

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 2350 Central Avenue  
 Hot Springs, AR 71901  
 Ph. (501) 624-3345/Fax (501) 624-2804  
 Weekday Preschool (501) 624-7083  
 Email us at: info@firsthotsprings.com

firsthotsprings.com  /firsthotsprings  
 /first\_hotsprings

Nonprofit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
 Hot Springs, AR  
**Permit No. 192**

Return Service Requested

**OUR TEAM**

**Jonathan Kelley**  
 Senior Pastor  
 jonathan@firsthotsprings.com  
**Brandon Burks**  
 Media Pastor  
 brandon@firsthotsprings.com  
**Raye Cischke**  
 Preschool Director  
 raye@firsthotsprings.com  
**Colby Gungelman**  
 Student Pastor  
 colby@firsthotsprings.com  
**Dave Johnston**  
 Executive Pastor  
 dave@firsthotsprings.com  
**Heather Murphy**  
 Children's Pastor  
 heather@firsthotsprings.com  
**Katy Packard**  
 Children's Ministry Assistant  
 katyp@firsthotsprings.com  
**Margarito Ramirez**  
 Hispanic Pastor  
 magoram@sbcglobal.net  
**Mike Sandusky**  
 Discipleship Pastor  
 msandusky@firsthotsprings.com  
**Andre Simon**  
 Worship Pastor  
 andre@firsthotsprings.com  
**Jamie Staley**  
 Missions Pastor  
 jamie@firsthotsprings.com

**THE MESSENGER**

Volume 40, Issue 4 2/4/2026

Invite Everyone,  
 Invest In People,  
 Impact Eternity

*Pastor's*  
 Message

On Sunday night, Jason DeFord—better known by his stage name Jelly Roll—won the Grammy for Best Contemporary Country Album. And instead of using that moment to promote himself, he used the platform to share something far more personal: his story.

Fighting back tears, Jelly Roll talked about his time in prison. He said there were days behind bars when he didn't think he had a chance—days when the darkness felt so heavy he didn't know how to keep going. He remembered having almost nothing to his name: a Gideon New Testament and a pocket-sized radio. "I was a horrible human," he admitted.

But then he said what only grace can make a person say with honesty and hope: God changed his life. And he followed it with a simple, remarkable confession—one the whole room needed to hear: "Jesus is for everybody. Jesus is not owned by one political party. Jesus is not owned by no music label. Jesus is Jesus, and anybody can have a relationship with him."

That's why Jelly Roll's words hit home—they sound like the Gospels.

Jesus welcomes the outcast everyone else avoids. He touches the "unclean." He eats with tax collectors and sinners. He forgives the woman caught in shame. He restores the broken and overlooked. Again and again, Jesus moves toward the very people most of the world is tempted to move away from.

Why? Jesus says it plainly: "Healthy people don't need a doctor—sick people do. I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." (Mark 2:17)

And that's part of why the next several weeks matter so much for our church. If Jesus really is "for everybody," then we proclaim it and live it. We open the doors wider, we step toward our neighbors, and we make room for people to come home.

Beginning Sunday, February 15, we'll start a new three-week series called *Lost and Found*, centered on the Prodigal Son. Each week we'll focus on one character, because this story has a way of finding all of us—and reminding us that God is always working to bring the lost home.

Then, on Saturday, February 21, we'll partner with the Arkansas Baptist State Convention to host a free Medical and Dental Clinic. It's a tangible way to care for our neighbors and point them to the love of Christ. We'll need volunteers—medical professionals who can offer their skills, and friendly faces who can welcome guests, help throughout the day, and pray with those we serve.

On Saturday, February 28, we'll host a Sportsman's Banquet designed to connect with folks in Hot Springs who love the outdoors but don't yet know Jesus. I hope you'll plan to attend—and bring a friend. We'll gather in the Family Life Center for an expo, enjoy wild game appetizers, and end the night with a clear gospel message from our special guest, Jimmy Sites.

And we're already looking ahead to Easter season. On Saturday, April 4—the day before Easter—we'll host a Neighborhood Block Party as a simple, fun way to welcome our community and create an easy on-ramp for families. Then, in the weeks following Easter, we'll take that same posture on the move through Grill Walks—showing up in neighborhoods, starting conversations, and building relationships. I'll share more details soon.

So here's my simple encouragement: don't just read these dates—step into one of them. Come for the series. Serve at the clinic. Bring a friend to the banquet. Show up at the block party. Join a grill walk. Not because we're trying to stay busy, but because we're trying to be faithful. Jesus is for everybody—and we want Hot Springs to know there's a place they can come home.

