

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

DECEMBER 2021

Vol. 45 No. 12

IN MEMORY

Sidney B. Gibson

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR!

You heard that right! The Christmas season is upon us. It's time for the smell of Christmas trees, putting up ornaments, and decorating our beautiful homes. It's time for the smell of freshly baked treats to fill the air. It is time for the sounds of carols.

It is such a wonderful time of the year. As we gather together though we must remember the true purpose of Christmas. The true reason for the season. When we think of the reason for the season, we think of this tiny baby boy wrapped in a manger. When in reality the reason for the season is a man hanging on the cross. A perfect child born so that he may die, all so that we can have grace. It truly is a powerful image. So while the sights and sounds may be full of this little baby boy, allow us to have a different perspective. That this baby grew up. He died and he rose again. He is coming back again one day.

So as our hearts prepare for the Christmas season, let our minds shift from preparing for a baby to preparing for a king. The baby is no more. We are no longer waiting on this baby. Allow our hearts to prepare for the return of our Savior.

Through Christmas, we will continue looking at how the different gospels portray the Christmas story. The first Sunday of December we will look at John, then Matthew and finally the Sunday before Christmas we will look at Luke's account. Each gospel portrays the events of that night differently. Each one has a different meaning. So as we gather and listen to the stories, let them teach us how to prepare. For that day is coming soon.

On the Sunday after Christmas, which happens to be the day after Christmas, we will look at how even though Christmas is gone and the stuff is put away, Christ is still with us in our hearts. How do we keep that spirit going?


It is going to be a great Christmas season, and I look forward to celebrating this season with you all for the fourth time. It truly is going to be a wonderful time. God bless you all and have a Merry Christmas.

Grace and Peace,

David



DECEMBER 2021

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



On a quiet calm night in Bethlehem, heaven's light broke through the darkness with the birth of Christ. Shepherds and wise men joined a host of angels to rejoice in this divine arrival on Earth. 2,000 years later, we reflect on how this single event in a humble stable would change the rest of history.

Please join us on **December 19** at 5:30 P.M. as we take a journey back in time to this incredible story with our musical for Christmas...O Little Town of Bethlehem. This musical helps to unfold the wonder of the events that took place in Bethlehem and move our hearts to songs of celebration of the greatest gift we know.

It fills my heart with joy to be able to present this to you. It has been far too long since we have done a holiday musical...December 2019 was the last time! We need to continue our journey on this Earth and remember God's Words....Fear not, for I am with you.

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Laura



Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion will be Friday, **December 24**, 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.



DEACONS MEETING

Our Deacon's will meet on Sunday, **December 5**, following Morning Worship. Please continue to pray for our deacons and their invaluable leadership to our church.



from your church staff!

CHRISTMAS CARDS



The Christmas Card Mailbox for you to "mail" your Christmas cards to church members "in house" begins Sunday, **December 5**. You may bring your Christmas cards to the vestibule for distribution to members. We'll make sure our Homebound receive their cards as well.



The youth will go on their annual Christmas shopping on **December 5**. We will leave immediately after church, grab some lunch, and then go shopping. This is always a wonderful event for our youth.

On **December 12**, we will hold our annual Youth Christmas Party. Please bring a \$15 gift for white elephant.

NATIVITY SCENE DISPLAY

In the spirit of Christmas, we again have our lighted Nativity Scene on display for our community. This scene debuted here in 2008 following the generous donation of the life-size and life-like figures handmade by Julian and Indie Parks. You are encouraged to view the scene and meditate on the message and meaning of Christmas. We encourage you to invite others to view it as we remember the first Christmas when our Savior was born.





Our Christian sympathy is extended to

Charles & Priscilla Parks in the death of Priscilla's sister, Diane Vann.
Mike, Betty & Billy Blanton in the death of Betty's Uncle, Danny Young.



Again this year 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 1 & 8**. Sid wants to remind everyone not to sign for your spouse or children. Everyone needs to sign individually!



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 5

Christmas According to John
John 1:1-14

Second Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 12

Christmas According to Matthew
Matthew 2:1-12

Third Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 19

Christmas According to Luke
Luke 2:1-20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 26

Day After Christmas
Matthew 28:20



On **December 16**, from 5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M., we are inviting our church family to come out to a drive-by look at our Nativity Scene. We will have carolers singing those old familiar carols to enhance the experience. We also encourage you to invite the whole community for this special night. The community loves to drive through and see our Nativity Scene, and this will just add to that. We also invite anyone who is interested in caroling to join us; it is open for all ages. If you would like to join us caroling please contact either Pastor David or Laura.



The Flower Committee would like to thank the congregation for all of their support to help make our church auditorium beautiful with all the wonderful flowers and all of the other Christmas decorations. We know our congregation can't be beaten! The loving and caring nature of our congregation is what makes it so special. We are so blessed! One of God's many blessings included the birth of his precious son, Jesus, our Savior! Remember how much God loves us!



Again this year 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 19** 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!



JOY! This is a special word that we see on ornaments, cards and Christmas displays. As we enter this busy, festive season, please put JOY in your life and share it with everyone you come in contact with this season. J is for Jesus. The only reason for the season. Celebrate our Lord and Savior's birthday with joy. Keep Jesus first. O is for others. Others need to see joy in all we do. Take time to slow down and enjoy what Christmas really is all about. Share it with others. Y is for you. Look for joy in the small things. Talk with Jesus every day. Thank him for all he has done and is doing for you. Enjoy the smiles of children, favorite songs, stories, movies, visits, sparkling trees

and each other. Share your blessings with others.

Jesus. Others. Yourself.

Merry Christmas from your Missions Committee.



JOHN 3:16 CENTER TOY DRIVE & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The John 3:16 Center will again be doing a Toy Drive for children at Christmas as well as offering an opportunity to sponsor a child for \$100. Each sponsored child will receive: A complete outfit (including socks, shoes, and underwear), 4 toys (including a puzzle or game), a book, hygiene products, meeting with Santa, hot meal and a Bible.

Another option is to support our youth in their project. For many years our youth have collected money and toy shopped for our church members. If you'd like to contribute to the "shopping spree," they will be collecting after the worship service at the door on **December 5**. Your support of these projects will be greatly appreciated by our youth, the center and the children who receive your gifts. We'll be shopping on **December 5** and we thank you in advance for your support.

Parents will have the opportunity to choose the presents for their children. Volunteers are needed to assist parents who are part of the J316 Christmas Outreach Program to help choose presents for their children. We will be set up at Littleton United Methodist Church **December 9 - 16** from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Volunteers will need to sign up for at least a two-hour period on one or more of these days. While shopping, parents will also need assistance in wrapping presents for their children. Volunteers are also needed to assist with our Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 18**, with parking, serving food, assisting Santa, and mingling with the families. (For more information or to sign up to help call the Center at (252) 586-1800 or see Sara Little).

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



<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
7 Kay Beaver 9 Carol Meyer 10 Julian Parks 11 Sid Shearin 12 Sarah Iles 12 Samantha Hall 15 Pamela Morris 16 Claire Council (8 yrs) 17 Nicolas Pulliam 23 Debbie Keeter 24 Mike Blanton 24 Virginia Lee 25 Mabel Wilson 26 Carly West	21 Tom & Til Tremper (47 yrs)	Lee Myrick