

A Service of Worship & Communion

First Sunday of Advent

December 1, 2024

11:00 a.m.

As we enter sacred space for worship, quiet your heart and mind, centering your thoughts on God's presence among us.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Prelude *The Promise of Advent* Liszt
Baxter Jennings, organ

Welcome Rev. Steve Zimmerman

Lighting of the Advent Candle-Hope Crystal & Gary Darden
We light a candle in the darkness because it helps us find our way back home. In the darkness we lose direction and hope. We cannot see where we have been or where we are going. A single candle, flickering brightly, starts to give us hope again.

Call to Worship Rev. David Cameron

Leader: All creation holds its breath.

People: The time is almost here.

Leader: The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.

People: Excitement is all around us.

Leader: Prepare your hearts—The grace of God takes on human form. Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-Us, comes to us.

People: We gather to make ready our hearts and homes for the coming of Christ, our hope.

*Hymn 135 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

Hearing the Scriptures

*Gospel Lesson Luke 1:26-28 Merle Prince
The Gospel of our Lord; **Praise be to you, O Christ.**

Children's Worship Pastor Caroline
After children's worship, children age 5 and under are invited to join our nursery workers for age-appropriate children's church.

Committing Our Lives

*Hymn 155 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

*Please stand as you are able

Prayer of Commitment & Lord's Prayer Rev. Caroline Taminger
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

*Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Doxology OLD HUNDREDTH
**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Engaging the Scriptures

Anthem *Prepare* Paige/Stewart

Sermon *Yes, God Does Answer You!* Rev. Zimmerman

Celebrating Communion

Prayer of Confession (*unison*) Rev. Zimmerman
**We confess we are not the people you hope us to be, God.
The very ones you favor, we too often ignore or ridicule.
The ones you knock off their pedestals, we admire and emulate. We are so focused on having more and more, we have lost our way home to you. Forgive us, Mighty God, and look upon us with grace.**

Assurance of Pardon

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (*in unison*)
We give you thanks, O God, for the life and the song of your servant Mary, reminding us of the hope of your coming Son's Kingdom and how we can begin to find our way back home to you today.

With Lived Hope

*Response 708 *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* DENNIS
Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

Postlude *Trumpet Herald* Telemann

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the inaugural season of the Christian year. Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the coming of Christ; thus, it is a season of both joyous and solemn expectation. The liturgical color is purple, symbolic of a spirit of preparation.

Advent Candle Spotlight-Crystal & Gary Darden

Crystal and Gary have been members of FBC since 1998 and both have served as Deacons. Gary is the Personnel Committee Chair, a member of the Audio/Visual Team on Sundays, and owns his own business, Darden Tile Company. Crystal is a Children's Sunday School teacher, on the Baptism, Hospitality, and Communion Committees and is employed by the Newport Group in Greensboro, NC.

Giving in Worship at First Baptist – We welcome your gifts to support the mission and ministry of First Baptist Church. You can give in worship by dropping your offering (check/cash) in our offering plate in the Narthex, or you can give online anytime at fbcmartinsville.com/give.

Worship is Live Streamed on Facebook and YouTube each Sunday morning at the worship hour and a video recording is posted on the church website/YouTube page within 24-48 hours. To listen by phone during the worship hour: **Zoom Call-in Number:** 1-833-548-0276; Meeting ID: 276 632 6336 #, #

Children's Worship Bags for all ages are in the Narthex (foyer at the back of the Sanctuary). These bags are intended to help children process what they are hearing and seeing as they worship with their families. Please return the bags after worship so they can be used in our next service.

Nursery Available

Our nursery is available for children 4 and under. The nursery is down the hall from the Narthex and to the right.

Prayer Reminder

Church Family: Alice Bowman, John Burgess, Mary Clifton, Martha Crawley, Martha Drane, Judy Epperly, Ann Grogan, Armand Harrell, George Lester, Betsy Miers, Betty Minter, Betty Prillaman, Shirley Roark, Benny Shires, Shirley Stone, Yvonne Turner

December Birthdays: 6 Jean Rood, 13 Ebb Williams, 26 James Stokes, 29 Chrissy Kinzer, 31 Jim Frith

Deacon of the Month: Bob Moore

Deacons of the month assist your pastor and other deacons with visitation as needed.

Worship Care Schedule

Sunday, December 1st – Crystal Darden & Susan Sapp
Sunday, December 8th – Ruth Anne Collins & Linda Read

Opportunities for the Week

Sunday, December 1

8:45 p.m. Deacons Meeting-Fellowship Hall
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School-Rm 105-107/Zoom
11:00 a.m. Worship-Sanctuary/Online

Monday, December 2

10:00 a.m. WMU Meeting-Rm. 105-107
5:30 p.m. Still Water Group Rehearsal-Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Smith River Singers Rehearsal-Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 3

8:45 a.m. Children's Chapel-Classrooms
10:30 a.m. Administrative Planning Meeting-Rm 105
4:15 p.m. Personnel Committee-Rm 105

Wednesday, December 4

2:00 p.m. Communion at King's Grant-Chapel

Thursday, December 5

10:00 a.m. Bible Study-1 Samuel-Rm 105/Zoom
11:00 a.m. ELC Music Class -Music Room
4:14 p.m. School Age Chapel-Sanctuary
4:30 p.m. Piedmont Art's Tree Lighting-Art Garden
5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal-Choir Room

Friday, December 6

5:30 p.m. Faith-Filled Family Fridays-Chatham Heights Baptist
Families with children ranging from ages 1-11 are welcome to join us for dinner, a Bible lesson on the Christmas story, and crafts for families to participate in together. We hope to see you there!

