



The children at the Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program make a craft.



THE INTERIM

Volume 80 Issue 25

December 3, 2023

From the Pastor...

Have you finished your Christmas shopping? Or have you even gotten started? I hope you find just the right gifts and I hope you receive what you want. When we think of Christmas gifts, however, I hope we think first and foremost of the greatest Christmas gift ever – Jesus Christ!

When I was growing up, our family had a rule. We could spend what we wanted on gifts, but we had to match our largest gift with a gift to the church. Dad would remind us, that it's Jesus' birthday and Jesus should get the largest gift.

Here are three areas where your "Birthday Gift to Jesus" could make a difference:

White Christmas

This Christmas our church is providing toys and food for twenty-seven families (67 children). White Christmas is not budgeted, but rather funded by designated donations. If you'd like to help provide the toys and food, please write "White Christmas" on your envelope.

CBF Global Missions Offering

Our church supports the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's Offering for Global Missions (cbf.net). The funds help missionaries around the world share the love of Christ. Sharing the Gospel is a wonderful way to celebrate Jesus' birthday. If you'd like to give to this offering, write "Global Missions" on your envelope.

First Baptist Church Ministry Budget

We usually receive the largest part of our ministry budget in December. The offering we receive this month often determines what ministries we will be able to do throughout the year. We are very grateful for the generosity of our people! Until October, our gifts had steadily increased over the past few years.

Unfortunately, our current giving is lower than last year's. On top of this, inflation has hit us hard, so our spending is up. Unless our giving increases, we will have to look at cutting our ministries. I am confident, however, that our people will rise to the occasion!

Valerie and I plan to make special Christmas gifts to the above causes and invite you to join us as God leads you.

Schedule

Sunday, December 3

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, December 4

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, December 6

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 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 7

1:00 p.m. Clothes Closet

Saturday, December 9

8:30 a.m. White Christmas Gift Distribution

Sunday, December 10

9:00 a.m. Sunday School

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

Monday, December 11

8:30 a.m. Pickle Ball

Wednesday, December 13

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 p.m. Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, December 14

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. 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 are in December. Where has the time gone? Next Saturday, December 9 is our annual White Christmas event. Please come join us at 8:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center as we open our doors at 8:30 for the community to come in and receive their gifts.

Also the Advent Devotional is ready for everyone to enjoy! Please pick up your copy at the church to enjoy this holiday season.

Upcoming Events

Christmas Choir Program
 Sunday, December 17

Soup Lunch Fundraiser
 February 4, 2024

Ash Wednesday
 February 14, 2024

Holy Week
 March 24-31, 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

	11/19	11/26
In Person	169	156
Live Stream	23	20
Sunday School	106	92

Financial Statistics

	November	Year-to-Date
Giving Goal	76,623.00	155,211.00
Budget Receipts	72,043.00	136,529.00
Goals Not Met	(4,580.00)	(18,682.00)
Alms	1,043.00	1,553.00
Designated	20,475.00	31,400.00

Fun on Wednesdays



Wonderful Wednesday After-School Program
With over 30 enrolled in the after-school program, the children play in the gym, work on homework, make crafts, and have a blast at FBC.

Music & Missions

The children have been busy learning new songs and preparing to act out the nativity scene at the Christmas Eve service.



Wednesday Evenings in December

On Wednesday evenings in December, the adults, youth, and children will gather to do the same activities. Join us as we assemble birthday bags for Iredell Christian Ministries, make ornaments, and sing Christmas carols.





Announcements

Wednesday Evening Menus

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

December 6

chicken pie, green beans, slaw, & dessert

December 13

baked potatoes & salad bar

White Christmas

Saturday, December 9, 2023

8:30 a.m.

For White Christmas we will have multiple ways to serve. You can serve on the set up team, collect and sort food, buy gifts for the families, provide items for the parents to stuff a stocking for their children, or be a buddy in the Clothes Closet. Volunteers will gather at 8:00 a.m. and the families will arrive at 8:30 a.m.

Clothes Closet Needs

The Clothes Closet needs children's clothing, sizes newborn-teen. Please bring your donations to the church on Sunday mornings or during office house, Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. and Friday, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

150th Anniversary of First Baptist Church Sunday, November 16, 2025

Please mark your calendars for a wonderful event as First Baptist Church celebrates 150 years of ministry on November 16, 2025. We will actually begin celebrating in November of 2024 and carry out the festivities for a full year. We'd like you to start collecting photos and other memorabilia to share. We are also collecting stories of meaningful times at FBCS that will be published in a book of stories. If you have other ideas to add to our celebration, please tell a member of the 150th Anniversary Team (Carol Hunter, Chair, William Barnard, Kevin Beale, Jerry Campbell, Don Daniel, Allison Faulkenberry, James Foushee, Nan Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Jeri Lynn Kontz, Mary Alice Lowrance, and Kayley Crouch).

Advent Devotionals

Devotionals for the Advent season are available. You may pick one up on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings. They are also available in the church office.

*Let your hand rest on the man at your right hand,
the son of man you have raised up for yourself.*

*¹⁸ Then we will not turn away from you;
revive us, and we will call on your name.*

*¹⁹ Restore us, Lord God Almighty;
make your face shine on us,
that we may be saved.*

Psalm 80:17-19

