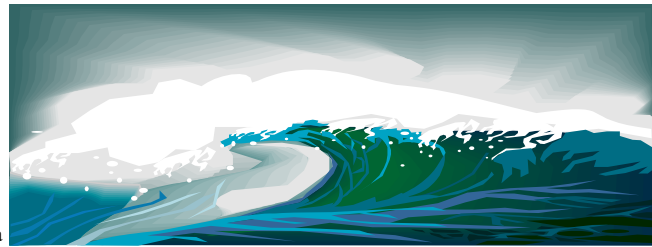




The *December 2025* Anchor

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a



As Christmas approaches, our church is beautifully decorated, and the excitement of the season fills the air. Amidst the hustle and bustle, we must pause and reflect on the true meaning of this season: the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We have entered the Advent season, which means we are just four Sundays from Christmas. Each week, different families from our church will share readings and prayers during our worship services as they light candles in anticipation of Jesus' arrival.

Imagine the young virgin Mary, visited by an angel, accepting God's call to bear His one and only Son, who would be wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger because there was no room at the inn. Jesus' arrival marked the greatest gift to humanity, demonstrating love and hope. "We *needed a Savior*" is the sermon series I will be preaching during Advent. Isaiah 9:6 (ESV) tells us, "*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.*"

As we prepare for our Christmas celebration, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the holiday's pressures. Shopping lists grow longer, budgets tighten, and the stress of finding the perfect gift can overshadow the joy we seek. This year, I want to challenge our church family to refocus their celebrations on Jesus. When we embrace the purpose of His coming, the stress of the holiday begins to fade, and our focus shifts to loving our families and friends. Jesus lived a sinless life, demonstrating His perfect love towards us. He ultimately became the sacrificial lamb for our sins. Romans 6:23 (NIV) reminds us, "*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" For that, we celebrate as we read Philippians 4:4 (NIV), "*Rejoice in the Lord always.*"

Our church has many exciting activities planned this year for you to enjoy the season. You can see the list in this newsletter. You can join us for the annual progressive dinner on December 6, starting at Rhonda and Gary Samples' home before moving to Doug and Debby Bashaw's residence, where we will have our annual White Elephant Ornament exchange—it's always a lot of fun! On December 14, our children will present their annual play during the worship service that always brings smiles and laughter. That afternoon, we will gather for refreshments and sing Christmas carols in the fellowship hall with Landon and Kristi King. The bell choir under Ann Johnson will perform during worship on December 21. If you want to play the bells, she'll teach you how. It's pretty easy. Additionally, adults can be a part of the family-centered Christmas party that Pastor Ethan will host for his Jr/Sr High Youth group on December 21 at 6:00. By attending and getting involved, you'll be sharing love with the older kids who are connected to our church. He has a sign-up sheet outside his office. Lastly, don't miss our annual candlelight Christmas Eve Cantata featuring our choir, directed by Abbi Woods. This service not only creates a perfect atmosphere for reflection but has become a cherished tradition for many families, including mine. Before and after the Cantata, take a stroll around the churchyard to see the luminaria honoring loved ones who have passed, as this is one way we pay tribute to them each year.

To that end, as you plan for Christmas gatherings, consider how Christ can be at the center of your festivities. Take a moment to offer prayers of thanksgiving for Jesus, creating an opportunity for worship and reflection with your family. Share stories with the children and grandchildren about your own Christmas experiences growing up. Most importantly, ensure that everyone knows the story of Jesus' birth, or read it to them out of Luke 2. I do that every year in

our home. The countdown to Christmas has begun. Don't stress over creating the perfect holiday; instead, embrace each moment. As John 3:16 (NIV) tells us, "***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.***" And that, church family, is reason enough for us to have the best Christmas ever this year, because our renewed focus is on Him. After all, it's His birthday!

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Toby & Jennifer





November has been an exciting and meaningful month for Moving Mountains Youth. Our students attended the Senior High Convention, where they spent valuable time together praising God in a dynamic group setting. Hundreds of students were deeply impacted by the Holy Spirit and had the opportunity to experience worship in fresh and meaningful ways. To wrap-up an incredible day, we shared a fun dinner together at Quaker Steak and Lube, enjoying wings and fellowship.

As we move into December, another significant month for our ministry, we enter a season centered on recognizing the birth of Jesus. This time of year reminds us to glorify Him above all else—not focusing primarily on presents or even family gatherings, but remembering that without Christ stepping out of heaven to dwell among us, we would have no hope of stepping into heaven ourselves.

