

HEART



SOUL



MIND



STRENGTH

# THE TIE

DECEMBER 2023

*Join Us This Christmas Season*

## December 3

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM
- Hanging of the Green
- Preschool Choir Sings

## December 6

- Church-wide Christmas Caroling 6:00 PM

## December 10

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM
- High School Bell Choir Plays

## December 12

- Senior Adult Christmas Dinner 6:00 PM

## December 17

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 10:30 AM- *Glory!* - A multigenerational worship experience using our children, youth and adult choirs telling again the story of our Savior's birth. The simplicity of a live nativity will provide for us all (especially our children) a visual memory that will enhance the greatest story ever told.

## December 24

- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent - Morning worship at 9:30 AM - No Sunday School. Nursery provided for children ages birth to 3 years old during worship.
- Candlelight Service 5:00 PM



# DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Melissa Crow Anna Mitchum	2
3 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship - Hanging of the Green, Preschool Choir- Sing Sunday Activities: See Below Jimmy Addy Anna Brink	4 4pm Martha Franks Fellowship Maxie Burns	5 Jeff Mitchum Tom Kennemore Jordan Barbare John Alan Marsh	6 6-8 pm Church-Wide Christmas Caroling No Other Wednesday Activities Rosa Margaret Thompson Weston Coggins Ashley Patterson	7 Anna Jenkins	8 Henry Welch	9 Charlene Stroud
10 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship High School Bell Choir Plays Sunday Activities: See Below Evan Taylor	11	12 6pm Senior Adult Christmas Dinner	13 Wednesday Activities See Below 6pm Dress Rehearsal: Children, Youth, and Adults Will Brink	14 11am Senior Adults to Flat Rock Playhouse Cheryl Topping Ryan Prescott	15	16 Scott O'Rear Bob Fletcher
17 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grade & Youth Choir sing Christmas music with adults Sunday Activities: See Below Emily Dasher Martha Garrison Rachel Allen Drenda Coleman	18 Julie Mitchum	19 Frances Kesler Jeff Harger Jim Sumerel	20 No Wednesday Activities Henry Rogers	21 2pm Knitting Group Joy Tumblin	22 Mary Charles Traynham	23 Ralph Sexton
24 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent 9:30am Worship 5pm Candlelight Service No Sunday Activities Wayne Meadows George Lewis Compton	25 Lib Bolt	26	27 No Wednesday Activities Jim Bryan James Cothran Sam Ricard Amelia Chandler	28 Bill Tumblin Gina Smith	29 Logan Gault	30
31 9:30am Worship No Sunday Activities Maria Kennedy Miles Crow Renee Underwood			Church Offices Closed for Christmas			

9:30am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 5:00-7:30pm Youth Study, Music, Supper	5pm Men's Group 5pm Adult Study	5-6pm Wednesday Night Supper 6-7pm Pre-School Kids on Mission & Choir, 1 <sup>st</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Children's Choir	6pm Adult Bible Studies 6pm Youth Worship 7pm Adult Choir
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*Dear Church Family and Friends,*

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." (Luke 2:13-14, NIV)

While we love the joy that the holidays bring, may we agree that the Advent and Christmas Seasons are stressful? They may be downright hectic!

Decorations, meals, shopping, family get-togethers, parties, cards, and multiple programs at school, church, and in the community make December a jam-packed season! And, for good measure, God decided that Rebecca should have both our children in December! It certainly is a busy time of the year!

Now, I'm not saying these are bad things! Quite the opposite! They are good things, joyful things, and opportunities to make fond memories! At the same time, they can crowd out the true meaning of Christmas. Historically, the church appropriated a calendar to tell the story of Jesus Christ and God's redemption of the world through Jesus. That calendar begins with the Advent season, which focuses on anticipation of Christ, and our own anticipation for his return. Then, the Christmas season begins with the celebration of Christ's birth, which lasts twelve days (does that remind you of a familiar Christmas song?)! While the church celebrated with feasts, family gatherings, and worship, the focus has been on Christ. Today, it is easy to lose the focus due to all the good things we make Christmas.

