

## From the Pastor ...

Theme for December



### Sunday, December 1

#### *Holy Night Foretold*

Advent Candle 1– Hope. What hope did the Israelites have in ancient prophecies? What hope do we have for future prophecies?

### Saturday, December 7

5:30 pm. Hartsville's **Christmas Parade**. Come and see our church's floats! And while you are there, get to know people who are watching with you and invite them to church.

### Sunday, December 8

#### *Holy Night Unexpected*

Advent Candle 2– Love. We know that God loves us. Yet when unexpected things happen that interrupt all our plans, are we still anchored in His love?

During the Dec 8 service we will also celebrate the ordinances of **baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**.

- If you or someone you know should be baptized, please call the church office.
- The Lord's Supper is a sacred time for personal reflection, repentance, reconciliation, and remembering the purpose of Lord's death as we share the bread and wine (grape juice).

Right after church we will have a **covered dish dinner**. Our Fellowship team will supply the meat, you bring people and a side dish or dessert!

### Sunday, December 15

#### *Holy Night Confirmed*

Advent Candle 3– Joy. We experience joy when we see God at work in us, around us, and through us to others.

### Sunday, December 22

#### *Holy Night Challenged*

Advent Candle 4– Peace. When you think of all that happened to Mary and Joseph, it is amazing that on the night of Jesus' birth the angels declared "peace." Could you experience peace even the only place for your baby to be born is in a barn?

**Christmas Special.** This Sunday is the day our children participate in the service as our choir leads us in Christmas Carols.

### Thursday, December 24

#### **Candlelight service, 4:30pm**

#### *Holy Night Arrived*

Advent Candle 5– Christ. As you know, the final advent candle symbolizes what Christmas is all about. Join us for this sacred assembly where we sing more favorite Christmas songs and show how the light of Christ shines and spreads through each of us.

Let's honor our guests.

The Christmas season is one of the times guests will visit us for the first time. Out of courtesy to them, please sit toward the front of the church (near the pulpit) and more in the middle of the pews. Why? Guests who are checking out a new church tend to sit on the ends of the back pews. If our regular attendees occupy these seats, guests are forced to walk to the front or cross over us to sit in the middle. Why should we make their first visit feel awkward?

This is especially helpful for the candlelight service so we won't have a gap of people up front and in the middle! We can do this.

#### Update on our Next Generation Associate Minister

The search team (the six people on our Personnel Committee plus three members at large) have reviewed resumes and interviewed two candidates. They are moving forward this month. Next steps include observing a candidate interacting with our people, a second interview, possibly a meeting with young adults and parents of children and teens, a vote by the search team, if passed then the candidate will be presented to the deacons for a vote, if passed then presented to the church for a vote.

## Music Ministry



Hey Church Family!

The Christmas season is here, and I'm so excited to celebrate with you! We've got

some great events coming up to help us all get into the Christmas spirit.

I hope you will join us on Sunday, December 22 at 10:30am for our Christmas Program. It's going to be a morning full of beautiful music, meaningful worship, and a reminder of what Christmas is all about. Bring your family and friends—it's a service you won't want to miss!

We're also super excited to be part of the Hartsville Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 7th. Come out and cheer us on as we share some Christmas cheer with our community!

We hope you'll join us as we celebrate this special time of year together. Let's make this season one to remember!

In Christ,  
Sterling

## How Can I Give to FBC?

- Place your offering in the offering plate
- Give on our website on the "online giving" tab
- Bring it to the Church office
- Text the word "BeCheerful" to 73-256
- Place it in the locked mailbox next to the office

## Church Office Information

Office hours:

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm

(lunch 12:30-1:30pm)

Friday 8am-12noon

Phone: 843-332-6571

## FBC on Social Media

Website: [firstbaptisthartsville.org](http://firstbaptisthartsville.org)

Facebook: First Baptist Church Hartsville

YouTube: FBC Hartsville SC

## December Events

### Weekly Schedule

#### **Sunday:**

9:15am Small Groups

10:30am Worship Service

#### **Tuesday:**

12:00pm Prayer for Revitalization

#### **Wednesday:**

10:00 Prayer in the Prayer Room

12:00pm Lunch, Prayer, and Devotions -

"Answered Prayer." **Please call the Church office by noon on the previous Monday to sign up.** Cost: \$9

6:00pm 1<sup>st</sup> Kids Children's Ministry, Impact

Student Ministry, Small Groups for Adults:

Parents' Group, "Discipleship," and "Biblical Partnerships"

7:30pm Choir practice

8:00pm Ladies' Zoom Group

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FBC will have two floats in the **Hartsville Christmas Parade** on Saturday, Dec 7 at 5:30pm.

Sunday, Dec 8 - **Baptism and Communion** in 10:30am Worship service

#### **All Church Covered Dish Christmas**

**Luncheon** after service on Sunday, Dec 8. Meat and biscuits will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert.

First Baptist will volunteer at **Hartsville Soup Kitchen** on Thursday, Dec 12. If you would like to help with this community ministry, please contact the Church office.

**First Baptist Preschool Christmas Program** - Friday, Dec 13 at 10:30am in the Sanctuary

**Christmas Special** - Sunday, Dec 22 at 10:30am

**Christmas Eve Candlelight service** - Tuesday, Dec 24 at 4:30pm

There will be no **Wednesday Lunch and Devotion** or any **evening programs** on Wednesday, Dec 25.