We will conclude December with our BIG Moving Mountains Christmas Party, and we are excited to invite all adults to join us! This year, Ethan will share a short devotional and the evening will include food, fun and plenty of games.

Soli Deo Gloria,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ethan", is written below the text "Soli Deo Gloria,".

Pastor Ethan

Sing to the Lord



Everyone is invited to a time of food, fellowship and Christmas caroling on December 14 at 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Hosted by Kristi King, the Adult Representative on the Board of Christian Education.

Landon King will bless us with his music as we join voices in the carols.

Bring family and friends to have an afternoon of blessings.

MMY Christmas Party



Moving Mountains Youth are inviting people of all ages to their Christmas party on December 21 at 6:00. Wear your craziest Christmas Sweater!

They would like you to sign up so they can have a count for food and drinks. The sign up sheet is outside of Pastor Ethan's office.

Pastor Ethan will have a devotion then will lead the games and other activities.

It's going to be an evening of Jesus and fun!



Come watch the kiddos on December 14!!

Jane Moore will be directing the God's Cadets kids for their program during morning worship. Come out as they tell "The Christmas Story".

Ann Johnson will be leading them with music.

Join the Young Adults for a Walk Through Bethlehem



The Young Adults and Friends will be traveling to Hometown, WV to see *Walk Through Bethlehem* December 11-13.

The final date will be announced soon.

Everyone is welcome to join in the journey. Contact Jo Hendricks or Talia Martinez if you are interested in going. Carpooling is available.



American Red Cross Blood Drive



Save a Life, Give Blood

December 1 Noon-5:00

Go online to redcrossblood.org to register

Join the Hand Bell Choir



Ann Johnson will be directing the FBC hand bell choir again this December.

The practices will be:

- December 14 at 5:30
- December 17 at 6:00

Performance will be during the morning worship on December 21.

Christmas Things

With postage over 60¢ this year, you should consider saving money for stamps by choosing to bring cards to the church family.

Outside the office in the entryway we have a mailbox. You can put cards in the correct alphabet slot for people in our congregation.

It's important that even if you choose not to give a card, you should check the mailbox each week to see if you have cards.

Enjoy the season! Save on stamps.



Luminaria

Once again, the church will shine the Light of Christ on Christmas Eve with our luminaria lining the sidewalk. If you would like to add to the lights and honor your loved ones, the cost is \$2 each. This includes the bag, light and sand; plus Susan will put your loved ones name on the bag so it shines out in the night. They are set out in alphabetical order.



There is no limit on how many you can sign up for. Use the bulletin inserts or give them to Susan. Mark your check memo Luminaria and make sure the names are written on the insert (or piece of paper for Susan).

Deadline is December 21.

If you are able to help set out the luminaria on Christmas Eve about 4:00, please let the office know.

Angel Tree Gifts



FBC is participating in the Angel Tree in the community. If you are interested in helping with this ministry, take an angel from the door in the vestibule. Purchase the item(s) on the angel.

Then wrap the gift item and place the angel on the outside of the gift to ensure it goes to the proper family.

All gifts are due back to the church fellowship hall by Sunday December 21.

The Deacons are currently collecting for the staff gifts. If you wish to donate to this, please mark your check FBC with "staff gift" in the memo.

Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Nursery Workers Needed



Nursery workers are needed each month and sometimes it's difficult finding someone to help with this ministry.

If you are able to help, please contact Brittany Pistelli to get on the schedule.

"Suffer the little children to come unto me..."

Silent Prayer New Years Eve

The sanctuary will be open from 6:00 to 8:00 on New Years Eve for those who wish to come in for quiet prayer. Come feel the Holy Spirit and lift up your prayers to the Lord. All are welcome.



