

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 17

This is the final Wednesday evening program of 2025. Dinner will be served from 5:30 - 6:00 and is baked pasta, salad, and garlic bread.

Programming:

Stations of the Crib | 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

Open Minds on Main - meets at Main St. Market Tonight! | 6:30 - 7:15 p.m.

Difference Makers & Children's Choirs | 6:00 - 7:15 p.m.

Help is needed preparing meals in the winter/spring.

Contact Donna if you can help.

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARTY

All are invited to a come-and-go Cookies and Cocoa Party at the home of Aimee and Jason Hobbs TODAY between 3-5 p.m.

WELCOME TABLE | TOMORROW

This is the last Welcome Table that we are hosting for 2025! We hope that you are able to join us to share the peace of the season with our community as we serve the Monday night meal. Desserts and volunteers are needed. For more information, contact Nell Bovender.



Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER 24 | 6:00 P.M.

FIRST BAPTIST RUTHERFORDTON

WAYS TO GIVE

We offer a safe and online giving option.

You can access online giving under the "Giving" tab on our website or by scanning the QR code to the right.



FIRST BAPTIST RUTHERFORDTON

246 N. Main St. Rutherfordton, N.C. 28139

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MAKING ROOM FOR THE COMMUNITY
LUKE 2:22-38

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
December 14, 2025 10:55 AM
Third Sunday of Advent - Joy

Prelude "Gloria Hodie" arr. Tuner/McChesney
 First Ringers Handbell Choir

Bringing in the Light of Christ Patia Mode & Annaleigh Boyce

Call to Worship Donna Sand

Advent Wreath Lighting *The Candle of Peace* Doug Dickens
 Trinity Campbell

Choral Invitation "Prepare the Way" Raney
 Sanctuary Choir
 Jane Simpson, Handbells, Alison Moore, Piano

Litany *Joy*

Leader: Continuing our Advent journey, today, we light the third candle; the candle representing joy. We celebrate the coming of the one who brings great joy to the world.

Response: Prepare the way of the Lord with joy.

Leader: In the midst of waiting, we remember that joy is found not in what we have, but in who we welcome – the Savior, our true joy.

Response: Prepare the way of the Lord with joy.

Leader: When the world feels heavy, we choose to lift our heart in joy, knowing that God's presence with us brings light into dark places.

Response: Prepare the way of the Lord with joy.

Leader: We celebrate the good news that Christ is near, and with his coming, joy is made complete in our hearts and in our lives.

Response: Prepare the way of the Lord with joy.

Leader: In times of sorrow, we cling to the joy that is rooted in the hope of Christ, a joy that cannot be taken away.

Response: Prepare the way of the Lord with joy.

Leader: O God, we open our hearts to the joy of your presence and prepare to welcome Christ, the greatest gift of all. May the joy of Christ fill our homes, our communities and our world as we await his coming in glory.

Response: Prepare the way of the Lord with joy.

The Singing Congregation
 *Hymn 102 "Joy to the World" ANTIOCH

A Story for All People Donna Sand
Children are invited to come forward

Handbells "The Wexford Carol" arr. Moglebust
 First Ringers Handbell Choir
 Chuck and Jessica Godfrey, Percussion

Pastoral Prayer John Miller

Old Testament Reading Malachi 3:1-4 Sheri Adams

The Singing Congregation
 *Hymn 127 "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN

Anthem "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing" arr. Helvey
 Men's Chorus
 Alison Moore and Pam McNeil, 4-Hand Piano
 (Text is Hymn #133)

The Spoken Word "Making Room for the Community" Aimee Hobbs
 Luke 2:22-38

Offertory
 Offertory Moment John Roberts
 Offertory Meditation
 "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."
 Malachi 6:2-4

Offertory Music Alison Moore
 *Doxology 706 OLD 100TH, alt
 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise Him, all creatures here below;
 Praise Him, above ye heavenly host;
 Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Offertory Prayer Frank Jones

Invitation to Discipleship Aimee Hobbs

The Confessing Congregation
 *Hymn 143 "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" GO TELL IT

*Benediction Aimee Hobbs

*Departing Song
 *Hymn 80 "Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love" BAUGH

*Postlude Pam McNeil

*Congregation Standing
 Please remember to silence your cell phones or electronic devices

WELCOME VISITORS!

We hope that you will find comfort, joy, a sense of home, and the leading of the Holy Spirit as you worship with us this morning. If you are visiting for the first time or have never filled out a visitor card, we invite you to take one from the pew rack and fill it out. Please place it on the pew as you leave.

WORSHIP CARE & CHILDREN'S WORSHIP

Worship Care is available for children ages 3 years and under during the service. Our greeters can assist you with more information and getting to the nursery. Older children (generally through 2nd grade), who do not wish to stay through the service, are invited to go to Worship Care/Children's Worship following *Story for All People*. A volunteer will walk them down.