

perspective



As we approach the Advent season, we reflect on the words of John 1:14: "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us." In this single, profound truth, we see the heart of Christmas—God entered human history through the birth of His Son, bringing the promise of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love to a waiting world. Advent is a time of preparation, where we wait—much like a child waits eagerly for Christmas morning—to celebrate this miraculous event that changed

everything.

This December, we invite you to join us in preparing for the birth of Christ through music and worship. It's a season to remember God's faithfulness in the past, rejoice in His presence with us today, and anticipate the future glory that will come with Christ's return. One of the most powerful ways we experience this journey is through the gift of music, and we have some incredible opportunities for you to celebrate this season with us.

Celebrate! 11th Annual Christmas Concert – December 8th at 6:00PM

We are excited to present our **11th Annual Celebrate! Christmas Concert**, a beloved tradition for our church, New Beginnings Baptist Church, and the Lufkin community. This musical celebration will bring together members of First Baptist Church, New Beginnings, local musicians, and students from SFA. The concert will be held on **Sunday, December 8th at 6:00PM** in the sanctuary.

This year, our talented choir and orchestra will be joined by our own soloists, presenting a festive evening of music that will usher in the Christmas season. The night will include traditional Christmas carols, inspiring worship, and a time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

We encourage you to arrive early, as we expect a full house. Doors will open at **5:15PM**, so come early to find your seat and prepare your heart for this powerful evening. Additionally, please bring canned goods to support the food pantry at **C.I.S.C.** Let's make this a season of giving as well as celebrating!

Other Christmas Events to Mark on Your Calendar

In addition to **Celebrate!**, we have several more opportunities to worship and reflect on the true meaning of Christmas this season:

- **December 15th:** Our children's choir will sing and lead in morning worship that is sure to bless and warm your heart.
- **December 22nd at 11:45AM:** Join us for a **Christmas Organ Recital** by Tate Ashby. This will be a beautiful time of reflection and music, as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.
- **December 22nd at 5:00 PM:** Join us as we go **caroling to the shut-ins** of our church. We'll meet in the parking lot off Second Street and spread Christmas cheer.
- **December 24th at 5:30PM:** Our Christmas Eve Service will be a beautiful evening of *Carols, Candles, and Communion* as we gather to celebrate the birth of our Savior. This is a family-friendly service, and we encourage you to invite your loved ones to join us as we reflect on the greatest gift ever given.

Advent: A Season of Waiting, Preparing, and Reflecting

As we enter into this holy season, we remember that Advent is not just about anticipating the birth of Christ, but also about reflecting on God's work in our lives—past, present, and future. To help guide you in your Advent journey, we invite you to pick up an **Advent Guide** written by members of our congregation. It's a wonderful resource to help center your heart each day as you prepare for Christmas.

I look forward to celebrating this season together with you. Let the music, worship, and fellowship draw us closer to the Christ, who has come to bring light into our world.

Merry Christmas!

John Lassiter

ADVENT 2024

Advent Worship

12/1 Hope

12/8 Peace

12/15 Joy

12/22 Love

Christmas Eve

Carols, Candles, Communion

5:30 p.m.

Giving Tree
BLESS THOSE IN NEED
SUNDAY, DEC 1 - ANGELS DISTRIBUTED
GIFTS DUE DEC 8
SUGGESTED PRICE \$40

POINSETTIAS
Order form at the Great Hall Welcome Desk
\$9.00 EACH
ORDER BY DEC. 1

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22
Organ Recital 11:30 AM | SANCTUARY
PRESENTED BY TATE ASHBY
Caroling 5:00 PM | MEET AT CHURCH
JOIN US TO SING CHRISTMAS SONGS TO OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS

2025 Budget
The 2025 church budget was adopted at church conference on Wednesday, November 20. The \$1,805,656 Church Ministry Budget will be mailed to you, along with a letter from your finance committee in early December. Be watching your mailbox for this most important and exciting budget and letter.

Lufkin Downtown Christmas Parade
Saturday, December 7
Join our Deacons as they give out Free Hot Chocolate to all along First Street by the church.

Deacons for the month of December
John Ellis 936-635-5636 (cell)
Curt Fenley 936-675-2556 (cell)
David Perkins 936-635-0659 (cell)
Sid Roberts 936-674-6074 (cell)

memorials

Memorial Gifts have been given to the following Funds & Ministries of FBC:

Building Fund In Memory of:

Linda Buckingham
Thomas Anderson
Charline Lively
Mary Jo Taylor
Jerene Walker

FBC Operating Fund In Memory of:

Linda Buckingham
Thomas Anderson
Charline Lively
Rosalind McAdams
Charlie Rhame
Mary Jo Taylor
Jerene Walker
Jerry Fenley
Jerry Holder

Lacy Breckenridge
Sandra Roberts
Kenny Baker
Lori Lopez
Shirley Ware
Joe Taylor
Gordon Jones, Sr.
Alan Moore
Randy Ware
Ernest Hudgens
Barbara Carroll
Mike Mathis
Robbie Parkman

Music Ministry In Memory of:

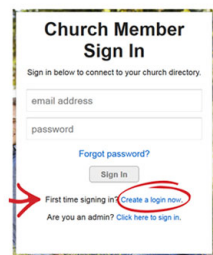
Linda Buckingham
R.H. Miller
Thomas Anderson
Rosalind McAdams

(936) 634-3386 / www.fbclufkin.org

Did you know we have a CHURCH DIRECTORY ONLINE?

You may access it by visiting this website:

members.instantchurchdirectory.com



You will be prompted to create a login and password using your email address that you have provided the church, contact the church to update your email address if necessary

You may also download the app to your smart phone:

1. Go to your device's App store.
2. Search for "instant church directory."
3. Enter your email address that you have provided the church.
4. Follow the directions on screen to complete the login process.



Sympathy to

Sympathy to Liz and Richard Byler in the loss of her mother, Linda Buckingham.

Sympathy to Dan Martin in the loss of his mother, Florence Martin.

Bill and Julia McKelvy in the loss of their son-in-law, Keith Varga.

The family of Kathleen Shelton.

Pat and Denise Nicholson and family in the loss of his brother, Bret Nicholson.

Dale and Michelle Green in the loss of his brother, Keith Green.

Church Office Hours

M - Th: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed during the lunch hour (12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Financial Report Year to Date

Budget Needs	\$1,527,054.18
Budget Receipts	\$1,475,672.29
Building Fund	\$153,886.56
Other Designations	\$102,818.07
Other Receipts	\$127,084.91

Staff

Mark Newton, Senior Pastor
Katie Baker,
Minister to Preschool & Children
John Lassitter,
Minister of Music
Walker McWilliams,
Associate Pastor/ Minister of Missions
Truett Newton,
Minister to Students

Celebrate! Christmas Musical

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8
6:00 P.M.**

**Presented by FBC and
New Beginnings Baptist Church**

(Collecting canned goods for CISC)