

December 1, 2025

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

December 3

Supper will be served at 5:00pm.
Make supper reservations
and view menus at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

Adults@First Opportunities—6:00pm

Gathering for Hope and Healing
(Fellowship Hall)

WORSHIP

December 7

The Second Sunday of Advent

Music Sunday

10:30am

Scripture: Isaiah 11:1-10

Service Musicians: Sanctuary
Choir; Vocare; Children's Choirs;
Instrumentalists; Craig Price, Soloist

The decorations in the Sanctuary are
provided by gifts from congregation
members. A list of poinsettia dedications
will be published later in the season.

December 3

7:00-8:00pm

Annual Yard Sale Holiday Fair
(C114)

December 5

10:30am-1:00pm

Engaged Aging Lunch & More
Christmas Sing-Along
(Fellowship Hall)

December 10

6:00pm

MidWeek Christmas Party
(Fellowship Hall)

7:00-8:00pm

Annual Yard Sale Holiday Fair
(C114)



From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

Dear Church Family and Friends,

As the end of the year approaches,
we invite you to give a financial gift
to First Baptist. Your contributions
directly impact vital ministries and
help us continue to share God's
love. Donations can be made by

check, online donation, qualified charitable distribution (QCD), or stock
contribution. Information regarding all giving methods is outlined below.

As a reminder, the church offices will be closed for Christmas from
Thursday, December 25, through Monday, December 29. The offices will
be open during regular operating hours on Tuesday, December 30, and
Wednesday, December 31.

If a check is received in person prior to New Year's Day, it will apply to
the 2025 budget offering and could create a tax-deductible contribution
for the 2025 tax year. If you are unable to stop by the church offices,
you are welcome to mail a check to the church offices at 847 Cleveland
Street, Greenville, SC 29601. If a mailed check is dated and postmarked
in 2025, it will apply to the 2025 budget offering and could create a tax
deduction for the 2025 tax year.

Online giving is always available. Gifts made prior to midnight on
December 31 will apply to the 2025 budget offering and could create a
tax deduction for the 2025 tax year. Visit <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/give/> to learn more about online giving options and to consider
establishing a recurring gift.

The church can also accept qualified charitable distributions (QCDs)
from an IRA account for IRA owners who are 70.5 years old or older.
There are several rules that apply to qualified charitable distributions,
so please consult your tax or financial advisor to determine if this is
appropriate for your situation.

If you have any questions about executing a stock gift, please contact
Deanna Flanagan at the church office. She can be reached at deanna.flanagan@firstbaptistgreenville.com or call the church at (864) 233-2527.

Thank you for giving generously to support the work of God in and
through First Baptist Greenville.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Carol McEntyre, Senior Minister
and First Baptist Greenville Finance Committee

Youth & College Ministry: December Events

December is a joy-filled month in the Youth & College Ministry, and we are excited to gather with our youth and college students throughout Advent. We have so many exciting events planned this month, including some new additions you won't want to miss. Check out this calendar of events and make plans to join us!

— Mary Carol Anderson, Minister of Youth & College

Wednesday Youth Advent Series: Advent Practices

Wednesday, December 3,
5:00-7:00pm (AYMC Terrace)

Our youth will begin the Advent season by creating Advent wreaths and exploring spiritual practices that help deepen the meaning of this Advent season.

NEW Youth Night of Lights

Friday, December 5, 5:00-9:00pm

RSVP by Wednesday, December 3
<https://tinyurl.com/YouthNightOfLights>

Join us for a fun evening at Heritage Park Nights of Lights! Christmas lights, hot cocoa, a petting zoo, ice skating, and more! We will meet at the church at 5:00pm and will return to church by 9:00pm. Bring additional money for food and other attractions.

Christmas Decorating Party, White Elephant Candy Exchange & Senior Tree

Sunday, December 7,
5:00-7:00pm (AYMC Terrace)

A night full of favorite holiday traditions! Our senior class will choose and set up the Youth Family Christmas tree. All youth are invited to join us for a fun evening of decorating the Terrace level for Christmas and our beloved White Elephant candy bar exchange game! Bring an unwrapped candy bar (be as creative as you'd like) to trade.

