



## First Baptist Rutherfordton Newsletter | January 7, 2026



**January 11, 2026 | 10:55 a.m.  
Baptism of the Lord**

### **Songs of Worship**

*Jesus Shall Reign  
Fairest Lord Jesus  
When Jesus Came to Jordan  
Give Me Jesus  
Shine, Jesus, Shine*

### **Communion**

*As is our practice on communion Sundays, we will also be collecting a local mission offering at the close of worship.*

### **Sermon**

*"To Fulfill All Righteousness"  
Matthew 3:13-17  
Aimee Hobbs*

**WATCH THE SERVICE HERE**

### **A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

On Epiphany Sunday, we distributed 2026 star words. In the sermon that morning, I shared a few of your testimonies in regards to last year's star words (and several more of you have shared since then!). I hope next year to have a service filled with personal testimonies!

While the magi relied on a star to invite them into something they did not realize they needed, the Epiphany gift of a star word may shape a new pathway for this complicated time in which we live. A



star word is a spiritual practice with no set agenda. They are simply a lens that might provide us a way to look for God in our midst, both actively and in hindsight.

*Here are some suggestions for how you might want to use your word:*

- If it's a word with great scriptural weight, do a little scriptural research on it.
- If it's not a word that you can find in the Bible, you could see how it relates to the Biblical story. While “integrity” or “awareness” might not be words found often in the Bible, you could read more about Biblical characters who were people of integrity and how they showed an awareness of others or of God.
- Find quotes that use your word from history.
- Look up the definition.
- Find synonyms and antonyms.
- Maybe create a word cloud of related words to help you think about the meaning.
- Consider hanging your star where you'll see it most days – like your desk, where my 2025 word sat all year, or your bathroom mirror. Or place it near you when you do your daily Bible reading and see if it leads you to a new discovery.
- Say it out loud several times. How does it make you feel?
- Write a short breath prayer that incorporates it and practice your breath prayer each morning for the next month.
- Maybe there's a book or a podcast or a movie that addresses this word in your life and it's a great opportunity to explore something deeper.
- Share your word with others and engage them in discussion. Ask them “What do you think this word means for me?”

If you did not receive a word but would like one, let me know.

As we settle into a new year, may we listen for how God will continue to speak to us - just as God has spoken to the generations before us!

I hope to see you Sunday as we recall both the baptism of Jesus and our own baptism.

Grace,  
Aimee

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## THANK YOU!

Dear First Baptist Church,

Your generous contribution to Rutherford County Habitat for Humanity has been received and we are truly grateful for your support.

At Habitat, we believe that everyone should have a safe, decent, affordable place to live. Remembering that affordable means different things to different people, the low-income families we serve cannot afford a large house payment. That is where Habitat comes in. Through volunteer labor and tax-deductible donations of money and materials, Habitat builds its houses with the help of the future homeowners, or partner families. This keeps the cost of our houses down. In addition, we provide interest-free mortgages. This combination makes Habitat houses very affordable for low-income families.

We know that we alone cannot end poverty housing. We also know that it is only by God's infinite grace that Habitat has been afforded the opportunity to put His love into action by helping low-income families break the cycle of poverty housing. You are helping us make the dreams of homeownership a reality for families who could not otherwise afford a home. We thank you for empowering individuals, families, and our community. Please pray for us as we continue to do God's work.

With much appreciation,  
Kim Freeman  
Executive Director



## CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING:

**STRONGER TOGETHER SERVICE JANUARY 25** | Join us at RS Central High School for the Stronger Together Community Service on Sunday, January 25. We will gather with other congregations in our community for a multi-denominational community worship service. The service is at 11:00 a.m. Sunday school classes are welcome to meet beforehand, but we will not have worship in our sanctuary that morning.

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS WILL RETURN TONIGHT** | Start your new year off by carving out Wednesday evenings for mid-week gatherings with your church family. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. and the menu is meatloaf, mashed potatoes, and green beans. (\$8/adult, \$5/child, \$20/family max). Following dinner, children's programming and a study on Prayers in the Bible will meet. Open Minds on Main will resume on January 21. We would love to have you join us!

**YOKEFELLOW FOOD PANTRY** | Beginning this Sunday, we are collecting pork & beans. Cans can be either the small or regular size. Contributions can be left in the church office or near the Sanctuary doors. We hope that you can add a can or two to your weekly grocery shopping to help our neighbors in need.

**SPINDALE ELEMENTARY BACKPACK COLLECTING** | During the school year, we are collecting breakfast items for Spindale Elementary's Backpack Program. Individuals or groups can drop off items such as breakfast bars and Pop-Tarts in the church office or at the Sanctuary doors. We deliver them to the school on a monthly basis.