The **Church office** will be closed from noon on Monday, Dec 23 through Wednesday, Dec 25 in honor of the Christmas holiday. The office will be open regular hours on Thursday, Dec 26 and Friday, Dec 27.

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Good Samaritan Offering** for benevolence in our community - Sunday, Dec 29

## *December Birthdays*

12-3 Bobby Dempsey  
12-4 Ellis Parsons, Jr.  
12-9 Anna Barclay Jones  
12-14 Annette Wint  
12-14 Elijah Chebii  
12-15 Patty Boyd  
12-17 Bill Dempsey  
12-18 Jim Cox  
12-18 Dean Scarborough  
12-21 Katelyn Averill  
12-23 Belle Elsesser  
12-23 Chase Elsesser  
12-24 Hilton Howle  
12-25 Jim Privette  
12-25 Betty Sullivan  
12-26 Todd Fink  
12-28 Will Tomlinson  
12-29 Soren Dyar

### *Happy Birthday!*

If we have accidentally missed your birthday or have the date wrong, please let the Church office know.

## *FBC Staff*

Dr. Greg Boyd: Pastor  
greg@firstbaptisthartsville.org  
Sterling Dyar: Worship Leader  
Logan Fink: Volunteer Drummer  
Crystal Hopkins: Financial Secretary  
crystal@firstbaptisthartsville.org  
Ruth Kilgore: Administrative Secretary  
ruth@firstbaptisthartsville.org  
Jessica Kuykendall: Preschool Director  
Jackie Ponder: Volunteer Student Director  
Jim Privette: Volunteer Church Administrator  
Vivian Robinson: Custodian  
Tucker Smith: Organist and Pianist  
Lauren Wint: Children's Director

## *Poinsettias*

We have ordered poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to purchase one in honor or in memory of your loved ones, please call the Church office. Cost: \$20.



## *International Missions*



First Baptist packed 100 shoeboxes for **Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child**. Thank you for spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to children around the world!

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The **Lottie Moon Christmas offering** will be collected during December. 100% of the offerings received goes toward international missions. FBC Goal: \$8,500.00  
For more information, go to their website: [www.imb.org/lottie-moon-christmas-offering/](http://www.imb.org/lottie-moon-christmas-offering/)



## *With Thanks*

Church family,

Thank you for the delicious food that was provided during Jeanne's visitation. Everyone involved truly shared their love to our family and it was so perfect in every way.

Best,  
Bobby Goodson

## *Connie Maxwell Christmas*

Living nativity performance, concert, and Christmas village with a petting zoo, hot chocolate, wagon rides, and a photo booth.

December 5-7 from 6-8:30pm

810 Maxwell Avenue, Greenwood, SC

## *First Baptist Preschool*



Dear Church Family,

As the holiday season approaches, our preschool students are filled with joy and anticipation! Our little ones are preparing to share the true meaning of Christmas through song, movement, and celebration of King Jesus!

Mark Your Calendars: **Christmas Program** on December 13 at 10:30am in the Church Sanctuary.

This event is more than just a performance - it's a time where our youngest members will proclaim the birth of Jesus Christ. We invite you to join us and witness the pure joy of our preschoolers as they share the Christmas story.

Our dedicated teachers are working tirelessly to help children understand the profound message of God's love through the miracle of Christ's birth. Each child is learning that Christmas is about more than gifts - it's about the greatest gift ever given.

We also ask for your continued prayers for your staff as we currently have 2 out on medical leave.

We hope you can join us for our Christmas Program!

Blessings,

Jessica Kuykendall  
Director

## *Impact Student Ministry*



Dear Church Family,

As we near Christmas, I want to thank you for sharing your youth with us. We have a great time on

Wednesday nights and whenever we get together.

This month we are learning more about Christmas and why it is important to celebrate. Please invite other youth to join us on Wednesdays at 6:00pm for food, fun, and a Christ infused lesson.

Merry Christmas from your youth leaders,

Ally Ambrose  
Matthew Brown  
Paige McElveen  
Clark Phillips  
Rachel Phillips  
Jackie Ponder

## *1st Kids Children's Ministry*



Dear Church Family,

I am grateful for another year with this ministry. I have loved every bit of it. Before our year comes to a close, we have a few announcements.

December 7<sup>th</sup> is the annual Christmas parade. We are so excited to have a float that is SURE to turn some heads. We would love for your children to be a part of it. Please let me know if you think your children will want to participate.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup> during worship, the children will be putting on a little skit and singing. I hope you will encourage family members to come and see what they have been working on.

Thank you so much for bringing your children each Sunday and Wednesday. They have truly been such a joy to teach and to love on. I am wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, and look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

In Love,  
Ms. Lauren

## *Let Us Know*

### ***Please Contact the Church Office:***

- If you are scheduling a meeting, to make sure that the date, location, and time are open on the calendar
- If your address, email, or telephone number has changed
- If you have updates for the Prayer List
- If you need more offering envelopes or would like to get personalized offering envelopes
- If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of someone

## *Did you know?*

Our weekly church bulletin and monthly newsletter are on our website! Go to [www.firstbaptisthartsville.org](http://www.firstbaptisthartsville.org) and choose the "Bulletin and Newsletter" tab and you will find links to both.