

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

November 27

Happy Thanksgiving

Wednesdays@First Activites Return on
December 4

SUNDAY WORSHIP

December 1

10:30am

First Sunday of Advent

The Candle of Hope

Hanging of the Green Service

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Sermon: The Magnificat

Scripture: Luke 1:46-55

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir,
Vocare and Amy Joye, Soloist


Anthems: "Of the Father's Love
Begotten" — Wohlgemuth

"Prepare Ye the Way" — Burroughs

"The Holly and the Ivy" — Parker/Shaw

"Arise, Your Light Has Come" — Danner

Solo: "Song of Mary" (from *Celebrate
Life!*) — Red

 Pews in front of the baptistry
will be reserved for our Deaf
and hard-of-hearing community. When
available, an ASL interpreter will be at
the base of the baptistry.

If you would like to provide flowers
for one of our future worship services,
contact Kimberly Coates at kimberly.coates@firstbaptistgreenville.com or
864-233-2527 ext. 128. The next open
dates are January 12 and 26.



From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

The season of thanksgiving (with and without a capital "T") has me reflecting on gratitude. In her book *Grateful*, church historian Diana Butler Bass explores gratitude. She begins by tracing its history and recounts that, historically, gratitude was tied to a system of debt and duty. Take, for example, the Roman Empire, where Jesus lived. In that world, a clear hierarchical structure dominated society. At the top sat the emperor, the ultimate benefactor, who dispensed gifts and benefits downward through the ranks of nobles, soldiers and peasants. However, these gifts came with an expectation of loyalty, taxes and further obligations that flowed upward, ultimately reinforcing the emperor's power. Gratitude, in this system, was transactional; people gave to receive, and gratitude was bound up with duty.

In some ways, we see echoes of this system of gratitude and duty in our culture today. If someone buys you lunch, what do you often say? "I will get the next one." If someone gives you a gift and you do not

have one for them, you might feel guilty or even rush to purchase something out of obligation. Sometimes, gratitude still feels like a commodity of exchange. In fact, the dictionary's second definition of gratitude reflects this transactional nature: "a readiness to show appreciation for and return kindness."

Diana Butler Bass suggests that our Christian tradition offers a different model of gratitude based on gift and response rather than debt and duty. She explains that the word gratitude and the word grace come from the same root word. Unlike the standard model of gratitude, which is a closed cycle of gift and return bound by social obligation and indebtedness, gratitude rooted in grace invites us to move beyond obligation and into the freedom of giving and receiving. As Paul reminds us in Romans, "By the free gift of God's grace, all are put right with him through Christ Jesus." God has freely given us grace, mercy and love in abundance. When we open ourselves up to receive from God's bounty, which we could never fully repay, we begin to understand the Christian model of gratitude. This kind of

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**Poinsettia Deadline
Extended to November 29**
[https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/
christmas-poinsettias/](https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/christmas-poinsettias/)

**January 5
Epiphany Breakfast
Fellowship Hall**
[https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/
epiphany-breakfast/](https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/epiphany-breakfast/)

**Churchwide Retreat
March 7-9, 2025**
[https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/
church-retreat-2024-creation-calls-
and-i-must-go/](https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/church-retreat-2024-creation-calls-and-i-must-go/)

College Care Packages

Our church family has participated in our College Care Package ministry for many years. If you were a college student, or have raised a college student in this church family, then you know how meaningful our care package ministry is for all those who receive. Our care packages are packed by our Youth Family and include study supplies, snacks, handwritten notes and best of all – homemade treats donated by you, members of FBG’s congregation. This ministry helps us to maintain contact with our college students, remind them of our prayers during this stressful time of the year, and send our love and care to them while they are away from home.

Homemade Treats Needed!

All homemade goodies are due on Sunday, December 1. Donations may be dropped off in the bins at the front desk. Please divide your treats into sealable Ziploc® bags with 2-4 items per bag.

—Sarah Carter, Youth Ministry Assistant

Advent and Christmas Poinsettias— Deadline Extended

It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas! The Flower Guild is busy preparing our spaces for the holiday season. To allow you a few days more to respond, I have extended the deadline for ordering poinsettias to Friday, November 29. Get your orders in now!

The decorations are provided by the donations of church members. Church members may purchase poinsettias to help provide all of our decorations. The poinsettias may be given in memory of a deceased loved one or in honor of a living person. A list of all memorials and honor gifts will be published in upcoming editions of the newsletter. We have an online option for giving again this year. If you are interested in providing a poinsettia, visit <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/christmas-poinsettias/> and follow the instructions to submit your dedications. You may even pay online! If you would prefer, you may still mail the following information and your payment (checks payable to First Baptist Church) to me at church or drop it off at the Reception Desk. Orders and checks (\$30 each) should be received by Friday, November 29.



Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Number of Poinsettias (\$30 each): _____

Dedication (In honor of or in memory of): _____

Mail to:
Kimberly Coates
c/o First Baptist Church
847 Cleveland Street
Greenville, SC, 29601

—Kimberly Coates, Music & Worship Ministry Assistant

Give to the MinisTREE—Bring Gifts by This Sunday!



The First Baptist MinisTREE, our Christmas giving program, is off to a great start. Now, it is time get the gifts to us so that we can get them to the families. There will still be time to shop this week, but be sure to have the gifts under the MinisTREE on Sunday, December 1!

