



NEWS and VIEWS

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

December 2023



A Word from the Pastor

Hello Friends,

Christmas is almost upon us. And as we walk expectantly through these weeks of Advent, I hope you participate with us fully so that you might gain strength and encouragement this season.

but rather, think about what you can do for someone else. When we share our money and time generously in the name of God, lives are touched, needs are met, and people are changed. I have come to recognize that the scripture really is true: "It is better to give than to receive." Thank you for your gifts to Operation Christmas Child, the Angel Tree Ministry, and the Coat ministry for the school children of Caldwell County.

CALENDER

SUNDAYS

Worship 10 AM
Adult Choir Practice 11:15 AM
Adult Handbell Practice 5 PM
Youth 6 PM

WEDNESDAYS

Supper 5:15-6 PM
Adult Bible Study 6 PM
Youth Bible Study 6 PM
Children's Choir 6 PM
Children's Missions 6:30 PM

Saturday, December 2

Room at the Table 4 PM

Sunday, December 3

Hanging of the Greens 10 AM
Church Lunch 11:15
No Choir Practice

Wednesday, December 6

Bonus Adult Choir Practice 7 PM

Tuesday, December 12

FBC Preschool Christmas Program
6 PM

Saturday, December 16

Adult Choir Dress Rehearsal 10 AM

Sunday, December 17

Christmas Cantata 10 AM

Sunday, December 24

No Sunday School
Candlelight Worship 6 PM

Sunday, December 31

No Sunday School

We have our Hanging of the Greens service on Sunday morning, December 4th. This is the service where we will adorn our church with our Christmas décor. There will be a lot of people participating in this service, and I can hardly wait as this is our true introduction to Christmas. On December 10th, the Handbell Choir will lead us in worship. On December 17th, we will have our special Christmas music with the orchestra. Our choir will pair with outside musicians to lead us in one of the most powerful services of the year. And, as always, we will have a special Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on December 24th. Be here early to get a good seat, for as you know, this service is one of the best-attended worship services of the year. I look forward to worshipping with you each Sunday, and on these special occasions.

As we make our preparations for that special day, let us remember that Christmas is never about what we receive under our tree. Rather, Christmas is about receiving God's gift of Jesus Christ our Lord and living differently because of it. So, this Christmas season, think not of yourself,

2023 was an incredible year for FBC Lenoir. We gained 38 new members, and we welcomed Rev. Michael Jennings as our Minister of Music and Worship, made Becca Lawing our Youth, Children, and Connections Minister, and called Zeke Frye as our Church Intern. We have been blessed beyond measure, and we as a staff, and as a church, say thank you God, and thank you congregation, for your love and faithfulness.

Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

Love,

Josh, Ginger, Ella, Elam, and Emelia





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 6.....Chicken Tenders, Mac & Cheese, Corn, Rolls, Dessert

December 13.....Party Foods

December 20.....No Meal or Bible Study

December 27.....No Meal or Bible Study

December WORSHIP Volunteers

Sue Ellen Brookshire

Kenny Story

Crystal Dula

Keith Orrell

Randell Dula

Shirley Orrell

Jon Land

Tommy Carter

Caroline Land

Sue Carter

Mabry Land

December Worship Opportunities

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3



Morning Worship at 10 AM
Churchwide Lunch after Worship

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10



Christmas Worship with the Handbell Choir

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17



Christmas Worship through Music
Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Orchestra

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24



Morning Worship 10 AM (No Sunday School)
Candlelight Service 6 PM

message
from **Michael**

We had a great time on our trip to Wytheville to the dinner theatre. These are a few snapshots of our day:



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- 12/1 Scott Fox
Zac Martin (15)
Michael Ramsey
- 12/2 Barbara Hicks
- 12/3 Doug Saunders
- 12/4 Bruce Cannon
Ann Spann
- 12/5 Sue Ellen Brookshire
Ginger Hughes
- 12/6 Carson Davis (21)
- 12/9 Anna Holloway
Kim Johnson
Patty Ramsey
Jeni Stilwell
Nick Walker
- 12/10 Wanda Terry
- 12/11 Brody Ester (10)
Susan Gray
Kathy Saunders
- 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 (10)
Amy Moore
- 12/26 Butch Smith
- 12/27 John Dockery
- 12/28 Art Sherwood
- 12/29 Paul McCurry
- 12/30 Joey Greene
- 12/31 Tori Davis (19)



Please remember to bring your gifts for the Angel Tree to the church by December 10. Thank you for giving so that these students can enjoy a brighter Christmas this year.



Sunday, Dec. 3.....Regular Schedule
Wednesday, Dec. 6.....Youth Bible Study 6:00-7:00
Sunday, Dec. 10.....Angel Tree Shopping (No supper)
Wednesday, Dec. 13.....Youth Bible Study 6:00-7:00
Sunday, Dec. 17.....Progressive Dinner/Party
Wednesday, Dec. 20.....No Wednesday Night Services
Sunday, Dec. 24.....Morning Worship 10 AM (No Sunday School);
Candlelight Service 6 PM
Wednesday, Dec. 27.....No Wednesday Night Services
Sunday, Dec. 31.....Morning Worship 10 AM; No Sunday School;
No Youth Activities

FINANCIAL REPORT

Budget Needs for 2023

\$865,650.00

YTD Budget Receipts

\$758,255.65

STAFF

Dr. Josh Hughes

SENIOR PASTOR

Rev. Michael Jennings

MINISTER OF
MUSIC & WORSHIP

Becca Lawing

MINISTER OF YOUTH,
CHILDREN & CONNECTIONS

Zeke Frye

CHURCH INTERN

Carla Reid

ORGANIST

Gary Johnson

BUSINESS MANAGER

Brenda Walters

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Diane Palmer

FINANCIAL ASSISTANT

Kathy Keck

MISSIONS ADMIN. ASSISTANT

Audrey Bentley

FBC PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

Nicki Blevins

CHURCH HOSTESS

Robert Benfield

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Bill Wakefield

MAINTENANCE ASSISTANT

Krista Hamby

CUSTODIAN