



First Baptist Rutherfordton Newsletter | November 5, 2025



Worship this Sunday
Deacon Ordination
November 9, 2025 | 10:55 a.m.

Songs of Worship
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
Come, All Christians, Be Committed
Overwhelmed
We Are Travelers on a Journey
Blest Be the Tie

Deacon Ordination
As part of our worship this Sunday, we will take time to ordain our newest deacons,
Belinda Camper and Penny Parker

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

Sermon
"A Farewell... and a Beginning"
Acts 20:17-28
Aimee Hobbs

[WATCH THE SERVICE HERE](#)

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Church Family,

Sunday will be a morning of celebration as we ordain two new deacons - Penny Parker and Belinda Camper! As part of our time of worship, you will be invited to offer a word of blessing and prayer over each deacon either by coming forward during our "laying on of hands" or by writing your blessing. Later in the service, both Belinda and Penny will be serving communion for the first time as deacons. I am grateful that the Church continues to follow the New Testament example of deacon servant leadership, and grateful that Christ-followers like Belinda and Penny say "yes" to serving our church in this capacity. If you're in town, I hope you'll join us for worship.

I want to tell you about an opportunity that has come our way. Some months back, I received an invitation from Paul Baxley, the Executive Coordinator of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) to participate in a new, grant-funded initiative. As you may already know, seminary enrollment has declined rapidly and often, those who do graduate from seminary live their ministry calling outside the local church. **The unfortunate reality is that few of our young people are responding to a call to church ministry, and that is especially the case when it comes to the senior pastor role.**

After seeing and hearing this growing need for senior pastors, CBF has begun to look at how to be proactive in nurturing the potential call of young people to church ministry. In doing so, they have invited a handful of senior pastors - and by extension, their congregation - to join them in imagining what this might look like. There are some components already set into motion, like a summer mentoring program, while other pieces are still a point of conversation and discernment.

Paul and his team sought out CBF partner churches that were healthy and thriving to join them in this work - and we were asked! I am both honored and proud. After some conversation with our Deacons, I accepted the invitation.

Over the next two years, I will participate in four in-person gatherings alongside the pastors of the other congregations also invited to this endeavor. During those meetings, we will design experiences to shape new pathways for people to explore callings to pastoral ministry and prepare for that calling. The first of those conversations is next week in Decatur, GA.

In addition, in the near future I may be mentoring a younger minister as CBF leadership "believes your congregation could be a beautiful community in which new ministers could be noticed and nurtured."

I still believe in the importance of the local church, and I still believe God is calling men and women to work within the church in all pastoral roles. This is important work, and I look forward to partnering with other congregations in navigating this new reality of call and equipping of pastoral leadership. You'll be hearing more about this process in the months to come.

Don't forget that tonight we'll gather to hear from Don Ledbetter about The Theology of Death. What does scripture actually say about death, dying, and the afterlife? You won't want to miss this conversation! We'll begin at 6:15 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Blessings,
Aimee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SCHEDULE

5:30PM

CHURCHWIDE FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Nov 5: Pork Tenderloin, seasoned rice, roasted potatoes & broccoli
Nov 12: Chili, cornbread, coleslaw

\$8/adult, \$5/child, \$20 family max

6:15PM

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Difference Makers (Choir & Bible study) for ages 3 - 5th grade

"DEATH, DYING, AND THE AFTERLIFE"

Nov 5 - Theology of Death and Dying - Led by Don Ledbetter - What does scripture actually say about death, dying, and the afterlife?

6:30PM

OPEN MINDS ON MAIN

An opportunity for our community to gather for dialogue around faith and life - this group meets at Main St Coffee and Ice Cream

7:30PM

ADULT CHOIR REHEARSAL

WWW.FIRSTBAPTISTRUTHERFORDTON.COM

TRICK OR TREAT ON MAIN



CHURCHWIDE Thanksgiving Dinner

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

5:30PM

BRING A SIDE, SALAD, OR DESSERT
TURKEY, MASHED POTATOES, DRESSING, AND ROLLS
PROVIDED BY THE CHURCH

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ADVENT 2025 DEVOTIONALS

Printed Advent devotionals for children/families and youth/adults will be available for pick-up beginning **Wednesday, November 19**. If you prefer a digital version emailed to you, the youth/adult devotional can be emailed to you each morning!

