



Letter from Kolby Keller

On the first Sunday of Advent, Pastor Randy started his sermon series the “Messiness of Christmas.” He spoke of Joseph and the lesson his story teaches us about the messiness of the various seasons of our lives. This messy story of Christmas asks us to understand we may not always be prepared for the unexpected. Yet, in these moments, we need to have bold faith and a willingness to look towards God, which we can cultivate in the everyday practices of our lives. This same day, I spoke to the youth on the importance of finding peace in this messiness. During this crazy and joyful time of the year, we often forget to stop and reflect on the reason we celebrate this season. Many times, this overexertion of trying to do everything possible with a lack of pause tends to bleed into the rest of the year. We begin to create a pattern of running and constantly going. If we do not take the time to rest, as even God did, with time to “cease striving,” then we may never hear Him. Instead, we should practice listening for God and His directives, preparing ourselves to step out completely in a bold faith when the unexpected happens. As God told Joseph to “run” from Herod in his stillness, He has told me to “rest.”

After listening to God, my husband’s concerns, my doctor, and conversations with Church staff, it has become necessary for the sustainability of my overall health and wellbeing to take a step back from ministry. These last two and a half years in which I have had phenomenal opportunity to grow in my love of God, my love of ministry, and the understanding of my calling has been delightful. It has been an even more amazing and life-changing piece that included being able to be a part of the youths’ lives, seeing them grow spiritually and as people, and developing a lasting bond as a unit. Although my health has caused me to take a break from my calling, Johnny and I will continue to be members of this church and community, but I will focus on finding time to relax and restore. Like Joseph, I am listening to our Heavenly Father and what He is instructing me to do in this season, practicing being still and following Him. I will enter a new season of rest. I will continue to listen for God, waiting to hear when the season has come for my calling to ministry to resume. God truly put this season of being a Director of Youth Ministry into my life for many reasons, and I am forever grateful. I am so thankful to have served this body of believers and y’all’s steadfast support. Thank you.

Thank you, Kolby!!!

As you read in her beautifully written letter above, our Director of Youth Ministry, Kolby Keller, is stepping down at the end of December to focus on her health and self-care. Kolby has done tremendous work with our students during her two and a half years on our staff. She is a gifted leader who has invested herself in our teens and their families. As her pastor and father of a youth group teen, I cannot thank her enough for the love, sacrifice, and energy she has invested

into our teenagers and church as a whole. Furthermore, she has been a remarkable teammate. As a staff, we will miss her in our meetings, planning, and offices. Kolby brings such enthusiasm and creativity to our staff team. We will miss her so much.

I am so grateful that Kolby and Johnny will continue to be part of our church family. Kolby has taken a courageous step to focus on her own healing and care. I say this is courageous because far too many people push themselves through the warning signs of health challenges. It is hard for all of us to admit we have limits, and we require seasons of restoration and healing. I am even more proud of Kolby for choosing to follow the wisdom of her doctors, family, friends, and the Holy Spirit to care for herself than for the good work she has done among us. People are always more important than programs.

Take the time this month to send Kolby a card or email of encouragement. As for the future, our youth leaders, staff, and personnel committee are already thinking about next steps. We will look to hear from our teens and youth parents and we will share next steps with the church family as they emerge. For now, I invite you to join me in saying, "We love you, Kolby" with energy and gusto. We are grateful to God for Kolby's leadership, and we look forward to how she and Johnny continue to grow with us in the days ahead.

Pastor Randy

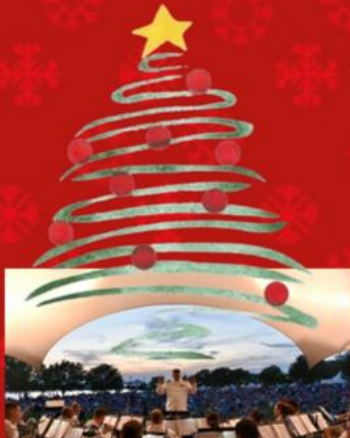
Bring a Friend to Bethlehem Family Breakfast

December 10th
9:45am



Join us at our annual Christmas breakfast for our children and preschoolers and their families! There will be pancakes, a craft, a photo booth station, and more. We will also hear the wonderful story of the birth of Jesus. Please RSVP to Mrs. Sharon at shertzler@fbcnn.org. We hope to see you, and remember to Bring a Friend to Bethlehem!

U.S. FLEET FORCES BAND INVITES YOU TO



HOLIDAY IN HAMPTON ROADS

December 10TH, 2023 | 6pm

First Baptist Church
12716 Warwick Blvd, Newport News, VA 23606



Facebook



Instagram

The US Fleet Forces Band will be performing a free Christmas concert here on December 10th. Be sure to invite your family and friends to this special event.