*Sunday & Wednesday*

**Sunday Morning**

9:00 am  
 Classic Service / Connect Groups  
 10:30 am  
 Celebration Service / Connect Groups  
**Wednesday Evening**  
 6:00 pm  
 Adult, Student and Children's Groups

**Deacons of the Week**  
**2/8/26**

9:00 a.m. Tony Prothro  
 10:30 a.m. Keith Baker

**Sunday, February 1**

Connect Groups 9:00 ..... \*0  
 Connect Groups 10:30 ..... \*0  
**Connect Groups Total ..... \*0**  
 Sunday Worship 9:00 ..... \*0  
 Sunday Worship 10:30 ..... 619  
 Sunday Online Worship ..... 294  
**Total Participation ..... 913**  
 \*Did not meet due to weather

Safety Team Position	1st	2nd	3rd	4th & 5th
<b>7:30-8:30 N Ofc Door</b>	Phil McAdams	Brad Phillips	Phil McAdams	Brad Phillips
<b>7:30-8:30 S Canopy</b>	Buddy Barnett	Buddy Barnett	Buddy Barnett	Buddy Barnett
<b>8:30-10:15 N Ofc Door</b>	Chuck Parsons	Andy Russell	Phillip McAdams	Richard Carr
<b>Fellowship Hall Door</b>	Wes Shafto	John Dews	Dennis Green	James O'Neal
<b>SW Ps Door</b>	R.L. Smith	Denise Olson	Matt Teale	Chuck Jordan/Matt Teale
<b>S Canopy Door</b>	Kelly Robbins	John Smalling	Stan Fouts	Robert Covey
<b>North/West Lots</b>	Vernon Brooks	Terry Hunter	Mark Dickerson	Greg Perkins
<b>South/West Lots</b>	Bryan Garrett	K. Schwarznau	Paul McKinney	Josh Sutton
<b>10:15-12:00 N Ofc Door</b>	Trip Robinson	Jay Winters	A.J. Johnson	Geoffrey Hedrick
<b>Fellowship Hall Door</b>	Shelby Williams	David Epperhart	Wayne Heer	Nick Windle
<b>SW Ps Door</b>	Craig Viscardis	Steve Hibbard	Ronnie Riggle	Tanner Borland
<b>S Canopy Door</b>	Henry Brunson	David Ferrell	Blake Buttrum	Ed Argueta
<b>North/West Lots</b>	Graham Rucker	Cody Lancaster	Dustan Gammill	Jason Armitage
<b>South/West Lots</b>	Austin Haight	Jeff Olson	Travis Spalding	Bill James
<b>Golf Cart 1 N Side</b>	Kevin King	Casey Dobbs	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>
<b>Golf Cart 2 S Side</b>	E. Pennington	Brett Miller	Beau Prados	H. Pennington
<b>Wed 5:45 pm</b>	David Dickinson	Tim Johnson	Tony Menotti	Paul McKinney
<b>N Ofc Door</b>	John Kew	Norm Mason	Louis Tamez	John Smalling
<b>FH Door</b>	Jason Smith	Mike James	John Dews	Hunter Kilby
<b>S Canopy Door</b>	David Hasstedt	David Hasstedt	David Hasstedt	David Hasstedt
<b>5:30-7:45 Golf Cart</b>	Ron Cleveland	Ron Cleveland	Ron Cleveland	Ron Cleveland
<b>FLC Door 4:15-5:45</b>				

Sunday Door Greeters	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
<b>8:30-9:15 am</b>					
<b>N Ofc Door</b>	James O'Neal	Bob Biles	Betty James	Anita Gordon	Anita Gordon
<b>FH Door</b>	Wanda Thorp	Wanda Thorp	Wanda Thorp	Wanda Thorp	Wanda Thorp
<b>S Foyer</b>	David Breitenberg	<b>OPEN</b>	Nell Phillips	Kristi Huddleston	Kristi Huddleston
<b>SW Canopy</b>	Marty Black	Lynne Perrine	Janet Horton	Marcia D-Smith	Tami Patterson
<b>PS Door</b>	N & J McLean	Natalie Russell	Tami Patterson	Cyndi Jordan	Tara Clearman
<b>N Foyer</b>	John Robbins	Jim Bledsoe	Julie Capps	Kelly Robbins	Julie Capps
<b>Info Desk</b>	Tammy Catlett	Jane Bledsoe	Charlie Capps	Vicki Robbins	Charlie Capps
<b>10-10:45 am</b>					
<b>N Ofc Dr</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	Mary Goodman	Norman Wolf	Janet Porter	Janet Porter
<b>S Canopy</b>	Cody Lancaster	Suzanne Ferrell	Steven Murray	Melissa Stovall	Sara Terlecki
<b>SW PS Door</b>	Becky Morris		Pam Warren	Terri Knapick	Terri Knapick
<b>N Foyer</b>	Scott Dews	Dana Vance	Mark Lewis	Kecia Sandusky	Vonni Ensz
<b>S Foyer</b>	Vonni Ensz	Carla Buttrum	Adrienne Brooks	Sara Olaru	Carla Buttrum
<b>Info Desk</b>	Phyllis Brooks	Mary Harris	Emelinda Eason	S & S Barnes	S & S Barnes



