

HEART



SOUL



MIND



STRENGTH

THE TIE

DECEMBER 2022

OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE ON DECEMBER 24 is AT 5:00 PM. NO NURSERY IS PROVIDED. WE will light the CHRIST CANDLE; TIM will LEAD US IN A MEDITATION, AND WE will SHARE IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER TOGETHER!

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, is A CASUAL MORNING of worship AT 10:30AM. CHILDREN ARE ENCOURAGED TO COME IN THEIR CHRISTMAS PAJAMAS! THERE will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR NURSERY ON this day.

OUR CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS GOAL is \$40,000.00.

PLEASE CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TO THIS IMPORTANT MISSION.



DECEMBER 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Anna Mitchum Melissa Crow	2	3 Anna Brink
4 Second Sunday of Advent Emphasis on Foreign Missions 6pm Adult Bible Study Maxie Burns	5 4pm Martha Franks Fellowship Jeff Mitchum Tom Kennemore Jordan Leitke	6 6pm Senior Adult Christmas Dinner Rosa Margaret Thompson Weston Coggins Ashley Patterson	7 6pm Children & Youth to see Dan Bellamy Anna Jenkins	8 Henry Welch	9 Charlene Stroud	10 Swamp Rabbits Hockey Game Evan Taylor
11 Third Sunday of Advent Youth & Adult choirs sing in Worship 3-5pm Deacon Drop-in 6pm Adult bible Study Faye Terry	12	13 Will Brink	14 Ryan Prescott Cheryl Topping	15 2pm Knitting Group	16 Scott O'Rear Bob Fletcher	17 Emily Dasher Martha Garrison Rachel Allen Drenda Taylor
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent Preschool Choirs sing in Worship Middle School Christmas Party After Worship 6pm High School Christmas Party Julie Mitchum	19 Frances Kesler Jeff Horgert Jim Sumnerel	20 Henry Rogers	21 Joy Tumblin	22 Mary Charles Traynham	23 Ralph Sexton	24 5pm Christmas Eve Service Wayne Meadows George Lewis Compton
25 No Sunday School or Nursery, Worship Only Lib Bolt	26	27 Jim Bryan Jim Cothran Sam Ricard Amelia Chandler	28 Bill Tumblin Gina Smith	29 Logan Gault	30	31 Maria Kennedy Miles Crow Renee Underwood Motney Paris
Church Offices Closed for Christmas Holidays						

From Our Pastor...

The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. (Isaiah 40:8, NRSV)

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:10-11, NRSV)

Words.

Words come cheaply these days. We scribble, scratch, jot, text, tweet, and type. We abbreviate, create acronyms, and toss about words like balloons.

However, in the days of Isaiah, words were jewels. Parchment was rare. Few wrote. Fewer could afford to write. And, few could read. Yet all could hear. Words crafted in just the right rhythm, with choice, poignant, timeless and timely words would accompany their audience for a lifetime.

I once heard a pastor say while expressing appreciation for the church music, "No one ever left church humming the sermon!" How true!

Yet, the words of the prophets were written with such care that those who heard remembered them. They *memorized* them upon hearing. More than that, they *internalized* them. The people of Israel witnessed calamity upon calamity as their beloved Jerusalem laid in ruins, including its Temple to their God. These words provided *hope* that God would act on their behalf to restore their land. They promised *peace*, that God's rule would mean the end of war, conflict and chaos. They proclaimed *joy*. Not only would God do something in the future, he would accompany them on the journey, giving reason to celebrate. He would demonstrate his steadfast *love* with his presence in their midst, becoming a part of their lives. Lastly, he would *illuminate* a dark world with the truth of his character and purpose in saving this world – through himself.

And when the LORD made a promise – when He gave his priceless, carefully crafted words – the people knew that they would be fulfilled. After all they had witnessed this in Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Samuel, and David. They knew God's promises would be fulfilled in God's time.

Observing Advent is to live daily in a fallen world as part of a community that is convinced that the promises of the LORD in scripture will come to pass to redeem creation and bring salvation. It is living with hope, when the world promises no hope. It is living with love, even in a context of competition and conflict. It is living with joy, even when circumstances warrant sadness or anger. It is living with peace in a world of war. We have words that remind us of such.

Even more so, at Advent we remember the Word who became flesh and embodied hope, love, joy and peace for us! Join us as we celebrate Advent and Christmas this December!

