

December

2023

Newsletter

Church Calendar

Dec. 3 First Sunday of Advent
Dec. 10 Second Sunday of Advent
Dec 11 Senior Christmas Luncheon @ 12
Dec 11 Finance Committee Meeting
Deacon Meeting
Dec. 15 Deadline for Newsletter
Dec. 17 Third Sunday of Advent
Dec. 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent
Dec 24 Christmas Communion Service
Dec 25 Christmas Day!
Dec. 25 & 26 Office Closed
Jan 1 New Year Day



The Lamplighters Women on Missions group will meet Thursday, Dec. 14th 10:30 at the church at Walker Hall.

We will carpool to The Ruth House in West Pickens County to share Christmas joy with the residents. We will share some Christmas thoughts, sing Christmas carols, tour the facility, and eat lunch there. All ladies in the church are invited to join us for this fun outing.

The Lamplighters Women on Mission Group will again present Mission Moments during the four Sundays of Advent. We will highlight Jeff and Jennifer Austin, Ron and Melin Green, Craig and Susan (last name withheld) and the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship which are supported by our Mission Budget. We want you to know how faithfully each these families and CBF are serving the Lord. We also want you to be aware of the need to support them through your prayers and gifts.

There will not be a specific Mission Offering. We will be asking you to give through the Church Budget. If you want to make specific offerings to these or any other mission cause, you are absolutely welcome to do so. Just make sure the Church office has the information they need to get your gift to your designated mission.

Word From Preston

Where do you belong? What groups are you associated with? To belong means you have a relationship with or you have a connection to people. Sometimes there are requirements to belong and sometimes we belong because we just connected in similar interests or we have a relationship with someone. There is a deep desire within us all to belong. For Advent this month, our theme is Belonging. We are going to wrestle with the concept of Belonging. So I hope that you join us on Sundays for Worship as we celebrate and journey through Advent.

Preston



The Advent/Christmas season is a favorite time of the year. Our choir and praise band have been working hard preparing for our special Christmas Celebration, Sunday December 17, in our 11:00AM worship hour. We will have guest instrumentalists playing with us. It will be a Christmas celebration you won't want to miss.

I am so proud of our choir and praise band. Their commitment to our Lord and our church is wonderful. They use their awesome talent to praise our Lord and to lead His church in worship. I am thankful for them each week. In this last month of the year, I also want to say how thankful I am for our great congregation. I so appreciate your support and participation in our worship services. We have such an amazing church family. I look forward to worshipping with you each week.

Because He Lives,
Glenn Crosthwait



From Erin



We did it!

As you can see from the picture above, we successfully collected shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our goal was 20 and we more than doubled that goal with 46 shoeboxes. Our church collected a total of 153 shoeboxes this year, which is a new record and 15 more than last year. I'm very proud of FBCJ kids for working hard to collect and pack each of these shoeboxes. I am especially proud of the way they glorified God through this mission.

During the month of November, we talked a lot about the importance of living out Thanksgiving all year long by Thanks living each day. The children were able to work on a service project packing 24 pies along with notes of gratitude which were delivered to our homebound and assisted living church family. In December, we are looking forward to an evening of Christmas caroling for many of those same members. There is not greater gift this Christmas season than seeing our children joyfully live out a life of service. When they are engaged in serving others it helps them to see past the immediate world around them and see first-hand how their help can make a difference in lives and communities. I truly couldn't be prouder of all the love and effort they put in each service project presented to them.

Peace, Love, Joy,

Erin

Ministry Leadership Team

REV. PRESTON JONES, SENIOR PASTOR
- OFFICE@FBCJASPER.COM

REV. GLENN CROSTHWAITE-WORSHIP PASTOR
- GCROS1@BELLSOUTH.NET

ERIN MARTIN-DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
- ERINLOVERNMARTIN@GMAIL.COM

BILL STONE, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
- STONE_17299@MSN.COM

ALI LAWSON, DIRECTOR OF SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES

KATIE DUNCAN, OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
- OFFICE@FBCJASPER.COM

LANA CALLAHAN, PRESCHOOL HEAD DIRECTOR
- PRESCHOOL@FBCJASPER.COM

SAMANTHA DUNN, PRESCHOOL ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
- PRESCHOOL@FBCJASPER.COM

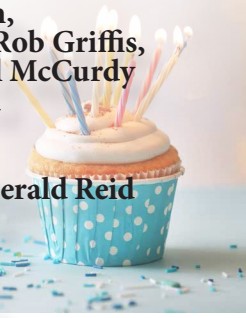
JOY HUDDLESTON, ORGANIST **MELANIE MCCURDY, PAINIST**

DAVID STUART, MINISTER OF MUSIC EMERITUS
- DAVIDSTUART52@HOTMAIL.COM

PATTON CHILDERS, CHAIR OF DEACONS
- PATTONCHILDERS@HOTMAIL.COM

Happy December Birthday!