Wednesday Youth Advent Series: Walking Tour

Sunday, December 10,
5:00-7:00pm (AYMC Terrace)

Our youth will engage in a guided walking tour of our church and sanctuary to explore the symbolism and themes of Advent and Christmas.

Youth & College Christmas Breakfast

Sunday, December 14,
9:00-10:15am (AYMC Terrace)

It's the most wonderful Christmas breakfast! Be sure

to join us for our festive and yummy Christmas breakfast. All youth and college students are invited!

NEW "Low Key" Sunday Night Live

Sunday, December 14,
5:00-7:00pm (AYMC Terrace)

We will have a casual evening spending time together. There will be pizza, games, and a Christmas movie with popcorn!

College Christmas Drop-In following Candlelight Service

Sunday, December 21, 8:00pm
at the Home of Caroline and Wells Shelley

All college students are invited to gather at the home of Caroline and Wells Shelley to catch up and reconnect.

College Pasta Lunch

Monday, January 5, 12:00-2:00pm (AYMC Terrace)

One more gathering before our college students return to school for Spring semester. We will gather for lunch and socializing.

Youth Winter Retreat 2026

What could be a better Christmas gift than giving your youth a weekend away with their friends, followed by a day filled with winter fun? All youth in grades 6-12 are invited to join us for our annual ski trip! This year we are heading back to Winterplace Ski Resort in West Virginia for a two-night trip. We'll be skiing all day on Saturday, so come ready to shred some powder and have some fun! We can't wait to hit the slopes again!

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/YouthWinterRetreat26> to learn more about our 2026 Youth Family Winter Retreat, register, and pay for your youth to attend.

— Sarah Dunn, Youth Ministry Assistant



Celebrate the Season with Music!

Gather with your church family on December 7, the Second Sunday of Advent, when we will light the Advent Candle of Peace and celebrate with a Sunday of music. Our Sanctuary Choir will be joined by Vocare (youth) and our Children's Choirs as service choirs. A string ensemble and clarinetist from the Greenville Symphony will add their own music to that of the choirs. Choral selections will include pieces by Ruth Elaine Schram, Mark A. Miller, Michael John Trotta, and two new arrangements by Dan Forrest—"O Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Angels We Have Heard on High." Craig Price will offer Funderburk's arrangement of "Wexford Carol," and instrumentalists will offer some pieces on their own.

In our Advent sermon series, *God's Peaceable Kingdom*, the scripture for December 7 is Isaiah 11:1-10, in which God's world is characterized by peace. All God's creatures—predator and prey together—living together in harmony. Gather in the Sanctuary on December 7 for a musical interpretation of this passage. Enjoy the harmonies of voices and instruments as a foretaste of God's kingdom. Let's work together to create it!

—Laura Ritter, Minister of Music & Kimberly Coates,
Ministry Assistant to Music and Worship

MUSIC

A Gift that Keeps On Giving

As the Christmas season approaches, we often struggle in our search for just the right gift to give the ones we love. This year, the AYMC invites you to consider a gift that will keep on giving, nurturing mind, body, and spirit: an AYMC Membership or Personal Training package!

Whether you gift one month, three months, or a year, an AYMC membership offers more than access to our fitness center; it's an invitation to a community brimming with support, encouragement, and a belief in the importance of health and wellness. Members enjoy a full range of amenities, including our indoor walking track, cardio and strength

equipment, group fitness classes, yoga and chair yoga classes, and opportunities for fellowship with others pursuing wellness. It's a gift that motivates, inspires, and supports healthy living long after the holiday decorations come down.

For those who need structure, accountability, or a personalized plan, our certified personal trainers offer one-on-one sessions tailored to individual goals and abilities. Whether someone is just beginning their fitness journey, returning after time away, or looking to break through a plateau, personal training is a wonderful way to give customized support and encouragement.