This Advent and Christmas at First Baptist, may I invite you to simply "come and worship," as the wonderful carol "Angels from the Realms of Glory" invites us to do. This December, we will celebrate the sights, the sounds, the songs, and the symbols of the Christmas Season. We will immerse ourselves in worshipping the Savior we celebrate at Christmas! We are looking forward to our traditional Hanging of the Green service, our Choir's Cantata, the music, the scriptures, and the challenge to support our missionaries through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. And, this celebration will culminate with our Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight service!

While we have so many wonderful opportunities during the month of December, may we never be too busy for the most glorious opportunity of all – worshipping "Christ, the newborn King!"

*Grace and peace,  
Tim*

### **Get Connected in Sunday School!**

FBC Laurens can sometimes feel like a big place, but Sunday School provides a wonderful opportunity for us to connect and study the Bible together in a smaller community. We offer a wide variety of Sunday School classes for people of all ages. If you are looking for a Sunday School class, please contact Tommy Cox at (864)984-7500 or [tommy@fbclaurens.org](mailto:tommy@fbclaurens.org). We would love to help you find a place to connect!

**The 2023 Advent Devotional** booklets will be available for you and your family beginning the first Sunday of Advent, December 3. 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!

### **2023 Holiday Schedule for Sunday School:**

Sunday School will not meet on Sunday, December 24, or Sunday, December 31. (Morning Worship only at 9:30am on these Sundays).

### **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 2024!

### **Glory!**

Sunday, December 17 at 10:30am

A multigenerational worship experience using our children, youth and adult choirs telling again the story of our Savior's birth. The simplicity of a live nativity will provide for us all (especially our children) a visual memory that will enhance the greatest story ever told.

### **Poinsettias**

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor or in memory of someone, please stop by the office or visit Realm. Poinsettias are \$15. They will be placed in the church and will remain through the Christmas Eve Service. The last day to order is December 15!



## Student Ministry News

Thank you church family for all the ways you've supported our students in 2023, we're looking forward to a great 2024!



- December 3 — Our Preschool Choir will be singing in our Hanging of the Green service at 10:30am
- December 6 — All ages are welcome to join us for Christmas caroling at 6pm
- December 13 — Grades 1-5 choir rehearsal at 6pm
- December 17 — Christmas Cantata, including our elementary, youth, and adult choirs at 10:30
- December 24 — Morning worship at 9:30am. No Sunday School. Nursery provided for children ages birth to three years during worship.
- December 24 — Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5pm
- December 31 — Morning Worship at 9:30am. No Sunday School and No Nursery on this day.

## Discover, Connect, Belong Meal January 21

Have you been worshipping with us and wonder about the next steps to joining FBC? Do you have questions about what it means to become part of a Baptist church? Are there specific areas of discipleship and service that you're interested in but don't know where to find out more? Join us Sunday, January 21, for our first "Discover, Connect, Belong" lunch after worship to find the answer to all those questions and more. RSVP will begin in the new year.



Merry Christmas from the FBCL staff!

## 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 27-Dec 3	Tommy Cox	864-684-7424
December 4-10	Tim Marsh	828-755-1616
December 11-17	Andrew Corley	864-923-5841
December 18-24	Elizabeth Franklin	803-960-9099
December 25-31	Adair Rogers	864-923-1631

## THE TIE

First Baptist Church  
300 West Main St  
Laurens, SC 29360

## NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Financial Record - November 2023

November Needs:	\$88,076.92
November Giving:	\$93,248.20
2023 Needs to Date:	\$1,034,903.81
2023 Giving to Date:	\$1,047,898.56

## Christmas Music

Our special Christmas music called, *Glory*, will be Sunday, December 17 during our morning worship service. The music will include the Children's Choirs, Youth Choir and Adult Choir.

## Meet our New Members!



Kyle & Marylyn Woudstra