

December 15, 2025

WEDNESDAYS@FIRST

December 15

Wednesdays@First are completed for 2025. Join us as we resume gathering on January 14, 2026. Supper will be served at 5:00pm. Make supper reservations and view menus at <https://firstbaptistgreenville.com/wednesdays-at-first/>

WORSHIP

December 21

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Baptism

10:30am

Proclaimer: Carol McEntyre

Scripture: Isaiah 7:10-16;
Matthew 1:18-24

Sermon Series: God's Peaceable
Kin-dom

Sermon: A Sign of the Kin-dom to Come

Service Musicians: Sanctuary Choir;
Kari Novilla, Harp

Candlelight Service of
Lessons and Carols

6:30pm

Sanctuary Choir

Vocare

Will Livingston, Soloist

Kari Novilla, Harp

Eric Lapin, Clarinet

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 24

5:00pm

Christmas Eve Service (Sanctuary)

December 31

Breathe Week—

No *Wednesdays@First* Activities

January 4

9:15am

Churchwide Epiphany Sunday Breakfast
(Fellowship Hall)



From the Senior Minister

CAROL MCENTYRE

During Advent, we make room for Christ in our hearts and our lives. Christine Rogers captures this beautifully in her poem, "A Clearing":

*Help me
make
a space for you
emptying myself
to create
a place for you
spreading the straw
on the floor
of my soul
in joyful
expectation
of your coming.*

This season invites us to slow down, prepare and open ourselves to the hope and wonder of Christ's birth. At First Baptist, one of the ways we do this is through traditions that shape not only our worship, but our community life, traditions that help us "spread the

straw" and create space for the joy of Christ's arrival.

Our first through fifth graders prepared their hearts by sharing Christmas cheer through caroling, a tradition they look forward to each year! With joyful voices and big hearts, our kids visited The Gardens at Eastside, The Blake, and three nearby homes.

Their singing brought smiles, laughter and a little extra warmth to everyone they met. It's one of their favorite ways to share the love and light of this season. We are grateful for the families who joined and helped make it special.

We invite you to join us for other traditions that help "spread the straw," such as the Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols (Sanctuary) at 6:30pm on December 21 and our family-friendly Christmas Eve Worship Service (Sanctuary) at 5:00pm on December 24.

—Carol



Family Faith Every Day Parenting Circle Cohort Recap

a beautiful sense of community grow among both parents and children. We are deeply grateful for the support of the Family Faith Every Day Grant, which helped make this experience possible. Recruitment for next year's group will begin in January, and we look forward to welcoming our next cohort!

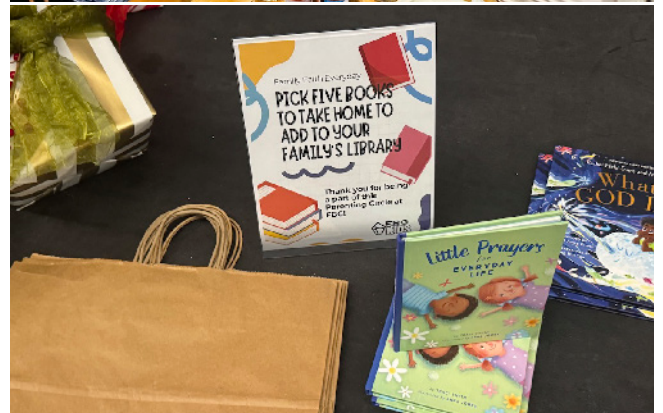
—Bridget Kokolis, Minister to Children

“As parents of a young toddler, we loved the chance to connect with other nursery-hall families while learning simple, meaningful ways to establish family faith practices at home. Though we initially wondered how practical this would be for a 15-month-old, the practices were wonderfully scalable and encouraged us to be more intentional about infusing our family's values into our daily routines. Bridget's thoughtful facilitation, along with shared meals and authentic conversation with our cohort, made the experience especially meaningful.” —Lauren Luneckas

“It was incredibly meaningful to spend time with parents who are in a similar life stage and navigating many of the same joys and challenges. Having the space to talk openly about everything we're juggling as adults—while also thinking about how faith can be entwined with our daughter's upbringing—was truly insightful. I also found the exercises in the book especially helpful. They gave my wife and me a chance to pause and reflect. It's something we both valued and hope to continue!” —Anthony Luneckas

“Andrew and I appreciated this group for the ways it has allowed us to pause amid the busyness of our family's life to think together with Bridget and other families about how we seek to pass on our faith to our children. We've gotten to know other families much better than we would have in passing on the nursery hallway as we have together considered the values we most prize and the practices by which we can help our young children know God in their own ways.” —Elizabeth Jemison

