

First Baptist News

FBC Lumberton is a community of faith committed to living out the love of Christ by serving God and all people.



Preparing for Sunday, December 8, 2024
 The Second Sunday of Advent
 “A Refining Peace”
 Malachi 3:1-4 (NLT)

Join us for a church-wide Christmas breakfast at 9:30 am and for Worship in-person at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary or online on Facebook Live facebook.com/firstbaptistlumbertonnc or online on YouTube youtube.com/c/lumbertonfbc/



Coming up this week . . .

Sunday, December 8

- 9:30 a.m. Christmas Breakfast & Friends of Jesus Caroling (Fellowship Hall)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (in the Sanctuary)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship (online)
- 11:30 a.m. Sanctuary Choir Bonus Rehearsal

A Called Church Conference will take place at the conclusion of Worship for the purpose of voting on the 2025 Budget.

Tuesday, December 10

- 7:00 a.m. Men’s Prayer Group (Zoom)

Wednesday, December 11

- 6:00 p.m. Spontaneous Nativity and Fellowship Meal (Fellowship Hall)
- Youth Doing Missions
- 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

- 11:00 a.m. Fun & Fellowship (Act. Bld.)

Friday, December 13

- 10:00 a.m. Kiwanis Holiday Social for PSRC’s Self-Contained EC Classes (Fellowship Hall)
- 9am-3pm Vocational Rehab Staff Meeting (Act. Bld.)

Saturday, December 14

- 10am—12pm Children’s Christmas Party
- 3:00 p.m. Hispanic Ministry Bible Study (Act. Bld.)





Christmas Breakfast

& Friends of Jesus Carols



Join us during the 9:30 am Sunday School hour for breakfast and carols sung by the Friends of Jesus Ministry!

Sunday, Dec. 8

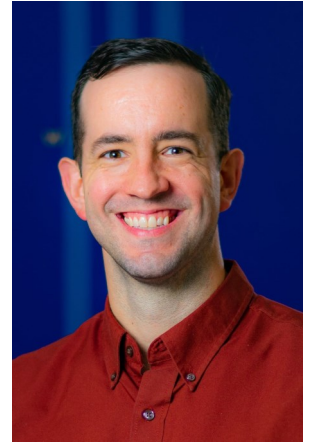
9:30 am

Fellowship Hall



The church is providing muffins, sausage, grits, and juice. This takes the place of our regular Sunday School gathering. Worship will in the Sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

A Note from the Pastor's Desk **December 2024**



I recently was given a copy of a poem written by one of our former members. Her name is Loyce Bullard Stone, and she passed away back in 2006. While I of course never knew her, I am sure many of you did. The title of the poem is "STUFF" and I found its points to be personally enlightening. Given that we are approaching the Christmas season, I thought Loyce's words appropriate as we prepare our hearts and minds, hopefully recalibrating to focus on what is most important in our lives.

"STUFF" by Loyce Stone (80 yrs. Young) Lumberton, NC - Dec. 1999

Every fall I start stirring in my stuff. there is closet stuff, drawer stuff, attic stuff, and basement stuff. separate the good stuff from the bad stuff, then I stuff the bad stuff anywhere the stuff is not too crowded until I decide if I will need the bad stuff.

When the Lord calls me home, my children will want the good stuff, but the bad stuff, stuffed wherever there is room among all the other stuff will be stuffed in bags and taken to the dump where all the other people's stuff has been taken.

Whenever we have company they always bring bags and bags of stuff. When I visit my son, he always moves his stuff so I will have room for my stuff. Their stuff in my stuff - it would be easier to use their stuff and leave my stuff at home with the rest of my stuff.

This fall I had an extra closet built so I would have a place for all stuff too good to throw away and too bad to keep with my good stuff. You may not have this problem but I seem to spend a lot of time with stuff, food stuff, cleaning stuff, and outside stuff. Whatever would life be like if we didn't have all this stuff?

Now there is all that stuff we used to make a smell better than we do. There's stuff to make our hair look good. Stuff to make us look younger. Stuff to make us look healthier. Stuff to hold us in, and stuff to fill us out. There is stuff to read, stuff to play with, stuff to entertain us, and stuff to eat. We stuff ourselves with food stuff.

Well, our lives are filled with stuff - good stuff, bad stuff. Little stuff, big stuff, useful stuff, junky stuff, and everyone's stuff. Now when we leave all our stuff and go to heaven, whatever happens to our stuff won't matter. We will still have all the good stuff God has prepared to us in heaven.

This Christmas season, may we take stock of the stuff that truly matters. The God who loves, the family and friends that bless us, and this great community we get to call our home. May the recognition of our blessings, not our stuff, inspire us to pursue more faithful living to Lumberton and our world.

May the fullness of all hope, peace, joy, and love fill you and your families this Advent and Christmas season. Blessings on you all, and Merry Christmas!

In the Love of Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joshua Owens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Joshua K. Owens, Senior Pastor

ADVENT

at First Baptist

Worship	Date	Time	Where
Hanging of the Green	Dec 1	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Children's Caroling Night	Dec 4	5:30 p.m.	Bus
Christmas Breakfast with FOJ Carols during Sunday School	Dec 8	9:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hall
Spontaneous Nativity & Meal	Dec 11	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Sanctuary Choir Cantata	Dec 15	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Memorial Service	Dec 15	5:00 p.m.	Chapel
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Dec 24	5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary

Sundays

9:30 a.m. -- Sunday School
10:30 a.m. -- Worship
First Baptist Sanctuary
or via Facebook Live or YouTube

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m. -- Adult Bible Study, Youth Doing
Missions, and Children's Music & Missions

Sunday School classes will not meet
December 8, 22, and 29.

The church offices and ECM will be closed
November 28-29, December 24-26, and January 1.



606 N. Walnut Street
Lumberton, NC 28358

More information:
fbclumbertonnc.org
910-739-4336

From Our Associate Pastor

My December article is usually just a great big thank you to everyone who helped with the BBQ sale. This year is no different. Thank you to all you who helped, especially if you have no youth in our program. We had one of our most successful sales ever and would not have without an awesome group of senior adults who are superstars at making plates. We represented our church well to the community, between Tommy's awesome chef abilities and excellent customer service from youth and their parents. Thank you!

Speaking of representing us well, we had over 1000 visitors for this year's Trunk or Treat and again we pulled together as a team and made it a wonderful experience for all! How we represent ourselves to the community is vital to our reputation and to attracting new families as well. Again, thank you!

However, the most important thing Jesus directed us to do was to help the "least of these". With that in mind, please be aware we are way behind in giving to the Children's Christmas Party where we give presents, clothes, Bibles, stockings, and hams to families our local elementary school guidance counselors have identified as in need. We are also behind in giving to this year's Friends of Jesus party for our class of special needs adults. Both of these ministries are long standing FBC events going back many years. The church budget is also behind expectations to this point. God bless you as you prayerfully consider your end of year giving!

Grace & Peace,
Doug

Attention Youth:

Your Children Christmas Party gifts are due to be dropped off between Dec. 8th and 11th! If you have not finished your shopping, you will need to do so ASAP! If you are helping at the party Saturday, Dec. 14th please arrive by 9:30 am so we can set up and organize before families arrive. We hope to finish up around noon, then we need to put things away and clean up. Contact Doug for more info.



Give to the Children's Christmas Party & Friends of Jesus Fund!

Please give — We are short of our goals!

FOJ Christmas Party Goal = \$6,000

Received as of 12/1 = \$2,815.00

Date of Party: December 1st

The FOJ Christmas Party was held in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the Hanging of the Green, Dec. 1st.

Children's Christmas Party Goal = \$6,000

Received as of 12/1 = \$1,937.00

Date of Party: December 14th

Beginning in October each year, we work with local schools to gather names of children in need. The Youth of First Baptist then invite these children to our annual Children's Christmas Party. The Youth and their families shop for necessities and a toy on the child's wish list, then send a ham home for the whole family. We hope to spend \$200.00 per child.

Coming Up:

- Dec. 15** — The Sanctuary Choir will present “This is Christmas” a cantata for the season during 10:30 am Worship.
- Dec. 15** — Memorial Service will take place at 5 pm in the Chapel.
- Dec. 16** — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.
- Dec. 18** — Youth Progressive Dinner
- Dec. 18** — No Wednesday Night Activities
- Dec. 20** — Kandace off (kids dentist & orthodontist)
- Dec. 21** — Community Café, hosted by Bridge Sunday School Class
- Dec. 22** — Rev. Doug Reedy preaching
- Week of Dec. 23** — Staff & ministers likely all out of the office
- Dec. 23** — Deposits due for Snr. Ad. Trip to Pigeon Forge Dinner Show trip (\$75 cash/check)
- Dec. 24** — Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will take place at 5 pm in the Sanctuary
- Dec. 24, 25, 26** — Church offices and ECM closed
- Dec. 25** — Merry Christmas! No Wednesday Night Activities.
- Dec. 29** — Sandra Cox preaching
- Jan. 1** — Church offices and ECM closed
- Jan. 1** — Happy New Year! No Wednesday Night Activities.
- Jan. 7** — Baptist Women’s Bible Study, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.
- Jan. 7** — Children’s Committee Meeting, 5:30 pm
- Jan. 8** — Youth Ski Trip balance is due.
- Jan. 9** — Fun & Fellowship, 11 am, Act. Bld.
- Jan. 14** — Youth Committee Meeting, 6 pm
- Jan. 17-21** — Youth Ski Trip
- Jan. 18** — Community Café, hosted by Rev. Tim Little
- Jan. 20** — WMU Meeting, 11:45 am, Act. Bld.
- Jan. 22** — Quarterly Church Conference, 6 pm
- Jan. 27** — Finance will meet at 5:45 pm in the Chapel. Deacons will meet at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

The church offices and Early Childhood Ministry will be closed December 24, 25, and 26 for Christmas. Staff and ministers will be in-and-out of the office the month of December, so please call us before coming to be sure someone is in to meet you. Kandace’s office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 am to 2:30 pm.

Office: 910-739-4336

General Email: office@fbclumbertonnc.org

**OFFICE
HOURS**

Hanging of the Green—Dec. 1st



This past Sunday, we joyfully welcomed the Advent and Christmas seasons with our annual Hanging of the Green service. All ages were involved in this celebratory service that transforms our sanctuary, and readies our hearts for the birth of our Savior. After the service, our Friends of Jesus had their annual Christmas celebration with a catered meal and presents! If you missed the service, you can view it on our Facebook page or on YouTube.

We have an exciting few weeks of holiday celebrations ahead. We hope to see you there!



Spontaneous Nativity & Fellowship Meal



**Wednesday, December 11
6 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

*A fellowship meal will follow the service.
Bring your fav side or dessert to share!*

You are invited to come to our Children's Spontaneous Nativity Program and fellowship meal starting at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Our Spontaneous Nativity is a unique opportunity to hear the story of Christ's birth told in a unique way. It will be facilitated by children, and the best part is, no practice is required! All children are welcome to take part. Any children who would like to participate are encouraged to arrive at 5:30 pm. They will select their "parts" and will be guided by volunteers on how to prepare. The program will include the telling of the story, music, and an opportunity to hear the greatest story ever told.

For the fellowship meal, the church will provide fried chicken. We ask you to bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share.

Contributions for the 2024 year must be post-marked or received by Tuesday, December 31.

First Baptist Church
a community of faith

First Baptist Sanctuary Choir Presents

"THIS IS CHRISTMAS"

a Cantata to celebrate the season

on Sunday, December 15, 2024
during 10:30 a.m. Worship
in the Sanctuary

First Baptist Church
a community of faith

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, December 15
5:00 PM | Chapel

*a reflective service to mark the
grief that many feel during the
holiday season*

Our annual Memorial Service will be held Sunday, December 15th at 5:00 pm in the Chapel. This is a special service that is designed not only for those who have lost a loved one recently, but for anyone grieving a loss no matter how much time has passed. Candles of Hope will be lit during the service and a crochet snowflake ornament will be available to those who have had a loved one pass away within the past year as a reminder of the blessings of God's presence and peace.



Light of the World
CHRISTMAS AT FORT CASWELL
DRIVE THROUGH TOUR OF LIGHTS
and Living Nativity

DECEMBER 2-22 FROM 6-8PM * TOUR OF LIGHTS AND NATIVITY DISPLAY
DECEMBER 6TH, 7TH, 13TH, AND 14TH * TOUR OF LIGHTS AND LIVE NATIVITY

100 CASWELL BEACH ROAD, OAK ISLAND, NC 28465
FORT CASWELL

SENIOR ADULT TRIP
Saturday, December 7, 2024

Servants this Sunday
Please enter for Worship at the Sanctuary Vestibule.


9:30 Sunday School Entrance Greeters
6th Street Ramp, 9:00—9:30 am (Handicap)
Gene Home
ECM Entrance, 9:00 — 9:30 am (Handicap)
Jimmy & Billie Dail

10:30 Worship Entrance Greeters
Vestibule 10:00—11:30 am
Barbara Andrews

Nursery — Ashlynn Cox & Jenna Davis

Extended Session — Brooke Blackmon & Becky Thompson

We still have some spaces left!
On Saturday, December 7th, Senior Adults will be traveling to Fort Caswell to experience the beauty and wonder of the season with their annual Light of the World Community Drive-through event. A Live Nativity scene will be part of the event. This event is free, but bring money for supper. We plan on departing the church at 3:30 pm. Sign up by calling the office: 910-739-4336.



WMU will not meet in December.
Join us for our next meeting on Monday, January 20, 2025 at 11:45 am in the Activities Building.

Trinity Episcopal Advent Concerts

Trinity Episcopal, located at 1202 N. Chestnut Street, invites us to attend their annual noontime programs for Advent. There will be a luncheon provided in the Parish hall after the musical presentations.

Wednesday, December 11, 12:00 Noon
Sandy Grove Baptist Church musicians

Wednesday, December 18, 12:00 Noon
Community Christmas Carol Sing featuring Dr. Mark Andersen and Trinity Bell Ensemble




YOU ARE INVITED TO
Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER
TUESDAY | **24** | AT 5 PM

IN THE SANCTUARY OF FIRST BAPTIST LUMBERTON
Let's celebrate together!

First Baptist Church
Lumberton, NC

Worship with us at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary, on Facebook Live, or on YouTube for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

During the service, the Christ Candle will be lit, we'll sing carols, read the account of the birth of Jesus, and then share the light of Christ.

First Baptist Church
FBCL JOYFUL TRAVELERS

TRAVEL WITH US!

SENIOR/RETIRED ADULT
PIGEON FORGE
AND SMOKY MTNS SHOW
TRIP



April 28 - May 2, 2025

\$760
PER PERSON
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY
\$75 DEPOSIT
DUE 12/23
CHECK OR
CASH ONLY

INCLUDES

- Motorcoach Transportation
- 4 nights lodging
- 8 meals
- Two morning shows
- One afternoon show
- Three evening shows
- Guided tour of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Free time in Gatlinburg

More Information:
Contact Phyllis Gibson (910-734-3553)
or the church office (910-739-4336)

Hey there, seniors and retired adults! You're all invited to join us on an exciting trip to Pigeon Forge and the Smoky Mountains for some fantastic shows from April 28 to May 2, 2025. The cost for the trip is \$760 per person, based on sharing a room with a travel buddy.

This price includes motorcoach transportation, 4 nights of accommodation, 8 delicious meals, tickets to 6 shows, a guided tour of the stunning Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and leisure time in Gatlinburg.

To secure your spot, a \$75 deposit is required by December 23, 2024. Don't forget, you can also opt for trip insurance separately. No online or card payments will be accepted for this trip. We will accept cash and check. Final balance is due Feb. 21, 2025.

Contact Phyllis Gibson at 910-734-3553 or the church office at 910-739-4336 for more information.

Person of the Week

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

His birthday is December 5th!

Wayne Rabon
5506 Simmons Drive
Lumberton, NC 28358



Give to First Baptist Church!

Here are some ways to donate to our ministries:

- Give during Sunday worship.

- Give through our secure online portal at fbclumbertonnc.org/give.

- Scan the QR code:

- Send us your contribution by mail:

606 N. Walnut Street,
Lumberton, NC 28358

- Text FBC606 to 73256 to give using your mobile device.*



GIVING

Worship with Us

606 N. Walnut Street
fbclumbertonnc.org

Sundays

9:30 a.m.—Sunday School

10:30 a.m.—Worship

In-person, Facebook Live, YouTube

4:45 pm — Youth Bells Rehearsal

6:00 pm — Youth Bible Study

Wednesdays

6:00 p.m.—Adult Bible Study,

Children's Activities, Youth Doing Missions

7:00 pm — Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

Childcare is available on Sundays and Wednesdays. Nurse care (birth-age 2) is available in room D-107. Children age 3—K are invited to attend Extended Session after the children's sermon on Sundays in Room D-111. Children in 1st grade and older attend the full worship service.