Cookies and Carols

Christmas Sing Along

Wednesday, Dec. 13th
6:30pm

Looking for a good old-fashion Christmas carol sing? Join us on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30pm in Payne Fellowship Hall for *Cookies and Carols*. Bring your Christmas spirit, wear your favorite Christmas attire, and be ready to spread Christmas cheer through song.

Virginia Symphony Orchestra Performs Handel's Messiah December 15 at 7:30pm

FBCNN will be hosting the Virginia Symphony Orchestra for a performance of Handel's Messiah again this year. Due to a change in lease agreement, we will not be receiving any free tickets. If you would like to purchase tickets please visit their [website by clicking here](#).



Join us on Sunday, December 17 at 5pm in the sanctuary as we ring in the Christmas season with *Sing We Noel: The Music of Christmas*. This Christmas concert will include various music groups from our church family presenting the music of Christmas. You will hear selections performed by First Baptist Preschoolers, K-Motion Kids, Impact: Youth Praise Team, Joan Monroe Handbell Choir, Sanctuary Choir, Swingin' Singers, Wendy Buck, Beth Tomassetti, Hispanic Praise Team, and Transformed: Sanctuary Praise Team. It will be an evening of holiday music that will surely get you in the spirit of Christmas!



THRIVE Peninsula 12 DAYS OF Christmas

Day 1 1 Jar of Jelly OR 1 Jar of Jelly	Day 2 2 Boxes of Cereal OR 1 Box of Cereal	Day 3 3 Jars of Spaghetti Sauce OR 1 Bag of Flour or Sugar
Day 4 4 Cans of fruit OR 1 Can of fruit	Day 5 5 Boxes of Macncheese OR 1 Box of Crackers	Day 6 6 Packages of Jello or Pudding OR 1 Large Can of Chicken
Day 7 7 Boxes of Pasta OR 1 Box of Pasta	Day 8 8 Cans of Vegetables OR 1 Can of Carrots	Day 9 9 Pouches of Mashed Potatoes OR 1 Pouch of Mashed Potatoes
Day 10 10 Packages of Rice OR 1 Package of Rice	Day 11 11 Cans of Beans (any kind!) OR 1 Can of Ravioli	Day 12 12 Packages of Ramen OR 1 Baking Mix

Red option approximately \$80 Green option less than \$30

Take the 12 Days of Christmas Challenge!

THRIVE continues to see a high demand in food assistance requests. So they created a fun way to collect items that their food pantry needs with two shopping price points to fit any budget. Red option, follow top line, is approximately \$80.

Green option, follow bottom line, is less than \$30.

Please consider this worthy mission opportunity with the purchase of either the Red Option, the Green Option or whatever you are able to provide. We will collect at entry doors on Sunday mornings through December 12th. During the week items can be dropped by the FBCNN church office. Thank you in advance. Call Rhonda Wiatt with any questions 757-595-6784.



Thank you for your sacrificial gift during the month of November for our Thank Offering emphasis. We have collected a total of \$16,911 additionally for our General Fund. This helps in every area of our church's ministry.

It's Time to Sign Up for PORT!

First Baptist will be hosting PORT (People Organizing Resources Together) Homeless Shelter January 3-10, 2024. We have partnered with other churches and organizations to provide dinner and breakfast in a bag each day but we still need your help!

Here are some ways you can help:

1. Sign up to volunteer one evening from 6pm-9pm. The evening volunteers will help check in PORT guests and their bags.
2. Sign up to volunteer for a morning shift from 4:30am-6:30am. The morning volunteers will hand the breakfast in a bag to bus drivers and support staff as guests leave the building.
3. Pray for the guests, volunteers, and support staff each night.

PORT organizers are providing overnight support staff. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to know more about PORT please contact Nikki, nikki@fbcnn.org or 757.930.0911. You can sign up online by clicking [here](#).

Thank you for your help!



Yates Elementary School Christmas Gifts

This year we received seven families to adopt for Christmas. I am happy to announce that all the families have been assigned. Thank you to all who volunteered to help these families at Christmas this year.

The recommendation for giving is three categories; book, toy, and clothes. Once you have finished your shopping, please wrap the gift and label it. An example would be, "TO: 8 y/o Girl", and leave the "FROM" line blank. Please place all the gifts in a large plastic bag with the family's name.

All gifts are due in church by December 14. The final day of school is December 15. Gifts can be brought to the sanctuary foyer on Sunday or to the church office Monday through Thursday. As, this is always a busy time of year, thank you so much for your time and generosity. God Bless You!

Upcoming Events

December 8 - Youth Christmas Party
7pm

December 10 - Bring a Friend to Bethlehem (see article above for more information)

December 10 - US Fleet Forces Band Christmas Concert (see article above)

December 13 - Cookies and Carols Sing Along 6:30pm in Payne Fellowship Hall (see article above)



Digital Ministry Team Needs You!