To receive a daily emailed devotional beginning November 30, please sign-up at the button below:

[SIGN-UP FOR ADVENT DEVOTIONALS HERE](#)

November 12, 2025

CHILI COOK-OFF

COOKS NEEDED - CONTACT DONNA

We need volunteers to make a crock of their favorite chili recipe:
beef, vegetarian, chicken, hot, spicy, sweet...

Come to dinner on Wednesday, 11/12, 5:30-6 p.m.
to sample and vote for your favorite.



THANK YOU

Dear First Baptist Church,

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your generous donation. Your support means a great deal to us, and we are truly grateful for your partnership in the work of the Gospel.

Your contribution directly supports our missionary work in the Haryana province of North India, specifically in the Danauli village, Karnal district. One of our young missionaries, Amit, a 24-year-old full of zeal and passion for the lost, is faithfully serving there. A devoted admirer of Billy Graham, Amit has committed to sharing the Gospel with at least five people every day.

Despite facing significant persecution and restrictions - such as not being allowed to hold open meetings - he continues his ministry with courage and faithfulness. Please keep Amit in your prayers, especially for his protection and for the growth of the church in that village.

We carry a strong burden to reach North India and Nepal, particularly the remote and unreached villages. Your support helps make this vision a reality.

With gratitude and blessings,

Sanjeeb and Anita Sahu
Source of Light

THANK YOU

Church Family,

Thank you so much for all of the calls, messages, check-ins, and prayers for Hayden over the past month. We have truly felt your prayers lifting us up. We are grateful for a family that loves and supports us!

Mindy, John, and Hayden

CHECK OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING:

WELCOME TABLE PLACEMATS | Don't forget! We need your help! Please take a placemat, color it, and return it to Nell or the church office. These placemats will be used for each guest at our next Welcome Table meal on November 10. Sunday school classes (of all ages) are encouraged to take a few minutes of your time together to color and pray for the neighbor that will be seated at each placemat.

Welcome Table meals are open to all. On November 10, we're serving chicken pie, green beans, and desserts. Join us -- or help us serve -- and we can always use desserts. Questions? Call Nell, 828-429-9129.

PRISON MINISTRY WORSHIP SERVICE | On Thursday, November 20 at 6pm, you are invited to attend the Prison Ministry Worship Service hosted by our church. The service will take place at the Rutherford Correctional Center on Ledbetter Road in Spindale. Register by contacting Joe Hughes or **Donna Sand** by November 16; there are no other requirements to attend this service.

Interested in learning more about the Prison Ministry and how you can get involved? There will be a Blue Card Training on December 9th. Location details will be forthcoming.

POINSETTIA ORDERS | Beginning Sunday evening, November 30, poinsettias will be used in the Sanctuary for the Advent/Christmas season. If you would like to place a poinsettia in memory or in honor of someone, **please fill out the attached form** or pick up a printed

form in the church office. Cost is \$20 and can be made by cash, check, or through the **donate button** on the church's website. Deadline to order is Sunday, November 23.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS DECORATING | We're in need of Christmas elves to help decorate our church and grounds for the Advent/Christmas season on Sunday, November 23 following the service. Please come for fun and work as we begin to transform our building into a place that shows the celebration of the season. If you can help, please let **Beth Heffner** know. Thank you!

MEALS ON WHEELS | Volunteers are needed to assist with this ministry, which delivers hot lunches in Rutherfordton, to shut-ins. Our church participates by delivering meals 2 to 3 times a month. Deliveries take about an hour and you would do it 2 to 3 times each year. If you would like to volunteer or hear more about this opportunity, please contact Lynn Blanton.