**PRAYER UPDATES BY EMAIL** | If you'd like to receive prayer request updates throughout the week, in addition to the prayer list found in the weekly newsletter, request to be added to our new prayer distribution email list! Just **click here and add your name and preferred email address**. You can also join by calling or **emailing** the church office.

# FIRST BAPTIST PRAYS

## WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

[CURRENT PRAYER LIST](#)[SUBMIT A PRAYER REQUEST](#)

### PRAYER MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**Jan. 11** - Belinda Camper

Chip Bond, Judy Bond

**Jan. 18** - Debbie Bumgarner

Terry Honeycutt, Mike Scruggs

### WORSHIP CARE SCHEDULE

**Jan. 11** - Laura Hodge, Violet Nyamiwa

**Jan. 18** - Faith Archer, Belinda Camper

### MEALS ON WHEELS SCHEDULE

**Jan. 16** - Gayle Youngblood &

Meryl Lawrence

**Jan. 30** - Ken & Jackie Willard

### USHERS FOR JANUARY

Todd Hodge (Coordinator), Steve Barnes, Andy LaBreche, Bob Smith

### BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

Jan. 4 - Jim Hall

Jan. 7 - Bob Keever

Jan. 11 - Grier Hodge

Jan. 11 - Kaylyn Deaver

Jan. 12 - Jean Pyatt

Jan. 13 - Brenda Vaughn

Jan. 13 - Neiko Jones

### YOKEFELLOW ITEM OF THE MONTH

Pork & Beans

January Goal: 30

Collected: 13

December Collected: 36

### SPINDALE ELEMENTARY WEEKEND BACKPACK COLLECTION

#### Items needed:

Breakfast Bars & Snack Bars

### 2025-2026 Church Leadership

#### Deacon Council

Debbie Bumgarner - Chair (2026)  
Lori Herrick - Vice-Chair (2026)  
Beth Archer - Secretary (2027)  
Dale Heffner (2026)  
Jane Simpson (2027)  
Frank Jones (2027)  
Ben Moore (2028)  
Penny Parker (2028)  
Belinda Camper (2028)

#### Administrative Leadership Council

Andy LaBreche - Chair (2027)  
Chip Bond - Vice-Chair (2027)  
Jessica Godfrey - Secretary/Church Clerk (2026)  
Faith Archer (2026)  
Kurt Parker (2026)  
Gayle Youngblood (2027)  
Laura Hodge (2028)  
Carolyn Keever (2028)  
Mike Stephenson (2028)

You can give online  
through our website! Click  
"Giving" at the top of our

### FINANCIAL UPDATE

Financial Records for January 4, 2026  
Weekly Budget Requirement: \$8,802.94  
Budget Offering: \$5,103.00

website, or click the button below.

YTD Budget Received as of January 4: \$125,110.56  
YTD Needed as of January 4: \$123,241.16

**CLICK HERE TO  
GIVE**

Annual Budget: \$457,753

*A donation was made in memory of Shirley Ramsey  
by Penny Parker.*

## Upcoming Schedule

### **January**

- 11 - Communion Sunday | Youth Fundraiser Lunch
- 13 - Women on Mission
- 19 - Church Office Closed (MLK holiday) | Fellowship of Christian Women (off-site)
- 25 - Stronger Together Service | Deacons Meeting 4:45 p.m.
- 26 - Administrative Leadership Council Meeting | 6:00 p.m.

### **February**

- 2 - Welcome Table
- 9 - Welcome Table
- 11 - Church Meeting
- 18 - Ash Wednesday Service
- 22 - First Sunday of Lent

### **March**

- 14 - Church Birthday Party | 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
- 19/20 - CBF North Carolina Annual Gathering | Hayes Barton Baptist Church, Raleigh
- 29 - Palm Sunday

Rev. Aimee Hobbs - Senior Pastor  
704-534-3267  
[aimee@fbcrutherfordton.org](mailto:aimee@fbcrutherfordton.org)

Rev. Beth Heffner - Minister of  
Music & Senior Adults  
828-980-2761  
[beth@fbcrutherfordton.org](mailto:beth@fbcrutherfordton.org)

Rev. John Miller - Minister of Youth  
704-472-5860  
[johnfbcr@gmail.com](mailto:johnfbcr@gmail.com)

Donna Sand - Minister of Children &  
Administration  
704-953-2453  
[donna@fbcrutherfordton.org](mailto:donna@fbcrutherfordton.org)

Alison Moore - Pianist

Pam McNeill - Organist

Garry Cuthbertson - Facilities Coordinator  
[garry@fbcrutherfordton.org](mailto:garry@fbcrutherfordton.org)

Debbie Ford - Financial Secretary  
[finance@fbcrutherfordton.org](mailto:finance@fbcrutherfordton.org)

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