- 1 - Fay Griffis
- 2 - Kami Jones
- 5 - Mary Dilbeck
- 7 - Alexa Baggs
- 8 - Bob Baldwin, Marena Leonard
- 9 - Brenda Rueffert
- 10 - Vicki Schmidt, Betty Videon
- 12 - Ray Farrell
- 13 - Jewell Godfrey,
Anne Smith, Robert Wofford
- 14 - Sam Williams
- 15 - Michael Chastain,
Marty Callahan, Rob Griffis,
Liz Hamrick, Will McCurdy
- 16 - Dennis Woodard
- 17 - Henry Stuart
- 18 - Ken Austin
- 19 - Lana Callahan, Gerald Reid
- 21 - Farrol Mashburn
- 23 - Linda McGhee
- 26 - Thomas Pinson
- 27 - Andrea Childers
- 29 - Doris McCurdy



School Snack Pack Program



During the holiday season we are often reminded to be aware of children and families who are less fortunate and face hunger daily. Sadly, everyday children right here in Pickens County deal with issues of need that most of us have never experienced. Every school child has access to breakfast and lunch during weekdays, but many lose most of their nourishment during the weekend.

We are grateful for the generosity and support First Baptist Church has shown to these children through donations to the Weekend Snack Program. You currently supply a family size Mac and Cheese on a monthly basis along with other individual size snacks and your recycled grocery bags. Rising food costs and availability has become a growing challenge. The program cannot function without consistent, reliable donors like you. Thank you!

Sustaining this mission of providing more than 600 snack bags each week is no small task. Once the food items have been secured through many hours of planning, shopping, phone calls and personal contacts the weekly sorting and scheduling begins. The regular volunteers who happily meet two days each week are senior citizens, home school families and a few college students who have a love for children. Some of these dedicated people have been on the assembly line since the program began. After the bags are filled and ready, they are delivered to every public school in the county plus the Head Start Program.

These volunteers know that this bag of snacks will help keep many children from being hungry until they return to school each Monday. Stop and think about that. A typical snack bag could be a can of Vienna sausage, two Pop Tarts, two servings of dry cereal, a granola bar, a small bag of chips, and a sleeve of saltine crackers. Some of the children who have a bag of similar items placed in their backpacks each Friday know it will supplement the week-end food for their entire family.

We covet your continued support! You make a difference - you - God's church at work in our world.

Monetary donations can be made to the church, specifying Snack Program

**Nursery now available during
Sunday 11:00 am Worship Service**

Children's Church
during 11:00 am Worship Service Sunday
Sunday School Classes at 9:45
Preschool thru 3rd
4th-6th grade

YOUTH

Every Sunday we meet at 10Am for Sunday School in Youth Room!

Wednesday night youth activities 6-7 pm.



December 2023

Church Calendar

First Baptist Church of Jasper

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Irvin Cheney	2
3	4 Pat & Debbie Childers, Andrea	5 Patton & Mallory Childers Harper & Henley	6 Tommy & Gwen Chumley	7 Glenn & Katherine Croshwait	8 Mike & Penny Davis	9
10	11 Sr. Christmas Luncheon Susan Davis Jodie, Sam	12 Will Denson	13 Mary Dilbeck	14 Geneva Dorsey	15 Vesta Doster	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK						
	Mary Ann DeBose	Carl & Lisa Duckett	Matt & Samantha Dunn Molly, Madison, Maggy	Greg & Judy Edgar	Bill & Kelly Eubanks	
24 No Sunday School Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion 6pm	25 Church office Closed	26 Church office Closed	27	28	29 Office open 8-12pm	30
SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK						
	Frank & Doris Eubanks	Ray Ferrell	Rebecca Forrester	Stephen & Katherine France & Addison	Dave Garner	
31	Happy New Year 2024					

Pray for One Another: On the calendar you will find the names of Church Members to pray for five days a week. Please remember them in your daily prayers. (James 5:16)

2023 Deacon Body

Patton Childers, Chair
Margo Austin
Samantha Dunn
Rick Harris
Cleve Kiser
Slade Lowe

Jim Looney, Vice-Chair
Pauline Maturo
Judy Pinson
Gerald Reid
Kyle Rasco

Beverly Looney Secretary
Brian Russell
Nancy Teague
Brenda Weaver
John Luke Weaver

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW DEACONS 2024-2027

LISA DUCKETT

DEBORAH GAY

MARTY CALLAHAN

REEDER BURCH

Next Deacons Meeting: Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:30 P.M.

