



FROM YOUR PASTOR... “Out With the Old, In With the New!”

There is a centuries old New Year’s Eve Irish tradition where people open the back door of their house just before midnight to let the old year out. After a couple of minutes, they close the back door, turn around, and open the front door to let the new year in.

At my house, we did exactly that on New Years Eve... we let 2023 out the back door with great relief and welcomed 2024 in the front door with much gratitude! Of course, it was a symbolic gesture but one that needed to be done!

I don’t know how 2023 went for you, but I was more than thrilled to kick 2023 out the back door! As most of you know, I am a very active person but last year was a year of pain and frustration trying to get to the bottom of my painful back issues. So, after many months of tests, shots, physical therapy, and numerous doctors, I finally had successful surgery on December 19 at Duke Hospital. The results have been amazingly positive! I am still in the recovery period but doing great and getting stronger every day. I plan to be back in the pulpit on Sunday, January 28 with great expectations for what God wants to do in and through our congregation in 2024!

The beginning of a new year offers each of us an opportunity to reset our lives and have a fresh start. We all get into ruts, we go through periods of suffering and loneliness, and we fail to be the best version of ourselves. Well, this is where the Good News of the Gospel enters into the picture offering us real hope.

Paul wrote: *I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ^(f) has laid hold of me.* ¹³ *Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold ^(g) of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies*

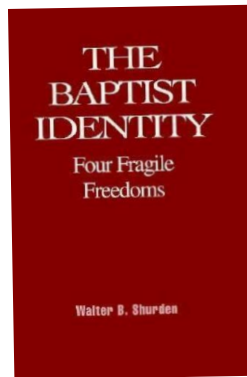
behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ *I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly^(h) call of God in Christ Jesus.* ¹⁵ *Let those of us, then, who are mature⁽ⁱ⁾ think this way...”*

—Philippians 3:12-15

Let’s all turn the page of 2023 and move forward into 2024 with great hope in God’s future for us both personally and corporately. I pray for God’s blessings to cover and surprise you and our church in 2024... as we “strain forward to what lies ahead!”

See you soon... Dennis

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A BAPTIST CHRISTIAN IN 2024??



Bible Freedom

Soul Freedom

Religious Freedom

Church Freedom

Come see, participate, and learn why Baptists emerged historically and what it means to identify as a Baptist kind of Christian today. *Who are we? Where are we going?* These are essential questions if we are to faithfully move forward into the future as Baptist Christians!

The book, “The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms” by Walter Shurden will be our guide in this study/discussion on **Wednesdays 6-7 PM in the CLC... led by Dr. Atwood beginning Wednesday, January 31.**

The book is published by Smyth & Helwys and can be purchased at amazon.com or <https://www.helwys.com/sh-books/the-baptist-identity/>

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

We are very blessed to be members of such a caring church family. Thanks to each and everyone for all acts of kindness towards our family. We would appreciate continued prayers as Terry recovers.

Terry & Barbara Holloman



December marked one year of Pop Up Markets at FBC. During that year, 5,034 individuals were served in 1,741 households. (These are duplicated numbers; if a person attended more than once, they are counted each time.) We are grateful for the opportunity to work with the Food Bank and serve the folks in Mount Olive and surrounding areas. A special 'thank you' to all of the volunteers.

Next Pop Up Market

Monday, January 8
10 a.m. - 12 Noon
CLC Parking Lot

**Benevolence
Ministry**

Thanks to the generosity of past and present members, FBCMO is able to provide much needed assistance to individuals and families in Mount Olive and surrounding areas who come upon hard times and are unable to pay an electric or water bill. In 2023, we provided assistance to 85 individuals/families, with our support totaling \$8,308.

Bicycle Ministry



In December, our bicycle elves delivered 25 bicycles to the Falcon Children's Home. If you know of anyone in need of a bicycle, contact Mike Saviak or Wayne Gardner.

If anyone would like for me to visit them or a loved one who is sick or homebound, please let me know. I would be happy to visit! Contact the church office at 919-658-2062 or office@fbcmountolive.org.

Darren Myers
Ministry Intern



As we enter a new year, the Chancel Choir would like to invite anyone who enjoys singing to become a part of our "laid-back, tight-knit family" that we call our choir. Musical expertise is not a requirement, so do not let that stop you. As we look for new ways to serve God in this new year, perhaps you may want to consider doing so through our choir. All are welcome. Happy New Year, Janet

Children & Youth

The holidays were a festive time for our children and youth! We had a wonderful time at our youth outing to see "A Christmas Carol" at the Paramount Theatre. Children and families enjoyed celebrating the season at our holiday party complete with games, crafts, sweet treats, and so much fun with friends. We are looking forward to a new season of growth, fellowship, and sharing God's love in our youth and children's ministries this coming year.

