

First Baptist News

a family of faith

This Week. . .

Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday in Advent

- 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Classes:
Circle of Friends Class
Collins Class
Susan Welsh Class
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship in Sanctuary**
- 10:00 a.m. **Worship Online**
via Facebook Live
- 11:15 a.m. Sunday School Classes:
Fellowship Class (Fellowship
Hall & Zoom)
Bridge Sunday School Class
Children's Sunday School Classes
Youth Sunday School
- 3:00 p.m. **Friends of Jesus Christmas Party**
(Drive-thru, Activities Building)
- 5:00 p.m. **Memorial Service in Sanctuary**

Tuesday, December 7

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

Wednesday, December 8

- 6:00 p.m. **Wednesday Night Prayer Service**
Called Church Conference
(Fellowship Hall)
Children's Activities
(Christmas Party)
Youth Doing Missions
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 9

- 6:00 p.m. ECM Staff Christmas Party
(Fellowship Hall)

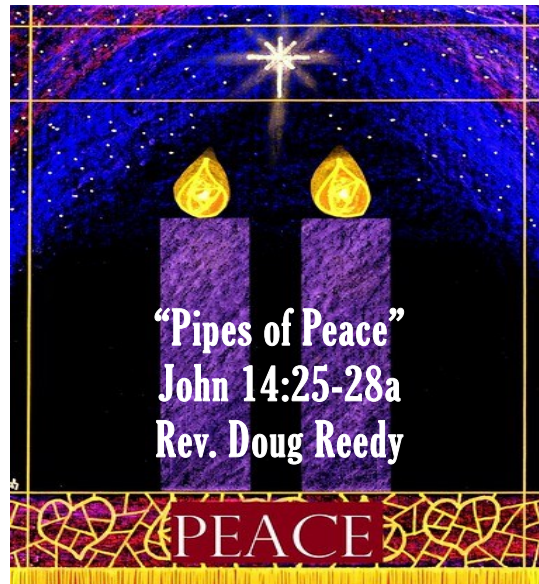
Saturday, December 11

- 10:00 am **Children's Christmas Party**
(Drive-thru, ECM Entrance)

Sunday Worship services will be held in the Sanctuary starting this Sunday, December 5. You may enter through the vestibule or at the ECM entrance for worship.

Wednesdays in December

The Wednesday Night service schedule for the remainder of 2021 will be published in the next edition of *First Baptist News*.



Second Sunday in Advent
First Baptist Sanctuary

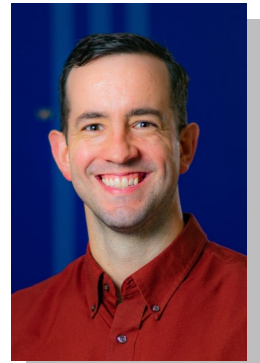


In this time of worship, we will make space to acknowledge grief, to remember loved ones, and to be reminded of the compassion and hope we find in God. Our hope is to provide an opportunity to rest from the commotion of the holidays and a reminder that those who grieve during this season are not alone. Everyone is invited to the Memorial Service on December 5 at 5:00 p.m. in First Baptist Sanctuary.

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

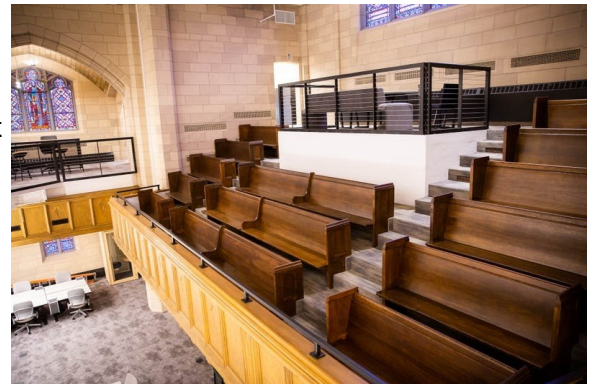
The other day I came across a fascinating article about a recent facility acquisition made by Audible, Inc., the Amazon subsidiary that provides audiobooks and other storytelling services on its well-designed app (of which I happen to be a frequent user). The company had purchased an old rundown building just down the street from its headquarters in Newark, NJ, believing it could be a center of innovation and development not only for the company's products but also for their community. Your first thought is likely that what they purchased was a warehouse, a former storefront, or possibly an abandoned apartment building. What would you say if I told you what they purchased was a church?