**Thur Jan 29**  
Exodus 19-21;  
Matthew 16:13-28  
 Jack Porter  
 Cindy Davis  
 Jasie Blankenship  
 Nonnew Hedrick  
 Michael Spraggins  
 Alex Palmer  
 Rick Davis  
 Betty Myrick  
 Bob Fine  
**Fri Jan 30**  
Exodus 22-23;  
Matthew 17:1-13  
 Ivey James  
 Lane Koenigseder  
 Raymond Hill  
 Landri Efid  
 Heather Guill  
**Sat Jan 31**  
Exodus 24-26;  
Matthew 17:14-27  
 Vernon Brooks  
 Alvenia Cheatham  
 Thomas Griffin  
 David Bird  
 Jaden hall  
 Will Lindsay  
 Brent Drain  
**Sun Feb 1**  
Exodus 27-28;  
Matthew 18:1-20  
 Carol Richardson  
 T.J. Johnson  
 Rhonda Harrington  
**Mon Feb 2**  
Exodus 31-32;  
Matthew 19:1-15  
 Shane Morgan  
 Stormi Sutton  
 Darla Masters

**Mon Feb 2 cont.**  
 James Bozeman  
 David Hall  
 Blake Buttrum  
 Jeremy Busch  
**Tue Feb 3**  
Exodus 31-2;  
Matthew 19:1-15  
 Susan Johnson  
 Amelia Mason  
 Patrick Haggard  
 Collin Slaton  
**Wed Feb 4**  
Exodus 33=34;  
Matthew 19:16-30  
 Baylee Brown  
 Phil Higdon  
 Mollie Gidcomb  
 Eli Prothro  
**Thur Feb 5**  
Exodus 35-36;  
Matthew 20:1-16  
 Rene Wimssett  
 Patrick Moseley  
 Michael Smoke  
 Carol Taylor  
 Nora Fischer  
**Fri Feb 6**  
Exodus 37-38;  
Matthew 20:17-34  
 Shannon Biles  
 Alicia Davey  
 Tabitha Island  
 Elizabeth Efid  
 Linda Pope  
 Mark Dickerson  
 Matthew Muldoon  
 Suzanne Ferrell  
**Sat Feb 7**  
Exodus 39-40;  
Matthew 21:1-22  
 Bonnie Harvill  
 Nina Alter  
 Olivia Porter  
 Bear Garrett  
 Karen Akins  
 Eli Gammill

**Sun Feb 8**  
Leviticus 1-3;  
Matthew 21:23-46  
 Shirley Chapman  
 Asher Williams  
 Mya Wreyford  
 Jennifer Winters  
 Harrison Winters  
**Mon Feb 9**  
Leviticus 4-5;  
Matthew 22:1-14  
 Austin Baker  
 Karen Taylor  
 Kissa Nease  
 Jason Harris  
 Michaela Stevens  
 Breayna McDaniel  
**Tue Feb 10**  
Leviticus 6-8;  
Matthew 22:15-46  
 Landry Greeson  
 Mary Gray  
 Missy Herron  
 Erin Shirley  
 Joanna Tedder  
 Kelly Hines  
 Gavin Dews  
 Gavin Dews  
**Wed Feb 11**  
Leviticus 9-10;  
Matthew 23  
 Larry Schnebly  
 Elecesha Enloe  
 Karen Bozeman  
 Makenna Morgan  
 Zaida Hernandez  
**Thur Feb 12**  
Leviticus 11-13;  
Matthew 24:1-31  
 Neal Harrington  
 Jim Gray  
 Todd Robinson  
 Hudson Anaya  
 Paul McKinney  
 Scarlett Hall  
 Parker Broyles  
 Michael Woodridge  
 Courtland Sliger



### Prayers for DNow Weekend!

We have 99 students registered with our church for DNow Weekend! They will join with students from 5 other local churches over the weekend for 3 Worship sessions, a couple breakout sessions, a panel discussion, small group time and of course lots of good fun and fellowship as well! This is a super great weekend that God uses each year to take students deeper into their walk with Christ and deeper into their bonds with one another. Lots of people involved and many ways to pray! Please join us in praying for the following:

