

Celebrating 250 Years

The Historic First Baptist
Church
Williamsburg, Virginia



AMERICA
MADE IN
VIRGINIA

VA 250

2026 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Groundbreaking & Soft Launch

African American Heritage Trail

Friday, June 19, 2026

8:00 AM

FBC (Scotland Street) will host a “soft launch” of the African American Heritage Trail (AAHT). This will follow an historic ‘groundbreaking’ by the City of Williamsburg

Tour(s) of the FBC RE-imagined Exhibit Spaces and Preview of Withers Collection of MLK, III Photographs

African American Heritage Trail

Juneteenth & 4th of July





Entering the AAHT

Stop 2 – The Historic First Baptist Church

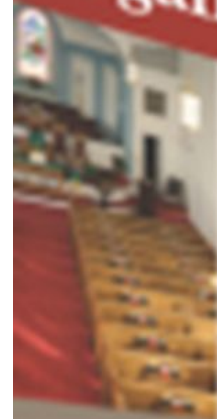


Entrance from the AAHT

FBC Heritage Center



Organized 1776



A Civil War Hospital

During the Civil War, the church served as a hospital for wounded soldiers. The church's large, open-plan interior was converted into a ward, and the church's members provided care and support for the wounded.



The church's members provided care and support for the wounded during the Civil War. The church's large, open-plan interior was converted into a ward, and the church's members provided care and support for the wounded.



Church History



Values

The church's values are rooted in the Bible and the teachings of Jesus Christ. The church's members are called to live lives of love, service, and faith. The church's values are the foundation of its mission and ministry.



Worthy of Preservation

The church's historic building is a treasure that should be preserved for future generations. The church's members are committed to the preservation and restoration of the church's historic building.

The Historic First Baptist Church



Our Way Forward "BY"

The church's members are committed to the preservation and restoration of the church's historic building. The church's members are also committed to the church's mission and ministry.

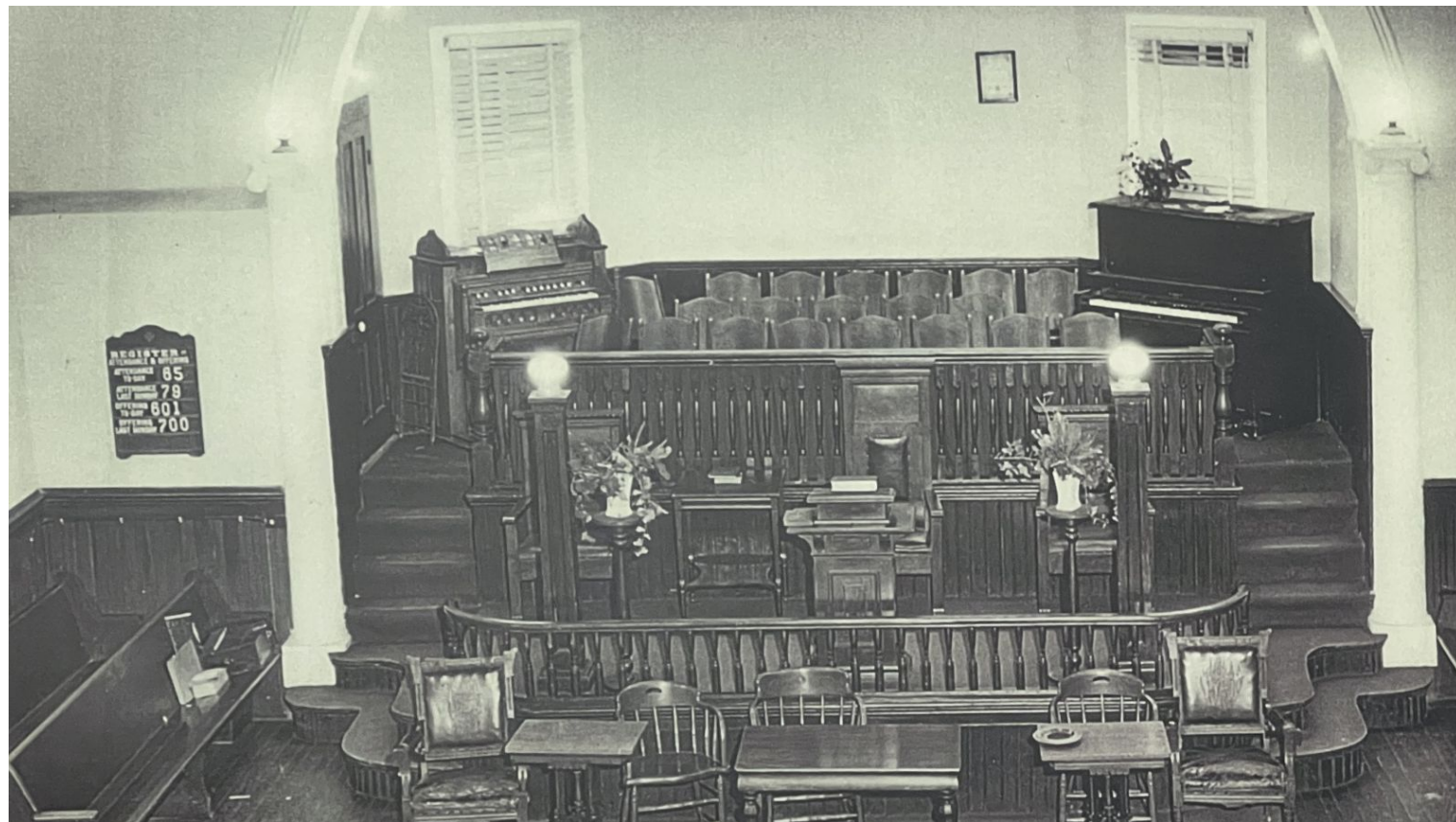


In Early South Region, 1802-1803

The church's members were instrumental in the founding of the church in the early South region. The church's members were committed to the church's mission and ministry.



Recovering
100 years
of history
(1856-1956
)



Recreation of the First Baptist Church pulpit of the 1856 church on Nassau Street



Old Fashion Frame Raising Event African Baptist Meeting House – Nassau Street Friday, June 19 at 11AM



Schedule of Activities – FBC Anniversary Weekend in October

Thursday, October 8, 2026 at 6PM

FBC Holds an Opening Celebration of Spirituals and Song at the First Baptist Church - Scotland Street with joint choirs from its daughter and granddaughter churches:

- Queen Street Baptist Church – Hampton
- Oak Grove Baptist Church – Williamsburg
- Saint John Baptist Church - Williamsburg
- First Baptist Church of Morrison – Newport News
- Zion Baptist Church - Williamsburg
- New Quarter Baptist Church - Williamsburg
- Little Zion Baptist Church-Williamsburg

Schedule of Activities – FBC Anniversary Weekend in October

Friday, October 9, 2026 at 10

The opening and dedication of the African Baptist Meeting House (Stop 9 – AAHT)

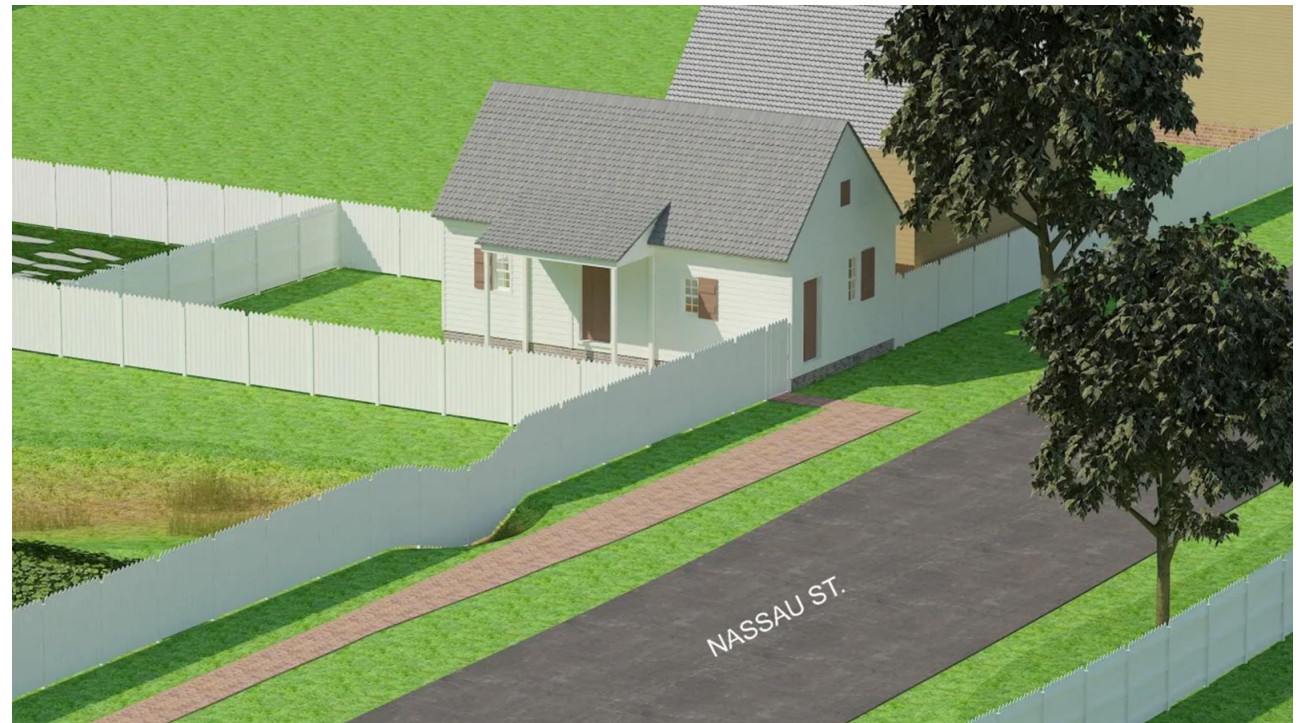
Ceremony to unveil the newly rebuilt **African Baptist Meeting House** and Burial Ground on Nassau Street

Place: Lawn of the Art Museum

Invited Guest Speakers:

Governor Abigail Spanberger

Judge Charles Thomas



Schedule of Activities – FBC Anniversary Weekend in October

Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 5PM

An evening of inspiration and music. Guest artist is **Sarah Ikumu**.



The Let Freedom Ring Foundation proudly announces that **Brent Leggs** and his team at the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, will receive the inaugural Freedom Bell Award at the Foundation's annual gala on October 10 in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Schedule of Activities – Anniversary Weekend in October

Sunday, October 11, 2026

Sunday morning worship service – First Baptist Church, 727 Scotland Street

In addition to commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it is notable that free and enslaved Blacks in Williamsburg established one of the oldest African American churches in the United States. Beginning their worship at Green Spring Plantation as early as the 17th century, the congregation subsequently relocated to Racoon Chase, then Nassau Street, and is presently situated at 727 Scotland Street and featured on the African American Heritage Trail in Williamsburg. The church was formally organized on **October 9, 1776**, during a period when it was illegal for Blacks to assemble for any reason. Today, the church continues its tradition of inclusive and spirit-filled worship.

Invited Pastor:

Raphael Warnock, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA to deliver sermon from the pulpit that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached on June 26, 1962

Questions