FBC Christmas Eve Cantata

A Child Is Born... All Is Well

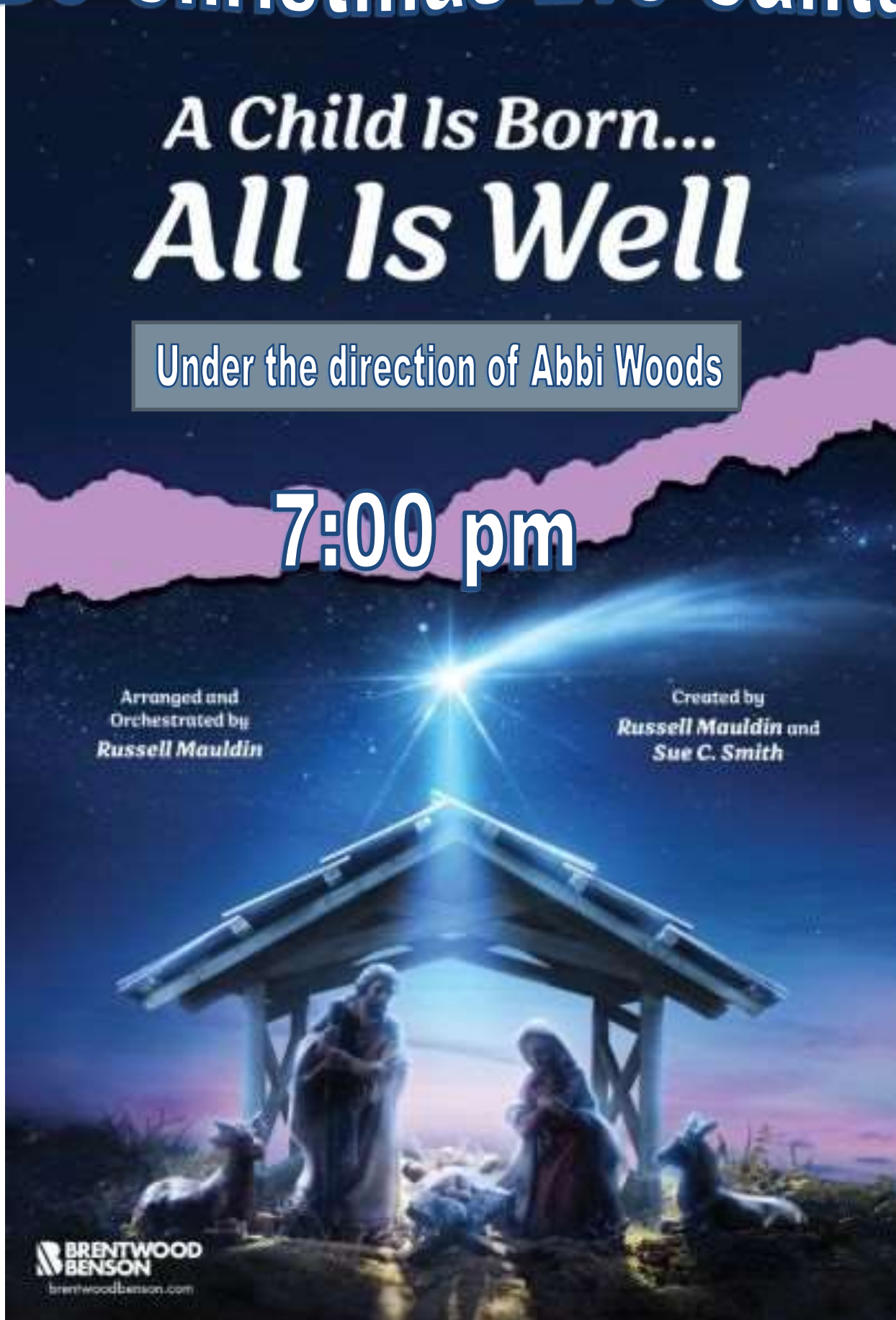
Under the direction of Abbi Woods

7:00 pm

Arranged and
Orchestrated by
Russell Mauldin

Created by
*Russell Mauldin and
Sue C. Smith*

 **BRENTWOOD
BENSON**
brentwoodbenson.com

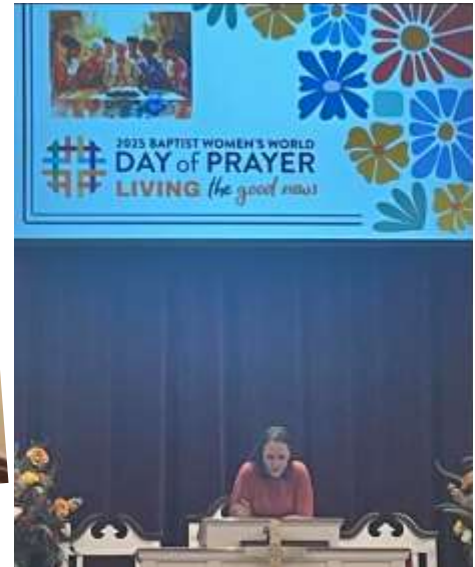


A Salute to our Veterans



2025 Thanksgiving Dinner





The Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer was held at FBC this year. Calvary Baptist ladies led the prayer service. Alexis Shriver was the guest speaker and gave her testimony on healing prayer.

FBC ladies served soup, sandwiches and desserts following the program.

Rhonda and Gary Samples

Great Time!



