Attend 110

Budget Rec'd	\$6,500.00	Budget Needs to Date	\$213,287.62
Budget Needed	\$8,203.37	Budget Received YTD	\$154,764.04
Under	\$1,703.37	Budget Under YTD	\$58,523.58

World Hunger \$706.00
Global Missions-Christmas \$6,685.00
Thanksgiving/Children's Home \$430.00
Heck-Jones Total \$2,630.00
Baptist Retirement Homes \$430.00
Lottie Moon \$1,497.00

FBC SPOTLIGHT

This month's Member Spotlight highlights members, Ellis & Taylor Jordan.

Ellis became a member of Whiteville First Baptist in 1994. He currently serves on the Children's Committee and is an usher during Sunday morning church services. Taylor was raised in Evergreen, where she attended Evergreen United Methodist Church. Taylor became a member of Whiteville First Baptist in September 2016 and was baptized in October 2016. Both Ellis and Taylor serve on the Lord's Supper Committee and are part of the "Inquirers" Sunday School class which they thoroughly enjoy. Taylor regularly attends Wednesday night services and is excited to help implement a Wednesday night children's program called "Godly Play" beginning April 5. Ellis and Taylor are committed to the growth and future of Whiteville First Baptist and look forward to raising Addison Grant in the church.

Ellis and Taylor met in 2002 while attending North Carolina State University and were married in December 2008 at Whiteville First Baptist. They currently reside in the Western Prong area along with their daughter and three dogs (Cooper, Zeus, and Toby).

Ellis received an Associate's degree in Field Crops Technology and a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business Management from NC State University. Ellis now operates his own farm in which he produces cotton, peanuts, sweet potatoes, and soybeans. Taylor received a Bachelor's degree in Communication from NC State University and a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is currently employed as a speech-language pathologist at Speech-Language Pathology Services, Inc. in Whiteville.

Ellis and Taylor have a beautiful 5-year-old daughter named Addison Grant. Addison Grant enjoys dancing, jumping on her trampoline, riding her bicycle, and playing with her many baby dolls. Ellis and Taylor are overcome with joy at the excitement that Addison Grant demonstrates while attending church services.



CELEBRATING LIFE & LOVE

APRIL 22, 2017
2:00PM – 4:00PM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us as we celebrate the upcoming marriages for four of our members; Chris Blackman, Kate Carter, Rian Russell and Jerry Wilson, and the anticipated arrival of a sweet baby boy for Katherine and Ethan Scott.

This will be a time to gather, visit and share in the excitement with one another.

WE ARE EXCITED FOR EACH OF YOUR JOURNEYS AND LOOK FORWARD TO CELEBRATING YOU!

All are welcome to attend. Please no gifts - your presence is your gift.



Dear Church Family,

Harold's family wants to thank you for the love, support, and prayers during his illness and following his death. The generosity that you have shown by providing food, cards, flowers, and words of encouragement have been a blessing to us. We appreciate each of you!

Harold loved his church and his church family. We will cherish our precious memories of him until we all meet again.

Much love,
The Hughes Family



Dear Church Family,

We would like to say THANK YOU to everyone who showered our family with phone calls, visits, cards, letters and food during the loss of my father, Delma Ezzell. Words can never express our appreciation and thankfulness. The meal prepared by the Grief Committee members was such a blessing and a bountiful plenty. What a wonderful ministry this is! One realizes during times such as these just how blessed you are to be a part of a loving, caring church family. God's grace is sufficient and we continue to covet your prayers as we adjust to life while missing our loved one.

In His Love,
Melvin, Marty, Wil and Anna Ezzell

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUSINESS MEETING

There will be a **called business meeting** on Wednesday night, **April 5, at 6:30 p.m.** to discuss and vote on a recommendation from the Communications Committee on the new church website. If you have any questions, contact Melvin Ezzell, Deacon Body chair.

WEDNESDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY

Godly Play, a new Wednesday night children's program, will begin on **April 5th!** This program is designed for children ages 3 - 8. You may be asking, "What is Godly Play?" Children have an innate sense of the presence of God. The Godly Play approach helps them to explore their faith through story, to gain religious language and to enhance their spiritual experience through wonder and play. Based on Montessori principles and developed using a spiral curriculum, the Godly Play method serves children through early, middle and late childhood and beyond.

Join us, starting this Wednesday night, April 5, from 6:30pm-7:15pm! Families are welcome to join us for dinner at 5:45 followed by adult Bible study, while the children attend Godly Play.

If you have questions, please contact Jenny Clore (540-760-7253) or Taylor Jordan (910-648-2818).

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

On **April 6th**, the Family Life and Children's Committees will be meeting with Karen Dawsey and Donna Prince in preparation for Vacation Bible School.

WMU HIGHLIGHTS FOR APRIL

WMU Meeting: Monday, April 10, 10:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall

Call to Prayer: Mary Alice Stanley

Program: Peggy Underwood

Mission Emphasis for April: Annie Armstrong Easter Offering - Theme: *"Together For His Kingdom"* - Goal: \$1,000.00

"But when they believed Philip, as he preached the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized." Acts 8:12

Thanks to WMU members and other ladies who packed several purses (close to a dozen) for Families First. The purses will be donated to victims of domestic violence who seek help at this organization.

Remember: Prayer is among the most important things we can give to missions!

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

Maundy Thursday Service is **April 13 at 6:30 p.m.** It will be a communion service followed by a service of shadows, presented by choir and congregation.



EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 15, at 10:30 a.m., we are going to have games, lunch and an Easter egg hunt. Children that attend need to bring 12 filled eggs. If you would like to donate candy or eggs, we will have baskets and containers set up around the church for donations.

QUARTERLY CHURCH CONFERENCE

Our next Quarterly Church Conference is scheduled for **April 26, 2017**. If you are new to our Quarterly Church Conference, we meet after Wednesday Night Supper, which is a covered dish meal, to discuss the changes/activities during the last quarter. This is our opportunity to see what committees are working on and where they could use our help. If you are looking for service opportunities, this will be the perfect time to get the full overview of church activity. Please join us to see how our church is ministering to its members and to the community. ***If you are chair of a committee, please remember that all committee/organizational reports need to be turned in to the church office by Wednesday, April 14.***





OPERATION INASMUCH

"Inasmuch as you did it for the least of these, you did it for me." - Jesus

On April 29 we will come together as a church to show Christ's love to our community by serving through one of the many mission projects listed below. You will be able to volunteer for projects using the form found in the bulletin beginning April 2. Come out and join us as we witness to our "neighbors" through Operation Inasmuch. First breakfast begins at 7:30 a.m. and second breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m.

Baptist Children's Home Food Collection
Living Hope Pregnancy Support Services, Blessings in a Bottle & Infant Kits
Nursery at Columbus Regional Hospital
Children's Ministries (two groups, ages 4-6 and 1st-5th grades)

Child Care Ministry (through age 3)
Load-a-Truck - Red Springs Mission Camp
Financial Support Ministry
Soup Kitchen Ministry

If you have any ideas for projects, please call the church office.

Ministry Project "Thanks"

A special thanks to Charlie Duncan, Emory Worley and Fred Senter for installing handrails at the home of Nick Moorehead.

To: First Baptist Church of Whiteville

Dear Friends in Christ,

Kindness Matters

My family and I had the privilege of joining your church in worship today (Sunday, March 26, 2017). I have since been compelled to share with you my experience.

Let me begin with how we came to visit this Sunday. I was first introduced to Ryan by my pastor, Dr. Danny Russell, last year at the CBF convention. We hit it off right away and became friends. I have wanted to visit and hear Ryan preach for some time. However, it has been tough to work out with my duties as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Chadbourn Baptist Church. With respect to my pastor, I had a conversation about my intentions to visit your church and received his blessing.