Deacon of the Week

Dec 3	Nancy Teague	Taylor Haney
Dec 10	Sam Dunn	Patton Childers
Dec 17	John Luke Weaver	Kyle Rasco
Dec 24	Jim Looney	Kirk Garner
Dec 31	Margo Austin	Slade Lowe

Poinsettia Memorial Contributions

*In Memory Of Lou Chastain
Tracey Chastain
In Honor Of Matt, Samantha, Maddie,
Molly, Maggy Dunn and Sarah & Thomas
Pinson
Brian & Judy Pinson
In Memory Of Charles & Alice Pinson and
Tony Pinson
Brian & Judy Pinson
In Memory Of Marie Reynolds
Brian & Judy Pinson
In Memory Of Fred & Barbara Thomason
Brian & Judy Pinson
In Honor Of Kay, Lynn, Cindy, and Lisa -
daughters
Bobbie Shelnutt
In Memory Of husband Laimon and son
Lamar
Bobbie Shelnutt
In Memory Of Vernon & Jewell Smith
George & Brenda Weaver
In Memory Of Ruby B. Weaver
George & Brenda Weaver
In Honor Of Children & Grandchildren
George & Brenda Weaver
In Memory Of Lee & Mary Young & J.S. &
Henrietta Darnell
Alvin & Hettie Young
In Honor Of Children & Grandchildren
Alvin & Hettie Young
In Memory Of Dr. & Mrs. G.H. Perrow
Ken, Margo & Ryan Austin
In Memory Of Virginia Austin, Carol &
Ernest Allen
Ken, Margo & Ryan Austin
In Honor Of Sutton Bailey
Kirk & Laura Garner
In Honor Of Liam Childers
Kirk & Laura Garner
In Memory Of our grandparents
Owen Family
In Memory Of Debbie Pickett
Gary & Cay Reece*

*In Memory Of Mr. & Mrs. Alex Shaw
Bill & Edie Stone
In Memory Of Myra Denson
Mike & Sandi Denson
In Memory Of Debbie Pickett
Mike & Sandi Denson
In Memory Of Calvin DuBose, Jr.
Mary Ann DuBose
In Honor Of Brian & Judy Pison
Samantha Dunn, Sarah Pinson &
Thomas Pinson
In Memory Of Estelle Patterson
Regina Hayslett
In Honor Of our 5 grandchildren - Ben,
Caroline, Braun, Shay, Cam
Mark & Julie Hickman
In Honor Of our grandchildren - Maddie &
Sarah Grace
Ed & Susan Johnson
In Memory Of Eric Wood
Jo Ann Wood
In Memory Of Glen & Drucilla Burgess
Tom & Kathy Wallace
In Memory Of Mr. & Mrs. Julian Wallace
Tom & Kathy Wallace
In Memory Of Julia & Wallace Wheeler
Barbara Shope
In Memory Of John Shope
Barbara Shope
In Memory Of Mr. & Mrs. Roy Stone
Bill & Edie Stone
In Memory Of Forest & Della Teague
Harold & Nancy Teague
In Memory Of Hugh & Mary Tatum
Harold & Nancy Teague
In Memory Of Gladys Wilson
Chuck & Heloise Wilson
In Memory Of Luke Stanfield
Reeder & Robin Burch
In Memory Of Patsy Stanfield
Reeder & Robin Burch
In Memory Of Mom & Dad
Doris McCurdy*

*In Memory Of Albert Hamrick
Liz Hamrick & Family
In Memory Of Weldon & Evelyn Lowe
Slade Lowe & Family
In Memory Of RT & Marilyn McMalon
Slade Lowe & Family
In Memory Of Bobbie Edge
Dan & Linda Owen
In Honor Of Glenn & Sharon Rasco
Kyle Rasco & Family
In Honor Of Barbara Young
Rick & Debbie Harris
In Honor Of Debbie Harris
Rick Harris
In Honor Of Hettie Young
Vera Givens
In Honor Of Georgia Marie Cagle
Vera Givens
In Memory Of Mary Ozment (sister)
Vera Givens
In Honor Of my children & grandchildren
Vera Givens
In Memory Of Don Givens-we love and
miss you
Vera Givens & Family
In Memory Of Loyd & Grace Weaver
Jody Weaver
In Honor Of George & Brenda Weaver
Jody Weaver
In Honor Of Ronnie & Joyce Weaver
Jody Weaver
In Memory Of Debbie Pickett
Jody Weaver
In Honor Of Myra Elizabeth Baumann
Jody Weaver
In Memory Of Our Parents
Tom & Kathy Prusa*

Memorial Contributions

In Honor Of Dorcas SS Class-Kyle & Cassie Rasco
In Memory Of Mary Ozment (Vera Givens sister)-Carl & Lisa Duckett
In Honor Of Deborah Gay-Gerald & Mary Jane Reid