Here's how to participate:

1. **Choose an ornament** from the MinisTREE (the ornament will describe the recipient—a child, an adult in the family, or the family as a whole—and a wish list item: for example, Gift #10, boy age 3, Legos®.)
2. **Write your name** next to the ornament's gift number on the sign-out list next to the tree.

3. **Purchase the gift.**
4. **Bring the gift** unwrapped to the reception area by Sunday, December 1. Please tape to it a gift receipt, if able.

We hope that you will consider participating in the MinisTREE this year. People who have participated in the past have said that it's a very meaningful way to share the joy of the season while helping our neighbors.

—Susan D'Amato and
Gayle Brown, Missions & Affiliations
Committee

Please remember these members of our congregation celebrating December birthdays who may not always be able to be with us in worship:

December 8 Peggy Nielson	December 12 Jim Childress	December 25 Peggy Stone
December 9 Karen Tomblin	December 13 Jim Glasscock Brooks Stuart	



From the Senior Minister, continued from page 1

gratitude invites us to embrace mutual reliance—on God and one another—understanding that our well-being is deeply interconnected. We are never really independent, no matter how much we would like to believe we are. We need each other, so the spiritual task of gratitude is to learn to receive and give more freely with no strings attached, to be grateful for the kindness

of others who help us along the way, and to give generously when we can. Gratitude, then, is about learning to receive with humility and to give with generosity. This week, I invite you to reflect on the Christian model of gratitude:

Think about those who have given to you without expecting anything in return: mentors, friends or strangers whose generosity

shaped your life. How have these moments taught you about grace?

Consider times you have given freely to others: time, love or resources without expecting repayment. How did this reflect God's abundance in your life?

—Carol

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

MinisTREE Ornaments Available in Reception Area – Return Unwrapped Gifts to the Tree by Sunday, December 1.

11/27-29 FBG Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving

11/30 10am-12noon Bridge Meet-Up at Swamp Rabbit Holiday Flea Market

12/1 9:15am Advent Sunday School: Who Is My Neighbor? (Fellowship Hall) – “My Neighbor’s Voice” with Victoria Chance

9:30am First Baptist 101 (Media Center)

WATCH 10:30am First Sunday of Advent: Hanging of the Green Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre

11:30am Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)

12/4 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men’s Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)
Wednesdays@First Activities

Meal, fellowship and spiritual formation opportunities for all ages. See block for more information.

6:00pm *Adults@First* Opportunities MidWeek Classic: Service of Hope and Healing (Fellowship Hall)

12/6 10:30am-1:00pm Friday Lunch & More (Media Center, Fellowship Hall)

12/8 9:15am Advent Sunday School: Who Is My Neighbor? (Fellowship Hall) – “The Coffee Club” with Nick Bush

WATCH 10:30am Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Christmas Music by Sanctuary Choir and Instrumentalists

11:30am Vocare Rehearsal (Choir Room)

1:00-5:00pm Children’s Ministry Sunday Funday: Christmas Caroling and Party (B420)

3:30-5:00pm Children’s Ministry Sunday Funday: Christmas Party for 3-year-olds-K5 (B420)

5:00-7:00pm Youth Christmas Decorating Party, White Elephant and Senior Tree (AYMC)

12/10 11:00am-2:00pm Holy Rollers Visit Bridgeway Station and Enjoy Lunch

12/11 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men’s Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)
Wednesdays@First Activities

Wednesdays@First Schedule

Exceptions and details noted in calendar

4:00-7:00pm *Youth@First*: Hang Time (AYMC Terrace Level)

5:00-6:00pm Supper and Prayer Time (Fellowship Hall)

5:30-7:00pm *Children@First*: Childcare for Ages 3 & Under (C208, C214)

5:45-7:00pm *Children@First*: K4 & K5 Co-Creator Block & Playtime (B422)

5:45-6:10pm *Children@First*: 1st-5th Grade Choir (B423)

Children@First: Gathering Time (Media Center)

6:15-7:00pm *Children@First*: Co-Creator Block (B424)

6:00-7:00pm *Adults@First* (MidWeek Classic & Other Adult Education Offerings)

7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)



Wednesday Night Supper

Please make reservations by noon on Monday at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

November 27

Wednesdays@First has a night off. Come back when supper returns on December 4.

December 4

Adult: Chicken Parmesan, Angel Hair Pasta with Marinara Sauce, Green Bean Almondine, Salad, Roll, Fruit, Dessert

Child: Pizza Bread

Annual Church Yard Sale

To donate items to the Annual Church Yard Sale, contact Matt Rollins at matt.rollins@firstbaptistgreenville.com

Congratulations

...to Evan and Theresa Marchi on the birth of their daughter, Mackenzie Grace Marchi, born October 22, 2024.

Sympathy

...to Stephanie Helwing and family in the death of her grandmother.

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Revenue Report

11/19/2024 YTD: \$2,240,501

11/30/2023 Actual: \$2,267,213

11/30/2024 Budget: \$2,690,417



Scan here to support the financial needs of First Baptist Greenville.

For After Hours Pastoral Care Emergencies, please

call the Church Office, 864-233-2527, leave a message by pressing the number “2” for “Pastoral Care Emergencies” or email pastoral.care@firstbaptistgreenville.com. One of our staff ministers will respond to your message.