

# 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*

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## PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

What if our church had a chance to dream—without the pressure of perfection? What if ministry could begin not with a budget line or a five-year plan, but with a single, sacred question: **"What if we tried?"**

As part of our journey through the *Helping Churches Thrive* cohort, our congregation is invited to participate in a bold opportunity: the **Creative Ministry Grant**. This isn't just another application. It's an invitation to experiment. To stretch. To imagine. To listen for the Spirit's leading and step out—not because everything is certain, but because God is faithful.

This \$2,000–\$3,000 grant is a one-time gift to help our church try something *new*. Not something we're already doing, not something polished or proven—but something fresh, imaginative, and open-ended. The only cost? Courage, creativity, and a willingness to learn along the way.

**What does "creative ministry" look like?** It might look like turning our church lawn into a community garden. Or starting a storytelling circle that bridges generations. Or launching a sidewalk blessing station with prayer and coffee for commuters. Maybe it's exploring new partnerships in the neighborhood or using your space in ways that disrupt loneliness or injustice.

This is a grant for ministry ideas that haven't had a chance to live yet. Projects that require imagination more than certainty, and flexibility more than a fixed outcome. Whatever it is, it doesn't have to be flashy or big. It just needs to be bold—and rooted in one or more of the six characteristics of a thriving congregation:

- Committed to authentic community
- Are flexible
- Collaborate as partners locally and globally
- Cultivate leaders
- Are intergenerational
- Are being formed

**Why experiment?** Because thriving churches aren't museums – they're gardens. They plant seeds. They try things. And sometimes? Those tiny experiments bear fruit in ways no one could've predicted. Jesus told parables about sowing seed without knowing exactly where it would land. This grant invites us to do the same – to sow something new, trusting that God can bring life from our effort, whether or not it goes according to plan.

**What now?** Our HCT team will begin by discerning what idea to propose. As a church, we'll listen together, brainstorm, and wonder out loud. You'll be invited into that process. And at the April Celebration Retreat, our team will share the idea with other churches who are on this same journey of experimenting and thriving.

No idea is too small. No risk is wasted if it brings us closer to love, justice, or belonging. This is our chance to help shape what's next—not with certainty, but with holy curiosity. Let's be brave. Let's be creative. Let's try something.

Grace and Peace,

*David*



# DECEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 6:00 Young Family Bible Study 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	4	5	6
7 8:00 Deacons Mtg 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Youth Lunch/Shopping 3:00 Lake Gaston Christmas Cantata	8	9	10 6:00 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	11	12	13 6:00 Lake Gaston Christmas Cantata (Acorn Center)
14 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship  5:00 Youth Christmas Party	15	16	17 5:15 Christmas Caroling 6:15 Adult Choir No Prayer & Bible Study	18	19 9:00 John 3:16 Christmas Party Setup at John 3:16 Center	20 10:00 John 3:16 Christmas Party
21 9:00 Christmas Breakfast 11:00 Worship  5:30 Christmas Cantata	22	23	24 5:00 Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27
28 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	29	30	31 No Adult Choir or Prayer & Bible Study			

## Music Notes

The holidays are upon us and all is well! The Adult Choir will be presenting A Child is Born... All is Well on **December 21<sup>st</sup>** at 5:30 P.M. This cantata is filled with beautiful songs that will fill your heart with the love of Christ and the Christmas season.

With such an impeccable selection of songs and arrangements, this program is a musical invitation to come and worship the Christ Child, Emmanuel, God with us, an invitation to rejoice and celebrate His birth, to dwell in His presence, and draw comfort in knowing that A Child is Born... All is Well.

The Junior Singers will be sharing several songs during the program. There will also be a special piano solo presented by one of our youth...Claire Council.

Come join us and bring friends and family. This will be a very special night for all who attend!

Merry Christmas!

*Laura* 🎵



**Deacons Meeting**

Our Deacons will meet Sunday, **December 7<sup>th</sup>**, at 8:00 A.M. Continue to pray for our deacons and their invaluable leadership to our church.



**Christmas Cards**

The Christmas Card Mailbox for you to "mail" your Christmas cards to church members "in house" begins Sunday, **December 7<sup>th</sup>**. You may bring your Christmas cards to the vestibule for distribution to members. We'll make sure our Homebound receive their cards as well.



**Young Family Bible Study**

Our families with children are invited to our Young Family Bible Study on Wednesday, **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, for Bible Study, crafts, and more. They are also invited to go Christmas caroling on **December 17<sup>th</sup>**.



Our church family filled 31 backpacks for the Baptists on Mission Appalachian Coalfields Ministry. God will use these gifts to show children who live in poverty that they are loved. Thanks to all the hands that filled them.



Youth will continue collecting money for the John 3:16 Center Christmas on **December 7<sup>th</sup>**. We will go to lunch immediately after church, and then shop. We will have our Christmas party on Sunday, **December 14<sup>th</sup>**. We will have dinner this week. Youth are invited to go Christmas caroling on Wednesday, **December 17<sup>th</sup>**.



