

Marc Poole, Sean Martin, Debi Martin, & Zach Gordon help load gifts and food into a car at our White Christmas gift distribution.



THE INTERIM

Volume 78 Issue 26

December 19, 2021

From the Pastor...

It is difficult to hold to disparate feelings within our hearts, but we are often filled with a mixture of emotions. I'm sure Mary and Joseph were thrilled at the birth of Jesus, but they must have feared for his life in a world that wanted to kill him from birth. Little did they know the difficult mixture of joy and pain they would feel for this beloved child.

Our Advent worship services focus on the hope, peace, joy, and love of this season; but we also experience dread, anxiety, grief, and anger during the holiday season. How could you not feel great sorrow when seeing the devastation from last week's tornadoes?

It's not easy to handle the mixture of emotions that come when we are "supposed" to be happy, but sorrow weighs upon us. The key is not to deny the negative emotions, but to let joy come as well. We can't "make" ourselves feel joy, but we can acknowledge that joy exists – even in the darkest of times.

God's actions at Christmas are actually a great example of how to transform our fears and anxieties. God was angry at our sin, but chose to love us instead. God knew his son would be rejected by many, but still offered us the gift of Christ. God hurt for the suffering Jesus would encounter, but focused on the redemption Jesus would bring.

When we are dealing with mixed emotions that we can't quite reconcile, the writer of Hebrews gives some good advice as to keep us from "growing weary and losing heart". Hebrews 12:2 reminds us to "fix our eyes on Jesus". It goes on to say that Jesus endured the cross, with its shame and suffering, because he had "joy set before him".

So, we don't deny the negative in our lives – even at Christmas. Instead, we choose to focus on the positive. Mr. Rogers used to share with kids how to deal with scary things. He told them that his mom taught him to "look for the helpers". So, look to Jesus again this Christmas. Christ is always the greatest source of help.

First Baptist Church of Statesville has sent \$1,000 from our budget for disaster relief. If you would like to send more, we recommend baptistsonmission.org.



Schedule

Sunday, December 19

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. "Sing We Now of Christmas"

Music Program - Sanctuary

Monday, December 20

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, December 22

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir Practice

Thursday, December 23

Church Office Closed

Friday, December 24

12:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

(This service is tailored to young families)

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 26

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

Monday, December 27

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 29

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Thursday, December 30

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

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

THE INTERIM (USPS 581-800)

Published Every Two Weeks

by First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Avenue,
 Periodicals postage paid at Statesville, NC 28677

POSTMASTER: send address changes to: THE INTERIM
 First Baptist Church, 815 Davie Ave., Statesville, NC 28677-5310

Announcements



Christmas at FBC

Join us in-person or online.

Christmas Music Program
 "Sing We Now of Christmas"

Sunday, December 19

6:00 p.m.

Two Christmas Eve Services

12:00 p.m. & 4:00 p.m.

**The 12:00 p.m. service is
 tailored to young families.**

Church Office Closed

In observance of the Christmas holiday, the church office will be closed Thursday, December 23; Friday, December 24; and Monday, December 27.

Spiritual Statistics

Weeks of December 5 & 12, 2021

	12/5	12/12
Live Stream Views.	14	16
In-Person.	174	170
Sunday School.	110	113

Financial Statistics

	December	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	156,476.00	293,827.00
Budget Receipts	32,732.00	309,748.00
Monthly Not Met/YTD Met	(123,744.00)	15,921.00
Alms	939.00	2,851.00
Designated	10,960.00	43,793.00

Strategies for Holiday Survival while Grieving

by Randy Berryhill, Grief Counselor, Hospice of Iredell County

1. **Be kind to yourself.** Holidays, traditionally a time of celebration, can be hard for folks who are grieving. Honoring your needs and feelings may be all you can manage right now. Do only as much as you can.
2. **Express your feelings.** The surest way through grief is to feel it. Cry or even rage if you need to. Ask for what you need. Others don't know what to say or do unless you tell them. Let it be known if you need companionship or privacy.
3. **Create support for yourself.** Sharing your pain eases it. The folks who cope best are those who interact with fellow travelers.
4. **Appreciate loved ones.** It's natural to isolate yourself, but don't deprive your kids, mate, or other loved ones of your presence.
5. **Help another in need.** Contributing to another frees you temporarily from your own pain.
6. **Minimize the holidays.** Get away somewhere, down the road or a different region. Wherever it may be, it's a change of scenery...mountains, lake, beach, zoo, movies. Won't erase the pain, but it may lessen it.
7. **Do something new, different.** Slightly changing traditions can be freeing. If imagining a new holiday plan is hard, then delegate the job to a creative friend.
8. **You'll survive!** Holidays can be one of the worst times on your grief journey. But eventually past holiday memories will persist without pain.
9. **It's okay to have a good time.** We often feel guilty for having fun while grieving. Don't deny yourself times of joy or laughter though fleeting they may be. The best gift we can give to ourselves is to live wholeheartedly.

If you would like help processing your grief, please feel free to contact pastor, Nelson Granade (704-873-7231), or Randy Berryhill, Grief Counselor, Hospice of Iredell County (704-873-4423, Ext. 4335).

Learning More About Our Members

Theresa Martin & Denali

Joining FBC March 27, 2016, Theresa came to FBC because her brother is James Martin, our Minister of Music. After being here for a while, she found she really enjoyed all the people and felt welcome. Theresa plays piano on Sundays, sings in the choir, plays handbells, and assists James with anything he needs help with. Thus, last year she helped a little with VBS.

Theresa enlisted in the military in 1996 as an operating room technician. She moved up in rank to Staff Sergeant rather quickly. After completing PA school, she went to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. From there she deployed 3 times - twice to Iraq and once to Afghanistan. After that she spent time in Alaska until she retired in 2016. Four years before retirement, she got Denali because she loves animals and she has PTSD from deployment. She says he is a godsend with that issue. They had a great trip driving all the way from Alaska to NC the summer of 2016.



Denali is a pretty calm guy. He loves his toys, treats, hiking, and eating, rather begging, for any human food. He absolutely adores coming to church to brighten the day of many a church goer. He loves all children. He also loves the snow and is bummed that we don't get much here in NC. If you give him a scratch he will be your best friend forever while leaving many "golden fibers of love" on your clothing. He is 9 years old.

Theresa's special talent is making stained glass projects as well as faux stained glass projects. She is also a puzzle fanatic.



A Message from Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

Thank you so much for all of those who came and served during White Christmas. We served 31 families and 78 children. We were able to give to 28 of our families all on Saturday and the remainder on Monday morning. It was a wonderful time.

Special thanks to Sherry Ashley and Janet McLain for planning the event; Clarence Poole, Jody Parlier, and Neill Pardue for coordinating the food efforts; Brenda Falter and her team for having the Clothes Closet open which was a huge success, and Zach Gordon for doing some quick impromptu Spanish translation.

We had three leftover food boxes and we were able to give one for benevolence on Monday morning early, and then the remaining two food boxes went to the clothes closet and have already been given out. We also had two bicycles remaining which went to two amazing Clothing Closet families this past week - one even riding the bike outside as they left.

All these efforts do not go unnoticed. We thank you so very much for all of your donations, hard work, prayers and help to make it all possible. Your love and support is wonderful.

Many thoughts and prayers,
Merry Christmas
Elizabeth

