

# First News

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## Christmas Eve Services

**Family Christmas Eve Service - 5pm** Children and their families are invited to join us at this family friendly Christmas Eve service. There will be opportunities for children to participate in telling the story of Jesus' birth.

### **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service - 7pm**

This service will be a time of reading scripture, singing carols, and remembering the true meaning of Christmas.

Join us on Christmas Eve and invite your family and friends as we celebrate Christmas together.

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## Sing We Noel: The Music of Christmas Recap

Sing We Noel was a wonderful way to get into the Spirit of Christmas. Our church is truly blessed with musical talent of all ages, and we were able to enjoy hearing many of our music groups Sunday evening. Thank you to everyone who helped make this concert happen, and a very special thank you to Lesley for the many hours of planning, organizing, and preparing to make it a success!

Did you miss seeing it live? It is not too late! [Click here to watch the recording.](#)

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## Important Christmas and New Year Dates & Church Office Hours

December 23 - Church office closing at 11:30am for Staff Christmas Party

December 24 - Church office open (Christmas Eve service information available in separate article)

December 25-26 - Merry Christmas! Church office closed and no First News this week

December 29 - **One worship service at 10am** with Rev. Chuck Harrison, Director, Peninsula Baptist Association, preaching. There will not be Sunday Bible Study.

## Attention College Students!

If you are a college student and home for Christmas, we have a special opportunity for you! We would like you to light the Advent candle this Sunday, December 22 at the 11am service. Please let Lesley Spitzer, [lsplitzer@fbcnn.org](mailto:lsplitzer@fbcnn.org), know if you are interested.

## December Mission Project & PORT Sign Ups

Our week of PORT (People Organizing Resources Together), a homeless shelter hosted by churches in Newport News, is coming quickly! We will make sure January 8-15, every guest is provided dinner, a safe place to sleep, and breakfast to go. There are several ways you can help with this way to embrace those in our community in need of shelter.

1. Donate new socks and underwear (still in packages)
2. Donate new or gently used large or extra-large coats
3. Donate Uncrustables, granola bars, juice boxes or bottles (6.75-10 oz.), or small bags of chips (1 oz.) for breakfast to go
4. Volunteer for a 6-9pm or 4:30-6:30am shift by clicking the link below
5. Pray for all of the guests in need of shelter, the workers, and volunteers

Thank you as always for your kindness and generosity. If you have any questions about PORT, please contact Nikki Reid at [nikki@fbcnn.org](mailto:nikki@fbcnn.org).

**Thanks for Volunteering!**

December 31-January 1 - Happy New Year! Church office closed; no Wednesday night Youth or Kmotion activities

January 5 - Rev. Becky Glass, Executive Director, Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center, will be preaching at 8:30am and 11am services

January 8 - No Wednesday night activities for Youth and Kmotion due to PORT

January 15 - Wednesday night activities for Youth and Kmotion Kids resumes

## Memorial Service Information for Jerry Smith

Long-time member and head of our Security Team, Jerry Smith, passed away Sunday morning. The memorial service will be Friday, December 20 at Peninsula Funeral Home (11144 Warwick Boulevard).

Visitation - 5pm  
Service - 6pm

Please keep Betty Smith, Dana and Elizabeth Griffin in your prayers.

## CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you so much for your contributions and continuous support to FBCNN and God's mission!

The end of the year is upon us, and we hope to finish this year strong and begin the new one strong as well. Donors must deliver checks to the church by Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup> (*church office is closed on Tuesday, December 31<sup>st</sup>*) in order to claim a charitable contribution deduction for 2024. Checks that are placed in the church offering during the first worship service in 2025 will not qualify for a charitable contribution deduction in 2024, even if the check is predated to 2024 or was actually written in 2024. However, checks that are **written, mailed, and postmarked in 2024 will** be deductible in 2024, though these may not be received by a church until 2025.

You can also go online to [www.fbcnn.org](http://www.fbcnn.org) or use Bill Pay through your own bank's website.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! May God bless you abundantly this coming 2025!**

## Additional News from FBCNN

### Upcoming Events

**December 20** - Virginia Symphony Orchestra will be performing Handel's Messiah in our sanctuary at 7:30pm. Tickets are required and can be purchased on [the VSO website](#).

**December 24** –  
Christmas Eve Services: Family @ 5pm  
Candlelight @ 7pm



### Ways of Giving Thanks

As we approach the conclusion of 2024, we would like to thank you for the generous giving you contribute to our church budget. Without your generosity, we cannot Embrace God, Embrace One Another, and Embrace Our Neighbors.