How to Give an AYMC Gift Card

Gift certificates for AYMC memberships and personal training sessions are available at the AYMC Welcome Desk. You can call, visit us in person or even purchase them through the AYMC App. Our staff can help you select the best option and provide a beautifully prepared certificate ready to be placed under the tree.

This Christmas, consider giving a gift that strengthens bodies, lifts spirits and encourages a journey toward improved health. The AYMC is honored to support our church and community members in many ways, and we look forward to welcoming new faces in the new year!

—Cathy Goldfarb, AYMC Director

AYMC

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 12/3 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)
Wednesdays@First Activities
7:00-8:00pm Annual Yard Sale Holiday Fair (C114)
- 12/4 9:00am-4:00pm Annual Yard Sale Holiday Fair (C114)
- 12/5 10:30am-1:00pm Engaged Aging Lunch & More Christmas Sing-Along (Fellowship Hall)
- 12/7 9:15am Advent Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)
WATCH 10:30am Second Sunday of Advent: All Music Worship Service (Sanctuary)
5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth (AYMC)
- 12/10 MidWeek Christmas Party (Fellowship Hall)
7:00-8:00pm Annual Yard Sale Holiday Fair (C114)
- 12/11 9:00am-4:00pm Annual Yard Sale Holiday Fair (C114)
- 12/14 9:00am Youth Breakfast (Terrace Level)
9:30am Advent Sunday School (Fellowship Hall)
WATCH 10:30am Third Sunday of Advent (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Bell Tower Ringers, Children's Choir and Baptism
11:30am-2:30pm Engaged Aging Christmas Party with Children's Choir Performance (Fellowship Hall)
5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth Family (AYMC)
- 12/21 **WATCH** 10:30am Fourth Sunday of Advent (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre, including Baptism
WATCH 6:30pm Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary)
- 12/24 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)
- 12/25, 26, 29 FBG Closed for Christmas
- 12/28 **WATCH** 10:30am First Sunday of Christmas Family Worship (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Matt Rollins—All Worship Together—No Sunday School or Childcare
- 12/31 *Breathe Week—No Wednesdays@First Activities*
- 1/4 9:15am Churchwide Epiphany Sunday Breakfast (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday Night Supper Menu

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

December 3

Adults: Lasagna (gf available), Zucchini, Squash, and Peppers gf, Salad gf, Fruit gf, Italian Bread, Dessert

Children: Pizza Bread, Fruit, Cookie

- 1/4 **WATCH** 10:30am Epiphany Sunday Worship Service (Sanctuary)—No Sunday School
- 1/5 Noon-2:00pm College Pasta Luncheon (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 1/7 *Breathe Week—No Wednesdays@First Activities except Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal*

Sympathy

...to Mat Thompson and family in the death of his wife, Lyda Thompson.

... to Mirian and Sharon Benston and family in the death of their sister-in-law, Lyda Thompson.

...to Tom Huskey and family in the death of his brother.

...to Tedd Garner in the death of his mother.

Introducing



...Alex and Kate Doriot who joined First Baptist during worship on November 23. They have a daughter, Joan, and we are excited to welcome them!



...Melaina Dickinson who joined First Baptist as a candidate for baptism on November 23. She is a member of Vocare and the daughter of Candace and Thomas Dickinson.

Mission Backpack is looking for volunteers to shop and deliver food bags, as well as accepting donations of pop-top canned pasta. Contact elainebarnhill@gmail.com for more information.

Greenville, South Carolina 29601-4495
(864) 233-2527 www.firstbaptistgreenville.com



THE BRANCH (USPS No. 597060) is published weekly January thru December (except one week in July and December). Periodicals postage paid at Greenville, SC 29602. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE BRANCH, 847 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29601. (Phone 864-233-2527). Savannah French, Editor.

Vol. LXVI December 1, 2025 No. 46

Revenue Report

11/25/2025 YTD: \$2,414,834

10/31/2024 Actual: \$2,347,806

10/31/2025 Budget: \$2,733,500



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

For After Hours Pastoral

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