

# First Baptist Church

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## Lent

February 10-March 24

Lent is the forty-day-long season of fasting and prayer before Easter. The forty days represent the time Jesus spent in the desert where he endured temptation by Satan. The purpose of Lent is to prepare—through prayer, penitence, and self-denial—for the annual remembrance during Holy Week of the death and resurrection of

Jesus. Lent teaches us that the world cannot be saved painlessly; Jesus gives himself as a sacrifice, and because he does, we give ourselves also.

## Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and occurs forty-six days (*forty days not counting Sundays*) before Easter. Ash Wednesday gets its name from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful as a sign of repentance. The ashes are from palms burned from the previous year's Palm Sunday. The pastor uses the ashes to make the sign of the cross upon the foreheads of the congregation while reciting the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return ... repent, and believe the Gospel."

## Ash Wednesday Service

February 10, 2016

We come to:

- be reminded of our mortality
- renew our promises to God
- consider how we will spend the weeks leading up to Easter
- offer ourselves as a living sacrifice to the God, who, through His son, Jesus, gave himself for us.

## My Preparation for Easter

If you feel led to prepare for Easter in a more thoughtful way this year, some suggestions are...

### Inward and Personal Disciplines

- \_\_\_ Spend time in solitude each day.
- \_\_\_ Read a book for inner growth.
- \_\_\_ Keep a journal of prayer concerns, questions, reading.
- \_\_\_ Focus on thanksgiving, rather than on asking, in prayer.
- \_\_\_ Give myself a gift of three hours to do something I always say I don't have time to do.
- \_\_\_ Make a list of people with whom I need to be reconciled. Pray for them and let Jesus guide me in my thinking and feeling toward them.
- \_\_\_ Take control of my life by \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_ Go to Holy Week services as an act of love and waiting with Jesus.
- \_\_\_ Take time to inventory my priorities and plan how I will reorder them.
- \_\_\_ Give up a grudge or a rehearsal of a past event.

### Take on some loving task:

- \_\_\_ Plan to visit a "shut-in" neighbor or church member.
- \_\_\_ Write a letter of affirmation to a person who has touched my life.
- \_\_\_ Go to dinner with someone I want to know better.
- \_\_\_ Say "NO" to something that is a waste of money and time.
- \_\_\_ Pray for help in resisting prejudice and for courage in opposing it.
- \_\_\_ Rebuke the tendency to be critical of others.

### As a way of being accountable, I will:

- \_\_\_ Share my plan with at least one other person and share with that person my experience of Lent during Holy Week.



**WELCOME!**  
Josh, Brandi and Joel

to the Biscoe Community  
and to the Fellowship of  
First Baptist Church!

Dear church family,

We want to thank you all for the wonderful welcome we have received. It is incredibly humbling to be so loved with open arms by all of you. The parsonage is such a blessing to us, and there are no words to express our appreciation for the many hours and hard work that have been contributed there. We are excited to begin this journey together to see what God has in store for us as the body of Christ.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!  
Josh, Brandi and Joel Powers

**PASSPORT**  
Empowering Students • Embracing the World • Extending Grace

Our youth will be attending camp at  
Averett University  
Danville, Virginia  
July 17-22, 2016