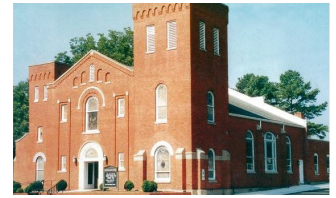


# LITTLETON BAPTIST NEWS

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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JANUARY 2026

Vol. 50 No. 1

## IN MEMORY

Dale Meyer

*For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son  
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16*

## PASTOR'S PARAGRAPH

Thriving churches are not stuck in time. They are rooted, yes—but never rigid. They know the difference between being grounded in the Gospel and being glued to “the way we’ve always done it.”

Flexibility is not about chasing trends or bending to every cultural breeze. It’s about faithful responsiveness. It’s about asking, “What is needed now?” and trusting that the Holy Spirit isn’t just the God of the past—but of the present and the future.

Flexibility looks like a congregation that turns its fellowship hall into a cooling shelter during a heat-wave. It sounds like leaders saying, “Let’s try it,” when a new voice suggests a different way to gather. It feels like a church willing to pause, pivot, and experiment when the Spirit nudges.

Jesus embodied this kind of holy adaptability. He healed on the Sabbath when the law said not to. He preached on hillsides, in boats, and in homes—wherever people could listen. He spoke in parables when plain speech wouldn’t do. He never changed the message—but he always met the moment.

Thriving churches follow his lead. In Acts 10, Peter’s vision shattered his assumptions. “Do not call anything impure that God has made clean,” the Spirit said (v. 15). The early church had to unlearn, relearn, and adapt. Without that flexibility, the Gospel wouldn’t have gone beyond Jerusalem.

Flexibility requires humility. It means being willing to be wrong. It means unclenching our fists from tightly held preferences and trusting that resurrection often begins in disruption. “Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!” (Isaiah 43:18–19).


It also means letting go of the idol of perfection. Flexible churches try things. They risk failure. They stay curious. They trust that the Spirit honors movement more than polish.

This is not easy. Some of the greatest resistance to change comes from a place of fear—fear of loss, fear of the unknown, fear of irrelevance. But fear is not our guide. “Perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18). Love—not fear—must be the engine of our innovation.

(continued on page 3)



# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 	2	3 10:00 De-decorating
4 8:00 Deacons Mtg 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship	5	6	7 6:00 Young Family Bible Study 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	8	9	10
11 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Church Council Mtg  5:00 Youth	12	13	14  6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	15	16	17
18 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship  5:30 Helping Churches Thrive Meal & Conversation	19	20	21  6:00 Young Family Bible Study 6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Quarterly Business Mtg	22	23	24
25 9:45 S. School 11:00 Worship  5:00 Youth	26	27	28  6:15 Adult Choir 7:00 Prayer & Bible Study	29	30	31

(continued from page 1)

Flexibility is a form of discipleship. It's the willingness to be molded by God—not just once at baptism, but over and over again as we are formed into the likeness of Christ.

Thriving churches are flexible not because they want to stay relevant, but because they want to stay faithful. They know that God's mission never changes—but our methods must.

So they listen. They pivot. They take the long view.

And when the world changes—as it always does—they don't panic. They pray. They learn. They adapt.

And in doing so, they thrive.

Grace and Peace,

*David*



Another year is dawning, dear Father let it be...In working or in waiting another year with Thee; Another year of progress, another year of praise, Another year of proving thy presence all the days.

The hymn, Another Year is Dawning, was written by Frances Havergal towards the end of 1873. She had the lyrics printed on cards that she gave her friends as a celebration of the New Year. She always treated the beginning of the New Year as an opportunity for her to reaffirm her faith and commitment to God.

Playing the organ on Sundays, I do not get the chance to sing the hymns. I am too busy concentrating on the notes to read the words. I took the time to read and study the words to this hymn. In this hymn we see our prayer for the coming year, the results of living another year for the Lord, and our service, witness and training for Lord.

When we sing this hymn on January 4<sup>th</sup>, concentrate on the words. We lived our lives for the Lord in 2025....let us continue to live our lives for the Lord in 2026.

Happy New Year!

*Laura* 🎵



*Pulpit*

## **THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP**

**Join us for our Sunday Morning Worship Services.**

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

### **JANUARY 4**

**A Table of New Beginnings**

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

**Communion**

### **JANUARY 11**

**Bend But Don't Break**

**Isaiah 43:18-19**

**Thriving Characteristic Sunday**

### **JANUARY 18**

**What Are You Carrying?**

**Matthew 11:28-30**

### **JANUARY 25**

**Living In Unity**

**Romans 12:4-8**



Our nursery ministry is an important part of caring for our youngest members and supporting families during worship. We are in need of additional volunteers to help serve in the nursery during our worship services. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information, please see **Pastor David** or **Amanda Coffman**. Your willingness to serve makes a meaningful difference!



