

# February Church Calendar

- 1 Intercessory Prayer 9 AM
- 1 Constitution & Bylaws Meeting 6 PM
- 2 Gideons' Pastor Appreciation
- 3 Choir Cantata Rehearsal
- 4 Children's Choir 4:30 PM
- 5 Church Council Meeting 7 PM
- 6 Good News Club
- 6 LOVE Visitation 6:30 PM
- 6 Buildings & Grounds Meeting 7 PM
- 7 Awana 5:30 PM
- 7 Youth 6 PM
- 7 Prayer & Bible Study 6 PM
- 7 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 PM
- 8 Intercessory Prayer 9 AM
- 11 Adult & Youth Discipleship 5:30 PM
- 14 **Valentine's Day**
- 14 Awana 5:30 PM
- 14 Youth 6 PM
- 14 Prayer & Bible Study 6 PM
- 14 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 PM
- 15 Intercessory Prayer 9 AM
- 15 Seniors to Webster's 11 AM
- 15 Constitution & Bylaws Meeting 6 PM
- 15 Deacons' Meeting 6:30 PM
- 18 Children's Choir 4:30 PM
- 20 Good News Club
- 20 LOVE Visitation 6:30 PM
- 21 Awana 5:30 PM
- 21 Youth 6 PM
- 21 Prayer & Bible Study 6 PM
- 21 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 PM
- 22 Intercessory Prayer 9 AM
- 25 Children's Choir 4:30 PM
- 25 Adult & Youth Discipleship 5:30 PM
- 27 Good News Club
- 27 LOVE Visitation 6:30 PM
- 28 Awana 5:30 PM
- 28 Youth 6 PM
- 28 Prayer & Bible Study 6 PM
- 28 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 PM

**Senior Adults Welcome!**  
Join us for lunch at Webster's the  
third Thursday of each month.  
We leave the church at 11 AM.



Church Altar Flowers

Anyone wishing to place  
flowers on the altar on a  
Sunday, in honor or in memory  
of a loved one, please sign the  
list on the bulletin board  
outside the church office.  
There are many slots available.



Time to  
Spring Ahead

March

11

52 Doctrines of the Bible

You can download them at:  
www.lorisfbc.com  
Under "Media" Header  
"Bible Study"  
Click on  
"52 Vital Doctrines of the Bible"

- 1 Intercessory Prayer 9 AM
- 1 Constitution & Bylaws Meeting 6 PM
- 4 Children's Choir 4:30 PM
- 4 Adult & Youth Discipleship 5:30 PM
- 6 LOVE Visitation 6:30 PM
- 6 Buildings & Grounds Meeting 7 PM
- 7 Awana 5:30 PM
- 7 Youth 6 PM
- 7 Prayer & Bible Study 6 PM
- 7 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 PM
- 8 Intercessory Prayer 9 AM
- 11 Children's Choir 4:30 PM
- 11 Adult & Youth Discipleship 5:30 PM
- 13 Loris Prayer Breakfast 7 AM
- 13 LOVE Visitation 6:30 PM
- 14 Awana 5:30 PM
- 14 Youth 6 PM
- 14 Prayer & Bible Study 6 PM
- 14 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 PM
- 15 Intercessory Prayer 9 AM
- 15 Seniors to Webster's 11 AM
- 15 Deacons' Meeting 6:30 PM
- 16-18 Youth Retreat
- 17 **St. Patrick's Day**
- 18 Children's Choir 4:30 PM
- 18 Adult & Youth Discipleship 5:30 PM
- 20 LOVE Visitation 6:30 PM
- 21 Awana 5:30 PM
- 21 Youth 6 PM
- 21 Prayer & bible Study 6 PM
- 22 Intercessory Prayer 9 AM
- 25 Children's Choir 4:30 PM
- 25 Adult & Youth Discipleship 5:30 PM
- 25 Easter Cantata Rehearsal 2 PM
- 27 Good News Club
- 27 LOVE Visitation 6:30 PM
- 28 Youth 6 PM
- 28 Awana 5:30 PM
- 28 Youth 6 PM
- 281 Prayer & Bible Study 6 PM
- 28 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 PM
- 29 Intercessory Prayer 9 AM
- 29 Constitution & Bylaws Meeting 6 PM
- 30 **Good Friday** (church office closed)
- 31 Easter Cantata 6 PM