Grace and peace,

Tim

Reading the Christmas Story for All It's Worth

Sundays, December 4 & 11, 6:00 PM, Bobo Hall

Join Pastor Tim for a brief mini study of Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. Luke has undertaken the task of reporting an "orderly account" of Jesus for a benefactor, Theophilus, and chooses to begin his gospel unlike any other. With the miraculous births of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, Luke indicates that God is working out his plan to change this world forever, change the hearts of humanity forever, and to turn the world upside down for its own good and his glory! Join us as we read these stories, mine them for truth, uncover their significance for early Christians and reveal their relevance for today. Join us Sundays at 6:00 PM, December 4 & 11 in Bobo Hall!

2022 Advent Devotional Booklets

The devotion guides are now available for you and your family! This calendar of daily devotions helps steer us to focus on what matters most throughout the hustle and bustle of the Advent season. These free booklets are located on the table in the Sanctuary vestibule, on the table outside the main office, and on the table in the Rotunda. Quantities are limited, so only one per family please!

Attention Men!

Our Men's Groups will be "pausing" during the month of December but will restart in January 2023. The details on our next study will be made available later in the month. The new year will offer a great opportunity to get involved with one of our Men's Studies, so make plans now to join us in 2023!

Senior Adult Christmas Dinner December 6 at 6:00pm in Bobo Hall

Lee Brothers is catering and the Kingdom Come Vocal Ensemble is providing our Christmas musical program for the evening! Sign up on the pew pads today!

Transportation Ministry

There is a growing need within our congregation for transport assistance to and from doctor's appointments. If you would be willing to participate in our Transportation Ministry, please call the church office or sign up on the pew pads. By agreeing to help, you are simply committing to helping when you can.

- December 7, 6-7pm-ALL children (and youth!!!) are invited to come and see Dan Bellamy share The Christmas Story in the Youth Room! A parent or grandparent should accompany any children 4K and under. Dan tours the U.S. captivating young audiences through his unique ability to tell stories of hope using amazing balloon sculptures that point children to Jesus! Balloons will transform in his hands into life-size works of art, reflecting the truth of Scripture in a way that captivates kids' hearts and minds!
- December 10-Who doesn't love going to watch the Swamp Rabbits play hockey?! Now's your chance! FBC has a group of reserved tickets and we'd love for your family to join us! Anyone, is invited! This is a Recreation Ministry event. Call the church office to sign up!
- December 18-Our Preschool Choirs will be singing their Christmas music during worship! Invite your family & friends!
- December 24-Christmas Eve Service at 5pm: No nursery is provided. Children and families are encouraged to enjoy this time of worship together!
- December 25 — Join us for a casual morning of worship at 10:30am celebrating the birth of Jesus! Children are encouraged to come in their Christmas pajamas! There will be no Sunday School or nursery on this day.

Thank you so much to our church family for all the ways you have supported our Student Ministry over the last year! This year nearly 100 different students attended camps, retreats, and conferences in South Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee. 9 different High School and Middle School sports teams received financial gifts from our church. 30 students were able to attend FCA Football camp over the summer. In addition to our weekly meeting times we hosted game nights, 5th Quarters, and other special events for students from our church and community. None of that would be possible without your support and prayers. Thank you for everything you do for our students!

Student Ministry Dates

- Final Wednesday Night - December 7
- Christmas Parties - December 18, Middle School after church in Bobo Hall, High School at 6pm

RECREATION MINISTRY

Join us at the Greenville Swamp Rabbits for our final recreation event of the year, Saturday December 10!

MINISTER ON CALL

One of our ministers will be on call every weekend, so if you have a need, please don't hesitate to call us! The minister on call schedule is:

Nov 28-Dec 4	Adair Rogers	864-923-1631
December 5-11	Andrew Corley	864-923-5841
December 12-18	Tommy Cox	864-684-7424
December 19-25	Elizabeth Franklin	803-960-9099
Dec 26-Jan 1	Adair Rogers	864-923-1631

Financial Record - November 2022

October Needs:	\$87,331.20
October Giving:	\$123,660.23
2022 Giving to Date:	\$1,000,523.04
2022 Needs to Date	\$1,047,974.40

THE TIE NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

First Baptist Church	U.S. Postage Paid
300 West Main St	Permit No. 70
Laurens, SC 29360	Laurens, SC 29360

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Meet our New Members!



Logan Bragg



Amelia Chandler



Ellis Chandler



Miles Crow



Grayson Forsyth