

The Four-Year Old Preschool Class enjoys a trip to Howard Family Farm.



Volume 80 Issue 24

November 19, 2023

From the Pastor...

I can't stand how stores push Christmas earlier and earlier each year. Can't we at least take time for Thanksgiving? Yet, here I am writing an article about White Christmas. You see the stores stock up early to make a profit, but we begin early so we can help others have a meaningful Christmas.

I hope you will take time to express your gratitude to God, family, and friends during Thanksgiving. We need you, however, to help with White Christmas right now. Volunteers are needed 8:00 – 11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 9, 2023. This is a church-wide event and we need everyone to make it work.

Here are some ways you can help:

Pray

The most important thing we can do for White Christmas is to pray. Pray that the families we help will know the Good News of Jesus this Christmas. Pray for our workers to have enthusiasm and energy. Pray that God will be glorified in this effort.

Donate

White Christmas is our largest mission project and requires about \$10,000 in donations. This project is not budgeted, because our folks are always generous enough to give special offerings to help needy families know God's love at Christmas. If you can give, please mark your check or envelop "White Christmas".

Shop

Christmas shopping can be overwhelming for your own family. Think about what it takes to shop for over fifty families. Yet, if fifty folks/groups take one family each, the work is very manageable. If you can shop for a family, please call the church office.

Volunteer

We need dozens of volunteers to greet folks, watch children, carry toys and food, load cars, and more. There is something for everyone to do, no matter you skill level. If you can help on December 9, please call Elizabeth Kilby at the church.

We need all of our members to make White Christmas a success. It's work, but it's also rewarding. If you come, you will go away feeling blessed.

Schedule

Sunday, November 19

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, November 20

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, November 22

No Wednesday Evening Activities

Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!

Church Office Closed

Friday, November 24

Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 26

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, November 27

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, November 29

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

2:30 p.m. Wonderful Wed. After School Program

5:15 p.m. Wednesday Evening Meal

6:00 p.m. Children's Music & Missions

6:00 p.m. Youth on Mission

6:00 p.m. Adult Study: The Commands of Jesus

7:00 pm Choir

7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, November 30

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Friday, December 1

6:00 p.m. Parents Night Out

Church Staff Directory

Dr. Nelson Granade.....Senior Minister
 Mr. James Martin.....Minister of Music & Worship
 Rev. Melissa Wilson.....Minister of Children & Youth
 Mrs. Kristina Kyles.....Children's Ministry Associate
 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

A Message From Minister of Young Families & Missions Elizabeth Kilby

We love everything about White Christmas. It ties us with the community who we love at a most needed time of year. We are able to become beacons of hope and cheer for those who have had a hard month or year, and that is joy! As we work towards this years event it is not just a one time thing. This heart of giving continues with us all year long.

Many thoughts and prayers.
 Elizabeth

Upcoming Events

Christmas Choir Program
 Sunday, December 17

Ash Wednesday
 February 14, 2024

Easter Egg Hunt
 Saturday, March 30, 2024

Kids Passport Camp
 June 12-15, 2024

Youth Passport Camp
 June 23-28, 2024

Greece Mission Trip
 July 9-19, 2024

Vacation Bible School
 July 29 - August 2, 2024

Spiritual Statistics

	11/5	11/12
In Person	169	156
Live Stream	n/a	17
Sunday School	79	79

Financial Statistics

	November	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	76,623.00	155,211.00
Budget Receipts	16,166.00	80,652.00
Goals Not Met	(60,457.00)	(74,559.00)
Alms	783.00	1,293.00
Designated	5,720.00	16,645.00

Rahab: Lessons on Hospitality

By Carson & Laura Foushee



“By faith Rahab and the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace,” Hebrews 11:31.

Growing up, I (Laura) do not particularly remember learning Rahab’s story or her example being highlighted as a “hero(ine) of the faith.” The story she is part of is a complex one; she makes her initial appearance in scripture in Joshua 2 as a part of their counting of Israel’s violent siege of Canaan in Israel’s quest for the promised land. Her own background as a prostitute, though disputed by some modern scholars, may make her seem like a less-than-noble character.

Yet for one who is mentioned just twice in the book of Joshua, she is noted three times in the New Testament. She is among three women mentioned in Jesus’ lineage in Matthew 1 and she, along with Ruth, accounts for one of two of Jesus’ non-Israelite ancestors. In James and Hebrews, she is heralded alongside those like Abraham who lived lives of both faith and good works. Hebrews 11:31 summarizes the model of her faith in her act of receiving, or welcoming, the spies in peace.

Over the last few years, I have had the opportunity to preach in several Japanese congregations, including delivering one sermon that explores Rahab’s example alongside our call as the church to welcome others in peace. Her feminine and ethnic-outsider perspective challenges us to view hospitality not in terms of etiquette or politeness, but as an act of faith that may change both the one giving and the one receiving hospitality. The hospitality Rahab initiates because of her faith in the Lord God is mutually reciprocated to her by Israel as she and her family are saved during the fall of Jericho and taken to live among the Israelites. As she learns to live in a new culture, Israel is also changed as she becomes a mother in the line that would lead to the Messiah. The risk we take in offering true hospitality is that it may change our lives. The possibility of offering hospitality is that it will become an act of faithful peacemaking.

As a part of our call to cultivate beloved community in Japan, hospitality plays a central role in our day-to-day ministry. Rahab’s example has become a challenge for me and our partner congregation to engage in a similar model of mutual hospitality that brings about peace in this world. In working with our church on how to meet the needs of the internationals in our community so that they may lead full, healthy lives as minorities in a homogeneous society, we must be reminded that these relationships are mutual. We, too, can be recipients of hospitality as we open our hearts to one another. Hospitality is sharing meals together, worshiping together, supporting our congregation together and learning from one another. In this best kind of hospitality, no one leaves unchanged by the relationship, and we have a chance to sow a seed of God’s peace in the world.

What does hospitality mean to you? Is it about etiquette and politeness, or something deeper: “an act of faith that may change both the one giving and the one receiving?” Today, ponder the meaning of hospitality. You may wish to read Rahab’s story found in Joshua 2. Can you recall a time when you experienced the kind of hospitality that transformed you, and others involved?

This appeared in the 2023-2024 edition of Prayers of the People, a year-long guide to prayer published by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. You can download your guide or order a copy at <https://cbf.net/prayers-of-the-people>.



Announcements

Staff Changes

Mary Jane Rash Announces Retirement

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the upcoming retirement of Mary Jane Rash, our church secretary. Mary Jane has served us for almost seventeen years. We have all appreciated how she has kept things going behind the scene, while always keeping a cheerful disposition and helpful attitude. Mary Jane will complete her work at First Baptist Church at the end of December. Please make sure to thank Mary Jane for her service as you speak to her over the next few weeks.

Kari Lindeman to be Promoted to Church Secretary

Beginning, January 1, 2024 Kari Lindeman, our current preschool director and contributions secretary will take over the role of church secretary. We have appreciated Kari's steady hand in our preschool and look forward to her working with us full-time in the office. Please welcome Kari to this new position and be patient with her as she learns this new role.

Kristina Kyles to become Preschool Director

Congratulations to Kristina Kyles, who has been hired to take over as our preschool director in January. Kristina will continue to serve in her role as children's associate as well. Kristina is graduating from Gardner-Webb Divinity School with a Master of Divinity degree in December and looks forward to expanding her role at First Baptist Church. We also wish to thank the Campbell Johnson Foundation for underwriting Kristina's internship at First Baptist Church while she was a student.

Wednesday Evening Menus

Cost of the meal is \$6.00/adult and \$4.00/child. No reservation is needed.

November 22

No Wednesday Evening Activities

November 29

chicken pie, green beans, slaw, & dessert

Happy Birthday

December 1

Tommy Alexander
Jean Crowder

December 3

Eleanor Deal
David Falter

December 4

Betty Colvert
Brenda Falter

December 5

Caylyn Sykes

December 7

Reg Brown
Thomas Tillery

December 9

Jennie Church
Maggie Church
Mike Parker

December 10

Tonya Pardue

December 12

Katie Welborn

December 13

Sharron Parish

December 14

Vicky Hatfield

November 15

Jan Cashion
Ray Hunt

December 17

Melinda Induni
Jeri Koontz
Donna Workman

December 19

Katie Allen
William Barnard
Tim Tompkins

December 20

Pat Sain
Alexis Williams

December 23

Mary Jo Anderson
Emily Wiseman

December 25

Bob Cashion
Gail Taylor

December 26

Eleanor Price

December 28

Kelli Palmer

December 29

Jake Buckner
Jane Wiseman

December 30

Mike Minnix

December 31

Gregg Whitson

