

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."

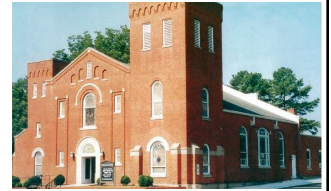
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PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

You can sit in a pew for years and never feel known.

That's the quiet tragedy of church in our time – not the decline of programs, but the erosion of belonging. In a culture of curated lives and digital disconnection, the deep ache is not for entertainment or inspiration – it's for relationship. For people to know your name and your story. For someone to notice when you're not okay.

Thriving congregations know this. They're not just friendly, they're familial. They create space where masks come off and real stories surface. They understand what Paul meant when he wrote, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." That kind of community doesn't happen by accident. It takes courage, commitment, and the kind of love that refuses to let people disappear.

During churchwide conversations, people shared moments when they felt the sting of being left out and the healing that came when they were truly welcomed. One person said, "The time I felt like I belonged most was when someone remembered a small detail I shared and brought it up weeks later. I knew I mattered."

That's what authentic community looks like: paying attention.

In Acts 2, we see a church not just gathering for worship but sharing meals, resources, and lives. It wasn't just communal – it was committed. "They devoted themselves to fellowship and the Lord added to their number daily." Belonging became the soil where faith could grow.

It's not always easy. Authenticity requires vulnerability. Community means conflict. It asks us to stay at the table even when things get awkward or hard. It means moving beyond affinity groups and comfort zones. It means listening when someone's experience challenges our own. And yet this is where the Spirit shows up. In Galatians, Paul writes, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." That law isn't a doctrine – it's love. Radical, inconvenient, reconciling love.

Thriving churches are learning to reimagine community through new lenses: potlucks that mix generations, small groups that make space for grief and doubt, pews that stretch to include people who don't look, vote, or speak like each other. It's not just about who's present – it's about who feels safe enough to stay.

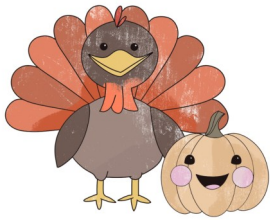
The Gospel has always been about community. Jesus called a motley crew of fishermen, zealots, and tax collectors not to sit in rows, but to walk together. He wept with friends, blessed children, touched the untouchable, and shared tables with outsiders. And he told us to do the same.

Thriving congregations are reclaiming that radical hospitality. They're choosing presence over performance. They're cultivating a culture where every person: young and old, joyful and grieving, confident and questioning can say, "I belong here."

In a world starving for connection, that might be the most powerful witness of all.

Grace and Peace,

David



NOVEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:00 Deacons Mtg 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	3	4	5 6:00 Young Family Bible Study 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	6	7	8
9 11:00 Home- coming 12:00 Home- coming Meal	10	11 	12 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	13	14	15
16 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Helping Churches Thrive meal & conver- sation	17	18	19 6:00 Young Family Bible Study 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	20	21	22
23 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Finance Committee Mtg 5:30 Community Thanksgiving Service	24	25	26 No Adult Choir or Prayer & Bible Study	27 	28	29 9:00 Chrismon Tree & Sanctuary Decorating/ Nativity Scene set-up.
30 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 5:00 Youth						



As Autumn paints our beautiful world in warm colors, Thanksgiving approaches and brings with it all of those wonderful Thanksgiving songs. What wonderful Thanksgiving songs you ask?

The first ones that come to mind are the hymns...We Gather Together, Come, Ye Thankful People Come, and Count Your Blessings. The Thanksgiving childhood song I loved to sing was Over the River and Through the Woods. Mary Chapin Carpenter has a beautiful selection called Thanksgiving Song. Another one that brings back wonderful memories is one of Mama's favorites....Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep by Bing Crosby. After you enjoy that big delicious Thanksgiving meal listen to Stretchy Pants by Carrie Underwood!!

We are a church family that is so blessed! Yes, we are a church that is thriving! Count your blessings each and every day!!!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Laura 🎵

HOMEcoming INVITATION CELEBRATING 152 YEARS

*All Members, Former Members,
Friends and Family
are cordially invited to Littleton Baptist Church
on Sunday, November 9th, at 11:00 A.M.
for our Annual Homecoming Service
followed by a Covered Dish Dinner
in our Fellowship Hall.
Everyone is encouraged to bring
covered dishes/desserts to share.
Rev. 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.
There will be no Sunday School on this day.*



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.

NOVEMBER 2

Faith for the Future

Ephesians 2:14-18

All Saints Day

NOVEMBER 9

Rev. Dr. Barry Jones

Homecoming

NOVEMBER 16

Building An Authentic Community

Acts 2:42-47

Helping Churches Thrive

NOVEMBER 23

Prayer of the Heart

Matthew 6:5-13

NOVEMBER 30

No More "No Room"

Luke 2:4-7



Young Family
Bible Study

We will gather for Young Family Bible Study for those families with young children on Wednesdays, **November 5th** and **19th**, at 6:00 PM for Bible study, crafts, and music. It's always a great time to gather and see the children grow in their faith.



DECORATING THE CHURCH

It is time to get into the Christmas Spirit! We need all volunteers!! We will be decorating the Christmas Tree and the Sanctuary on Saturday, **November 29th**, at 9:00 A.M. We will also be setting out the Nativity scene.



