



Daylight Saving Time ends.
Turn clocks **BACK** one hour before going to bed
Saturday night, November 2.



All Saints' Sunday
Sunday, November 3

Members of First Baptist who have died since All Saints' Sunday last year will be honored.

Come celebrate the faithfulness and example of those who have come before us.

Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 17
6:00 pm - Meal
6:30 pm - Meeting
(Details inside)

Community Thanksgiving Service
Monday, November 25

7:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church
Rev. John Uldrick, preaching



Installation of John Uldrick
(First Baptist's Sixteenth Pastor)

Sunday, November 24
11:00 am



A Note from the Pastor

November 2024

Generosity, just like anything else we want to be excellent in, takes practice. In their work through Notre Dame University on generosity, Christian Smith and Hilary Davidson said, "Generosity is the virtue of giving good things to others freely and abundantly. It is a learned character trait that involves attitude and action, entailing both the inclination and actual practice of giving liberally. It is not a haphazard behavior but a basic orientation to life. What generosity gives can vary: money, possessions, time, attention, aid, encouragement, and more, but it always intends to enhance the true well-being of the receiver. Like all virtues, generosity is in people's genuine enlightened self-interest to learn and practice."

Ephesians 2:8-10 says, "It is by grace that you are saved through faith, not by anything of your own, but by a pure gift from God, and not by anything you have achieved. Nobody can claim the credit. You are God's work of art."

Grace, as an expression of God's limitless love, forms the central theme of scripture. Grace represents divine generosity that is given freely and unconditionally, constantly available to all, though often unnoticed or even rejected. Grace is the "new life" that shares in God's divine purpose. However, while many may grasp this concept intellectually, fewer have genuinely experienced it, leading to a lack of deep belief in its transformative power.

In the parable of the watchful servants from Luke 12:35-40, Jesus presents an extraordinary image of God that defies traditional expectations. God is portrayed not only as a servant waiting on us, even in the dark hours of the night but also as a divine burglar who breaks through the regularness of life. It illustrates God's persistent, even disruptive, efforts to reach us gracefully. God's grace is unrelenting in its pursuit of all humanity, breaking through barriers and expectations to bring each of us to a closer relationship.

Understanding God's unmerited grace, this "unaccountable love," is crucial to interpreting the Bible's more profound message. Without recognizing the radical nature of grace, the Bible can be misinterpreted as a set of rules, obligations, or judgments rather than a message of God's love and generosity. Grace cannot be earned, lost, or manipulated according to human standards of merit or achievement. Instead, it is God's continuous act of self-giving, a pure expression of love, that sustains not only human lives but all of creation. As Richard Rohr so eloquently states, "It is God eternally giving away God—for nothing, except the giving itself. I believe grace is what makes flowers bloom, animals lovingly raise their young, babies smile, and planets remain in their orbits—for no good reason whatsoever except love alone." Grace is a force of love that permeates everything, given freely, with no motive other than love itself.

As we make our way through November, how can the unmerited grace of God draw us towards generosity in our own lives? How can we make generosity, not haphazard behavior but our basic orientation to life?

Your Pastor,

John



Worship in November

Sunday—November 3 All Saints' Sunday

Scripture: Hebrews 12:1-3, Psalm 24

Sermon:

"Fans from the Stands:
A Legacy We Love"
John Uldrick

Special Music
"O How Glorious Is the Kingdom"
Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary flowers today are given by Bill Moore to the glory of God and in loving memory of his mother, Ruth Knox Moore, and his wife, Linda.

Sunday—November 10 Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Genesis 22, Luke 18:9-14

Sermon:

"Paradox of Generosity:
An Altar, a Worshipper, an Offering"
John Uldrick

Special Music
"Treasures" - Chancel Choir

The Sanctuary flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Matthew James Newton Tivy by Keith Jameson and Ken and Carol Richard.

