

First Baptist News

a family of faith



This Week. . .

Wednesday, December 2

6:00 p.m. **Wednesday Evening Prayer Meeting (Zoom)**
7:00 p.m. Bridge Class (Zoom)

Thursday, December 3

1:00 p.m. Circle of Friends Class (Zoom)

Sunday, December 6

10:00 a.m. **Worship (Facebook Live & YouTube)**
11:00 a.m. Fellowship Class (Zoom)

Monday, December 7

1:00-2:30 p.m. Tithing Time
7:00 p.m. Monday School (Bo's Facebook Page)

Tuesday, December 8

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Group (Zoom)

From the Interim Pastor

Season's Greetings, Saints!

I am so blessed by you and your goodness. I've been flooded with "brags" on all of you in the past few weeks. Ministers, Deacons, Sunday School Teachers and many others of you have gone the extra mile in sharing support and ministry for others. I'm so grateful for this and the ways you are deeply caring for one another. Cards, calls, and "supper on the doorstep" have been amazing ministry moments for those on the receiving end. Thank you!

Don't Rush this Advent!

While December seems to fly by, please take time to slow down a bit. Don't get to the end of the Advent journey having missed the season. These are important days of reflection and spiritual renewal. Please take time to contemplate what it means to be a "Jesus follower" this year. God is guiding and God is desiring times of fellowship with us. Take some time for your soul in these days.

December Giving. . .

There are many who will be asking your for year-end giving. Please remember the work of the church in these days as we close out 2020. Your giving efforts will make a huge statement as we get ready for your next pastor. I'm praying for this to be a most generous December. Please don't neglect your gifts to the ministries of our church.

Erin Collier

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will read Erin's letter of resignation. I've known Erin prior to coming to be with you. She is a CBF Fellow. She is most-respected young leader in the Fellowship, and she is a very creative minister. I have been so impressed with the ways she has stepped up to lead during the Interim. Her creative energy in producing our on-line worship services has been amazing. I am personally saddened to see her leave us and I am equally excited about the days ahead for her. She is an amazing woman, an amazing leader. She will be missed.

*God continues to guide! I'm so honored to journey with you.
Dr. Bo*

Dear First Baptist,

A little over eight years ago, you took a chance on a young minister. And throughout those years, we have experienced so much together! I am grateful for the support and trust you have placed in me to minister among you.

Over the past year, God's Spirit has been nudging me in a new direction, and it has become increasingly clear that it is time for me to move on at the end of this calendar year. My last day with you will be December 31, 2020. I am not quite sure what the future will hold for me, but I trust in the One who continues to call and lead me.

It has been a privilege to walk beside you, to listen to and learn from you, and to watch so many children grow in their faith. I am especially grateful to Doug and Tim for their partnership and teamwork over the past eight years. Please know you will be in my prayers as you continue to search for a senior pastor and dream about the future.

In Christ,
Rev. Erin R. Collier

Christmas Memorial Vigil

Sunday, December 13
Floating Event

The sanctuary will be open from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. for prayer and reflection. Upon arrival you will receive a self-guided reflection booklet.

COVID precautions:

This is a floating event with staggered entry. We suggest those with last names beginning A-L arrive between 2:00-3:00 p.m., and M-Z arrive between 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Masks are to be worn and social distancing is required for the entire time you are in the building.

All who enter the building must have their temperature recorded.

If you have been exposed to COVID or have symptoms, please stay home.

Participants will enter via the front doors of the sanctuary and exit via the chapel door.



Celebrating Advent at First Baptist

Sunday, December 6 - Second Sunday of Advent
Virtual Worship at 10 am

Wednesday, December 9 - Carol Sing-a-Long
Live on Zoom at 6 pm

Sunday, December 13 - Third Sunday of Advent
Virtual Worship at 10 am

Sunday, December 13 - Christmas Memorial Vigil
Sanctuary open for prayer, 2-4 pm

Sunday, December 20 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
Virtual Worship at 10 am

Friday, December 24 - Christmas Eve
Virtual Worship available beginning at 12 pm
Brief outdoor candlelighting at 5 pm (weather permitting)





The Hanging of the Green

This year's virtual Hanging of the Green service is available to view online at www.fbclumbertonnc.org or our Facebook page.

Greenery, candles, poinsettias, and Chrismons for the Hanging of the Green take-home kits are given to the glory of God.

In honor of:

Samuel E. Britt
Gracie Davis
Sylvia Edwards
Johnson & Elizabeth Ramsaur
The Circle of Friends Sunday School Class
Our Family

Given by:

Nancy & Mark Wagner
H. J. & Sylvia Edwards
Lois Johnson
Pattie & David Ramsaur
Mary Anne Rust
Larry & Page Sawyer

In memory of:

Elsie Britt
Elsie Britt
Stacy Davis
James & Billie Driscoll
Corky & Michael Hickman
Maurice & Hazel Prevatte
Karon Prince
Renee Richardson
Randy Rust

Given by:

Samuel E. Britt
Nancy & Mark Wagner
H.J. & Sylvia Edwards
Jim & Judy Driscoll
Shirley Hickman
Sharon & Eddie Prevatte
Meg & Malcolm McLean
Kenneth Richardson
Mary Anne Rust



Donations for the Children's Christmas Party and Friends of Jesus Christmas are welcomed!

Shopping has begun and preparations are underway! Please give to help fund these important ministries of FBC!

Please designate "Children's Christmas Party" or "Friends of Jesus Christmas" on the memo line of your check. Donations will be accepted by mail—606 N. Walnut St., Lumberton, NC 28358— or at tithing time—1-2:30 p.m. each Monday.

For the Record

Budgeted 2020	\$700,000.00
Weekly Need (2020).....	\$13,461.54
Received November 23, 2020.....	\$14,622.50
Need to date.....	\$614,615.38
Received to date	\$485,359.95
Over (Under) Budget	(\$129,255.43)

Give to First Baptist Church!

Here are some ways to donate to our ministry:

- Drop by during Tithing Time!— Mondays from 1:00-2:30 p.m.
- Scan our QR code with your cell phone to go to our giving page.



- Go to our website (www.fbclumbertonnc.org) to complete a draft form.
- Send us your contribution by mail— **606 N. Walnut St., Lumberton, NC 28358**



A huge thank you to everyone who donated cakes and/or bought raffle tickets for our youth fundraiser! We raffled off 27 cakes on November 20th.



We are thankful for our Community Café volunteers! This important mission offers a free meal to our neighbors in need every third Saturday of the month, and it is the one in-person ministry that has continued throughout the pandemic (with necessary precautions and restrictions, of course). If you are interested in helping in a future month, please contact Doug Reedy.

Pictured: Members of the Collins Sunday School Class hosting Community Café on November 21st.



Dr. Tyner and I are grateful for the kindness shown us as we celebrated 70 years of marriage. May God renew and bless our church as we look forward to worshipping together again.

*Sincerely,
Elizabeth Tyner*

CHURCH STAFF

Contact us at 739-4336 or daphnefletcher@fbclumbertonnc.org
www.fbclumbertonnc.org

Rev. Erin Collier — Associate Pastor of Families and Worship

Mrs. Daphne Fletcher — Administrative Assistant

Rev. Tim Little — Minister of Music and Facilities

Mr. Len Power — Building Superintendent

Dr. Bo Prosser — Interim Pastor

Mrs. Kandace Ramsey — Administrative Assistant

Rev. Doug Reedy — Associate Pastor of Youth, Young Adults and Missions