**Join Us for Caroling**

On Wednesday, **December 17<sup>th</sup>**, you are invited to gather at the church, dressed warmly and prepared to leave at 5:15 P.M. to go Christmas Caroling in the community and visit our homebound.

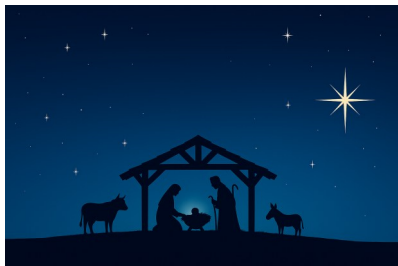


Everyone is invited to our church-wide Christmas Breakfast on Sunday, **December 21<sup>st</sup>**, beginning at 9:00 A.M. This breakfast will extend into the Sunday School hour. After breakfast we will take some time for celebration and thanksgiving. We hope you will be present for this time of fellowship hosted by the Mission Committee.



**OFFERING FOR GLOBAL MISSIONS**

We will receive the CBF Global Missions Offering in support of CBF Missions around the world. The offering will be received at a special ingathering on **December 21<sup>st</sup>** near the conclusion of morning service as we place our offering in the manger. All during December there will be highlights about Global Missions to better inform you how the message of Christ is being carried around the world by CBF Missionaries and Affiliates. Please use the prayer guides to pray diligently and give generously. Your support makes a world of difference!



**A CHILD IS BORN...  
ALL IS WELL**

**December 21, 2025  
5:30 PM**

**Join us as our Adult Choir presents this musical invitation to come and worship the Christ Child, celebrate His birth, dwell in his presence, and draw comfort in knowing that all is well.**

**Following the cantata, we will have a reception in the Fellowship Hall hosted by the Hospitality Committee.**

**Don't miss this special time of worship and fellowship.**



The Flower Committee would like to thank the congregation for all of their support to make our church auditorium beautiful with all the wonderful flowers and greenery! Homecoming was wonderful! We hope everyone had a great time being together! The loving and caring nature of our congregation is what makes it so special.

We also want to thank the congregation for all your floral support throughout the year and especially for your floral support for our special Christmas Celebrations that are rapidly approaching! We are sure the sanctuary will be breathtakingly beautiful; thanks to YOU!

This is such a special time of the year. Never forget how God sent his son to earth to save us from our sins! He loves us so much! We are definitely blessed!



FROM THE  
*Pulpit*

**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.**

**DECEMBER 7**

**Everybody Loves A Good Villain**

**Matthew 2:1-8**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**DECEMBER 14**

**Big Family Gathering**

**Luke 1:39-45**

**Third Sunday of Advent**

**DECEMBER 21**

**Follow The Star**

**Matthew 2:9-12**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**DECEMBER 28**

**Then Christ Came**

**Galatians 4:4-5**



Our church will be sending cards to cheer up people who will be away from home at Christmas. If you know of anyone in the community who has family or friends that will be away from home, such as military personnel or missionaries, please give their name and address to Sid Shearin. The cards will be in the vestibule for you to sign on **December 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>**. Sid wants to remind everyone not to sign for your spouse or children. Everyone needs to sign individually!





## Lake Gaston Christmas Cantata

### "The Glory of Christmas"

Directed by Diane Colin

The annual Community Christmas Cantata will be performed on Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, at Lakeside Lutheran Church, at 3:00 P.M. Several Littleton Baptist Church choir members are participating. Refreshments will be served following the performance. An open dress rehearsal will be held at 9:30 a.m. December 6<sup>th</sup>, also at Lakeside Lutheran Church, for those who cannot come on Sunday afternoon.

In addition, the cantata will be performed at the Acorn Center on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. That evening will also feature performances prior to the cantata by a small group from the community choir, and Steve Hyman. Tickets can be obtained through the Acorn Center box office, TheAcornLive.com or (252) 586-3124.



from your church staff!



Our Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion will be Wednesday, **December 24<sup>th</sup>**, at 5:00 P.M. Join us for this service as we light the Christ candle and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This service will be available virtually on Facebook.



## JOHN 3:16 CENTER TOY DRIVE & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The John 3:16 Center Annual Toy Drive is through **December 5<sup>th</sup>**. 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 – 15) 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 15: 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 10<sup>th</sup>** from 10:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M. Also, at LUMC, volunteers are needed to be personal shoppers/wrappers on **December 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> & December 15<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup>** 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 19<sup>th</sup>**, from 9:00 A.M - 12:00 noon. Volunteers are also needed to assist with the Christmas Party on Saturday, **December 20<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

Littleton Baptist Church  
P. O. Box 216  
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<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY SCHEDULE</u>
7 Kay Beaver 9 Carol Meyer 11 Sid Shearin 12 Sarah Iles 16 Claire Council (12 yrs) 17 Nicholas Pulliam 24 Mike Blanton 24 Virginia Lee 26 Carly Campbell	21 Tom & Til Tremper (51 yrs)	7 Sara Council/Claire Council 14 Sara Little/Carol West 21 Paula Burton/Kay Tripp 28 Melinda Harris
		<u>TRASH DETAIL</u>
		Bob Thompson