Sunday—November 17 Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Mark 10:17-31, Micah 6:6-8

Sermon:

"A Paradox of Generosity:
Value Driven Giving"
John Uldrick

Special Music
"Consider How the Birds Above"
Chancel Choir, with Becky Gardner, oboe

The arrangement in the Sanctuary this Sunday and next Sunday were commissioned by Jeanie and Trey Jenkins and prepared by Dennis Moore.

Sunday—November 24 Thirty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Christ the King Sunday Installation of John Uldrick

Scripture: Luke 6:27-36,
Proverbs 11:24-31

Sermon:
Joel Snyder preaching

Special Music
"It Is Good to Give God Thanks"
Chancel Choir, Organ, and Brass

"A Thanksgiving Prayer"
Voices of Grace Youth Choir

"The Majesty and Glory of Your Name"
Chancel Choir

The arrangement in the Sanctuary last Sunday and today were commissioned by Jeanie and Trey Jenkins and prepared by Dennis Moore.



For many people at First Baptist, *Hanging of the Green* is one of the most meaningful services of the year. This service is an opportunity for individuals and families to assist in leading the service by bring various Advent symbols into the Sanctuary. Anyone who would like to participate in the 2024 *Hanging of the Green* service on Sunday, December 1, 2024, is asked to contact Alice Gilchrist at terryalicegilchrist@gmail.com or Hillary Craigo at hillaryhcraigo@gmail.com by November 10, 2024.

Help Prepare the Sanctuary for Hanging of the Green

Preparation is needed before the Sanctuary is ready for the *Hanging of the Green* service. Christmas trees have to be assembled and partially decorated. Garland, wreaths, and other advent symbols have to be unpacked, etc. Everyone is invited to assist the Worship Committee in this preparation on **Sunday afternoon, November 24, from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm. Pizza supper provided.**



Music Notes

Thankful for God's Abundant Goodness

We thank God for those family members and friends who have gone on before us...these magnificent Saints who are now glorifying God in heaven and watching over us all. On All Saints Sunday we reflect on "Oh how glorious is the kingdom in which all the saints rejoice with Christ" with a beautiful and moving anthem by Fred Gramann, with handbells and a chant-like theme. The remainder of November will be a focus on stewardship, and again we thank God for the abundant goodness that He has bestowed on our lives. We thank God for the opportunity to give to the community and world around us. The Chancel Choir will be singing *Treasures* a favorite anthem, which incorporates *Give Me Jesus*. We also feature two new anthems for the choir - *Consider the Birds Above*, an exquisitely beautiful work for choir, organ, and oboe, with Becky Gardner playing. Words are by Stephen Starke, music by Daniel Zager, with a setting by Bret Heim. A simple hymn-like melody is interspersed with lush harmonies, and a soaring descant in the oboe, under the calmness of the organ accompaniment. A couple of the verses are:

*Consider how the birds above
Feed day by day with carefree ease
Does God not keep them in His love?
Are we not worth much more than these?
Be on your guard against all greed,
For life is more than what we own
Our Father knows our ev'ry need
Before our needs to us are known.*

The other new anthem is *It Is Good to Give God Thanks* by Allen Pote, with brass and timpani, as we also celebrate Thanksgiving. The Youth Choir will sing *A Thanksgiving Prayer* on November 24 as well. Members of the Chancel Choir will join other choirs for the Community Thanksgiving Service on Monday, November 25, 2024, at 7:00 pm at First Presbyterian Church, which also features the Palmetto Girls Sing! This special, meaningful service is always a time to celebrate the abundant goodness of God with our entire community.

Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting Sunday, November 17

**6:00 pm - Meal
6:30 pm - Meeting**

Everyone is invited to the First Baptist Church Annual Meeting, Sunday evening, November 17. In addition to committee reports, the congregation will vote on the following items.