- 1) Salvation for the lost students present.
- 2) Intense sanctification breakthroughs for the Christians present.
- 3) Strength, wisdom and confidence for the Speaker: Luke Dawson (BCM Minister at University of Arkansas Fort Smith).
- 4) Strength, wisdom, and confidence for the Worship Team: OBU Worship.
- 5) Energy, focus, drive, peace, and wisdom for the College Leaders.
- 6) Energy, focus, drive, peace, and wisdom for the Host Homes
- 7) Guidance, energy, peace, and patience for the DNow Leadership Team (Myself and 4 other local student pastors who have planned and will direct the entire weekend).

We are so excited to see how the Lord will move!

### Missions Moment

We've got a lot going on missions-wise in the days to come, and I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store!

Next Monday, **February 9**, Steven Murray and I will head to the Philippines to encourage our partners there and spend time in a prayer retreat with them. Would you pray for our travel and that the Lord would use us to be a blessing to our partners there? We'll return home Thursday, February 19. I'll have some devotionals I've printed available in the church office if you'd like to use that as an opportunity to stay connected with us while we're gone, and I'll try to get a digital version posted to the Member to Member Facebook page.

**February 21** is the date for the ABSC Medical + Dental Clinic we'll be hosting. We'll have a volunteer meeting for the clinic in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the second hour of connect groups and worship this Sunday, **February 8**. Whether you've already signed up or not, please plan on being here for this important meeting.

I'm hosting a mission trip interest meeting for anyone who **thinks** they might be interested in going on a mission trip this year immediately following the second hour of connect groups and worship Sunday, **February 22**. This will be a great opportunity to hear about what we're doing, where we're doing it, and when we're going. If you have questions, we have answers! Plan on being here for the interest meeting Sunday, February 22.

Also, throughout February, we're taking up an offering for ChangePoint Pregnancy Center. In 2025, ChangePoint was instrumental in saving 98 babies from abortion! This is a worthy ministry to support. Will you prayerfully consider what your part in this offering should be? You can find offering envelopes at all of the offering boxes located outside the sanctuary.

### We're Back

After an unexpected week off due to the ice/sleet storm, we're excited to gather again this Wednesday night! While the weather kept us apart, it also reminded us how much being together as a church family matters. There's something special about our Wednesday activities—sharing a meal, opening God's Word, praying together, and encouraging one another in ways that can't be replaced.

Whether you've been coming faithfully for years, have been away for a while, or are still looking for a place to connect, this is a great time to jump in. Our children, youth, and adults all have opportunities to grow, serve, and build meaningful relationships. We hope you'll make plans to join us this Wednesday as we resume our regular activities.

Mike

**Wednesday Night Meal - February / Served 4:30 - 5:45 p.m.**  
**If you are not on our permanent list, please reserve your meal by Monday @ 4 pm to get on the list for that Wednesday night. Please respond by texting "fbcdinner" to 94000 or call the office @ 624-3345 with these things: Your name / Which meals / How many**  
 Youth & Adults, \$8/Children 4-12, \$4/  
 Children 3 yrs & under, Free/ Family Max, \$25  
 Available each week:  
 Salad bar, dessert bar and tea, lemonade & water  
 (For the kiddos) fruit or pudding cup, juice box

**2/11** #1-Salmon patties or fried shrimp, mashed potatoes, green beans, buttered corn, roll or hushpuppies, pickled green tomatoes #2-Spaghetti & meat sauce, green beans, garlic roll

**2/18** #1-Roasted pork tenderloin, rice pilaf, steamed broccoli & cauliflower, grilled yellow squash & onions, sweet potato casserole, roll #2-Breaded chicken or grilled chicken sandwich, mac & cheese, green beans

**2/25** #1-Chicken & dumplings, fried yellow squash, green beans, purple hull peas, roll or biscuit #2-Ground beef tacos, Tex-Mex rice, cheese dip, salsa & chips

**REMINDER: Please ask for the option you signed up for. We prepare food according to the options that are chosen when you sign up. Thank you!**



Registration is now open for UPPER-LEVEL basketball. Player and volunteer registration forms are available in the foyer at the Fitness & Recreation Ministry headquarters, in the Family Life Center, and in the church office. **Thanks to Kirk Harris** for volunteering to be point man this season. Get more info at [www.fbcrecreation.com](http://www.fbcrecreation.com).