Saturday, December 7

9:00 a.m. Community Mission Project-Scrub Board Laundromat
(see information below)

Other Announcements for the Week

FBC Angel Tree

This year the ELC is participating in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Mission Project. Members of First Baptist are welcome to participate as well. To participate, take a tag and return it with the gifts **by this Friday** to the wall next to the Angel Tree located near the ELC entrance to the church in the hallway. Make sure to include the tag on the bag with the gift.

Community Missions Project

Scrub Board Laundromat in Collinsville, Virginia

Saturday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

The Missions Committee is excited to serve our neighbors once again! We will be handing out quarters to assist our neighbors with their laundry needs at the Scrub Board Laundromat in Collinsville. (Across from the old Biscuitville location.)

We invite you to join us in this meaningful community outreach! If you can participate, please call the church office and let Mary know. We are looking for four or five volunteers to help make this event a success. Let's come together to spread a simple act of kindness and support our community!

Welcome to First Baptist Church!

We are #yourcitychurch in Martinsville...

Coming together with many Christian traditions to worship, learn, and grow together as followers of Jesus.

Serving God in our church, our community, and the world by investing our energy and resources to living like Jesus called us to live — in service to God and neighbor.

Growing and changing our ministries to include more variety in our vision so as to meet the needs of our community.

Open Invitation

Our congregation wishes to partner with you and your family on a shared journey of faith. Whatever your background, we would love to explore with you how to join with us as we minister to this community together.

If you are interested in wanting to know more about following Jesus, how to join this church as an active participant, or if you'd like to recommit yourself to this church and its ministry, contact us at info.fbcmartinsville.com, (276) 632-6336, steve@fbcmartinsville.com or his cell (336) 214-3958.

Our doors are always open. Come see and serve what God is doing among us as we worship in Christ's name.



23 Starling Avenue
Martinsville, VA 24112
(276) 632-6336

Rev. Steve Zimmerman
Interim Pastor

Rev. David Cameron
Associate Pastor for
Music & Worship

Rev. Caroline Taminger
Associate Pastor
for Families

Baxter Jennings
Organist

www.fbcmartinsville.com
facebook.com/FirstBaptistMartinsville/

"Live Faith, Be Love, Speak Hope"



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MARTINSVILLE, VA

Live Faith, Be Love, Speak Hope



Come Home For Christmas

Season of Advent

*Hymn 135 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

*Hymn 155 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love,
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given;
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven!
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel.

Upcoming Advent Opportunities

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to contribute to the Christmas poinsettias in the Sanctuary, please fill out the form located in the Narthex and return it to the church office by December 18th.

Interim Pastor 's Open House-December 8 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Pastors Steve and Angela Zimmerman invite you to drop-in and share some holiday fellowship. 213 Oakdale Street.

“Come Home for Christmas”

ELC Christmas Pageant- December 11th at 7:00 p.m.

FBC Sanctuary

This year's ELC pageant will tell the story of the birth of Jesus, along with festive Christmas songs sung by our Pre-K children.

Community Carol Sing- December 15th at 4:00 p.m.

First Baptist Church Sanctuary

Choirs from First Baptist Church, Chatham Heights, Pocahontas Bassett, and Starling Avenue, will join in singing carols and afterwards to celebrate the season with a reception.

Churchwide Christmas Missions Offering: Heifer International

The WMU is sponsoring a churchwide mission project during December. **Last year we raised enough for Heifer International to enable us to give the gift of one Water for Life systems; send two Girls to School; purchase two honeybee hives; purchase two flocks of chicks and two garden seeds.** We hope to do the same this year! Giving to Heifer in honor of a loved one can be a great Christmas gift for those on your gift list who already have all they need! You may write a check and/or use one of your offering Special Gift envelopes noting “Heifer International” on the “for” line. You can mail or bring it by the church or give online, adding Heifer International in the memo line. *The deadline for our campaign is December 31st.*

Grace Network Oct.-Dec. 2024 Food Assignment:

Applesauce (24-32 oz)

Please drop the food off in the Missions Room 103 at the church

The Warming Center of Martinsville & Henry Co.

The Center is now located at the Salvation Army, 603 Memorial Blvd. S, Martinsville, VA. To learn more about how you can volunteer, see your e-newsletter or the church bulletin board for a list of donations needed.

Patrick Henry Elementary Food Pantry

The Missions Committee invites the church to serve children in our community through food donation. Patrick Henry Elementary school is providing food bags for students who need extra food over the weekends. A list of items can be found on the bulletin board outside the church office. Please place any of the needed items in the box marked “PHE” in Room 103, the Missions Room.