

Hurting and Hoping

This Sunday marks the fourth Sunday of Advent where we will ponder the meaning of love and the gift of Jesus to the world. Our world is in deep need of authentic love. In fact, we long deeply for all four advent fruits: hope, peace, joy, and love.

I have been shaken by the shooting that occurred in the parking lot of Menchville High School. A young man, a student at Woodside High School, lost his life because someone shot him. This is the second gun violence episode in a Newport News public school this semester. In the first, one of our church members, a teacher, was on the floor above the shooting. In the second, two youth, three youth Sunday School teachers, four youth parents, another church member, and two pastors from our church were present for a concert that ended right before the shooting. I am heartbroken, sad, angry, and frustrated.

And yet, I hope. I hope because in this season of Advent the word of God tells us:

*The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned. Isaiah 9:2*



I choose to believe that God is not done bringing light out of darkness. I pray that God will bring light out of darkness for this poor family who has lost a son far too soon. I pray that God will bring light out of darkness for our teachers, bus drivers, students, and school workers who are hurting and struggling. I pray God will bring light out of the darkness that is bigger than us, and yet, darkness that God has still called us to face with His strength and power.

As we wait for Christmas, let's not hide from the darkness. Let's watch for the light of Christ in the darkness. As we can, let's shine light into the darkness. Let's hope even in the midst of darkness. Let's watch and pray together!

Waiting for the Light,

Randy



Cookies, Cider, and Carols

Looking for a good old-fashioned Christmas carol sing? Join us on Wednesday, December 15 at 6:30 in Payne Hall for *Cookies, Cider, and Carols*. Bring your Christmas spirit, wear your favorite Christmas attire, and be ready to spread Christmas cheer through song.





Bring A Friend to Bethlehem Christmas Breakfast

What a wonderful turn out we had for Bring A Friend To Bethlehem Christmas Breakfast this year! Thank you to those who invited friends, organized, decorated, cooked, led the craft, and our FBCNN Youth who made sure everyone was fed. A special thank you goes to Sharon Hertzler for making this event happen this year!

First Baptist Cups

Need a unique idea for a Christmas gift? Want to show your support for our church and have the opportunity to tell others about us and the God we serve? We have a great solution! You can pick up a 20 oz. tumbler just like the one pictured for a \$10 donation. The tumblers are double wall stainless steel construction with spill resistant lid and BPA-free. You can pick them up at the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings or at the Church Office during regular office hours. The proceeds from the cups will go towards the ministries of First Baptist.



Advent Offerings

We THANK YOU for your contributions in this Advent season. We had a great start but we still need your help. Together we can do this. There are three opportunities for giving this year:

- Loving our local community by making a special donation that will be used to give a gift card to every teacher, school worker, and bus driver for Yates, Gildersleeve, and Menchville. (These donations will need to be received by December 14 in order for us to get the gift cards to them before Christmas break.)
- Loving our international community by making a donation to Lottie Moon Christmas offering
- Loving our international community by making a donation to CBF Global Missions

Please be sure to designate the specific Advent Offering on your donation.

Save the Dates

Dec. 15 Cookies, Cider, and Carols
(See article for more information)

Dec. 17 Virginia Symphony Orchestra performs Handel's Messiah ([Tickets required](#))

Dec. 24 Family Christmas Eve Service 5pm

Dec. 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve Service 7pm

Dec. 26 & Jan. 2 There will only be one English worship service at 10am both of these Sundays. There will not be Sunday Morning Bible Study.

A Great Way to Help Campbell Webb

Church Family,

Many of you know that Susie and Jeff Webb's daughter, Campbell, has been battling leukemia since the spring. The family has suffered tremendous heartbreaks and prolonged hospital stays, but on September 7th, Campbell was blessed with a bone marrow transplant. The journey will continue to be long, and challenges no doubt lay ahead, but we are rejoicing about Campbell's road to recovery.

As your prayers have been the greatest gift, cards, Facebook messages, and gift baskets have also blessed the Webbs. That being said, many of you have asked about other ways to support this special family.

In response, Jeff and Susie have partnered with the Children's Organ Transplant Association (COTA). COTA is a nonprofit organization that receives tax deductible contributions to help offset transplant-related expenses. Transplant families, like the Webbs, are the beneficiaries of COTA funds.

If you would like to find out more about this organization or give to COTA in Campbell's honor, please visit www.COTAforCampbell.com. The site also features personal updates and future fundraising events specific to COTA in honor of Campbell. Contact Lisa Mason for more information, lmason@fbcnn.org.

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, December 19 at 8:30am or 11am! Randy Shepley will be leading us in worship.

Boy Scout Campout

We are excited to host Boy Scout Troop 6 for their Holiday Campout this Friday night and Saturday. The scouts will be learning how to cook a turkey dinner in Dutch ovens and camping under the stars. It is another example of how our facilities can serve the needs of the surrounding community!

New Online Giving Platform

As we move forward, we would like to inform you that we are switching our Online Giving Platform to Subsplash. This new platform offers substantially lower transaction fees, ACH transactions, and an option for donors to cover the cost of online giving so that your entire offering can go to the work and ministry of the church. Subsplash will also provide a phone and TV app for our church that will integrate with our website and become a home for our sermons, media, group messaging and notifications, and event information. We are excited to go on this new journey with you! Click on this [link](#) to give now. Please let us know if you have any questions.

If you need offering envelopes for 2022 please contact Monica at monica@fbcnn.org or 757.930.0911.

Make a financial contribution to FBCNN today by clicking on the Donate link.

DONATE

If you have any technical difficulties watching the service on Facebook Live, please send us a direct message on Facebook so we can help troubleshoot the issue.

The following is a list of weekly events that can be accessed on the First Baptist Church of Newport News Facebook page. Learn more about children's events on Facebook and youth events on their Instagram page-@fbcnn youth. The 8:30 and 11 Sunday worship services are uploaded to our [website](#) each Monday, and can be accessed by clicking on the Resources tab.

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Children's Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Infant-Preschool Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Youth Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m. Extended Session - infants through age 4
12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

Mondays

7:00 p.m. Young Single Adults

Wednesdays

5:00 p.m. Library Open
5:30 p.m. Mid-Week Café
6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Adult Spiritual Formation Groups
6:30 p.m. Youth Group Gathering and Worship
6:30 p.m. Children's KMotion (Music, Missions, and Fun!)
7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

[FBCNN Facebook Live Videos](#)

If you do not have a Facebook account you can watch services on our Vimeo page by clicking on the link below.

December 12

[8:30am](#) [11:00am](#)

Donation Opportunity for Those with IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD)

Congress has approved a permanent charitable giving tax break, known as the "IRA charitable rollover". The rollover is available for those who are 70 1/2, though if your 70th birthday is July 1, 2019 or later, you do not have to take withdrawals until you reach age 72. You can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA of up to \$100,000 to a charity, such as First Baptist Church. The donation will count toward your IRA required minimum distribution.

The distribution is not recognized as income on your tax return. As such, you do not take a donation deduction either. With the change in the recent Tax Legislation, the Standard Deduction has doubled thus itemized charitable deductions will no longer be needed to be kept track of. By donating all or part of your IRA RMD to the church, you receive the benefit of a reduced Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) in that the RMD to charity is not taxed, which helps the opportunity of obtaining lower cost for your Medicare Part B and Prescription Drug premiums.

The distribution must come directly from the IRA account to the church not through the owner of the account. Let our Financial Services Coordinator, Monica Garcia, know how you want the contribution designated, such as the General Fund.

Rick Elofson, Treasurer FBCNN

Staff Contact Info

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