FIRST THINGS FIRST

March 2026



HELEN WOOD CIRCLE

The Helen Wood Circle held its March meeting at Mama Rosa's Tuesday, March 10. Their many projects include cards to shut-ins, Blessing Bags for the Dialysis Center, Thanksgiving Baskets, Valor Farm Center, Breakfast for ACS & AES, Autumn Care residents, Hands of Ministry, & DAWN.

OUTREACH

On March 11th, a group of volunteers stopped by Autumn Care to deliver some tissues. We know this will be a necessary item as the weather gets warmer and we welcome spring (and the pollen)! This was an incredible time for outreach and we all had some good conversations with the residents.



GriefShare®

Our GriefShare volunteers invite everyone to the former Pre-K classroom area after worship service on March 22nd for light refreshments. This occasion marks 15 years of GriefShare here at FBC. It's a wonderful opportunity to learn more about this ministry, especially if you have not seen the renovations to the meeting space!

DEEP THOUGHTS

This week I was in Norfolk for a Navy Chaplain training. We were informed about some recent data that had been collected and how we can use it to provide better ministry for our sailors or Marines. While parts of it was very boring, and perhaps even considered to be "death by PowerPoint," one of the presenters said something that caught everybody's attention. "Telling a story without data is like trying to preach a sermon without scripture." Their point was, the recent information gathered tells the story about what the service members need to be considered spiritually ready to complete their mission. The presenter said something else that caught my attention:

"Your story helps tell THE story." This is talking about the whole story. The big picture. As we consider our faith lives, how does our story help tell the story of Jesus? At first, we may consider our past experiences in life to answer this question. But how can our current place in life - regardless of where you are, who you are, or your desires in life - help tell the gospel story? Because people need to hear it.

CHURCH WORK DAY

Mark you calendars for a church work day on April 11th! We will focus on the outside but there will be plenty to do on the inside as well. We will begin at 9am and the more volunteers we have, the faster the work will go!

BREAKFAST HOUR

The next breakfast will be on March 29th at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. A sign-up sheet for food is posted on the bulletin board at the kitchen entrance.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Wednesday night suppers are scheduled to return beginning on April 1st. We are looking at doing another book study so stay tuned for more information!

WMU SPRING PROJECT

WMU is collecting items for the Isaiah 117 house which helps children awaiting foster care. Items needed are: 3-in-1 kid's body wash, shampoo, conditioner, baby lotion, baby wash, baby wipes, blankets, bibs, and burp cloths. Donations are being collected in the parlor. The deadline is April 5th (Easter Sunday).

PASTORAL UPDATES

Upcoming Navy dates:
April 10 - 11, Greensboro for drill
April 19 - May 1, Camp Pendleton, CA
(for my mandatory 2-weeks of service)