“Having grown up in the church, I thought that implementing our faith at home as parents would come instinctually, but after having kids, I found it more difficult than anticipated to incorporate our faith into everyday rhythms that would be sustainable for our family and meaningful for our children. This group has empowered me to turn simple moments into faith practices that enrich our faith formation and relationships and align with our values as parents. We have also grown close to a group of wonderful families, who will remain friends long after this cohort ends.” —Caroline Hiatt



Music for Advent: Sanctuary Choir & Harpist Kari Novilla

On December 21, at both our morning worship service and our evening Candlelight and Carols service, we will enjoy the music of our Sanctuary Choir and guest harpist Kari Novilla. Kari is a former student of mine who has gone on to have a successful career as a harpist with the Chicago Civic Orchestra. Kari holds a Bachelor of Music in Harp Performance from Indiana University and recently completed a master's degree from the Royal Conservatory in London, majoring in both classical and jazz harp performance. You can read more about Kari at karinovilla.com. Kari will be sharing prelude music in the Sanctuary 15 minutes prior to the start of morning worship.



Selections to be shared at morning worship will include a lovely setting for harp and choir of “Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine” and the favorite “Gesù Bambino,” which will feature our Herring Choral Scholar, Amara Campanini. Amara is a freshman at Furman, majoring in vocal performance and studying with Dr. Craig Price. For Candlelight Lessons and Carols,

our choir will sing two beloved John Rutter settings, “Candlelight Carol” and “Angels’ Carol,” as well as a new setting of “I Wonder as I Wander,” featuring a clarinet solo. Will Livingston will share the familiar “Ev’ry Valley” from Handel’s *Messiah*, and, of course, Charles Tompkins will lead us with his creative hymn playing on carols of the Advent and Christmas season.

Please join us for meaningful times of worship and celebration on December 21.

—Laura Ritter,
Minister of Music

Church Epiphany Breakfast on January 4

Kick off the new year with a churchwide breakfast on Sunday, January 4, 2026! January 4 is Epiphany Sunday, the date in the church year that marks the official end of the Christmas season and commemorates the arrival of the magi in Bethlehem. We will celebrate Epiphany as a church family with a hot breakfast in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15am).

Menu: Scrambled Eggs, Hash Brown Casserole, Buttermilk and Blueberry Buttermilk Pancakes, Sausage, Bacon, Fruit

Beverages: Coffee, Juices, Water

The cost for meals are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 10 and under). The meal registration deadline is December 31. Register and pre-pay for breakfast on Realm via the Realm website or Realm app, or at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/fbgepiphany>. Please note that meals are only guaranteed with reservations placed prior to December 31.

Have family in town from the holidays? Bring them! Guests are welcome! You may register your guest in advance on Realm. The breakfast will be the only event during the Sunday School hour on January 4 (no regular Sunday School).

—Camille Loomis Rehnberg,
Minister of Spiritual Formation & Outreach

Upcoming Events

WATCH indicates worship experiences broadcast via Vimeo and Facebook Live.

- 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)
- 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*
- 1/11 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre
- 5:00-7:00pm Parent Dinner Party on Body Safety and Security (Fellowship Hall)
- 5:00-7:00pm Sunday Night Live for Youth Family (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 1/14 7:00am Wednesday Morning Men's Bible Study (AYMC Terrace Level)
- 2:00pm Engaged Aging Games and More (Fellowship Hall)
- Wednesdays@First Activities*
- 1/18 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre
- 1/19 FBG Closed in Observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 1/25 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service Including Communion (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Carol McEntyre
- 1/28 Noon Community Engagement Lunch & Learn (Media Center)
- 1/30-2/1 Youth Winter Retreat
- 2/1 **WATCH** 10:30am Worship Service (Sanctuary) with Proclaimer Camille Loomis Rehnborg
- No Sunday Night Live for Youth

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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.

Introducing

...David, Liz, Tess, Davey, Gabriel, and Joseph Gandolfo who joined First Baptist as a family on December 7. David teaches philosophy at Furman University and Liz is the Associate Dean of academic affairs at Wake Forest University.

...Paul and Maxine Childs who became members during worship.

...Ed Childs, who became a member on the same day as his brother, Paul.

Sympathy

...to Patti Grantham in the death of her mother, and Hagood Grantham in the death of his grandmother.

...to Michelle McClendon in the death of her father.



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Revenue Report

12/9/2025 YTD: \$2,562,373

12/31/2024 Actual: \$2,964,671

12/31/2025 Budget: \$2,982,000



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.