Thank you for your continued support of our children and youth programs as we seek to grow in faith and to share God's word with the youngest members of our church and community. Beth

Youth Christmas Party

December 10, 2023



Children's Christmas Party

December 17, 2023



JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Church Office Closed	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 9:15 a.m. - Staff meeting	10	11	12	13
14	15 Office Closed MLK, Jr. Holiday	16 9:15 a.m. - Staff meeting	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 9:15 a.m. - Staff meeting	24	25	26	27
28 4 p.m. – Diaconate 5 p.m. – Coordinating Council	29	30 9:15 a.m. - Staff meeting	31 6 p.m. – Prayer & Study of “The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms”			

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday
9:00 am-12:30 pm & 1:30 pm-4:00 pm

USHERS/GREETERS

Luther Thompson
(If you are willing to help, please contact Luther.)

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday School Groups (9:30 AM)
Kid’s JAM (Jesus And Me) (Sundays 9:30 AM – CLC)
Sunday Morning Worship (10:45 AM)
SUNDAY YOUTH GATHERING – *Common Ground* (4-5:30 PM)
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study (6 PM)
Wednesday Chancel Choir Rehearsal (7 PM)

YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS ARE APPRECIATED VIA OUR ONLINE GIVING LINK: fbcmountolive.org/give-online
OR MAIL TO: FBCMO PO Box 239 Mount Olive, NC 28365

FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 9:15 a.m. - Staff meeting	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 9:15 a.m. - Staff meeting	14	15	16	17
18 Dr. Larry Hovis CBFNC 4 p.m. – Diaconate 5 p.m. – Coordinating Council	19	20 9:15 a.m. - Staff meeting	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 9:15 a.m. - Staff meeting	28	29		

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January Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Jean Bunch | 22 Mark Humphreys |
| Donald Godwin | 23 Morgan McCoy |
| 7 Erma Jean Jones | 24 Charles Davis |
| 12 Teresa Swanda | Kristin Whiting |
| 15 Wayne Gardner | 26 Cole Atwood |
| 18 Ken Dilda | 28 Dylan Atwood |
| Carrie Talton | Rayne Caudill |
| | Dale Overman |

February Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Jeannie Byrd | 21 Preston Parker |
| Morgan Evans Howell | Michael Phillips |
| 7 Peggy San Fratello | Edna Thigpen |
| 10 Bryan King | 24 DeWayne Parvin |
| 13 William Saviak | 25 Catherine McDonald |
| 16 Bill Rose | |
| 17 Wayne Whiting | |



FIRST BAPTIST
MOUNT OLIVE

PO Box 239

Mount Olive, NC 28365

email: Office@fbcmountolive.org

Website: www.fbcmountolive.org

DECEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 First Sunday of Advent <i>Chancel Choir</i> <i>Christmas Program</i>	4	5 9:15 a.m. - Staff meeting	6 6:00 p.m. – Church Conference/2024 Budget proposal	7	8	9
10 Second Sunday of Advent 11:30 a.m. – 2024 Budget vote 3 p.m. Youth – A Christmas Carol, Paramount Theatre	11 Food Bank Farmers Market 10-12 noon CLC parking lot	12 9:15 a.m. - Staff meeting III Century Singers Christmas Concert 7 p.m.	13 11:00 a.m. – JOY meeting	14	15	16
17 Third Sunday of Advent 2:30 p.m. - Jolly J.A.M.boree for Children - CLC	18	19 9:15 a.m. - Staff meeting	20	21	22	23
24 Fourth Sunday of Advent <i>5 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service</i>	25 Christmas Day <i>Office closed</i>	26 <i>Office closed</i>	27	28	29	30
31						

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NOVEMBER 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 6 p.m. – Prayer & Bible Study	2	3	4
5 10:45 a.m. All Saints' Service <i>Daylight Saving Time Ends</i>	6	7 9:15 a.m.- Staff meeting	8 6 p.m. – Prayer & Bible Study	9	10	11 Veterans Day
12	13	14 9:15 a.m.- Staff meeting	15 6 p.m. – Prayer & Bible Study	16	17	18
19 4 p.m. – Diaconate 5 p.m. – Coordinating Council <i>Poinsettia orders due</i>	20	21 9:15 a.m.- Staff meeting	22 <i>Office Closed</i>	23 Thanksgiving Day <i>Office Closed</i>	24	25
26	27 9 a.m. - Decorate the Church for Advent	28 9:15 a.m.- Staff meeting	29	30		

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