JOHN 3:16 CENTER TOY DRIVE & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



The John 3:16 Center Annual Toy Drive is **November 3rd – December 5th**. They are hoping to serve over 500 children at the Littleton and Roanoke Rapids locations through their Christmas Outreach Program. There are 3 ways you can help this year. First, you can help them by sponsoring a child (ages newborn – 16) with a donation of \$100.00 or by participating in their Annual Toy Collection Drive by dropping off new, unwrapped toys at the John 3:16 Center in Littleton.

Suggested items to donate for children up to age 16:

Socks and Underwear (All sizes)

Puzzles (Varying ages. Please do NOT get over 300 pieces)

Books (for every age group)

Drawing sets/crafts kits/science kits

Games (board games or card games)

Batteries (as we like to provide them if they are needed with toys and games)

Toys but please **NO** toy weapons

Some of the hardest items that they tend to receive less of is for toddler age and teenagers. Some ideas for teenagers are watches, wallets, purses, costume jewelry, make up/nail polish, beauty & self-care items, hats and sporting goods.

For babies and toddlers: Learning toys. Musical toys, infant toys/plush toys

Lastly, the John 3:16 Center is in need of volunteers in helping transport items from the Center to Littleton United Methodist Church (LUMC) and for setting up the “Christmas Shoppe” on **December 10th** from 10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Also, at LUMC, volunteers are needed to be personal shoppers/wrappers on **December 11th** & **12th** & **December 15th** thru **18th** in assisting parents in picking out gifts for their children from **10:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.** on the days listed above.

The John 3:16 Center also needs volunteers to help set up for the Christmas Party for the families they serve on Friday, **December 19th**, from 9:00 A.M - 12:00 noon. Volunteers are also needed to assist with the Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 20th**, with parking, serving food, assisting Santa, and mingling with the families. For more information or to sign up, call The John 3:16 Center at (252) 586-1800 or talk to Sara Little.



Now is the time to order Christmas Poinsettias. You can order through Sunday, **November 2nd**. Let us know if you want the 6.5” red poinsettias for \$13.00 or the 8” red poinsettias for \$20.00. Please be sure to let us know if you want to place it in memory of or in honor of a special person.

You can 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,



SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES

Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina

Each year, North Carolina Baptists show their love and support for children by participating in the annual Thanksgiving Offering for Baptist Children's Homes. Without you, and North Carolina Baptists throughout the state, it would be impossible for Baptist Children's Homes (BCH) to offer compassionate homes and ministries where children can go and find a place of hope and peace. The caring cottage parents and caregivers introduce boys and girls to Jesus who says to them, "*Come to me...I will give you rest.*"

Giving to BCH's Annual Offering is not only important in helping to meet the tremendous needs of boys and girls. It's essential! You will find envelopes & more information in the **November 2nd** bulletin.

HELPING CHURCHES

THRIVE



A MINISTRY OF CBF NORTH CAROLINA

CHURCHWIDE CONVERSATION

On Sunday, **November 16th**, we will hold our second churchwide conversation as part of *Helping Churches Thrive*. To prepare our hearts and minds, our worship service that morning will focus on the topic: *building an authentic community*.

We'll gather at **5:30 P.M.** in the fellowship hall of Littleton United Methodist Church. The evening will begin with fellowship, pizza and salad, 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: *building an authentic community*.



Our church will once again be sending Christmas Cards to our military personnel who will be away from home during the Christmas Holidays. These cards from our church family will give cheer to them in their distant service. We are also asking you to provide names, addresses, rank, relationship to you (i.e family, friend, neighbor etc.). (Note: If you have family or friends serving in missions somewhere, we will also extend this request for names to include them as well.)

Please give the information to Sid Shearin or the church office.

The cards will be in the vestibule for you to sign **November 30th**, **December 7th**, & **14th**. Sid wants to remind everyone you are not to sign for your spouse or children. Everyone needs to sign individually.



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE

Lakeside Lutheran will be hosting our Community Thanksgiving Service this year. It will be Sunday, **November 23rd**, at 5:30 P.M. The ecumenical service will feature special music and Rev. Keith Porter, pastor from LUMC will deliver the message giving thanks to God for his goodness. You will also have the opportunity to donate food and/or a money offering to support the John 3:16 Center Food Pantry.



Youth will meet on **November 30th** at 5:00 P.M. for Bible Study. Please note the Sunday change due to Homecoming and the community Thanksgiving service.

We will be collecting money for the John 3:16 Christmas Toy Drive on Sundays, **November 23rd**, **30th**, and **December 7th**. We will go to lunch and shopping on **December 7th**.

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



<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY SCHEDULE</u>
2 Priscilla Parks 6 Lou Elam 10 Jim Sineath 11 Mary Virginia Kearney 12 Karen Gandy 16 Darlene Kocich 19 Morgan Barnes 20 Arlene Merritt 21 Bree Barnes 24 Charles Wilson 25 Thad Harris 27 Ed Atkins 28 Tom Burch 28 Brenda Hudson 29 Mary Lois Spivey	6 Matthew & Sara Council (15 yrs) 8 Tom & Sandy Burch (34 yrs)	2 Sara Council/Claire Council 9 Lynn Skilton/Jim Skilton 16 Paula Burton/Kay Tripp 23 Sara Little/Carol West 30 Melinda Harris/Sandra Lynch
		<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
		Charles Wilson