FUN!

Deb and Doug Bashaw

Time for a great gathering!

Saturday November 6 @ 5:00 pm

Hosts are the Sample and Bashaw families.
Don't forget the ornament exchange!

This and That at FBC



The choir sings out to the Lord during a morning worship service.



Veterans Richard Massey, John Stephenson and Burt Lyons visit the kids at school on Veterans Day. Lincoln and Beckham Ritchie are glad they came.



Jane Moore led the group of decorators as our church sanctuary is beautified for the Christmas season.

Many thanks to all who helped.



Cake Time!



Sent with Prayers



And Love



Happy Birthday FBC



Focus on Sunday School:



Advent to Jesus

During the holy Christmas season, we light candles for 4 Sundays before Christmas Eve.

The first candle is the Candle of Hope (or Prophecy). This candle helps us to look forward to the birth of Jesus. The prophets foretold Him hundreds of years before He came to earth...for us.

The second candle is the Candle of Peace (Bethlehem Candle). This candle reminds us of the journey Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. They both chose to believe the angels messages from God about the birth of His Son.

The third candle is the Candle of Joy. Like the shepherds of old, we rejoice as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Let us all remember that the Christ Child came to earth for our sins.

The fourth candle is the Love Candle (or Angel Candle). God shows us His ultimate love by sending His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life.

The Christ Candle is lit on Christmas Eve to show how the Light of Christ conquers the darkness in the world.

Let your light shine for Jesus this Christmas.

It's amazing what you can learn in Sunday School!

December Calendar

Dec 1 Red Cross Blood Drive; Trustee Meeting
Dec 6 Progressive Dinner
Dec 7 2nd Sunday of Advent; Ethan's Mission Presentation
Dec 8 BOCE
Dec 9 Men's Fellowship
Dec 11-13 (TBA) Young Adults Walk Through Bethlehem
Dec 14 3rd Advent; God's Cadets Program; Caroling;
Bell Choir Practice
Dec 16 Financial Committee Meeting
Dec 17 Bell Choir Practice
Dec 18 Anchor Articles Due
Dec 21 4th Advent; Bell Choir Performance; MMY Christmas Party
Dec 23 Deacon's Meeting
Dec 24 Christmas Eve Cantata; Office Closed
Dec 25 Merry Christmas! Office Closed
Dec 31 New Years Eve Silent Prayer in the sanctuary

* Game Day every Thursday 1:00-3:00 (not on holidays)

December Birthdays



Megan Watkins 12/2
Jonathan Williams 12/3
Ben Mize 12/4
Melissa Bennett 12/7
Tom Stephenson 12/8
Debby Bashaw 12/10
Mark Gerstell 12/14
Kevin Woods 12/14
Hadleigh McGoskey 12/15
Brent Confer 12/16
Shawn Cole 12/17
Elisabeth Cummins 12/18
Landon King 12/19
Jo Hendricks 12/22
Jesus 12/25
Nancy McCoy 12/26
Tammy Harpold 12/28
Sherry Walker 12/30

Is your name missing?
Tell Susan

Bible Book of the Month December 2025 Matthew



CommUnity Kitchen

Dec 6 Walker/Casto families
Dec 13 Teagan and the girls
Dec 20 Need Volunteers
Dec 27 Need Volunteers

*Sign up for
CommUnity Kitchen 2026!*

CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Peg Lyons	2 Philip Lyons	3 Darla Mahone	4 Talia Martinez	5 Richard & Phyllis Massey	6 Patti McCauley
7 Brad & Donna McCoy	8 Charlotte McCoy	9 Nancy McCoy	10 Fred & Robin McGoskey	11 Roberta Miller	12 Ben & Christie Mize	13 Josh Mize
14 David & Mary Jo Moore, Hunter	15 Jon & Jane Moore	16 Julie Morgan, Lila	17 Patrick & Scarlet Mullins, Emry, Ryleigh, Hudson, Hunter	18 Gage & Destiny Nease	19 John & Jennifer Ortt	20 Allen & Holly Palmer
21 Adam & Brittany Pistelli, Colton, Max, Ella	22 Mick & Susan Price	23 Kay Pursley	24 Roger & Belinda Rader	25 Juanita Raines	26 Lee & Connie Reynolds	27 Brent & Angel Ritchie, Conner, Lincoln, Beckham
28 Tyler & Michelle Ritchie, Mary	29 Ben & Kellie Roberts	30 Wesley Rosencrance	31 Gary & Rhonda Samples			

Unto us a child is born!



You shall call His name
Jesus