A large portion of our digital ministry team has headed off to college. Our tech team provides outreach to our community and to our homebound members through broadcasting each service. This team also enhances our in-person worship by running our sound and projection systems. For this worthy ministry to continue, we need your help. We will train you, no experience required! For more information, contact Lesley Spitzer, lsplitzer@fbcnn.org.

PERFORMING ARTS STUDIO

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
NEWPORT NEWS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

LESSONS AVAILABLE IN:

- BRASS
- VOCAL
- PIANO
- WOODWINDS



Weekly Worship Opportunities

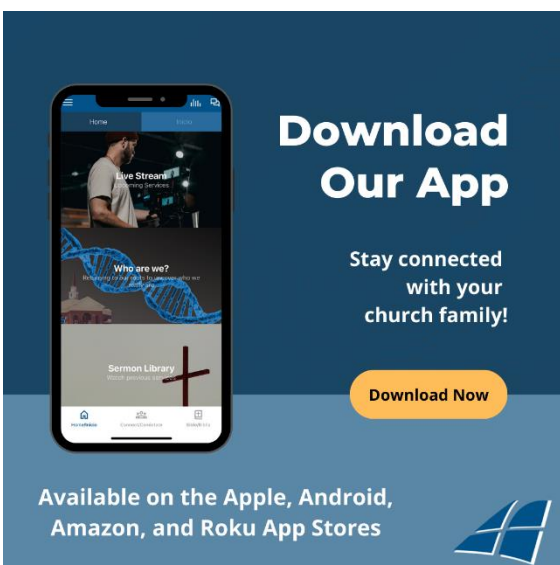
Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, December 10 at 8:30am and 11am! Randy Shepley will be leading us in worship.

The 8:30 and 11 Sunday worship services are streamed directly to

Performing Arts Studio

Registration has begun for the Spring Term of our Performing Arts Studio. We are excited to accept students in Middle through High School. For more information and to sign up please follow the link to the form, [here](#).

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Lesley Spitzer (lspitzer@fbcnn.org) or John Irving (jirving@fbcnn.org).

A promotional banner for the FBCNN app. On the left is a smartphone displaying the app's interface, which includes a 'Live Streams' section, a 'Who are we?' section with a DNA helix graphic, and a 'Sermon Library' section with a red cross icon. To the right of the phone, the text 'Download Our App' is prominently displayed. Below this, it says 'Stay connected with your church family!' and 'Download Now' with a yellow button. At the bottom, it states 'Available on the Apple, Android, Amazon, and Roku App Stores' next to the Roku logo.

Download Our App

Stay connected with your church family!

Download Now

Available on the Apple, Android, Amazon, and Roku App Stores

Haven't Downloaded Our App Yet?

Now is the perfect time to download our app. On the app, you can see what events are happening at FBCNN and watch the livestream of each service on Sunday mornings. If you miss a service, you can also go to the sermon library and watch the one you missed. The app is available to download in the app store on iPhones, Androids, as well as on Roku. If you need help accessing the app, let someone on staff know and we will be glad to help!

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

DONATE

our [website](#) and can be accessed by clicking on **Upcoming Live Stream** tab located on the home page. If you miss a service, you can click on **Sermon Library** in the **Resources** tab to select the service you missed. (Services are listed in chronological order with the most recent on top.)

The following is a list of weekly events. Learn more about children's events on Facebook and youth events on their Instagram page- [@fbcnnyouth](#).

Sundays

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Children's Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Infant-Preschool Bible Study
9:45 a.m. Youth Bible Study
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m. Extended Session - infants through age 4
11:00 a.m. Hispanic Bible Study
12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship

Mondays

7:00 p.m. Young Single Adults

Wednesdays

5:30 p.m. Midweek Café
6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. Adult Spiritual Formation Group
6:30 p.m. Hispanic Prayer and Bible Study
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

Thursdays

10:00 a.m. Swingin' Singers

Click on the link below to watch the service from 8:30 and 11 this past Sunday.

December 3

Staff Contact Info

Randy Shepley, Senior Pastor, rshepley@fbcnn.org

Juan Garcia, Associate Pastor Hispanics, jgarcia@fbcnn.org

Walter Satchell, Associate Pastor Pastoral Care, wsatchell@fbcnn.org

Lesley Spitzer, Associate Pastor Worship and Creative Arts, lspitzer@fbcnn.org

Monica Garcia, Financial Coordinator, monica@fbcnn.org

Sharon Hertzler, Director of Children and Preschool Ministry, shertzler@fbcnn.org

Rebecca Hinson, Ministry Assistant, rhinson@fbcnn.org

John Irving, Director of Choral Ministry, jirving@fbcnn.org

Kolby Keller, Director of Youth Ministry, kkeller@fbcnn.org

Nikki Reid, Executive Assistant, nikki@fbcnn.org

Lindsay Rew, Preschool Director, preschool@fbcnn.org

Church Office: 757-930-0911

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