A heartfelt thank you to our amazing volunteers from the John 3:16 team! As we wrap up our Christmas Outreach Program, we want to express our deepest gratitude to the many loyal supporters who made it possible. Your selfless efforts, kindness, and generosity have brought joy to over 450 children this year.

From packing snack packs and hygiene kits, to helping transport supplies, setting up, being a personal shopper, gift wrapper, and lending a hand at our Christmas Party - every task, big or small, is crucial to the program's success.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your time, energy, and compassion. Your commitment to serving others is a shining example of the true spirit of Christmas. We're honored to have you as part of our team and look forward to continuing to serve together in the new year!



We will be meeting on Saturday, **January 3<sup>rd</sup>**, at 10:00 A.M. to put away the Christmas decorations, but as we put them away let us hold onto the spirit of Christmas. Christmas may be over, but Jesus's light remains with us. The meaning of Christmas, God with us reigns true. As we go back to the "ordinary beautiful," let us worship our King Jesus.



Dear LBC Family,

*Thank you so much for our generous Christmas gifts. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful congregation. Each one of you means so much to our "Little" family. We appreciate every single one of you and the hearts that you have to share Christ's love. We have so much to be thankful for in what God continues to do in our lives, and we are thankful for each of you that are a part of it. We look forward to continuing the growth and our ministry together in 2026.*

*Grace & Peace,*

*David, Sara & Lucas*



*Thank you so much for the financial gifts presented to us for Christmas. We have such an awesome, thoughtful & loving church family and we feel so blessed to be part of it. Thank you also for offering such wonderful support with the many words of encouragement you share with us all through the year.*

*Many thanks!*

*Kay, Laura, Mike,  
Billy, Bob, & David*



Church Council will meet following Morning Worship on Sunday, **January 11<sup>th</sup>**. Members of the committee are: Mike Crawley, Paula Burton, Laura Kearney, Betty Anne Shearin, Clyde Johnston, and Sid Shearin.



On Sundays in which inclement weather renders it unsafe to conduct Worship Services, our deacons will contact you if our services will go full virtual.



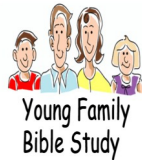
On Sunday, **January 18<sup>th</sup>**, we will hold our third churchwide conversation as part of *Helping Churches Thrive*. To prepare our hearts and minds, our worship service that morning will focus on the topic: *being flexible*.

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



On Sunday, **January 4<sup>th</sup>**, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. At the conclusion of worship, you will be given the opportunity to contribute to our church's Fellowship Fund for local benevolent needs.



Our Young Family Bible Study will meet on Wednesday, **January 7<sup>th</sup>**, & Wednesday, **January 21<sup>st</sup>**, at 6:00 P.M.



Youth will meet Sunday, **January 11<sup>th</sup>**, and Sunday, **January 25<sup>th</sup>**, at 5:00 P.M. for Bible study.



Deacons will meet on Sunday, January **4<sup>th</sup>**, at 8:00 A.M. Please continue to pray for our deacons and their invaluable leadership to our church.



Our next Quarterly Business Meeting is Wednesday, **January 21<sup>st</sup>**, at 7:00 P.M. These quarterly meetings are vital to the church and it's ministry as we report, discuss, plan and consider the ongoing needs that will strengthen us as the people of God. You are encouraged to be present and to always be prayerful about our church's ministries.



The Flower Committee wants to thank you for all your support! The church was gorgeous with the beautiful poinsettias you purchased!

Being together means so much. Worshipping together, participating in activities or social events together, and just enjoying life is so much fun. Thank you, God, for giving us the opportunity to celebrate the birth of Jesus!! God has blessed us so much!

The flower list for the new year has been placed on the bulletin board in the hallway. If there is a certain Sunday you want to place flowers in the sanctuary, feel free to select that Sunday while it is available. You also can contact a member of the Flower Committee by phone or email:

Sandra Lynch, Chairperson - (252) 578-3495 or sandralynch337@gmail.com,  
Christie Griffin (919)306-1601 or christiewheatley@yahoo.com,  
Kay Beaver - (252) 586-2014 or dbeaver10@gmail.com.

You can contact the church office by email: [office@littletonbaptistchurch.org](mailto:office@littletonbaptistchurch.org) to let them know what you would like placed in the bulletin.

If you would like to place flowers in the church this month, January 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> are available.

Your support throughout the year is truly appreciated! Thank you again for being so faithful in keeping the sanctuary beautiful with your presence and wonderful flower arrangements! Celebrate the new year as the example God has helped you become. Always look to him for guidance and advice.

Happy New Year!

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



<u>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</u>	<u>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>
16 Bryant Pitchford 19 Eddie Pitchford 20 Brenda Holloman 26 Betty Ann Shearin 28 Sandra Felts	No Anniversaries	4 Sara Council/Claire Council 11 Paula Burton/Kay Tripp 18 Paula Burton/Kay Tripp 25 Sara Little/Carol West  <u>GARBAGE DETAIL</u>  Tom Burch