



# CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

February 2025

Volume LXXVII, No. 02

## Souper Bowl Fundraiser and Baked Goods Auction

February 9th after Worship

Please join us for the annual youth fundraiser. All proceeds will go directly toward this summer's trip, PASSPORT.

We ask for you to please donate a baked good for our auction!

### Menu:

- Tomato Basil Bisque
- Vegetable Soup
- Souper Bowl Chili
- Pimento Cheese sold by the Quart: \$10
- Pimento Cheese Sliders
- Cornbread Muffins
- Assorted Cookies
- Pimento Cheese sold by the Pint: \$10
- Pimento Cheese sold by the Quart: \$20

Price per Plate: Donation to the Youth



Adobe Express



## A Note from the Pastor

2025 will be an important year for First Baptist Church. I will encourage us to pause and pray two unifying prayers: "God, who do You want us to be?" and "God, what do You want us to do?" These prayers are not just words. They are a call to open our hearts and lift our eyes to the extraordinary plans God has for us.

Throughout Scripture, we see how God shows up in people's dreams. Joseph's story reminds us that dreams are not just figments of imagination but vehicles for God's purpose. Joseph's dreams weren't easy to understand or follow initially, but they carried him through betrayal and hardship, and ultimately, he was put in a position to save countless lives. In the same way, we are called to seek God's dreams for our church, trusting that God's plans for us are good but might stretch our assumptions. The best dreams are transformative, after all.

What might God's dream for First Baptist Church look like? It begins with a willingness to listen and to trust. As we pray, "God, who do You want us to be?" we are asking God to shape our identity as God's people, individually and corporately. Perhaps God calls us to deeper faith, stronger community, or greater compassion for those around us. As we pray, "God, what do You want us to do?" we are asking God to reveal the specific ways we can serve and make an impact in God's kingdom. This could mean expanding current ministries, embracing new outreach opportunities, or supporting one another in ways we've never imagined.

It's easy to focus on the challenges and limitations we face—time, resources, and uncertainties. But God calls us to lift our eyes beyond what is and to look toward what could be. Just as Joseph's journey was marked by setbacks that ultimately led to triumph, our path may not always be easy. However, as faithful people, we trust that God will generously provide.

To dream together as a church is to step into a future that is bigger than ourselves. It means seeking God's guidance not just for individual lives but for our collective mission. It's about aligning our hearts with God's purposes and trusting that God will equip us for the work ahead.

Let us also remember that God's dreams require action. Faith is not passive; it moves us to respond. As we seek God's vision, let's commit to walking forward together in unity and hope. We are not alone on this journey. The same God who spoke to Joseph through dreams is with us, guiding and empowering us to align with God's work in the world.

So, First Baptist Church of Greenwood, let's dream together. Let's ask, seek, and knock, trusting that God will open doors we never thought possible. Let's lift our eyes and hearts to the One who has always been faithful. What dream has God prepared for us? Let's find out together.

Your Pastor,

John



## Worship in February Sermon Series on Noah

### Sunday—February 2

Scripture: Genesis 6

Sermon: "Noah—What to Do When God Wants to Start Over?"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
"Come to the Ark"  
"Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"  
Chancel Choir

### Sunday—February 9

Scripture: Genesis 7

Sermon: "Noah—Disaster Preparedness"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
"Come to the Ark"  
"Behold the Ark of God"  
Chancel Choir  
"Mariner's Hymn"  
Chancel Choir and Bell Tower Trio

### Sunday—February 16

Scripture: Genesis 8:1-12

Sermon:  
"Noah—Patience Is the Key"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
"Send Forth a Dove"  
"Come to the Ark"  
"Come Into the Ark"  
Chancel Choir

### Sunday—February 23

Scripture: Genesis 8:13-22

Sermon: "Noah—Worship as Response"  
John Uldrick

Special Music  
"With a Voice of Singing"  
"Come from the Ark"  
"An Ark of Mercy Rode the Flood"  
Chancel Choir

### Sermon Series concludes March 2

Scripture: Genesis 9,

Sermon: "Noah—Even with God's Blessing, We Falter"  
John Uldrick



## A Flood is Coming... Noye's Fludde, Church Opera March 13 and 14

Our community church opera, *Noye's Fludde*, will be performed in the First Baptist Church sanctuary on Thursday, March 13 and Friday, March 14 at 6:00 pm each night. The opera lasts about an hour. It features children from FBC, other churches, and the Greenwood community. It also features two singers from the Metropolitan Opera, Stacey Robinson (Broadway performer and Greenwood native) as the Voice of God, Ellen Douglas Schlaefer, director (Opera at USC, Columbia, SC), and our own Keith Jameson as conductor. Lander University students, local musicians, and various people helping with sets, costumes, and other behind the scenes aspects will make this huge undertaking possible.