Loris

First

Baptist

Loris First Baptist Church

3117 Main Street  
Loris, SC 29569-2735  
(843) 756-7385  
Fax: (843) 756-7390  
Email: info@lorisfbc.com  
www.lorisfbc.com

Sunday Service Times

9:00 AM - Sunday School  
10:15 AM - \*Worship Service  
4:30 PM - Children's Choir  
5:30 PM - Discipleship Training

Wednesday Service Times

5:30 PM - Awana Program  
6:00 PM - Youth Bible Study  
6:00 PM - Prayer & Bible Study  
7:00 PM - Adult Choir Rehearsal

\*Morning Worship Service Streamed Live: <http://tigradio.com/>

The Chimes

Loris

First

Baptist

February

& March

2018

State of The Church in America



*"Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place."* (Revelation 2:4-5)

The President of the United States gave His "State of the Union" Address last Tuesday evening (January 30<sup>th</sup>). President Trump used this speech to talk about all the positive things (at least in his opinion) that have happened in our country since he was elected, as well as a list of things that still need to be worked on and improved. The purpose of a "State of the Union" Address is to give the leader of our great nation the opportunity to tell the citizens (he is supposed to be working for) what is the current "condition", "status", "strengths", "weaknesses", etc., of the things that should matter most to all Americans (i.e. our economy, our military, current wars, serious problems, future goals, etc.,etc.). Our President summarized the current "state" of our Union as "much improved" over the previous years...with many problems still to solve...and many more goals to accomplish.

Regardless of whether you agreed with President Trump's assessment of America in 2018 or not, I decided while I was listening to his comments that it would be a good time for me to give my Loris FBC family a "State of The Church" assessment. So, in this Newsletter Article, I have decided to provide you with an overview of the current status of "The Church" in America as a whole, the current status of Loris FBC in particular, and my thoughts on what our church should be working on together in the future so that Jesus will remain pleased with us (Revelation 3:8).

First of all, the "state" of the American Church is NOT GOOD! According to a 2017 study by Hartford Institute for Religious Research, most American churches now have less than 100 in weekend worship attendance. This marks the first time the majority of churches have fallen below that threshold since the series of studies began in 2000. Although the population in America has increased from 2005 to 2017, 58 percent of U.S. churches didn't reach triple digits on the weekend in 2017 as compared to 49% that didn't reach triple digits in 2005. This clearly means that the American church is declining...and failing in its mission to "seek and save the lost"! Another sad statistic revealed in recent studies of Christianity in America is that over 17,000+ churches AVERAGE LESS THAN 30 IN ATTENDANCE on Sunday mornings. Yes, there are quite a few "mega" churches (averaging over 1000 each week) in our country; however, the overall average mean attendance amongst the nearly 300,000+ local Christian churches in America is around 80 in Sunday worship. This means that less than 20% (less than 1 out of 5!) of people living in America go to church on any given Sunday. In addition, the number of people attending a weekly bible study (Sunday School, Discipleship Class, Small Group, etc.) in American churches has declined by 38% since 2005.

