

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."

Rev. David A. Little, Pastor

www.littletonbaptistchurch.org

email: pastor@littletonbaptistchurch.org

email: office@littletonbaptistchurch.org

(252) 586-5330



SEPTEMBER 2025

Vol. 49 No. 9

PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

So our church is about to begin the Helping Churches Thrive shared learning cohort. Maybe you've been wondering what exactly this journey will look like, or what it means for our church family. Here's the good news: we are not alone. Instead we are being invited into a process of discovery, imagination, and growth. This isn't a program with a secret formula. It's a journey of faithful curiosity.

Over the next ten months, we are going to walk through a process designed to help us reflect deeply on our identity, listen to each other, strengthen what is good, and help courageously explore new possibilities. It's about thriving – not just surviving – as a community of Christ.

1. Our Core Team

Our church has gathered a small team of 4 people: myself, David Tripp, Lou Elam, and Kristi Atkins. They will represent the congregation throughout the process. It all begins with an opening retreat later this month where we will connect with other churches, meet our amazing Thriving Guide, and begin dreaming about what thriving looks like in our context. The process will end with a Celebration retreat in April, where we will reflect on what we have learned and most importantly: what's next!

2. Monthly Cohort Calls

Each month, our team will participate in a 90-minute Zoom call with other churches in the cohort. The first 30 minutes will focus on a learning topic (one of the 8 characteristics of thriving churches), followed by planning time. We will brainstorm how to engage the entire congregation – through worship, Sunday School discussions, and monthly churchwide conversations.

3. Churchwide Engagement

This is where it gets exciting. Unlike most planning processes that happen behind closed doors, the Helping Churches Thrive process invites the whole church to join the conversation. Every month, starting in October and excluding December, we as a congregation will explore a characteristic of thriving churches in three ways:

- **Worship Focus** – One Sunday each month, we will explore the theme in worship.
- **Sunday School** – A short 10-minute discussion kicks off all of our class time, helping all generations reflect on the monthly theme.
- **Churchwide Conversations** – These creative gatherings will take place on Sunday evenings with some fellowship time. They will create a safe space for small group reflection, large group sharing, and listening to God and one another.

(continued on page 3)



September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:00 Young Family Bible Study 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	4	5	6
7 8:00 Deacons Mtg 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	8	9	10 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	11	12	13
14 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:00 Youth	15	16	17 6:00 Young Family Bible Study 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	18	19 7:30 Community Family Movie Night	20
21 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	22	23	24 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	25	26	27
28 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:00 Youth	29	30				

(Continued from page 1)

To support this learning, a monthly article just like this will be printed in the monthly newsletter to introduce the characteristic of focus. They will offer scriptural grounding, storytelling, and inspiration to help our church engage the theme with fresh eyes and open hearts.

4. Special Opportunities

Midway through our journey, we will participate in a Congregational Assessment to get a clearer picture of our health and hopes. Then we will be invited to dream boldly through a Creative Ministry Grant – a chance to fund a fresh ministry idea that emerges from our learning.

Why all this matters:

Churches don't thrive by accident. They thrive through intentional listening, bold imagination, and shared ownership. That's why this process will be structured to help us reflect on the past, engage the present, and reimagine the future – with everyone having a voice.

Most importantly, this journey isn't about chasing the latest trend. It's about becoming more fully the church God is calling us to be – for our congregation, our neighborhoods, and the world.

So breathe deep. Ask questions. Stay curious.

We are not just starting a project. We are entering a season of transformation.

Let's help our church to thrive – together.

Grace and Peace,

David



Youth will meet on Sunday, **September 14th**, and Sunday, **September 28th**, for dinner and Bible Study at 5:00 P.M. We are excited about the new opportunities our helping churches thrive can have even on our youth!



On Sunday, **September 7th**, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper during worship. Be present for this special time as we remember once again the sacrifice of our Lord for each of us. Remember as you depart, you will be given the opportunity to contribute to the Fellowship Fund for local benevolence.



Young Family
Bible Study

Our Young Family Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, **September 3rd**, and Wednesday, **September 17th**. This is a time for young families with children to come and grow in their faith through Bible stories, music, and games.



Our deacons will meet on Sunday, **September 7th**, at 8:00 A.M. in the church annex. Please continue to pray for our deacons and their invaluable leadership to our church.



FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The first Sunday of each month is set aside to bring food items for the John 3:16 Food Pantry. There are many in our area that need help with feeding their family. We can share the abundance of what we have with others!

This month they need the following items: Pop Top Canned meat (chicken, tuna, Vienna Sausages), peanut butter/jelly (8 oz jars), 16 oz bags of rice, and spaghetti sauce.



If you watch the Hallmark Channel on television then you know they had Christmas movies in July...around the clock...every day! So many shops have Christmas in July sales. Even Pastor David celebrated Christmas in July a couple of years ago!

Well, I don't start rehearsals for our Christmas Cantata quite that early, but we do start in September! I have been listening to it since July, so technically I have been celebrating Christmas a little early!

Please let me know if you would like to sing the Christmas music with us this year! I will be glad to give you the details!

"The first breath a choir takes together, a breath filled with focus, intention and emotion a breath unified for no other reason than to make something beautiful together....that is the reason we do what we do." Eric Whitacre

Laura 



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.

SEPTEMBER 7

Let the Waters Rise

Exodus 14:15-31

Communion

SEPTEMBER 14

Walls Fall Down

Joshua 6:8-20

SEPTEMBER 21

The Great Flood

Genesis 7:11-24

SEPTEMBER 28

Battle on Mount Carmel

1 Kings 18:20-39



It always amazes me how blessed we are to have such a wonderful church family! It is so nice to have wonderful, caring people in our church. God has definitely blessed us.

If you would like to place flowers in church this month, please let us know. **September 14th, 21st, & 28th** are available. Don't forget about the flower sign up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the hallway at church.

Feel free to contact a member of the Flower Committee by phone or email:

Sandra Lynch - (252)578-3495, sandralynch337@gmail.com,

Kay Beaver - (252)586-2014, dbeaver10@gmail.com or

Christie Griffin - (919)306-1601, christiewheatley@yahoo.com.

You can also contact the church office by email: office@littletonbaptistchurch.org. Let us know what you would like placed in the bulletin.

Thank you again for all your support!



COMMUNITY FAMILY OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHT



On Friday, **September 19th**, we will be hosting a Community Family Outdoor Movie Night in our parking lot. We will be watching "The Wild Robot." The movie will start at 7:30 P.M. We will have popcorn, candy, and drinks to enjoy. Invite all your friends to this great night of fellowship with our community.



A PRAYER FOR THE NEW CHURCH YEAR



Lord of all seasons,
as we begin this new church year,
renew our hope in Christ,
rekindle our love for one another,
and refresh our calling to serve.
Guide our steps, strengthen our faith,
and let all we do bring glory to You.
Amen.



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.

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



<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>
4 Dale Council 5 Jimmy Felts 10 Lucas Little (2 yrs) 13 Betty Blanton 15 Anna Council (9 yrs) 15 Earl Spivey 28 Tracy Council 29 Neva Lopez 30 Jim Skilton 30 Kent West	14 David & Sara Little (6 yrs)	7 Sara Council/Claire Council 14 Sandra Lynch/Melinda Harris 21 Sara Little/Carol West 28 Nichole Pitchford/Amanda Coffman
		<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
		Bob Thompson