- Player registration ends Mar 6
- Games begin the week of April 6
- Children & Teenagers play on Mondays, Apr 6-May 11
- Adults play on Thursdays, Apr 9-May 14



**Wednesday Wellness - Unexpected Gatherings**  
*"And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good..." — Romans 8:28*

Only God could use an ice storm that devastated my daughter's community in Oxford, Mississippi—leaving her family without power and water for days—and an outbreak of hand, foot, and mouth disease at my granddaughter's daycare in Fayetteville, Arkansas, to bring unexpected blessing.

When the daycare outbreak happened, my son and daughter-in-law needed help in Northwest Arkansas. They asked if I could keep his daughter so she wouldn't have to attend daycare and risk catching the illness. So I loaded up my daughter and grandkids and went to help for a couple of days. At the same time, the storm left my daughter's family without utilities indefinitely—now on day 12. What felt like two stressful situations became a divine invitation: our family all together.

As a mother and grandmother, my heart overflowed with joy. We worshiped together, played games, read books, danced, sang, laughed, and exercised (yes, we think that is fun). It was proof that God can turn hard times into unexpected surprises of beauty.

This has made me think of our upcoming Medical/Dental Mission Clinic. Hard times have fallen on many of the people we will have the honor of serving. This past week, God reminded me that hardship can become the very place where unexpected blessings are found. It is my prayer that our church volunteers and medical professionals will have the opportunity to be part of that blessing—bringing help, hope, and the love of Jesus to families right here in our community.

Lord, use us to be Your hands and feet. Let our service bring comfort, dignity, and hope to those walking through hard times. Amen.

\*\*\*A brief meeting and time of prayer will be held for the medical professionals and volunteers for the Medical/Dental Mission Clinic this Sunday, February 8. Please meet us in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the second service.

In faith and health,  
Amy Johnson

BUDGET REPORT 2/1	
<b>Ministry Fund</b>	
Weekly Receipts	\$33,915
Online Giving	\$17,192
Total Given	\$51,107
<b>GCF (Great Commission Fund)</b>	
Weekly Receipts	\$150

If you prefer to give your tithes and offerings on-line, go to our website, [firsthotsprings.com/give](http://firsthotsprings.com/give), and follow the giving prompts. Please make sure the office has your current email address.



### FBC Mission Crafters

The crocheting/knitting group meets Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m., in room 219.

If you crochet or knit and want to be in a group that makes items that are sent with various mission trips; or if you would like to contribute items but prefer to craft from home, please contact Kim Standage with any questions.



**Katy Packard** on her 5th anniversary as Children's Ministry Assistant. Your service to the Lord, the church, and others is greatly appreciated.

*Wedding Shower*  
 IN HONOR OF  
**Katelyn Holmes & Hunter Jenkins**  
 FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> 3:00 PM  
 ROOM 133  
 ENTER FROM THE BACK PARKING LOT

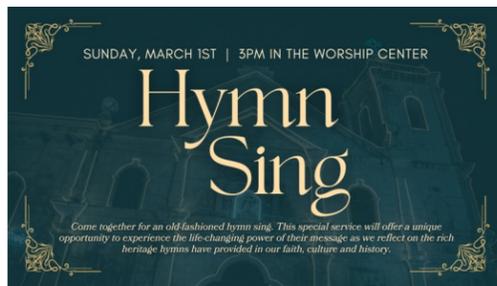
RSVP: 501-762-5045 / 720-204-0557  
 REGISTERED: AMAZON, BELK AND TARGET

Thursday, 2/19  
 11:30 a.m.  
 Family Life Center

**Keenager's LUNCHEON**

Menu: Beef lasagna w/sauce, green beans, honey glazed carrots, garlic bread, salad bar, dessert bar, tea, water

Church members who are widows/widowers eat free, everyone else is \$5 per person. Please call the office @ 624-3345 by NOON 2/17 to make your reservation.



Don't miss the Hymn Sing on Sunday, March 1 at 3pm. This is not a concert... It's a worship experience! Not only will we worship through the singing of the great hymns of our faith but also hear stories and reflect on God's grace.

Invite someone to join you for the Hymn Sing!

### JOIN THE WORSHIP CHOIR and ORCHESTRA

Love to sing? Play an instrument? Looking for community? Join the Worship Ministry!

Our Worship Choir and Orchestra is More than Music... - it's a place of deep friendships and powerful worship through song. Each Sunday our Choir and Orchestra lead in our 9am blended service.

Curious? Come check out what we call "the best night of the week". Experience a choir or orchestra rehearsal and see if this is where God is calling you to serve.

**WORSHIP CHOIR REHEARSAL**  
 Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45  
 Choir Room

**WORSHIP ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL**  
 Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30  
 Worship Center