- 1) Approval of the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting
- 2) Approval of the minutes from the Called Business Meeting on January 21, 2024 for the purpose of electing deacons
- 3) Approval of the minutes from the Called Business Meeting on April 7, 2024 for the purpose of extending a call to Rev. John Uldrick to serve as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Greenwood, SC
- 4) Approval of the minutes from the Called Business Meeting on October 27, 2024 for the purpose of electing deacons
- 5) Election of church officers:
 - Assistant Church Treasurer, Pat Penn
 - Church Clerk, Alan Ogles
- 6) Adoption of the 2025-2027 Church Committee Membership List by the Nomination and Lay Leadership Committee
- 7) Adoption of the Proposed 2025 Ministry Plan by the Stewardship Committee
- 8) Adoption of changes to Article III—Edgewood Cemetery and Mausoleum Board of the First Baptist Church Bylaws

Materials related to the Annual Meeting are available in the Narthex.

Childcare is provided for infants-fifth graders.



October Diaconate Update

The Diaconate met in person on Sunday, October 20, for their monthly meeting. In addition to approving minutes and receiving reports from the staff, the Diaconate approved the following items of business.

- 1) The Diaconate approved 2024 Ministerial Housing Allowance for ordained ministers.
- 2) The Diaconate approved a Property Committee Foundation Request for roof repairs to the low slope roof above the Mauldin Class, Carpenter Class, Carlton's Corner, and the Heritage Room.
- 3) The Diaconate approved the 2025 Ministry Plan as recommended from the Stewardship Committee. (The 2025 Ministry Plan goes to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting on November 17.)
- 4) The Diaconate approved Alan Ogles to serve as Church Clerk in 2025 and Pat Penn to serve as Assistant Treasurer in 2025. (These two positions will be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting on November 17.)
- 5) The Diaconate approved the following Diaconate officers for 2024:
Kenny Poston - Chair
Russell Martin - Vice Chair
Ashley Wilkie - Secretary
- 6) The Diaconate approved the following to serve on the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee:
Lewis Walker - one year term
Kelly Rhodes
Jim Firmin
Tommy Stoddard



**Operation Christmas
Child Shoeboxes**
Deadline - November 13

Church Family News

Christian Sympathy is extended to the families of Nina Swillie

Wesley Commons Rehab: Bob Ledet

Greenwood Rehabilitation:
Jackie Dewberry

Home: Jerry Timmons, Anne Hancock, Bob Ledet, Jess Timmons, Sandra Davenport, Kenny Poston

Gifts "in Honor Of" / "In Memory Of" at Christmas

On Christmas Eve, FBC will publish a list of donors and those honored or remembered through a special offering during Advent. This year, honor and memorial donations may be designated for the purchase of poinsettias for the Christmas Eve service, the Offering for Global Missions, the annual Ministry Plan. After worship on Christmas Eve, poinsettias may be picked up by the donor or recipient. **Poinsettias are \$22.00 each and must be ordered by Wednesday, November 29.** Checks for poinsettias should be made payable to **The Floral Case**. A form is in the church office for donors to indicate where the donation is to go and who is being honored or remembered.

2024 Financials

| September | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| September Receipts: | \$ 52,636.31 |
| September Expenses: | \$ 77,582.78 |
| September Deficit: | (\$ 24,946.47) |
| Revenue vs Expense YTD | (\$ 86,403.57) |

September 22—October 20

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Period Need | \$ 95,039.35 |
| Period Gifts | 50,917.31 |
| Ministry Plan Req'd YTD | 798,330.54 |
| Ministry Plan Rcv'd YTD | 626,979.94 |
| Ministry Plan YTD Deficit (Under) | (171,350.60) |
| Sunday School Att. (Avg) | 154 |
| Worship Attendance (Avg) | 219 |



Upcoming Dates

- November 8:** Inter-generational Outdoor Movie Night
- November 17:** Childcare (babies to 5th grade) for Annual Meeting—Thanksgiving Fun
- December 1:** *Hanging of the Green*
- December 4:** Children's Ornament Party



Volunteer Openings

The following openings remain in the Children's Ministry:

- Children's Church
Adult: first Sundays in August, October, December, February, April, and June
- Adult: fourth Sundays in August, October, December, February, April, and June
- 3K/4K Sunday School teachers
2nd Sundays

Please contact Anna Burch (aeburchfbc@gmail.com) if you are interested in filling them.



