

Volume 79 Issue 26

December 18, 2022

## From the Pastor...

One of my favorite parts of Christmas is the carols. Yes, they get obnoxiously overplayed in stores, but I still love them. It is amazing how much carols capture the spectrum of emotions of the season. Like our experiences, they range from dreary sad Christmases to joyful declarations of good news.

Most of the sad Christmas songs have to do with missing someone or home. Elvis sings, “I’ll Have a Blue Christmas Without You”. The WWII soldier in Bing Crosby’s “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” sounds hopeful, but ends with the reality that he will only be home in his dreams. Marvin Gaye goes even further by setting his “I Want to Come Home for Christmas” in a POW camp.

If you are missing someone or just not feeling the season, there are plenty of sad songs that express those emotions for you. Even our hymnal has a few sad Advent and Christmas songs. “In the Bleak Cold Winter” starts off soft and mournful. “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day” ends well, but most of the time is spent on the sadness of the lack of peace on earth.

On the other hand, joyful Christmas music far outweighs the sad songs. Kids of all ages love “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer”, even adding a few words along the way. “Jingle Bells” can pick up our moods or we can go on a musical Sleigh Ride. If you go caroling, you will probably end with a rousing version of “We Wish You a Merry Christmas” – although I’ve never gotten any figgy pudding.

Many hymns also celebrate the Advent themes of hope, peace, joy and love. ‘O Come O Come Emmanuel’, proclaims a hope of the savior. ‘Silent Night’ talks ends with “sleep in heavenly peace”. ‘Joy to the World’ announces the good news that “the Lord has come”. “Love Came Down at Christmas” reminds us that Jesus is both “love incarnate and love divine.”

One of the strangest songs I’ve heard at Christmas is “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”. Like me, you might not have known that this is a Christmas song. I only learned when I was caroling with a group of families, and we decided to let a child pick the next song. He picked, “For He’s a Jolly Good Fellow”. When we asked him to explain he said, “you know Santa’s jolly.” So of course, we sang it.

However you’re feeling this Christmas, I pray that the season brings you closer to Christ. I hope that experience enables you to love and enjoy those around you. Whatever you feel, find your song, and sing it. Never forget Christmas is about Emmanuel – God with us!

## Schedule

### Sunday, December 18

7:00 a.m. Sunday School Lesson

Uploaded to YouTube & Facebook

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

6:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Cantata

### Monday, December 19

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

### Wednesday, December 21

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

No Wednesday Evening Activities

### Thursday, December 22

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

### Saturday, December 24

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Worship - Sanctuary & Live Stream

No Sunday School

### Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed

### Tuesday, December 27

Church Office Closed

### Wednesday, December 28

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

No Wednesday Evening Activities

### Thursday, December 29

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

## Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister  
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship  
 Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth  
 Mrs. Elizabeth Kilby.....Minister of Young Families & Missions  
 Mr. Eddie Wiseman.....Accompanist / Music Assistant

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Mon - Thur, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM Fri  
 Tel: 704-873-7231

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## Spiritual Statistics

### Weeks of December 4 & 11, 2022

	12/4	12/11
Live Stream Views.....	16	13
In-Person.....	127	157
Sunday School.....	90	94

## Financial Statistics

	December	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	169,523.00	318,326.00
Budget Receipts	12,008.00	214,575.00
Goals Not Yet Met	(157,515.00)	(103,751.00)
Alms	868.00	2,621.00
Designated	438.00	22,176.00

## A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

What a wonderful time to get together and celebrate and serve for White Christmas on Saturday, December 10. It is always so wonderful to see how it all comes together. One of the recipients said it best, "We would not have been able to have Christmas without you!" This is the exact reason we do what we do! As we celebrate the Children's Home party this week and help others, I am reminded continuously that we are all in this together - always. Unity and community are two of my favorite gifts that Jesus gives us. May we embrace our community, drop the disputable matters, and be unified together with Christ during this season.





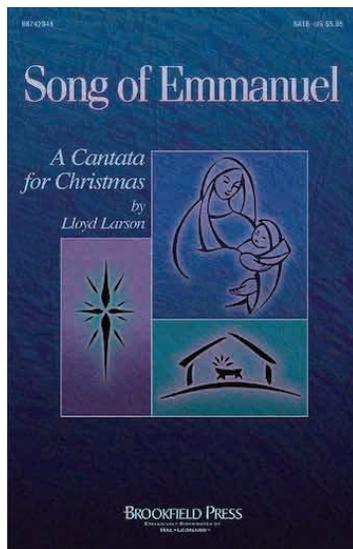
## Announcements

### ***Song of Emmanuel; A Cantata for Christmas*** **Sunday, December 18, 2022**

**6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary**

**Cookie Social will follow**

Each year we celebrate Advent, a wonderful journey of retracing the story of Jesus' birth. Like the prophets of Old Testament Israel, we are filled with a sense of hope and anticipation found in the promise of the coming Messiah. We in this country, unlike others around our world, do not live under persecution, or threat of exile for our faith, we do not have to worry about where our next meal comes from or having a roof over our heads or even feeling safe walking down the street. It is the essence of the Christmas story that transcends history, transcends cultures, transcends social classes and ethnic groups. The message of the Christ-child's birth is a message of hope and it is still a valid message and it is real: Emmanuel—God is with us. *Song of Emmanuel; A Cantata for Christmas*, by Lloyd Larson, takes us from anticipation of the coming Christ Child to the nativity and beyond. This cantata weaves new songs and favorite carols with the spoken word. Mary, the shepherds, angels and others all had a "song" to sing on that holy night, and their message of Emmanuel's coming is beautifully captured in this wonderful cantata. *Song of Emmanuel* will be presented to our congregation and community on Sunday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m. in the First Baptist Church sanctuary. Please join us for this beautiful telling of the birth of our Savior.



### **Christmas at FBC**



Christmas Eve Service  
Saturday, December 24  
4:00 p.m.

Christmas Morning Worship  
Sunday, December 25  
10:00 a.m.  
(no Sunday school)

Church Office Closed  
Monday, December 26  
& Tuesday, December 27

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### **Cookie Social** **Sunday, December 18, 2022**

#### **Following the Christmas Choir Cantata**

Please bring your favorite Christmas treat to share to the Cookie Social that will follow *Song of Emmanuel*.

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#### **Note of Appreciation from Kaye Daniel**

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for all the beautiful angels that you shared to make our Angel Tree the prettiest one ever (as seen through my eyes).

Hopefully you will take time to stop in the breeze-way and enjoy it so that it may enhance your Christmas experience.

Special thanks goes to Lillie Laws for using her God given talent of decorating to make it extra special.

May each of you have a blessed holiday seasons and know that God loves you and continues to bless First Baptist Church.

Merry Christmas,  
Kaye B Daniel