**cont'd** 



# Birthdays

## February

2 Patricia Jacobs  
2 Mary Smith  
3 Nikki Waters  
4 Sandra Holm  
4 Bradley Horne  
5 Jeanne Turner  
6 Keith Yates  
7 Knight Gore  
7 Maxilene Suggs  
9 Ronnie Floyd  
10 Jay Cox  
10 Jean Wilson  
11 Arin Cox  
17 Cayden Graham  
17 Crystal Lupo  
18 Timothy Cox  
19 Amy McCarver  
19 Leverne Ward  
21 Dow Hardee  
22 Sheila Harrelson  
23 Phyllis Todd  
23 Mickey Young  
26 Malcolm Campbell  
27 Emily Grace Gore

## March

1 Benjamin Horne  
2 Theresa Gidich  
4 Anna Hardee  
5 Todd Harrelson  
5 Clyde Richardson  
5 Leah Turner  
6 Rick Kidman  
8 Jacob Dozier  
8 Martha Hardee  
8 Randall Stevens  
9 Billy Blackburn  
10 Rose Ranweiler  
11 Linda Mishoe  
13 John Griffin  
13 Michael Nirenstein  
14 Steve Cox  
15 Jessie Clardy  
15 Nancy Harrelson  
15 Jay Strickland  
16 Ronnie Franklin  
16 Haylee Graham  
16 Lorene Thompson  
18 Brian Archibald  
19 Morgan Nirenstein

20 Wilbur Arnette  
21 Jacob Porter  
21 Myona Yates  
22 Susan Johnson  
24 Jennifer Turner  
30 Libby Ambrose

*If your birthday was omitted, please call the church office so you can be included on our birthday list!!*



New Members Are Joining

**Welcome New Members!!**

Robert Rosenau  
Denise Rosenau  
Lavon Thompson  
Gavin Merton  
Kristy Clark  
Kadien Griffin

**NEW WAYS TO GIVE & STAY CONNECTED**



**CHURCH APP**

Search In App Store  
My Church by echurch app  
OR

Text "Lorisfbc app" to 77977

**TEXT TO GIVE**

Text "Lorisfbc" to 77977

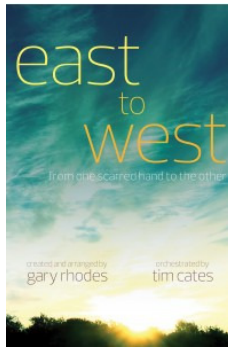
**WEBSITE**

Visit our giving page at  
Lorisfbc.com/online-giving

**OFFERING**

During the Worship Service

*Thank you for your generosity!*



## EAST TO WEST FROM ONE SCARRED HAND TO ANOTHER EASTER CANTATA

**Saturday, March 31 at 6:00 PM**

Please mark your calendars for our Easter cantata: East to West. This powerful cantata features music from some of your favorite song writers such as Chris Tomlin, Third Day, and many more. Come experience the power of the cross, the empty tomb, and more as we prepare for the second coming of our Lord. The Loris FBC Adult Choir will be accompanied by members of the Long Bay Symphony.

If you are interested in joining the choir to sing in this cantata we encourage all YOUTH and ADULTS who wish to sing to attend our kickoff rehearsal in the sanctuary on February 3rd at 3 PM. If you are unable to attend this kickoff but still wish to sing, contact Todd at [toddarnhilltenor@gmail.com](mailto:toddarnhilltenor@gmail.com) for more information.

*We are still looking for musicians to aid in building our Sunday worship experience. If you would like to share your musical gifts by playing an instrument during services or for special events, please contact Todd.*

Focus on WMU is observed annually in February. One of Woman's Missionary Union's purposes is to promote South Carolina, North American, and international missions through prayer, education, and financial giving. Emphasis on North American missions (formerly referred to as home missions) will be observed in early spring with the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering. Special thanks to all who participate in these missions endeavors as well as Operation Christmas Child. This focus is on so many of you pray, donate, and volunteer toward this cause. Special thanks to Linda Prince, Assistant Director, for her faithful support throughout the year.



Condolences to our families who recently lost loved ones:

Our thoughts & prayers are with you!

Wofford Todd  
Inez Lebsock  
James Edwards  
Buster Shelley

Yes, we still have a lot to do to accomplish all of our CHAMPS Goals. We are facing big decisions in the near future on what are we going to do with our limited and substandard Nursery and Children's rooms if we want to continue attracting young families to our church. However, because the current Loris FBC leadership (Staff, Church Council, and Deacons) are all praying and working together in unity as the Lord desires (Ephesians 4:3) to obey the "Great Commandment" and the "Great Commitment", we are one of the few churches in America that are "growing" and "making a difference" in our surrounding community. Let's rejoice and praise God for this blessing...AND...let's "remain in Christ" in 2018 so that my "State of Loris FBC" report in 2019 will be even better!!

