

pastor's perspective



Christmas Eve Worship – Our traditional Christmas Eve Worship – “Carols, Candles and Communion” will be as special as ever this year. We will gather for worship at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. Christmas Eve worship is one of the most beautiful times of worship we experience all year. To see families

together, friends united, and guests in attendance makes our worship a holy time indeed. Not only will we sing familiar carols and hear the Christmas story read from Luke’s Gospel, but we will celebrate communion together. I so appreciate our ministers and worship staff giving their time on Christmas Eve to lead us in worship. I hope you and your family will join us as we worship together. Invite your friends and come and worship Tuesday evening, December 24 at 5:30pm in the sanctuary.

End of Year Contributions – You have been so faithful in the giving of tithes and special offerings this year. Your grace and generosity have been evident each month as our finance committee has managed our receipts and expenditures. Not only have you supported our general church budget, but you have given generously to our Building Fund to help pay down our building debt (only \$775,00 debt remains) and you have been most generous to support other special funds such as Missions, Scholarship, Organ Repair, and Children and Youth Camps just to name a few. I trust you received a letter from the Finance committee which included the 2025 Adopted Church Budget and your 11-month contribution statement. I thank Laurie Hefner, our finance officer, for all her work in preparing these documents. If you have any questions, please reach out to Laurie before the year ends. If you find you might be behind in your giving or simply want to make a special year-end gift, please know it will be humbly accepted and appreciated.

We are blessed - 2024 has been a most incredible year. God has blessed us with new and ongoing ministries, unity and oneness, many new members, as well as much laughter, joy, and happiness. Indeed, we have lost friends and family members to death and others have struggled with illness, but God’s grace, the Lord Jesus’ peace, and the presence of the Holy Spirit have been most evident day by day. 2025 will bring a host of changes for all of us, but FBC Lufkin will continue to be focused on loving others and sharing Christ. Pray especially for Walker as he assumes the role of Interim Pastor on February 1, as well as all our ministers and staff. I look forward to preaching in January and sharing these last days as your pastor. All retirement advice accepted!!

Merry Christmas and as always...I’m so proud to be your pastor,

Pastor Mark

Sunday, December 22

- ★ **9:00 a.m.** Reception for John and Angie Lassitter
- ★ **11:30 a.m.** Christmas Organ Recital by Tate Ashby
- ★ **5:00 p.m.** Caroling to our homebound members

Christmas Eve SERVICE
Carols, Candles, Communion
5:30 PM

JOIN US FOR A
Retirement CELEBRATION
HONORING
Mark Newton
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
11:30 AM
FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Holiday Hours

Church Office Closed
*Dec 24 - 26
*Dec 31 at noon
*Jan 1

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS
Must be received in the office by 12:00pm on 12/31 or in the mail POSTMARKED by 12/31. You may also give in the Sunday offering at church 12/29. Anything received Jan. 1 goes toward the new year.

December 29
NO SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Church Calls Walker McWilliams as Interim Pastor Effective February 1, 2025

In a special called Church Conference, Sunday December 15, our Deacons unanimously brought a resolution, recommendation, and motion to call Associate Pastor Walker McWilliams as our Interim Pastor after the retirement of Pastor Mark. The church joyfully approved the motion.

Continue to pray for Pastor Mark and Aurelia as they prepare for retirement and for Walker and staff as he serves as our Interim Pastor.

Year-End Giving

The church office will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 through Thursday, Dec. 26. All year end 2024 gift must be received in church the last Sunday of 2024, Dec. 29, or in the church office by noon of Tuesday, Dec. 31, or postmarked by Dec. 31. All offerings received after Jan. 1 will be relected in 2025 giving.

Online Giving Available: fbclufkin.org/give-online

Text to Give
Text any AMOUNT to (936) 209-5079

memorials

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

Building Fund In Memory of:
Keith Green
Bret Nicholson
Kathleen Shelton
Keith Varga
Steven Slusher
Linda Buckingham
Rosalind McAdams
Kenny Baker

FBC Operating Fund In Memory of:
Kathleen Shelton

Music Ministry In Memory of:
Kathleen Shelton
Kenny Baker
Lori Lopez

Children's Ministry In Memory of:
Doris Mitchell

new members

Laura Wilkerson
Roy & Lynn Meyers

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)

(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

Janie and Bob Lowery and Jason and Sara Lowery and family in the loss of Robert Goodman, brother and uncle.

Chris and Allen Wilson, Madalyn and Emma in the loss of Charles Kiser, father and grandfather.

Dale and Michelle Green in the loss of his sister, Sharon 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	\$1,659,841.50
Budget Receipts	\$1,705,293.96
Building Fund	\$172,931.56
Other Designations	\$115,495.07
Other Receipts	\$138,037.51

Staff

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