The English composer Benjamin Britten, composed this work to be premiered in June 1958 at the Aldeburgh Festival. Britten was keen to emphasize that the work needed to be performed in a church, not a concert hall or opera house. The work incorporates three hymns that are sung by the audience as well. Children and youth make up the largest part of the cast representing all sorts of animals and birds that make their way to the ark. There is a musical depiction of the Great Flood, with a homemade instrument representing the beginning of the raindrops. The "Slung-Mugs" are actually tea cups strung on a string, played by a wooden spoon, to depict the rain drops. Strings, trumpets, recorders, piano four-hands, organ, and handbells, all add to the dynamic colors of the orchestra.

I hope you will make plans to attend this major event in the life of our church and the Greenwood community. If you are willing to help with making animal head-gear, sewing of costume pieces, or helping with sets or backstage with children, please contact Keith Jameson.



## Spring Semester Building Blocks

### February Building Blocks

#### January 29—February 26

"The 10 Best Parenting Ways to Ruin Your Child" led by John Uldrick

#### January 29-February 19

"How the Bible Canon Was Developed" led by Bill Harris

### March—April Building Blocks (March 5—April 23)

March 5—Ash Wednesday Service

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9, 23  
Building Blocks

March 19 (NO MEAL)—Building Blocks

March 26 (NO MEAL)—Building Blocks

Holy Week April 16 NO Activities

April 17 Maundy Thursday

April 18 Good Friday

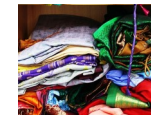
April 20 Easter

April 23 —End of Spring Building Blocks

April 30—Music & Missions Night

(Last Wednesday Night Meal until fall/new school year schedule begins)

### Scraps and Pieces of Fabric



If you have any scraps of fabric that you could donate, we are in the process of making sashes and headgear for Noye and Noye's family for our church opera *Noye's Fludde*. Please bring any fabric donations to Keith Jameson in the church office. Thanks!

Also, if you can help with making animal head gear, please contact Keith!

### FBC Prayers for 2025

"God, who do You want us to be?"

"God, what do You want us to do?"



## Church Directory Is Available Online

Need contact information for a church member, but the church office is closed? Check the online version of the church directory. Even though the hard copy of the FBC Directory needs to be updated, the online version of the directory is updated when the office receives notice of changes. The online directory is a simple and secure resource you can use anytime, anywhere on your computer, smartphone, or tablet. If you have not set up your login, please visit <https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com/signup>. There you will find simple step-by-step instructions on how to set up your login. Once you have set up your login, you can carry our church directory wherever you go, right on your phone! Information on how to download the app to your mobile device can be found on the church's website, <https://www.fbcgwd.org/member-directory/>.

The online directory provides invaluable information about our FBC families. You will also be able to submit updates to your own information (and family member information) anytime, including your photo and contact details.

Of course, the church office is still happy help you with addresses, phone numbers, and emails. The office also asks that you continue to supply us with any changes to your contact information, even if you make changes to the online directory yourself.



## First Baptist Church Greenwood Winter Weather Policy

As FBC enters into a season of inclement weather, your church staff wants everyone to be safe. In case of bad weather, watch for posts on Facebook, email, or FBC *Remind* for updates on worship cancelations and office closings. Anyone with a question or an emergent need is asked to contact a member of the ministry staff.



## Community Lenten Pilgrimage

**March 5**—First Baptist Church Greenwood

**March 12**—Immanuel Lutheran Church

**March 19**—Greenwood ARP

**March 26**—South Main Baptist Church

**April 2**—Main Street UMC

**April 9**—First Presbyterian Church

**April 16**—Morris Chapel

### Some reminders:

First Lunch at noon

Service at 12:30 pm

Second lunch at 1:00 pm

The cost for lunch is \$2.00.

Offering will be taken and given to Greater Greenwood United Ministry.



## Newsletter Schedule

The First Baptist Church newsletter, *Connections*, is printed once a month. Office staff have the goal of families receiving the newsletter approximately a week before the end of the previous month. Holidays, weekends, and the number of days in a month affect when the newsletter is mailed. To help everyone remember when articles are needed for the newsletter, the **deadline for articles is the fifteenth of each month**. Thank you for helping First Baptist include relevant information in the newsletter.

## Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of

- Jean Stroud
- Patricia Wright, cousin of Michael Hammett
- Lucille Rhodes, grandmother of Bryce Rhodes
- Stephanie Morris Arnold, aunt of Jordon Hewitt

**Greenwood Rehab:** Dave Free

**Home Hospice:** Roger Bley

**Home:** Bill and Rose Whaley,  
Nancy Weaver, Wade "Butter" Batson

### Birth

Ezra Elizabeth Bridges, daughter of  
Angela and Nathan Bridges



## Rosemary Benjamin Christmas Post Office Update

The Christmas Post Office, sponsored by the Rosemary Benjamin Circle, raised \$1,071.45 for the Greater Greenwood United Ministry. Thank you for your generous support of this worthy organization.