### Ways of Giving Thanks (cont'd.)

Our impact on Yates Elementary School, support for the local classical music scene, and partnership with the NNPD for the sake of our whole community continues to gain notice and affirmation. These are only a few of the ways God is at work in us.

We need your financial help to continue and expand this good work. Please consider giving generously to our General Fund before the end of 2024. Every dollar you give goes to expand the kingdom work of our congregation. Please be as generous as you can so we can grow the generosity of our EMBRACE. THANK YOU!

Other ways to give:

### IRA contributions

Generally, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable when received. However; you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA of up to \$100,000 to a charity, such as First Baptist Church. The donation will count toward your IRA required

Your generosity honors God and serves people. Thank You!

As you are aware, the end of the calendar year is the most important time for church giving. During November and December, we historically give 22% of our general fund offerings. Last year, for example, we gave \$270,000 in November and December to our general fund in order to close the gap in our budget giving. This year, in order to meet our budget for 2024, we will need to give \$305,840 in November and December. Yes, this is a little more, but it is certainly possible. Even more important, we know all things are possible

for the God who “owns the cattle on a thousand hills.” We believe God will provide and empower us to reach our November and December needs this year, just as God did last year and in previous years.

We are thankful God is growing our church family. We do not have our statistics compiled for 2024, but we know that from 2021 – 2023, our English-speaking worship service attendance grew 27%. Our Hispanic service grew at a similar percentage during this time frame. We have continued to see worship growth during 2024 as well. In addition, our Vacation Bible School attendance grew 61% from 2023. Our adult choir, Ladies Bible Study, K-motion Children’s Group (Wednesday Nights), Wednesday night mom’s group, Wednesday night Hispanic Bible Study, and Wednesday night youth ministry are all seeing steady growth, our Preschool continues to thrive, and our influence in the community, state and world for the Kingdom of God continues to grow. (continued on next column)

minimum distribution and it is not recognized as income on your tax return. As such, you do not take a donation deduction either.

The distribution must come directly from the IRA account to the Church not through you the owner of the account.

### **Donating stocks**

Gifting stock avoids federal capital gains tax and most donors can also claim an income tax deduction for the stock’s full market value (state income tax deductions may also be available in some areas).

When a donor gives appreciated securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, etc.) to FBCNN, FBCNN can sell the securities and pay no taxes, leaving 100% of the donation for ministry (rather than the donor selling the securities, paying up to 29.8% in Federal and Virginia income tax, and giving only the after-tax amount for FBCNN's ministry).

Contact your broker and let our Financial Services Coordinator, Monica Garcia know how you want the contribution designated, such as the General Fund.

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### **Need Church Envelopes?**

If you need offering envelopes for 2025, please let Monica know, [monica@fbcnn.org](mailto:monica@fbcnn.org) or (757)930-0911.

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

**Donate**

# Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship in person or online Sunday, December 22 at 8:30 and 11am! Pastor Randy Shepley will be leading us in worship.

The Sunday worship services are streamed directly to 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-@fbcnyouth.

## 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

- 6:00 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. K-Motion & Youth
- 6:30 p.m. Hispanic Prayer and Bible Study
- 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

## Thursdays

- 10:00 a.m. Swingin' Singers

Click on the button below to watch the worship service from 8:30 or 11am this past Sunday.

**December 15**

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## Staff Contact Info

Randy Shepley, Senior Pastor, [rshepley@fbcnn.org](mailto:rshepley@fbcnn.org)

Juan Garcia, Associate Pastor Hispanics, [jgarcia@fbcnn.org](mailto:jgarcia@fbcnn.org)

Walter Satchell, Associate Pastor Pastoral Care, [wsatchell@fbcnn.org](mailto:wsatchell@fbcnn.org)

Lesley Spitzer, Associate Pastor Worship and Creative Arts, [lsplitzer@fbcnn.org](mailto:lsplitzer@fbcnn.org)

Monica Garcia, Financial Coordinator, [monica@fbcnn.org](mailto:monica@fbcnn.org)

Sharon Hertzler, Director of Children and Preschool Ministry, [shertzler@fbcnn.org](mailto:shertzler@fbcnn.org)

John Irving, Director of Choral Ministry, [jirving@fbcnn.org](mailto:jirving@fbcnn.org)

Nikki Reid, Executive Assistant, [nikki@fbcnn.org](mailto:nikki@fbcnn.org)

Lindsay Rew, Preschool Director, [preschool@fbcnn.org](mailto:preschool@fbcnn.org)

**Church Office: 757-930-0911**



**First Baptist Church Newport News | [fbcnn.org](http://fbcnn.org)**

**12716 Warwick Blvd | Newport News, VA 23606 US**