



# December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Lottie Moon Christmas Offering</b> <small>Supporting missionaries among the unreached people of the world</small> <b>1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:00 Council Meeting 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Morning Worship 5:30 Youth - Bennett Baptist Church	<b>4</b> 7:00 Small Group Discussion - Book of John 6:00 Hands & Feet Christmas Dinner 7:00 Small Group Discussion - Book of John	<b>5</b> 6:30 Leadership Transition Team 11:00 Women on Mission @ Cafe' Vesuvio 6:30 Leadership Transition Team	<b>6</b> 5:30 Family Night Dinner 6:00 Acteens 6:30 FSBC Knights Club Mid-Week Service 7:00 RAs 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal 6:00 Acteens 6:30 Children's Nativity Play & Birthday Party for Jesus 7:00 RAs 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 6:00 Acteens 6:30 Children's Nativity Play & Birthday Party for Jesus 7:00 RAs 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> RAs Lock-In	<b>9</b> RAs Lock-In 6:00 Deacon Dinner
<b>10</b> <b>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Morning Worship Business Meeting Joy Sunday School Luncheon 6:00 Youth	<b>11</b> 6:00 Hands & Feet Christmas Dinner 7:00 Small Group Discussion - Book of John	<b>12</b> 11:00 Women on Mission @ Cafe' Vesuvio 6:30 Leadership Transition Team	<b>13</b> 6:00 Acteens 6:30 Children's Nativity Play & Birthday Party for Jesus 7:00 RAs 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 6:00 Acteens 6:30 Children's Nativity Play & Birthday Party for Jesus 7:00 RAs 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b> RAs Lock-In	<b>16</b> RAs Lock-In
<b>17</b> <b>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:00 Baptist Men's Breakfast 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Morning Worship Children's Choir 6:00 Chancel Choir Cantata	<b>18</b> 10:00 Dorcas Delivering / Christmas Lunch 7:00 Small Group Discussion - Book of John	<b>19</b> 6:30 Mission Transition Team Leadership Transition Team	<b>20</b> No Wednesday Night Activities 6:00 Caroling - all invited - meet in Fellowship Hall	<b>21</b> 	<b>22</b> RAs Lock-In	<b>23</b> RAs Lock-In
<b>24</b> <b>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Morning Worship	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> 6:30 Mission Transition Team Leadership Transition Team	<b>27</b> 6:30 Mid-Week Service 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 7:00 Diaconate Meeting	<b>29</b> RAs Lock-In	<b>30</b> RAs Lock-In
<b>31</b> 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Morning Worship 9 pm Youth New Year Lock-In	<b>Christmas</b> 	<b>26</b> 6:30 Mission Transition Team Leadership Transition Team	<b>27</b> 6:30 Mid-Week Service 7:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 7:00 Diaconate Meeting	<b>29</b> RAs Lock-In	<b>30</b> RAs Lock-In

Mission Transition team asks for your participation in a survey beginning December 3rd and due December 17th. Paper copies will be available December 3rd but the electronic version will go live by December 4th. We encourage you to try the electronic version.

# December 2023 Newsletter

4148 Deep River Road  
Sanford, North Carolina 27330

Flat Springs Baptist Church

Phone: 919-775-5922  
Website: <http://www.flatspringsbaptist.com>

**children's program**

**Join us for our Children's Nativity Play and Birthday Party for Jesus**

All are welcome!

This is in place of the mid-week service Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 pm

Bring a folding chair and join us for fellowship, hot chocolate around a fire, and the Nativity Story.

At the end of the play, join the children in the Fellowship Hall for "Happy Birthday" and cake in honor of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Join our Christmas Caroling Party**

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

Gather in the Fellowship Hall @ 6:00 pm

Caroling stands in place of Prayer Meeting and Adult Choir Practice.

"HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!"

**Family Sunday School**

Your family is invited to come together for a month filled with fun, Bible study, music, and family arts and crafts. This is an unique opportunity to attend Sunday School with your children and share with them the importance of family worship.

Meeting at 9:00 am

Children and Youth Choir Room (upstairs)

December 3rd, 10th, & 17th: for ages 2 thru 5th grade

December 24th: for ages 2 thru 12th grade

To our church family, may the presence of Jesus in our heart stays true, and His blessings be always there to bring joy and celebration in our lives. Have a safe and Merry Christmas.

May God bless you.

Allan, Ella, Tim, and Barbara

**Christmas Programs December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Children's Choir**

10:00 am Worship Service

**Chancel Choir's Christmas Cantata**

*In the Midst: "God Among Us"*

6:00 pm

**Church Office Closed**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**December 17<sup>th</sup>**

**8 am**

**Deacon of the Month - Jack Marks**

**Sunday School & Worship Attendance for November 2023**

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service
11/5/23	88	84
11/12/23	88	108
11/19/23	95	107
11/26/23	98	102

## Message from Pastor Blume

### How will you celebrate Christmas?

There is nothing like the Christmas season! Although we celebrate many holidays throughout the year, no other holiday consumes more of our time, energy and resources than Christmas. To those who don't know that Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, the season is only about gifts, parties and family gatherings. To Christians, the season is much more!

Christians celebrate our Savior's birth! We do this first by reserving time for Advent—the annual celebration of the first coming of the Messiah to this world and the expectation of this second coming. This is not only something we celebrate in Sunday worship services, but it includes daily celebrations in our homes. Many Advent devotional guides are available online to help your family enjoy quality time together every day throughout the Advent season. I encourage you to make the most of this annual season of worship and celebration.

Another way we celebrate Christmas is by sharing His Good News with those around the world who do know Him. This is the reason Jesus was born. The Bible says He came to "seek and to save the lost."

For almost 40 years, Pam and I made the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions a high priority in our Christmas celebrations. We can be confident that our gifts will support 3,500 international missionaries and

their families as they share the gospel with unreached people. We believe the most important work of the New Testament church is sharing the gospel so that the Lord will be glorified among every nation, tribe, people and language.

You may ask, how much does it cost, on average, to support an International Mission Board missionary? This is what it takes:

\$60,000 a year (global average)

\$5,000 a month

\$1,154 a week

\$164 a day

This is a global average of the annual cost for supporting an individual missionary and includes all forms of ministry support and personnel support (salary, medical expenses, language study, children's education, housing, visas, travel, retirement benefits, and more).

What will you give to support these missionaries this year? Flat Springs Baptist Church has the potential to give the largest gift in the church's history. Let's do that for the advance of the Gospel and the glory of God!

I'm praying for you. Thank you for praying for me!

Allan Blume

## Message from Ella

### Music Happenings

The Christmas season is approaching, and the children's choirs are excited to showcase their special music during the 10am worship service on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Make sure to save the date for the chancel choir's Christmas cantata *In the Midst: "God Among Us"* at 6pm on the same evening. After the cantata, there will be refreshments for everyone to enjoy in the fellowship hall. Starting in January, the children's choirs will be back in action and ready to embark on a journey towards becoming lifelong worshippers. With the help of Pure Praise, a new

curriculum that combines scripture and musical competency, they will be exploring some of the most impactful and timeless hymns featured in the musical "The Greatest Hymn on Earth". This includes classics such as The Solid Rock, Jesus Paid it All, Be Thou My Vision, Great Is Thy Faithfulness, and many more! I can't wait to see both new and familiar faces in the new year, so let's all invite and bring a friend to join in on the fun!

Ella Lazenby

## A Message from our Sandy Creek Baptist Association Missionary

Until He Returns....

As the joyful season of Christmas approaches, we are reminded of the incredible gift given to us—Jesus Christ, our Savior. In the middle of the twinkling lights and festive decorations, let us take a moment to reflect on the profound biblical significance of this wondrous occasion.

The Gospel of Luke tells us of the angel's proclamation to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). This timeless message remains the heart of our Christmas celebration—a celebration not just of presents and fellowship, but a celebration of the ultimate gift, God's love incarnate.

This Christmas let's focus on creating a spirit of joy and kindness that mirrors the love of Christ. As we exchange gifts with one another, let us remember the precious gift of salvation offered freely to us through Jesus. Through prayer,

worship, and acts of compassion, let's also share this profound message of hope with our community.

May this Christmas be a time of reflection, gratitude, and a deepening of our faith. As we celebrate the birth of Christ, may His light shine brightly in our lives, guiding us through the year ahead.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyous Christmas season filled with the love and peace that surpasses all understanding.

Blessings, Barry Lawrence

**We send our thanks and love to Barry who has submitted his resignation, effective at the end of December. With a promise to help in the transition to a new Associational Missionary, he will begin serving as Director for Fellowship of Christian Athletes in the South/Sandhills area, including Lee, Harnett, and Moore counties.**

## Reach Out Crisis Pregnancy Center

### December Needs: Diapers in sizes 3,4,5,6

Prayer Requests:

Please pray for our Clients who are facing food and housing insecurities in the cold weather and during the Holiday Season.

Praises: We have seen 28 babies born to Clients in 2023!

From all of us at Reach Out Ministries, we are wishing you a Holiday full of family, food, fun, and joy! If you are experiencing the abundance of God's provision this Season, I would ask that you share generously with those

in our community who have little or in some cases, nothing at all. You can help a mother keep her baby.

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/reachoutcpc>

In Ministry for LIFE,

Dianna Andrews, Executive Director



## Pray for Missions

## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

December 3-10 Week of Prayer for International Missions

Let Us Prepare our Hearts to Support those Who Share the Gospel

Since 1918, Southern Baptists have collectively increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain missionaries. One of the best known is Lottie Moon who served in China from 1873 to 1912.

"Lostness" is the world's greatest problem – a problem Lottie saw firsthand. Meeting so many souls who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence. She pleaded for increase. This challenge has become known as the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering*.

Right now, as we enter the Advent season, will you join your heart with others to pray for missionaries around the world who are faithfully sharing the gospel? December 3-10 will mark our formal observance of a Week of Prayer for

International Missions and the kick-off the *Lottie Moon Christmas Offering* emphasis. Be assured that 100% of gifts go to support our missionaries.

Here is another question and a challenge from WMU: Will you join your gifts with those of others here at Flat Springs for a collection of \$3,000 -plus? This will help support the faithful in the international mission field such as Chuck and Barb who humbly asked for our prayers and support from the pulpit early this fall.

100% of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering enables gospel transformation among the unreached.



## Gift Idea for the Ladies and Teens in Your Life



The February 2024 Women's Retreat at Caswell is scheduled for Friday evening through Sunday morning, February 23-25 with speaker Ginny Penry from Garner, NC. The theme is inspired by Matthew 6:16-17,

ground from Hatch Auditorium. Music will be led by Cindy Johnson of Winston-Salem. The price includes housing with sheets and towels, 2 breakfasts, 1 dinner, 2 evening snacks, 2 worship services, break-out sessions, and program materials.

This weekend retreat would make a great Christmas gift for the ladies in your life!

"Who do you say I am?" Cost is \$195.00. See Stephanie about registration. We have the best house reserved, named Fort Caswell, situated directly across the parade

