



# NEWS and VIEWS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
LENOIR, NORTH CAROLINA  
(828) 758-8428 • fbclenoir.com

December 2022



## A Word from the Pastor

Dear Friends,

As we draw ever closer to Christmas, let me begin by saying thank you to all who made our Hanging of the Greens Service so memorable. When we changed that service from a Sunday night to a Sunday morning service, many were concerned that it might not be as meaningful. I am proud to say that Hanging of the Greens last Sunday was outstanding and just as powerful as ever. While change is never easy, being open-minded to new ideas and opportunities is always a great way to live.

We are beyond blessed at FBC Lenoir, and as you know, we always give to our community to meet the needs around us. In the last few weeks, we have bought coats for children, and Christmas presents through our Angel Tree program and Operation Christmas Child. But one thing you may not know is that our church recently helped a

family who could not pay for the cremation of their loved one. We were able to meet the need and bring the family some peace and comfort during the most difficult time of their lives. I am proud to serve alongside a church that is known in this community for its kindness and generosity.

We have several important services coming this month and I don't want you to miss them. On Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, there will be baptism and our handbell choir will lead us in worship. On Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>, the choir and instrumental ensemble will lead us in a service of Christmas Carols and meaningful music. Our Christmas Eve service will be on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM and we will worship on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, at 10 AM. Please make every effort to attend worship for the birth of Christ is indeed the reason for the season.

In closing, as we look back through 2022, we can see God's faithfulness. Though we experienced grief and sadness with the deaths of 16 members and the difficulty of

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### CALENDER

#### Sundays

Sunday School 9 AM  
Worship 10 AM  
Adult Choir 11:15 AM  
Handbells 5 PM  
Youth Supper & Program 6 PM

#### Wednesdays

Supper Served 5:15-6 PM  
Bible Study 6 PM  
Children's Activities 6 PM

#### Saturday, December 3

Room at the Table

#### Sunday, December 11

Worship with Baptism & Handbells

#### Wednesday, December 14

Budget Vote 6 PM  
Children's Christmas Program 6:15

#### Thursday, December 15

FBC Preschool Christmas Sing-Along 6 PM

#### Sunday, December 18

Worship with Lesson & Carols  
Youth Progressive Dinner

#### Saturday, December 24

Candlelight Service 6 PM

#### Sunday, December 25

Worship at 10 AM  
(No Sunday School)



Sunday  
December 11  
Worship with  
Handbells &  
Baptism

*Thank you*

Dear Church Family,

As we enter the season of thankfulness, our family is so very thankful for the love and support shared with us during Beth's recent cancer journey. We appreciated every card, text, meal, gift, and prayer lifted on our behalf. We don't have words to express how blessed we are to belong to a church family that provided for our every need, even when we didn't know what to ask for.

In Christ,

The Foxes

Scott, Beth, Brian & Emily

Dear Church Family,

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the prayers and love you shared during Joe's recent hospital stay. Honestly, we felt all of it. You were so kind to call, text, and visit, and we are grateful for every single one of those contacts.

Joe is doing extremely well and we are forever thankful. This church family is like no other and I am just glad we are a part of all of you precious people. Thanks to Josh and David who were there for us every inch of the way. From their visits, calls, texts, phone prayers, and many other prayers...we thank you!

Becky & Joe Gibbons

Megan Apple



We welcome the following new members into our fellowship. We are grateful for each of you and are stronger as

a church family because of your participation at FBC!

Bud Watts

Ed & Barb Van Horn

Michael & Kristin Sturgill

Ginny Pelkey

Riley Crawford

Jason Church



*Festival  
of  
Lessons and Carols*  
Sunday, December 18  
10:00 AM



CHRISTMAS EVE  
*Candlelight Service*  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24TH



**Christmas Day Service**  
DECEMBER 25 | 10:00 AM  
(NO SUNDAY SCHOOL)



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT meal

Wednesday suppers are served from 5:15-6PM. Please contact the church office by noon on Tuesday each week to make a reservation for that Wednesday or you may place your name on the permanent reservation list.