## Financials

### December 2024

December Receipts: \$205,016.76

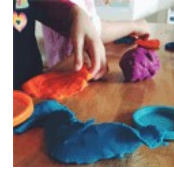
Receipts for the last six weeks of 2024:  
\$227,142.76

### End of 2024

Ministry Plan Req'd YTD \$988,409.40  
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD \$932,204.50  
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under) (\$ 56,204.90)

### January 1 - January 19, 2025

Period Need \$ 57,433.02  
Period Gifts \$ 26,504.31  
Ministry Plan Req'd YTD \$ 57,433.02  
Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD \$ 26,504.31  
Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under) (\$ 30,928.71)  
Sunday School Att. (Avg) 152  
Worship Attendance (Avg) 185



## Volunteer to Help in Extended Session!

We currently have several openings in the Children's Ministry:

- One adult Children's Church volunteer is needed on the first Sunday of February, April, June, August, October, and December
- Two Toddler Extended Session volunteers are needed for the fourth Sunday of February, April, June, August, October, and December

Please contact Anna Burch (aeburchfbc@gmail.com) or a member of the children's committee to volunteer.

## Rehearsal Schedule for *Noye's Fludde*

**Rehearsal for ALL Children/Youth**  
Sunday, February 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 2  
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

**ENTIRE CAST Staging**  
Saturday, March 8—10:00 am - noon

**ENTIRE CAST Run-Through**  
Sunday, March 9—3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

**PIANO Dress Rehearsal**  
Monday, March 10—6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

**ORCHESTRA Dress Rehearsal**  
Tuesday, March 11—6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**ORCHESTRA Dress Rehearsal**  
Wednesday, March 12—6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

**PERFORMANCE #1, Opening Reception**  
Thursday, March 13—6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**PERFORMANCE #2**  
Friday, March 14— 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

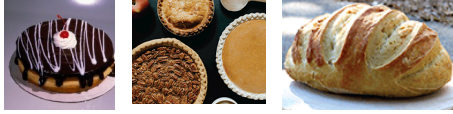


# Youth News



**February Sunday Night Live**  
**Sunday, February 2**  
**5:00 pm-7:00 pm**  
**Location TBA**

SNL hosts are needed for March 2, April 6, and May 4. Please contact Lauren Coker if you can help.



## Baked Goods Auction Following Souper Bowl Meal

FBC bakers show off your talent by providing baked goods for the auction. Whose cake, pie, cookies, brownies, or home-made bread will get the highest bid?



**"Love Is in the Air!"**  
**February 4**

NGO Fellowship features The Hopkins on Tuesday, February 4. Love will definitely be in the air as we welcome home our former pastor, Tony, and his wife, Carol. They will entertain us royally with love songs, stories, and maybe even an Elvis number. Betty Walker will be their accompanist. The catered meal by Lee's Barbecue will be barbecue sandwiches, baked beans, slaw, and strawberry shortcake. The cost is \$10 and 2025 dues of \$5 are due. **Meal reservations must be made by Wednesday, January 29.** If you are not a member, please call the church office to make your meal reservation. We welcome all guests of any age. The entertainment will begin at 11:45 am, followed by the meal. Bring your sweetheart with you! Love is in the air!



## Flower Calendar Openings

The flowers on the Communion Table each Sunday add to the beauty of the Chancel. Families and groups who provided flowers in 2024 will be contacted to determine if they want to provide flowers in 2025. Other persons interested in providing flowers are asked to contact Mary Frances Thompson (229-5557) to reserve a date. These dates are currently available:

February 2, 9, 16  
 March 2  
 June 2, 9, 30  
 September 21, 28

Please remember, the persons who contribute flowers are responsible for making arrangements with the florist of their choice to prepare and deliver the arrangements to the church.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry (Knitters and Crocheters)



Second Thursday of the month  
 10:00 am-noon in the church parlor

**Next meeting: February 13**

For more information, contact June Shaw (538-9101).



## Young at Heart (A group for widows and widowers)

The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month at noon at the Greenwood Country Club. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 11. For more information contact Beth Hardage (770) 598-5303 or Nancy Rooney (864) 554-2923.



## Cheerful Cherub Registration



Registration is now open for children ages 1-4 and for 5 year old kindergarten students for the 2025-2026 school year. Forms are available in the church office or from Claudia Burch. If you have any questions, please call Claudia at 229-2787.



722 Grace Street Greenwood, SC 29649  
 (864) 229-5557 (864) 229-2561 Fax  
 Website: fbcgwd.org

### Cheerful Cherubs

(864) 229-2787 www.cheerfulcherubsfbc.com

#### Ministers and Staff

John Uldrick  
 Anna Burch  
 David Jennings  
 Keith Jameson  
 Lauren Coker  
 Will Thomas Cleveland  
 Claudia Burch  
 Mary Frances Thompson  
 Linda Miller

Senior Pastor  
 Minister to Children  
 Minister of Administration  
 Church Music Director  
 Part-Time Youth Leader  
 Organist  
 Director of Cheerful Cherubs  
 Ministry Assistant  
 Financial Assistant

john.uldrick.fbcg@gmail.com  
 aeburchfbc@gmail.com  
 jenningsdaj@gmail.com  
 keithjameson@hotmail.com  
 laurenncoker@gmail.com  
 willthomascleveland@gmail.com  
 claudiaburch5@gmail.com  
 gfbccs@gmail.com  
 lindamillerfbc@gmail.com

Helping Hands Ministry Information Line

864) 229-8051

**ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED**