

LITTLETON BAPTIST NEWS

A Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Congregation

"Our mission is to make Christ known, by providing spiritual nourishment, ministering to physical needs, and sharing the Gospel."

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PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

Thriving isn't a buzzword. It's a heartbeat.

You can feel it when you walk into a sanctuary buzzing with post-worship conversations that linger long after the benediction. You can sense it in the joy of a child running down the hallway, the vulnerability of someone sharing their story for the first time in years, the quiet faithfulness of a widow who still shows up week after week, praying for others by name.

Thriving isn't about numbers – it's about vitality. It's not success by corporate metrics; it's the Spirit breathing life into a people willing to be led.

In the Helping Churches Thrive cohort, churches were invited to ask the question: "What does thriving look like in our context?" And here's what emerged – it doesn't look the same everywhere. A thriving church in a small town might look like a food pantry and shared space with local nonprofits. In the city, it might be a multicultural worship gathering, a trauma-informed youth program, or a quiet coffee hour where stories unfold with grace.

What unites these expressions isn't strategy – it's posture. A thriving church is rooted in prayer and guided by discernment. It listens to its people. It experiments. It holds tradition with one hand and the future with the other.

Scripture gives us glimpses of this kind of church. In Acts 2:42–47, we find a vibrant community of shared meals, mutual care, Spirit-led teaching, and overflowing generosity. The people weren't just attending - they were belonging, becoming, blessing. And "the Lord added to their number daily."

Paul describes the church as a body – each part essential (1 Corinthians 12). Thriving means every member knows they're needed. It means gifts are noticed and nurtured. It means people grow not just in knowledge, but in Christlike love (Ephesians 4:15–16).

Here's the paradox: thriving isn't constant. It's not a finish line. It's more like a rhythm – a living pattern of growth, pruning, rest, and renewal. Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches... If you remain in me... you will bear much fruit" (John 15:5). Thriving comes from abiding. From staying connected. From trusting that God is still at work, even when it's hard to see.

Churches stall when they mistake a peak for permanence and when they chase past success instead of present faithfulness. Churches thrive when they lean into the unknown with courage – open to the Spirit's disruption, attentive to the needs of the world, and willing to ask again and again, "What is God doing here?"

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October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 Young Family Bible Study 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	2	3	4
5 8:00 Deacons Mtg 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	6	7	8 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	9	10	11 10:00 - 1:00 Harvest of Blessings
12 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:00 Youth	13	14	15 6:00 Young Family Bible Study 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Quarterly Business Mtg	16	17 6:45 Movie Night	18
19 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Helping Churches Thrive meal & conversation	20	21	22 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	23	24 8:30 Church Work Day	25 8:30 Church Work Day
26 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:00 Youth	27	28	29 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	30	31 6:00 Main Street Trick or Treat	

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In the end, thriving churches don't just survive – they become places of transformation. Not only for their members, but for their neighbors. For the lonely, the questioning, the weary, and the seeking.

A thriving church is not a monument to what was. It's a movement toward what could be – alive with grace, rooted in love, and always becoming.

Grace and Peace,

David



I just recently noticed that my name is on the front of our Sunday bulletin! I have made it to the big time! I have also been given a title, Minister of Music! I am truly honored!

I looked up the definition of Minister of Music. I am responsible for a lot of things! Some of them are: leading, developing, and managing a church's musical ministry for all age groups, working in collaboration with the Pastor to plan services, select music, direct choirs and other musical ensembles, and oversee the technical aspects of music production (whatever that means!)

For the most part, I feel like I have been doing the things that I mentioned above. What makes my "job" so easy is the wonderful group of talented people that make up our church family! You make it possible for me to enjoy holding this position!

Our Adult Choir continues to grow but remember that there is always a seat for YOU!

Laura



Our Deacons will meet at 8:00 A.M. on Sunday, **October 5th**. We welcome our two newest deacons, Mike Blanton and Matthew Council. Special thanks to Paula Burton & David Tripp who completed their terms of service in September. Please pray for our deacons and their invaluable leadership to our church.



THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

Join us for our Sunday Morning Worship.
If you can't be with us at church, then join us
online for our Virtual Worship Service on
Facebook Live at 11:00 A.M.

OCTOBER 5

The Strangeness of the Cross

Mark 15:33-39

World Communion Sunday

OCTOBER 12

What Does It Mean To Thrive?

Genesis 12:1-4

OCTOBER 19

Talking Donkey

Numbers 22:21-35

OCTOBER 26

Legion of Pigs

Mark 5:1-20



We need your help with "Fall Cleaning" this year. Please help us clean the church and grounds on our annual work days **October 24th** and **25th**, from 8:30 A.M. to noon. Help even if you can only stay an hour or two. Now that the roof is finally repaired, we need to start working on the rooms damaged from leaks. If you prefer to work outside, there's shrubbery and yard jobs. If you know of other needs, now is the time to help maintain our church.



October is here! Time flies so fast! If you would like to beautify our church with gorgeous flowers, please let us know! Contact a member of the Flower Committee by phone or email: Sandra Lynch, Chairperson - (252) 578-3495, sandralynch337@gmail.com, Kay Beaver - (252) 586-2014, dbeaver10@gmail.com or Christie Griffin (919) 306-1601, christiewheatley@yahoo.com. You may also contact the church office by email: office@littletonbaptistchurch.org. Let us know what you would like placed in the bulletin.

October 12th, 19th, & 26th are available. If you would like to reserve one of these dates, please let us know.

Also, it is time to start thinking about placing Poinsettias in LBC to grace our sanctuary for the month of December in memory or in honor of your loved one. Sandra Lynch, Kay Beaver, or Christie Griffin, will be glad to take your orders. As soon as we know the prices, we will get Kay Tripp to post it in the Sunday bulletins and online.



Appalachian Coalfields Christmas Outreach 2025 is a project run by NC Baptists on Mission. Their goal is to collect 24,000 backpacks of items to be distributed to Appalachian children in areas of need. Littleton Baptist would like to participate in this ministry this year.

You can help by purchasing a **NEW school backpack** that you will fill with the following items.

- A) Items of **NEW warm clothing**. Please try to provide a winter hat, a pair of gloves, 2 - 3 pairs of winter socks, and a scarf.
- B) Small **metal pop-top canned food** items such as ravioli, tuna, beef stew, fruit (3 - 4 cans - no plastic containers, please)
- C) At least 2 or 3 **NEW, age appropriate non-breakable toy(s) (no toy weapons, please!)** This can include small cars, balls, dolls, small stuffed animals, small puzzles, jump rope, sidewalk chalk, Slinky, card games, Legos, etc. For oldest age group (15 - 17) substitute an appropriate item in stead of a toy, such as, a flashlight, small thermos, light blanket, ear buds, small tool kits, fishing gear, books, hunting, or sports magazines for the boys - jewelry, books, ear buds, skin care products, hair accessories, small travel-sized hair dryer, etc. for the girls. **(No knife, pocketknife, or blade of any kind please!)**
- D) **Hygiene items** including full sized containers of toothpaste, body wash, shampoo, and deodorant, as well as toothbrush, soap, washcloth, brush or comb. **(Please fit these items into a one gallon Ziploc bag so they do not leak out into the rest of the backpack).**
- E) **Fresh, wrapped candy (no chocolate please, as it may melt; and no peanut products because of potential allergies)**

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please make sure all items fit into the backpack. Nothing should be attached to the outside of the pack. Please stick carefully to the list above. This backpack is not for school supplies. Our mission committee is getting the Bibles for the backpacks. (if you would like to purchase a bible for the backpack please make sure it is age appropriate)

Age Grouping and Labeling. Each backpack should be labeled boy or girl as well as the appropriate age. Age groupings for this year are **4 - 7, 8 - 10, 11 - 14, 15 - 17**. Checklists will be supplied in the vestibule. Please pin your checklist to the outside of the backpack with any items you could not find circled or highlighted.

We ask that you prepare your backpack as you would for your own child or grandchild, with new items, not used ones. This quality gift could be the only Christmas present this child receives, and will be a witness of Christ's love!

Please bring your backpacks to church by Sunday, October 19th.



October 5th is World Communion Sunday. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper during worship. Be present for this special time as we remember the sacrifice of our Lord for you and me. Remember, as you depart, you will be given the opportunity to contribute to the Fellowship Fund for local benevolence.



Our Young Family Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, **October 1st**, and Wednesday, **October 15th**, for Bible stories, music, and games. This is always a wonderful time for our children.



We are proud of our ministry history and faith, and we'll have opportunity to celebrate this with Homecoming. This year will mark 152 years of ministry and service to the community of Littleton. This will be celebrated on Sunday, **November 9th**, at 11:00 A.M.

Dr. Barry Jones, dean of the Campbell University Divinity School and the Lewis E. and Martha Barnes Tyner Chair of Bible, will be the speaker.

The service will be followed immediately by a covered dish luncheon. Please invite former members, family, and friends to be our guests on this day.



The Town of Littleton will be sponsoring a Halloween trick or treat on Main Street this year at 6:00 P.M. Our church will be sponsoring a table. We need your help by bringing a bag of individually wrapped candy by **October 26th**, so we can make small treat bags for each child. We will also need volunteers to help staff the table as well. If you are interested, please see Pastor David.



This year, Littleton Baptist Church is excited to partner with the John 3:16 Center's *Harvest of Blessings*! This outdoor fundraiser will be held on Saturday, **October 11th**, from **10:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M.** at the Littleton location of the John 3:16 Center. The event raises support for the Center and all of its vital programs, while also bringing families together for a day of fun.

Our church will be hosting a station with cornhole, ladder ball, and crafts, along with an information table to share upcoming opportunities at LBC. To make it a success, we need volunteers to help run the games and crafts, greet guests at the table, and assist with setup and teardown.

This is a wonderful way for us to serve, connect with neighbors, and shine Christ's love in our community. A sign-up sheet is available on the missions table - we would love for you to join us!



Our next Quarterly Business Meeting is Wednesday, **October 15th**, at 7:00 P.M.



Youth will meet Sunday, **October 12th**, & Sunday, **October 26th**. This year we will not be having dinner but we will instead be focusing solely on our Bible Study. Youth will last from 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. The youth are also encouraged to be at our churchwide Helping Churches Thrive conversations on **October 19th**.



CHURCHWIDE CONVERSATION

On Sunday, **October 19th**, we will hold our first churchwide conversation as part of *Helping Churches Thrive*. To prepare our hearts and minds, our worship service on **October 12th** will focus on the question: *What does it mean to thrive?*

We'll gather at **5:30 P.M.** in the fellowship hall of Littleton United Methodist Church. The evening will begin with fellowship and fajitas, followed by a time of discussion and reflection.

Everyone is invited—whether or not you're a member, and no matter your age. Your voice matters, and your insight is vital as we explore this month's theme: *What does it mean to thrive?*

Littleton Baptist Church
P. O. Box 216
Littleton, NC 27850



<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>
3 Ashby Burton 5 Perry Myrick (Myrick) (5 yrs) 8 Mike Crawley 9 Cecil Griffin 12 Jan Myrick 15 Jeff Burton 18 Louise Gibson 25 Jack Tant	8 Perry & Casey Myrick (9 yrs) 27 Jeff & Paula Burton (35 yrs)	6 Sara Council/Claire Council 13 Melinda Harris/Sandra Lynch 19 Lynne Skilton/Jim Skilton 26 Sara Little/Carol West
		<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
		Sid Shearin