



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

THE TIE

**JANUARY
2024
SPECIAL
EDITION**

**300 West Main St
Laurens, SC 29360
864 984-7500
fbclaurens.org**

MINISTER ON CALL

January 1-7

Tim Marsh 828-755-1616

January 8-14

Tommy Cox 864-684-7424

January 15-21

Andrew Corley 864-923-5841

January 22-28

Elizabeth Franklin 803-960-9099

Jan 29-Feb 4

Adair Rogers 864-923-1631

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LAURENS, SC 29360 LAURENS SC 29360
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JANUARY 2024 BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Linda Lanford
Kevin Luiz | 11. Bob Sumerel
Lucy Young | 18. Nolan Burns
Hatchell Hardy
Pat Haile | 28. Loraine Woodson |
| 3. Jeff Owings | 12. Blanche Pulley
Natalie West | 19. Margaret Crews
Seth Crow | 30. Pat Leopard
Christian Griffin |
| 4. Don McIntyre | 13. J.C. Byers
Kathy Crotts | 20. Eloise Hughes | 31. Mason Young
David Crotts |
| 5. Albert Sharp
Wanda Strawhorn
Kim Roberson
Wells Croker
Feagin Hardy | 14. Nell Aiken
Margie Davis | 21. Janet Garrett | |
| 6. Claudia Monroy | 15. Julia Craig
Tommy Marchman
Julie Wilkie | 23. Jimmy Garrett
Seth Strickland | |
| 7. Carroll Thompson | 16. Buddy Crow | 25. Margaret Ellison
Kimberly Martin
Jacob Griffin | |
| 8. Lynda Sanders | 17. Jackie Coggins
Sid Lee
Wyatt Kaspar | 26. Bob Parris | |
| 9. Rusty Cox | | 27. Dave Fowler
Martha Cathcart | |
| 10. Patricia Mahon | | | |

A Note from the Pastor

The book of Acts recalls an important story about fellowship. An angel visited a centurion named Cornelius, sharing a message and mission from the Lord. Cornelius was generous and gave many resources to the poor. He was a God-fearer, meaning that he knew Israel's God, but had not taken the steps to "officially" convert. The angel told Cornelius to send for Peter, who was staying in Joppa, a coastal town, at the time. Cornelius complied and sent two men to fetch Peter and to bring him to his home.

As the men were on the way, Peter was praying on the rooftop. He became hungry and had a vision. In the vision, the Lord revealed several animals that faithful Jews would have considered "unclean." Peter was told to eat. At first, he balked, but the Lord declared them clean.

Why is this important? Declaring all foods clean was not about health. It was not about convenience. It was about declaring the people who ate those foods clean. The message of Jesus was not for Israel only. Rather, it was for the whole world. If the disciples were to leave the familiarity of Israel, and if they were to share Jesus with those outside their faith, then they would have to meet people where they would be open and receptive. Often, that would be at the table.

Sharing a meal is a wonderful opportunity to strengthen existing relationships. More than that, it is a wonderful opportunity to build relationships. That's why we are placing an emphasis on fellowship opportunities at First Baptist. When we resumed Wednesday Night Meals in November, it was a joy to see families eating together. But it was also a joy to see people together that maybe we would not normally see together.

I would love to invite you to take advantage of Wednesday Night Meals beginning Wednesday, January 17! We will continue offering them at the price of \$8 per adult, \$5 per child (ages 3 – 5th Grade), and children ages 2 and under may eat free! You may sign up and pay through Realm or you may sign up on the Pew Pads or by calling the church office! Join us for a good meal! Strengthen the relationships you have! Build new ones as well! Eating together is not only nourishing for the body, but for the soul as well!

Grace and peace,

Tim

January Opportunities for Children

- January 17 - We'll kickstart our Wednesday Night activities with the CRITTER KEEPER at 6pm! All children are invited to attend! Parents, I encourage you to join us! This is going to be a fun evening for the kids with super cool critters!
- January 23 - Tuesday's resume for our 1st-5th graders! Music + Missions + Recreation! If you haven't been participating, let Elizabeth or Adair know if you'd like to join us!

Youth News

We're thankful for a great 2023 and excited for all 2024 has to offer! Be in prayer for our students, college students, and chaperones as we head to Danielsville, Ga January 12-14 for our 2024 Winter Retreat, "Higher Love"

- January 17 - Wednesday Night Activities Resume
- January 21 - Sunday Night Activities Resume

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Studies beginning January 17, 2024 at 6:00pm

- **Ephesians: God's Plan Made Known:** Have you ever been curious about God's plan? For Creation? For people? For the end? Paul believes that God has revealed that plan in and through Jesus Christ and he wants to make it known to all who desire to know it! Join us each Wednesday Night in Easterby Chapel as we examine Paul's Letter to the Ephesians and consider the plan God has made known in Jesus Christ!
- **The Gospel of John, Part II-** This study will continue to explore John's gospel, helping us to come to grips with its meaning and show us how it still transforms our lives today. Even if you did not participate in Part I during the Fall, it's not too late to be involved. Tommy Cox will lead this study each week in the Craft Room.

Attention Men! Men's Bible Study will resume on Sunday, January 21 at 6:00pm and Tuesday, January 23, at 7:00am. Each of these study groups will meet in Classroom A (FLC/Gym area). Our study during the Winter/Spring will be Romans, Part II. Our men's gatherings are a great time of fellowship and discipleship! If you would like more information, please contact Tommy Cox.

Missions Mobilization Opportunity

Would you like to learn more about the mission of FBC and have an opportunity to get involved with some of our missions partners? Join Andrew for a 6 week Mission Mobilization project beginning Sunday January 21. For more information or to get signed up contact Andrew.

Discover, Connect, Belong Meal January 21, 2024

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. Please call the church to sign up.