I had the honor a few years ago, to give my testimony in front of my church. In that testimony, I talked about some of the reasons that I had not attended any church for a period in my life. First and foremost was that I was afraid that I would not be welcomed. I was afraid when I walked in, that every head would turn and look at me as if to say, "What is he doing in MY CHURCH!" I was instantly put at ease when I first visited Chadbourn and have been there ever since.

I have been so excited about the prospect of visiting First Baptist that I was surprised this morning that while on the drive that I started having some apprehension. Worry and doubt rose in me that we might not be well received. "What if we sat in someone's seat and upset them, what if we didn't know anyone, etc.?"

My anxiety was immediately put to rest. We were sincerely welcomed right at the door. My wife and I were amazed at how beautiful the sanctuary was. I am not sure how many people came to us and shook our hands, and said, "Hey," to the boys, but it sure seemed like the whole church. We were blown away by the wonderful gift of bread. Then came the worship service. Oh, my, what wonderful music! The choir was incredible! Truly, I could feel the presence of God as they sang. The children's service was great.

My sister and brother-in-law with their three small kids joined today as well. The kids blended right in just as if they had been there forever. Then the sermon...Your Pastor, my friend Ryan, did not disappoint. He delivered God's message and it was awesome!!!

So what is the point of this letter? I am not really sure to be honest. However, I have been compelled to share my experience. How can I sum up my visit? I experienced Christ today at First Baptist Church! I will always treasure today and I thank everyone at First Baptist for such a wonderful day of worship.

Sincerely,

Sammy Sibbett

	April 2017																																																						
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2 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir Warmup 11:00 Morning Worship & Children's Worship 3:00 Chrismon Workshop 4:30 Youth/Adult Handbells 5:15 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Bible Study	3 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:00 - 6:00 Knit Wits (Knitting Ministry)	4	5 5:10 Children's Music Activity (Grades 1-5) 5:45 Wednesday Night Supper 6:30 Brief Prayer Meeting Called Business MTG *Godly Play Children's Activity 7:15 Chancel Choir	6 10:00 Peer Learning Group for Pastor 6:00 Family Life CMTE & Children's CMTE VBS Meeting	7	8																																																	
9 Palm Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir Warmup 11:00 Morning Worship & Children's Worship 4:30 Youth/Adult Handbells 5:15 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Bible Study	10 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:00 - 6:00 Knit Wits (Knitting Ministry)	11	12 5:10 Children's Music Activity (Grades 1-5) 5:45 Wednesday Night Supper 6:30 Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (Mt 27,28) *Godly Play Children's Activity 7:15 Chancel Choir	13 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service	14 12:00 Hospice Meals Served	15 10:30 Easter Egg Hunt																																																	
16 Resurrection Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 10:30 Chancel Choir Warmup 11:00 Morning Worship & Children's Worship	17 Office Closed 4:00 - 6:00 Knit Wits (Knitting Ministry)	18 7:00 Deacons Meeting	19 No Wednesday Activities	20	21	22 2:00 - 4:00 Celebrating Life and Love Party																																																	
23 9:45 Sunday School Gleaners Class - Liberty 10:30 Chancel Choir Warmup 11:00 Morning Worship & Children's Worship 3:00 Church Council 4:30 Youth/Adult Handbells 5:15 Youth Choir 6:00 Youth Bible Study	24 10:00 Staff Meeting 4:00 - 6:00 Knit Wits (Knitting Ministry)	25	26 5:10 Children's Music Activity (Grades 1-5) 5:45 Wednesday Night Supper 6:30 Church Conference *Godly Play Children's Activity 7:15 Chancel Choir	27	28	29 <u>Operation Inasmuch</u> 7:30 First Breakfast 8:30 Second Breakfast																																																	
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Sunday Morning Worship www.wtxy1540.com, Audio Streaming Live.....at 11:00 a.m.

Scroll to the "Click to Listen Live" link

First Baptist Church
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