Yes, Audible, Inc. purchased what was formerly Newark's Second Presbyterian Church. Having been constructed in 1933, the church at one time had as many as 10,000



members at its height in the middle of the 20th century.¹ The church closed in 1995 due to declining membership and the space was used as a school until 2013. Now, under Audible's ownership, the 80,000 square foot space has been reimagined as a new work center for more than 400 employees. The structure is a mix of the old and new, as they preserved many of the historic elements like the stained glass windows and even the pipe organ, while also adapting the space to become an incubator for new ideas and projects. Interestingly, Audible calls this structure its "Cathedral of Innovation" and CEO and founder Don Katz stated, the cathedral is "proof that our efforts are yielding positive outcomes for business and invention culture, for the many talented people who want to work with us, and for the comeback of this great American city."

I couldn't help but see the irony for so many churches today that it was an outside entity that was able to come in and turn the space into a place for innovation and new ways of serving its community. But why do we have to wait to let the church die before new life can be birthed into it? Certainly once something reaches the point of no return, we have to graciously let it go, and sadly far too many churches have reached that point. But just as many if not more have yet to reach that point, and the opportunities for becoming their own "cathedrals of innovation" abound. Change and adaption are nothing new to the church as its 2,000 plus years of existence clearly demonstrates. There was a time when live music was not possible in worship or even having a printed text from which to read, but as new innovations and opportunities came along, churches became adept at integrating these elements into who they were. Look at First Baptist Lumberton, our first meeting house was built without blueprints in 1854 and was lit by candlelight and after only 4-5 years of use, a new structure was necessary. Over the years, our beloved church has risen to meet the needs of the day in whatever way that was necessary.



Today, we live in a world that is vastly different from what it was 50, 25, even 10 years ago, and with that comes new challenges for our church yes, but it also provides new opportunities. Addressing the people of God in Isaiah 43:19, they were told that God was about to do something new. In fact, God had already begun doing something new, asking them "Do you not see it?" In acknowledging the changing realities around us, we can choose one of two responses, to look back and focus on what was, or we could look to the future with determination, grit, and passion for looking for new or adapted ways to tell our community the story of the love and grace found in Jesus Christ. It may end up being a blend of historical elements with uncharted innovations, but as God has done countless times before, I believe a new thing is beginning for God's people and our church. Do you see it? Let's continue to embark on this journey together!

In Christ,

Rev. Joshua K. Owens, *Senior Pastor*

¹Meisenzahl, M. (2020, February 7). <https://www.businessinsider.com/amazon-audible-renovated-a-historic-newark-church-into-office-2019-11#built-in-1933-the-building-was-once-home-to-newarks-second-presbyterian-church-which-had-as-many-as-10000-members-at-its-height-in-the-middle-of-the-20th-century-1>



Coming up. . .

December 8 — Called Church Conference during Wednesday Night Prayer Service

December 9 — ECM Christmas Party, 6-8:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

December 11 — Children's Christmas Party, 10 am—12 pm

December 13—Finance Committee meeting, 5:45 pm, Activities Building.

December 15 — Youth Progressive Dinner at FBC

December 18 — Community Café

December 20 — Deacons Meeting, 7 pm

December 23, 24, 27 — Church offices and ECM closed for Christmas.

December 24 — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 5 pm, Sanctuary

December 25 — Christmas Day

December 26 — College Sunday

December 31— Contributions for 2021 placed in the mail must be post-marked by this date.

December 31 — Church offices and ECM closed in observance of New Years' Day.

