

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FOREST CITY, NC

Baccalaureate Sunday

MAY 17, 2026 - ELEVEN O'CLOCK

Welcome to Worship Rev. Garin Hill

Prelude *Old Hundredth* Phillip Greene
arr. Roger Wilson

Call to Worship *Sing and Be Not Silent* Sanctuary Choir
by Mary McDonald

*Sing to the Lord and be not silent, sing to the Lord and glorify!
Sing to the Lord all ye His children, Sing to the Lord Most High!
He comes with joy to greet the morning. He comes with hope for each new day.
Give thanks to Him with songs of praise!*

Hymn 401 *We Praise You with Our Minds, O Lord* CLONNEL

Morning Prayer & Lord's Prayer Carter McKinney

Gloria Patri (805) *A Hymn of Praise to the Trinity* GREATOREX
***Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, Amen.***

Children's Time Kelly Hall

Recognition of Graduates

HIGH SCHOOL

* Isaac Hill, Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy

COLLEGE

Brandon Beard, Southeastern Oklahoma State University
M.Ed. Curriculum & Instruction - Educational Technology

Alexandra Day, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
B.A. Education, B.A. Psychology

Carter McKinney, University of South Carolina
B.S.E. Mechanical Engineering

Josie Robbins, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Advanced B.S. Nursing

Van Robbins, Appalachian State University
B.S.B.A. Computer Information Systems

Lani Warren, Lenoir-Rhyne University
B.A. Psychology, Minor Youth and Family Ministry

Allistair Wilkie, East Carolina School of Dental Medicine
D.M.D. Dental Medicine

A Graduation Litany & Prayer

Justin Mofield

Leader: Today, we give thanks and rejoice for the persistence and discipline that has led to the completion of academic work. We are thankful for minds and energy, which are gifts of God, that bring us to celebrate this day.

People: We give thanks for teacher and learner, for administrators and for encouragers that stimulate our minds and stretch our understanding.

Leader: We give thanks for knowledge gained through observation, research, experiment, through trial and error until discovery enlightens a path.

People: We give thanks for educational ventures; for studies that lead to healing of body and calming of troubled, disordered minds;

Leader: For those thoughts and concepts that lead to mending of relationships between combative and competitive nations, to understanding between different races and social classes, and to reconciliation between husband and wife, parent and child.

People: For sciences that help us understand ourselves and the environment in which we live, and then free us to be good

stewards of universal resources for the wholeness and benefit of humanity;

Leader: For words enriched with meaning to enhance communication;

People: For understanding of forces shaping our past gained through history, literature, philosophy, and classical arts that give us sight to understand the present and the future;

Leader: For artistic training that has power to move the heart as well as the mind;

People: For educators who give their lives to help others learn to overcome physical, emotional, economic, and societal limitations.

Leader: Bless all that has been learned by these graduates, and may their learning be the seed that will bear fruit in their living, not simply for their gain, but for the benefit of all people.

People: As they have worked to gain knowledge, may each of us discipline ourselves to seek Godly wisdom. Remind us to “Seek first the kingdom of God that all else might be given to us.”

Leader: Grant that our unending quest for knowledge and wisdom might not lead us to arrogance, intellectual idolatry, self-sufficiency, or false pride, but to enriched Christian faith.

People: Grant that our faith might be built on courage to question rather than fear of new truths.

Leader: Give us confidence in the revelation of God through scripture, history, and our risen Lord that motivates us to grasp understanding of all human illumination.

People: Bathe us in humility to know that in this world we will seek to balance, on finite scales, knowledge and faith that will be united fully only in the coming of your kingdom when then we shall see fully that which now we only see in part.

All: These things we pray in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Alexandra Day

Leader: Good and gracious God, today we celebrate the hard work of our graduates. As they go forth, we ask that you fill them with your spirit and a desire to serve others. We offer you these gifts, asking that you extend their reach.

People: Multiply our offerings, we pray, that they may be a blessing to many and help build a world of peace and justice. Amen.

Offertory Anthem

Child of God

Sanctuary Choir

By Layton De Vries, arranges by Dale Grotenhuis
Choristers Guild, © 2013, A-729364

O child of God, rest assured the Lord is with you.

*When you wake up in the morning and the sun is shining down,
The Lord watches over ev'ry step you take.*

*When the world has knocked you down and you don't know which way to turn,
Rest assured the Lord is with you.*

*When your friends have turned against you, and you feel all alone,
The Lord watches over ev'ry move you make.*

*He will always be right there to protect and love His child,
Rest assured the Lord is with you.*

*When darkness drifts around you, and your eyes close in sleep,
The Lord watches over ev'ry breath you take.*

*And when death comes near to bring you home, you have no need to fear,
Rest assured the Lord is with you.*

Dedication of Offerings

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Sermon

Here's The Secret:
Know the Unknowable
Ephesians 3:14-21

Rev. Garin Hill

Hymn 107

Christ Be My Leader

SLANE

Benediction

Rev. Garin Hill

**Recipient of the 2026 Christian Leadership Scholarship award*