— Pastor Louis

It is not surprising then to know that church researchers are reporting that nearly 60 Christian churches close their doors in America each week (over 3000 a year!) and this trend has been happening for over 15 years. One report I recently read stated that less than 6% of all Christian churches in America reported an increase in attendance in 2017 as compared to 2016. Thus, while our country may currently be experiencing a rise in the stock market and economic prosperity, "The Church" is just continuing to decline in membership and spiritual influence. It appears we are truly in what some experts call the "Laodicean Church Age" (read Revelation 3:14-18).

Now that you have a brief "status" of the American Church as a whole, how are we doing at Loris FBC? If you have received my letter that I sent with your end of the year contribution statement, you may already have noticed that our worship attendance in 2017 was 14% higher than it was in 2016 (194 -vs- 170). Sunday School and Undesignated Budget Offerings also went up in 2017 (up 7% and 6%+ respectfully!). In addition, we baptized 15 new believers in 2017 and had over 20 new people join our church family. Some of these new members are young couples who are bringing young children to our church and new babies to our nursery. Praise God for this UNUSUAL BLESSING on an American Church!

I am not reporting these results to you as a way to boast or brag about what "I" or "we" have done; rather, I am letting you know these things so that WE WILL NOT TAKE OUR GROWING CHURCH FAMILY FOR GRANTED. As stated above, a growing church in America is unfortunately a RARE PHENOMENON. Jesus gave His disciples a clear warning when He said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; APART FROM ME YOU CAN DO NOTHING." (John 15:5) I firmly believe that our church is currently experiencing God's blessings of growth because we have dedicated ourselves to obeying His Great Commandment ("Love One Another"; John 13:34-35) and carrying out His Great Commission ("Go and Make Disciples"; Matthew 28:19-20). By sticking to our CHAMPS Strategic Plan that we agreed to in 2016, as well as making significant sacrifices (time, finances, effort) to share the gospel in Israel, Atlanta, and Loris, our "remaining in Jesus" has allowed us the privilege of seeing His Spirit and His power advance His kingdom through us (Matthew 13:31-32). Our efforts to "disciple" adults, youth, and children to become more like Christ in how we think, speak, and act is exactly what the Bible says a healthy church is to do (2Timothy 2:20, 3:16-17) and is the main reason why most churches are failing. Dr. Tom Fillingier, CEO of IgniteUS and a Church Health Consultant with over 25 years of experience wrote: "The American Church is dying because it is failing to DISCIPLE its members so that they can experience the transformation that loyalty to Christ demands! A true Christian should be becoming more and more like Christ. It is the mission of a biblical church to help them achieve that high calling. Churches that fail to purposefully disciple their flock in a manner that brings Christ-like transformation into their lives will eventually, even if unintentionally, DIE. Show me a church that does not have teaching the knowledge and application of the Word of God to old and new members...and I will show you a church that is declining in member attendance, community influence, and spiritual power."

In conclusion, although the "State of The Church" in America is declining, I am excited to report that the "State of Loris FBC" is doing quite well. We are evangelizing the lost, discipling the found, equipping the disciplined, and sending the equipped (to witness to a lost and dying world!).

**cont'd**



Congratulations to Josh & Jamie Fogle  
Baby Boy Harland Fogle  
Born December 25 – 8 lbs. 13 oz. 21 inches

Congratulations to Bob & Denise Rosenau  
Baby Boy Zachery Rosenau  
Born January 24 – 7 lbs. 19 inches

Congratulations to Hunter & Sarah Johnson  
Baby Boy Isaac Daniel Johnson  
Born January 25 – 7 lbs. 12 oz. 20 inches