The Finance Committee will meet on Monday, December 13 at 5:45 p.m. in the Activities Building for the purpose of finalizing the budget. We will not meet on December 20. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.



You are invited!

The Friends of Jesus Christmas Drive Thru is this coming Sunday, December 5th at 3:00 pm. We will be following the same order as last year, which means each group home van will drive into the

Activities Building parking lot and be greeted by Santa and his elves with gifts and food. We would like to invite church members to stand or sit in the line as the vans come by, waving and greeting the Friends of Jesus class as they enter the line for gifts. Seeing Santa is the highlight of our students' year and they are always so excited and full of joy. We would love to share this with our church members. We expect the drive thru party to conclude around 3:45 p.m.

It seems like at least once a year I end up writing what amounts to a two word article. Thank you.

Thank you for making cakes, cutting cakes, delivering plates, making plates, buying tickets, and so much more to make the BBQ Sale a huge success this year! It may be our most profitable ever...I'll know for sure soon. I apologize that we ran out of BBQ and I certainly apologize that I do not have time this year for personalized thank you notes. Just know you are very much loved and appreciated.

Thank you for coming out to and supporting our Hanging of the Green service. Wasn't it wonderful to be back in our sanctuary to kick off the first night of Advent?

Thank you in advance for giving to the Children's Christmas Party, the Friends of Jesus Christmas Party, and especially to our church budget.

We have seen some difficult times of late, but we are back on the road and headed in the right direction. Thank you for your hopefulness, your optimism, and especially your faith. God has blessed this church through you and your efforts. Have a wonderful Advent and Christmas seasons.

Doug



William Gentry joined First Baptist on Sunday, November 14, 2021.

Church Conference

There will be a Called Church Conference on Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. during Wednesday Night Prayer Service. The purpose of the meeting is to:

- receive and act upon a motion from the deacons that would amend Section 7 of the Endowment Trust relating to the number of Trustees and the length of their terms; and
- receive and act upon the Committee on Committees report, including nominations for elected positions from the Committee on Committees and by the deacons, deacon chair, and pastor.

Give to First Baptist Church!

Here are some ways to donate to our ministry:

- Give during Sunday worship.
- Scan our QR code with your cell phone camera to go to our giving page.
- Give through our [secure online giving portal](#).
- Go to our website (www.fbclumbertonnc.org) to complete a draft form.
- Send us your contribution by mail — **606 N. Walnut St., Lumberton, NC**



*Thinking
of you*

Person of the Week

Send a card, letter, or other remembrance to our special person this week!

John Turner
c/o Cape Fear Valley Rehabilitation Center
Room 218
1638 Owen Drive
Fayetteville, NC 28304

CHURCH STAFF

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

Rev. Tim Little — Minister of Music and Facilities

Rev. Josh Owens — Senior Pastor

Mr. Len Power — Building Superintendent

Mrs. Kandace Ramsey — Administrative Assistant

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

Its not too late to give to the Children's Christmas Party and Friends of Jesus Christmas Party!



Please give generously to help make these gifts possible. The Friends of Jesus Christmas Party

will be a drive-thru event on December 5th. The Children's Christmas Party is December 11th.

THIS HOLIDAY SEASON, GET YOUR COPY OF THE

FIRST BAPTIST COOKBOOK

Need some inspiration or want to try tried-and-true recipes taste-tested by talented cooks? We have a few cookbooks left!

\$10.00 | GREAT GIFT

We still have a limited number of First Baptist Cookbooks still available in the church office for just \$10 each. Stop by the church office (see Kandace) to claim a copy for yourself and for a friend before they run out.

First Sunday Food Drive



The first Sunday of each month we collect non-perishable foods for local charities.

Bring your donations on Sunday, December 5. A collection bin is available in the Sanctuary vestibule and inside the 6th street entrance of the church.

Donation suggestions: Canned vegetables, canned fruits, canned meats (such as chicken breast), pork & beans, rice, dried beans, boxed meals, baby foods, bottles of water and juices. Pop-top cans are preferred.