LIFE LINE SCREENING | We will be hosting Life Line Screening on our campus on Friday, November 21. Life Line Screening offers safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are not typically a part of a routine physical. To register for a screening:

- Call toll-free: 1-800-324-9458 promo code HABC001
- Online: **LLSA.SOCIAL/HABC**
- Text: the word "circle" to 216-279-1607

YOKEFELLOW FOOD PANTRY | For November, we will continue to collect canned meat. Any size can is helpful! Single-serve cans are given to those experiencing homelessness and larger cans are given to families. Contributions can be left in the church office or near the Sanctuary doors.

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

Nov. 9 - Belinda Camper
Scott Carpenter, Terry Honeycutt
Nov. 16 - Debbie Bumgarner
Andy & Pam LaBreche

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

Nov. 6 - Penni Keyes
Nov. 7 - Pam LaBreche
Nov. 7 - Mayce Mattox
Nov. 7 - Sharon Rathbone
Nov. 7 - Rebecca Watson

WORSHIP CARE SCHEDULE

Nov. 9 - Bob Smith, Mindy Miller
Nov. 16 - Lori Herrick, Jessica Godfrey

WORSHIP READINESS SCHEDULE

Nov. 9 - Heather Mode
Nov. 16 - Chuck Godfrey

MEALS ON WHEELS SCHEDULE

Nov. 7 - Bob Smith
Nov. 21 - Marcel & Ruth Colnot

USHERS FOR November

Todd Hodge (Coordinator)
Daryl Camper, Jamie Knox, Mindy Miller

Nov. 9 - Patty Geer
Nov. 9 - Jana Philbeck
Nov. 10 - Natalie Waters
Nov. 12 - Alexander Jones

YOKEFELLOW ITEM OF THE MONTH

Canned Meat

November Goal: 30

Collected: 7

October Collected:

62 Cans

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)

FINANCIAL UPDATE

You can give online
through our website!
Click "Giving" at the top
of our website, or click
the button below.

**CLICK HERE TO
GIVE**

Financial Records for November 2, 2025
Weekly Budget Requirement: \$8,802.94
Budget Offering: \$6,678.00

YTD Budget Received as of November 2: \$39,585.01
YTD Needed as of October 26: \$44,014.70

Annual Budget: \$457,753.00

A contribution was made in memory of Jim Ruppe
by Mike and Sharon Scruggs.

Upcoming Schedule

November

6 - Thriving As We Age Workshop
9 - Deacon Ordination | Communion
10 - Welcome Table

11 - Women on Mission
12 - Chili Cook-Off
16 - Deacons Meeting | 4:45 p.m.
17 - ALC Meeting | 6:00 p.m.
19 - Churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner | 5:30 p.m.
21 - Lifeline Screening | 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
23 - Advent Decorating | Community Thanksgiving Service 7:00 p.m. | Poinsettia Orders Due
26 - No Wednesday Night Activities (Thanksgiving)
27-28 - Church Office Closed
30 - 1st Sunday of Advent | Hanging of the Green Service 6 p.m.

December

6 - Children's Christmas Party 3-5 p.m. | Christmas Parade 5 p.m.
7 - 2nd Sunday of Advent | Youth Christmas Party | Adult Choir Joint Christmas Concert
8 - Welcome Table
9 - Women on Mission
14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent | Churchwide Christmas Party 3-5 p.m.
15 - Welcome Table
21 - 4th Sunday of Advent
24 - Christmas Eve Service
25-26 - Church Office Closed

January

1 - Church Office Closed
4 - Epiphany Sunday (Star Words)
11 - Youth Fundraising Lunch | 12 p.m.
13 - Women on Mission
19 - Church Office Closed
25 - Stronger Together Service

Rev. Aimee Hobbs - Senior Pastor
704-534-3267
aimee@fbcrutherfordton.org

Rev. Beth Heffner - Minister of Music &
Senior Adults
828-980-2761
beth@fbcrutherfordton.org

Rev. John Miller - Minister of Youth
704-472-5860
johnfbcr@gmail.com

Donna Sand - Minister of Children &
Administration
704-953-2453
donna@fbcrutherfordton.org

Alison Moore - Pianist

Garry Cuthbertson - Facilities
Coordinator
garry@fbcrutherfordton.org

Debbie Ford - Financial Secretary
finance@fbcrutherfordton.org



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