December 7 .....White Chicken Chili, Salad, Dessert

December 14 Party Food, Dessert

December 21 .....**No Wednesday Meal/Bible Study**

December 28 .....**No Wednesday Meal/Bible Study**

### A Word from the Pastor (Continued from Page 1)

saying goodbye to Dr. Thomas Hinton upon his retirement, I hope you can see God's hand in leading us through these difficulties and providing for our future. May we walk hand in hand with God and trust His love and care to see us into 2023.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Hughes Family!

Josh, Ginger, Ella, Elam, and Emelia

### Mission Opportunity for Koinonia

Our Missions Committee has become aware of several neighbor residents at Koinonia who do not receive Christmas gifts. Would you or your Sunday School class adopt an "Angel" or "Angels"? If your class or family is interested in this project, please contact Maggie Davis (magsdavis0@gmail.com or (828-292-5971) or Martha Chase (828-499-1719) for information.

Please bring your gifts to the church no later than December 19. There will a table in the dining room for the presents—behind the desk where you pay for Wednesday evening meals.

## WORSHIP

## volunteers

## December

Crystal Dula  
Randell Dula  
Caroline Land

Jon Land  
Nancy Moore  
Keith Orrell

Beth Reeves  
Derek Reeves  
Mary Ann Robbins

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 12/1 Scott Fox  
Zac Martin (14)  
Mike Ramsey
- 12/2 Barbara Hicks
- 12/4 Bruce Cannon  
Ann Spann
- 12/5 Sue Ellen Brookshire  
Ginger Hughes
- 12/6 Carson Davis (20)
- 12/9 Anna Holloway  
Kim Johnson  
Patty Ramsey  
Jeni Stilwell  
Nick Walker
- 12/11 Pam Byers  
Brody Ester (9)  
Susan Gray
- 12/13 Steve Page  
Teresa Transou
- 12/14 Kristin Sturgill  
Mark Suddreth
- 12/15 Susan Floyd  
David Stevens
- 12/18 Sarah Lovins  
Mason Pritchard
- 12/20 John Moore  
Debra Trivette
- 12/21 Janie Mangum  
Phillip Pritchard
- 12/22 Benjamin McKinney (9)  
Amy Moore
- 12/26 Butch Smith
- 12/27 Ragan Brown  
John Dockery
- 12/28 Art Sherwood
- 12/29 Mark Gentry  
Paul McCurry
- 12/30 Joey Greene
- 12/31 Tori Davis (18)

## Blessings Box

The following items are needed for our Blessings Box on an ongoing basis:

- Canned food
- Any non-perishable items (uncooked pasta, ramen noodles, cereal, jelly, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, etc.)
- Clothing items, blankets
- Diapers and wipes
- Paper products (plates, cups, paper towels, toilet paper, etc.)

We are grateful to Kristin Sturgill who has volunteered to oversee this ministry. She will check the box every few days and place items in it and keep track of what we need.

A collection box is located in the 1st-floor hallway for items that you would like to donate.



### Sunday, Dec. 4

Angel Tree Shopping

### Sunday, Dec. 11

Regular Schedule at FBC Lenoir

### Sunday, Dec. 18

Progressive Dinner/Party

### Sunday, Dec. 25

Merry Christmas! No Sunday School/No Youth Activities



### FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget Needs for 2022

**\$836,680.00**

YTD Budget Receipts

**\$697,512.87**

### STAFF

**Rev. Josh Hughes**

SENIOR PASTOR

**Dr. Aaron Rice**

INTERIM MUSIC MINISTER

**Dr. David B. Smith**

ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF

PASTORAL CARE

**Rebecca K. Lawing**

CHILDREN'S & INTERIM

YOUTH MINISTRY

**CARLA REID**

ORGANIST

**Gary Johnson**

BUSINESS MANAGER

**Diane Palmer**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

**Brenda Walters**

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

**Kathy Keck**

MISSIONS ADMIN. ASSISTANT

**Nicki Blevins**

CHURCH HOSTESS

**Robert Benfield**

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

**Bill Wakefield**

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

**Krista Hamby**

CUSTODIAN