**Cheerful Cherubs
Chick-fil-a
Spirit Night
(both locations)**

**November 7
5:00 pm-8:00 pm**

Mention Cheerful Cherubs when ordering.

If ordering online, put SPIRIT NIGHT in special comments section.



Children's Family Ornament Party

The Children's Family Ornament Party is Wednesday, December 4, at 6:30 pm.



Trunk or Treat Wednesday, October 30 6:30 pm-8:00 pm

First Baptist will host a "Trunk-or-Treat" on Wednesday, October 30, 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Trick-or-Treating will be 6:30 pm-7:00 pm. Church members will be in the back parking lot, passing out candy from their car trunks. There will be games, hayrides, and face painting to follow trick-or-treating. Invite a family or friends to join! As a reminder, Edgewood Street will be closed for hayrides. For parking, please come down Grace Terrace. There is no cost for this event, however, participants are asked to bring canned food for Greater Greenwood United Ministry.



Grassy area beside the playground.

Intergenerational Movie Night

**Friday, November 8
Movie starts at 6:30 pm
Gather before**

Please bring a hair or blanket.

Snacks will be provided,
but you are welcomed
to bring your own.



Youth News



November Sunday Night Live

Sunday, November 3
5:00 pm - 7:00 pm
 Hosted by the Funderburks
 and the Gantts

December Sunday Night Live
Sunday, December 1
5:00 pm-7:00 pm
 Hosted by the Uldricks

Youth Fundraiser and Lock-in

Parents' Day Out Saturday, November 23



FBC youth are hosting a
 Parent's Day Out,
 Saturday, November 23.

Drop-off at 2:00 pm
 Pick-up up to 8:00 pm

A pizza dinner will be provided.

Cost: Donation to the Youth Ministry

Youth Lock-in

After the children have been
 picked up, the youth will
 remain at church for a lock-in.
 Pick-up time for the youth is
 8:00 am Sunday, morning.



MARK Upcoming Youth Events

- November 15-17: Awanita Fall Retreat
 November 23: Parent Day Out
 Fundraiser and
 Lock In
 December 2: Youth help CIAs with
 Ornament Party
 February 9: Souper Bowl
 Fundraiser



Never Grow Old (NGO) Fellowship

November NGO Fellowship November 5

NGO in November falls on Presidential
 Election Day, November 5. Please come
 to NGO after you vote for a star-studded
 musical revue. Performing will be Joyce
 Nickles, Jack Cauley, Stephanie Turner,
 Rhonda McGinnis, Reed Nickles, Charlie
 Herndon, and Linda Owens. The catered
 lunch will be chicken tenders, green
 beans, macaroni and cheese, and
 cobbler. **If you are not an NGO member,**
please call the church office no later
than October 30 to make your
reservation. If the deadline has passed
 for you to make a meal reservation, you
 are welcome to come just to hear the
 program. The entertainment will begin at
 11:45 am, followed by the meal. All ages
 are welcome to our fellowship as we
 celebrate our country and the end of a
 challenging election process.

Christmas NGO Fellowship December 10

Sounds of Grace Senior Choir will help us
 celebrate Christmas as they present a
 program of beautiful, sacred Christmas
 music. The choir is directed by David
 Corbitt and accompanied by Stephanie
 Turner. The catered meal will be turkey
 and dressing, cranberry sauce, broccoli
 casserole, and cobbler. **If you are not a**
member, please call the church office
no later than December 4 to make your
reservation. The cost of the meal is
 \$10.00. The program will begin at 11:45
 am, followed by the meal. All ages are
 welcome to participate in this special time
 of Christmas fellowship.

Thanksgiving Week



- Monday, November 25** - 7:00 pm
 Community Thanksgiving Service at
 First Presbyterian Church
Wednesday, November 27
 No Wednesday night activities at FBC
Thursday, November 28 and Friday
November 29 - Church Office Closed



722 Grace Street
 Greenwood, SC 29649
 (864) 229-5557
 Website: fbcgwo.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

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Helping Hands Ministry Information Line

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED