

LITTLETON BAPTIST NEWS

A Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Congregation

"Our mission is to make Christ known, by providing spiritual nourishment, ministering to physical needs, and sharing the Gospel."

Rev. David A. Little, Pastor
www.littletonbaptistchurch.org
email: pastor@littletonbaptistchurch.org
email: office@littletonbaptistchurch.org
(252) 586-5330



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PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

It's hard to believe that it is already December. I have heard all my life that you don't know what Christmas is really like until you have children. I cannot wait to see what that is really like this year as we celebrate Lucas' first Christmas. It truly will make this time of the year even more special.

As I hold him each day and I think about the meaning of Christmas, it puts everything even more into perspective. As I hold him, I think of Mary and Joseph holding Jesus for the first time. I think of them holding him as they watched him grow. I think of them seeing his first smile. The first time he crawled. His first words. His first steps. All of those wonderful firsts that parents get to experience with their child. But then to know he had come to save the world. They may not have known exactly what that would entail, but to know this precious boy that was born in Bethlehem was born to serve a great purpose. Holding my own son now, I give even more credit to those parents who would raise the savior of the world.

It truly is going to be a wonderful Advent season as we prepare for Christmas this year. I pray that you take time to reflect on this season. Find new ways to rediscover the true meaning of why we celebrate Christmas. Find new ways to be able to worship during this season that we celebrate the birth of the tiny baby that would grow up to save us all.

The theme for Advent this year is simply "God with us". We will be looking at different ways that Jesus represents who God is. Whether that is king, savior, God or the light. We will be looking at all of them, starting with December 3rd with looking at Jesus as King. On December 10th we will be looking at Jesus as Savior. On December 17th we will be looking at Jesus as God.

This will all culminate on the final Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve. We will still have our 11:00 AM worship service as we look at Jesus as light. We will then come back together at 5:00 PM for our Christmas Eve service. There truly is no better way to celebrate Christmas than by worshipping the savior.

On December 31st, New Year's Eve we will look at the tragedy following that first Christmas with Herod's order of the killing of the innocents. It may seem like an awful way to end the year and the Christmas season, but sometimes we have to see the tragedy to understand why we needed a savior to begin with.

So come and join us this season. Let us rejoice. Let us worship. And ultimately let us remember the season that brought us the ultimate hope, peace, joy and love. And let us be a church that spreads the true meaning of Christmas into all the world.

Grace and Peace,

David



DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:30 Exercise	2
3 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Finance & Stewardship Committee Mtg 12:00 Youth Lunch/Shopping	4 8:30 Exercise	5	6 8:30 Exercise 6:00 Young Family Bible Study 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	7	8 8:30 Exercise	9
10 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Deacon's Meeting 5:00 Youth Christmas Party	11 8:30 Exercise	12	13 8:30 Exercise 5:15 Christmas Caroling 6:15 Adult Choir	14	15 8:30 Exercise 9:00 John 3:16 Christmas Party Setup at LUMC	16 10:00 John 3:16 Christmas Party
17 9:00 Christmas Breakfast 11:00 Worship 5:30 Christmas Cantata	18 8:30 Exercise	19	20 8:30 Exercise No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	21	22 8:30 Exercise	23
24 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27 8:30 Exercise No Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	28	29 8:30 Exercise	30
31 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship						



Music Notes

It is that time of year once more....my favorite time of the year!

The Adult Choir will be presenting "Breath of Heaven" on December 17th at 5:30 P.M. The songs in this Cantata give a fresh perspective of Christmas by taking a close look at the compassionate heart of Mary. There are many familiar carols as well as many new songs! Mary Beth Labreque will be presenting the solo, Breath of Heaven, during the Cantata.

The children will also be singing and bringing Christmas joy into our beautiful sanctuary and into your hearts!

We hope you can join us for our special night of Christmas music!

Merry Christmas to you and yours!!

Laura



Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion will be Sunday, **December 24th**, at 5:00 P.M. Join us for this service as we light the Christ candle and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This service will be available virtually on Facebook.



Christmas Cards

The Christmas Card Mailbox for you to "mail" your Christmas cards to church members "in house" begins Sunday, **December 3rd**. You may bring your Christmas cards to the vestibule for distribution to members. We'll make sure our Homebound receive their cards as well.



Young Family Bible Study

Our families with young children are invited to our Bible Study on **December 6th** at 6:00 P.M. It will be a special time as we celebrate Christmas together.



*Merry Christmas
from your
church staff*



After worship on **December 3rd**, the youth will be leaving to go have lunch and then shopping for the John 3:16 Christmas Outreach.

On **December 10th**, youth will have our annual Christmas party with a gift exchange. Please bring a gift of no more than \$15.00.



DEACONS MEETING

Our Deacons will meet on Sunday, **December 10th**, following Morning Worship.



Everyone is invited to our church-wide Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, **December 17th**, beginning at 9:00 A.M. This breakfast will extend into the Sunday School hour. After breakfast we will take some time for celebration and thanksgiving. We hope you will be present for this time of fellowship hosted by the Mission Committee.



OFFERING FOR
GLOBAL MISSIONS

We will receive the CBF Global Missions Offering in support of CBF Missions around the world. The offering will be received at a special ingathering on **December 17th** as we place our offering on the Chrismon Tree near the conclusion of morning worship. All during December there will be highlights about Global Missions to better inform you how the message of Christ is being carried around the world by CBF Missionaries and Affiliates. Please use the prayer guides to pray diligently and give generously. Your support makes a world of difference!



“BREATH OF HEAVEN”

DECEMBER 17, 2023

5:30 PM

ADULT CHOIR CANTATA

DIRECTED BY LAURA KEARNEY

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SERVICE, JOIN THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE FOR A TIME OF FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP



Our church will be sending cards to cheer up people who will be away from home at Christmas. If you know of anyone in the community who has family or friends that will be away from home, such as military personnel or missionaries, please give their name and address to Sid Shearin. The cards will be in the vestibule for you to sign on **December 3rd & 10th**. Sid wants to remind everyone not to sign for your spouse or children. Everyone needs to sign individually!



The Flower Committee would like to thank the congregation for all of their support to help make the Methodist Church Building and our church auditorium beautiful with all the wonderful flowers and greenery! Homecoming was wonderful! We hope everyone had a great time being together! The loving and caring nature of our congregation is what makes it so special.

We also want to thank the congregation for all your floral support throughout the year and especially for your floral support for our special Christmas Celebration that is rapidly approaching! We are sure the auditorium will be breathtakingly beautiful!



FROM THE
Pulpit

**THIS MONTH
IN WORSHIP**

Join us for our Sunday Morning Worship. If you can't be with us at church then join us online for our Virtual Worship Service on Facebook Live at 11:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 3

God As King With Us

Luke 1:30-33

First Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 10

God As Savior With Us

Luke 2:8-14

Second Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 17

Emmanuel

Matthew 1:18-23

Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 24

The Night Before Christmas

John 1:1-5

Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 31

The Nightmare After Christmas

Matthew 2:13-18



Join Us for
Caroling

On Wednesday, **December 13th**, you are invited to gather at the church, dressed warmly and prepared to leave at 5:15 P.M. to go Christmas Caroling in the community and visit our homebound.



**LAKE GASTON
CHRISTMAS
CANTATA**

Directed by Diane Colin

Sing Joy to All the World

December 10 at 3:00 P.M.
At Lakeside Lutheran Church
(complimentary)

December 21 at 6:00 P.M.
At Lakeland Cultural Arts Center
Presenting the LGLC Gastonettes
Tickets \$22.00 at www.lakelandcac.org or
(252) 586-3124



Welcome
To Our
Church
Family

We welcome Kaye Herman to our LBC church family. Her address is 180 S. Macon Drive, Littleton, NC 27850. Her phone number is (252) 586-2985. We are so happy she has joined our LBC family.



The Finance & Stewardship Committee will be meeting in the fellowship hall following morning worship next Sunday, **December 3rd**. Members of the committee are Kent West, Kay Beaver, Amanda Coffman, Bryant Pitchford, Jan Myrick & Jim

Skilton. Ex-Officio members are Clyde Johnston, Mike Crawley, Kay Tripp & Mike Blanton.



**JOHN 3:16 CENTER TOY DRIVE &
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

The John 3:16 Center Annual Toy Drive is November 1st - December 5th. They are hoping to serve over 400 children at the Littleton & Roanoke Rapids locations through their Christmas Outreach Program. There are 3 ways you can help this year. First, you can help them by sponsoring a child (ages newborn - 16) with a donation of \$100 or by participating in their Annual Toy Collection Drive by dropping off new unwrapped toys at the John 3:16 Center in Littleton.

Suggested items to donate for children up to age 16:

Puzzles (Varying ages. Please do NOT go over 500 pieces)

Books (for every age group)

Games (board games, card games, electronic hand-held games)

Batteries (as we like to provide them if they are needed with toys and games)

Toys but please NO toy weapons

Some of the hardest items that we tend to receive less of is for toddler age and teenagers. Some ideas for teenagers are watches, wallets, purses, necklaces, accessories, make up, hats and sporting goods. For babies and toddlers: Learning toys.

Lastly, if you are interested in volunteering, we are in need of help with set-up of the Christmas Shop at Littleton United Methodist Church (LUMC) on **December 6th**. Also, at LUMC, we are in need of personal shoppers/wrappers on **December 7th and 8th & December 11th thru 14th** to assist parents in picking out gifts for their children. They also need help setting up for the party on Friday, **December 15th** from 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 noon. On Saturday, **December 16th**, there is a need for Santa's Helpers to assist with their Christmas Party at the Littleton location. If you are interested in volunteering, please call the John 3:16 Center at (252) 586-1800 or talk to Sara Little.

Littleton Baptist Church
P. O. Box 216
Littleton, NC 27850



<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY SCHEDULE</u>
7 Kay Beaver 9 Carol Meyer 10 Julian Parks 11 Sid Shearin 12 Sarah Iles 12 Samantha Hall 16 Claire Council (10 yrs) 17 Nicholas Pulliam 23 Debbie Keeter 24 Mike Blanton 24 Lydia Lanser 24 Virginia Lee 26 Carly West	21 Tom & Til Tremper (49 yrs)	3 Sara Council/Jan Myrick 10 Melinda Harris/Sandra Lynch 17 Amanda Coffman/Bob Thompson 24 Lynn Skilton/Jim Skilton 31 Paula Burton/Kay Tripp
		<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
		Bob Thompson