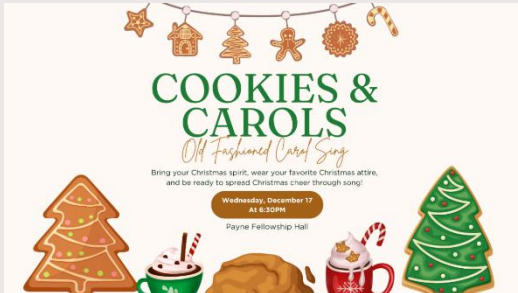


First News



Cookies and Carols

Are you looking for a good old-fashioned Christmas carol sing? Join us on Wednesday, December 17, 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.



Bring a Friend to Bethlehem Breakfast Follow Up

More than 90 people joined us on Sunday, December 7 for our annual Bring a Friend to Bethlehem family breakfast. Joyanne Manning once again made delicious pancakes and sausage, complemented by a yummy toppings bar. Families enjoyed Christmas conversation cards, the children made handprint angel crafts and nativity ornaments, and everyone had fun with our right-left centerpiece game as the nativity story was read; the one holding the frosty fern at the end got to take it home. Every child left with a sticker activity book and goodie bag. Thank you to the FBCNN youth for their service and to Karon Garcia



Christmas Cantata Sunday, December 21, 9am

Our Sanctuary Choir has been working hard to bring us a Canticle of Joy: A Cantata for Christmas on Sunday, December 21 at 9am. Come out to hear them sing alongside a chamber orchestra for this time of worship. There will be a time of fellowship in the foyer following the service.

There will not be a worship service at 8:30 or 11am, or Sunday Bible Study at 9:45am to give everyone the opportunity to enjoy this event.

Events During Advent

12/12 - USAF Heritage of America Band Holiday Concert at 7pm in the sanctuary; tickets are required, but they are free. [Click on the link to get your ticket to this performance.](#)

12/17 - Cookies & Carols (see above)

12/19-20 - Youth Christmas Lock-In from 7pm to 8am; our youth will have a time of games, food, fun, and maybe a little sleep during this event planned by a few of our youth leaders. Parents be on the lookout for an email with more details coming out later today.

12/20 - Virginia Symphony Orchestra Handel's Messiah Concert will be in the sanctuary at 2:30pm. [Click on the link to purchase a ticket.](#)

12/21 - Christmas Cantata: Canticle of Joy (see above)

12/24 - Christmas Eve Services:
5pm - Family Christmas Eve Service
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.
7pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
This service will be a time of reading scripture, singing carols, and remembering the true meaning of Christmas.

12/28 - Combined Worship Service at 10am; the 8:30 and 11 worship services will worship together and there will not be Sunday Bible Study.

and Kathy van Rijn for their invaluable help preparing and serving. What a wonderful morning of food, fellowship, and Christmas cheer!



The Season of Advent is Here...

Ways to Help with PORT

PORT is a homeless shelter hosted by churches throughout Newport News from November to March each year, providing people with dinner, breakfast, and a safe and warm place to stay overnight. We are collecting new and gently used large and extra-large coats, and any size children's coats for the guests during our week of hosting PORT, January 7-14, 2026. We will also be collecting packages of new socks and underwear. Please drop off your donations Monday through Thursday at the church office or in the sanctuary foyer on Sundays.

If you would like to sign up for a shift during our week of PORT, please click on the button below. Feel free to contact Nikki Reid, nikki@fbcnn.org, with any questions.

Thank you for your willingness to help us embrace those in need in our community.

Volunteer for PORT

Additional News from FBCNN

Upcoming Events

December 11 - Virginia Peninsula Mobile Food Bank will be in our parking lot. Please let anyone in need of food assistance know about this opportunity.

December 12 - USAF Heritage of America Band Holiday Concert will be at 7pm in the sanctuary. (See the article above for the link to acquire tickets.)

December 15 - Staff Christmas Luncheon at 12:30; the church office will be closed during this time to give the staff a chance to celebrate Christmas together.

December 17 - Cookies and Carols at 6:30pm in Payne Hall (See the article above for more information.)

Charitable Contributions

As we enter the Advent season, we want to **thank you** for your continued support of FBCNN and God's mission. Your generosity sustains the work we do together, and we hope to finish this year strong - and begin the new one just as strong.

- **To receive a charitable contribution deduction for 2025, all checks must be delivered to the church by Tuesday, December 30.** (Please note: the church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 31.)
- **Checks placed in the offering during the first worship service of 2026 cannot be counted for 2025, even if they are dated or written in 2025.**
- **Checks written, mailed, and postmarked in 2025 will be**

FBCNN Staff Birthday for December

12/7 - Randy Shepley

Take a moment to wish him a happy birthday!

Swingin' Singers Christmas Luncheon

The Swingin' Singers Christmas Luncheon will be Thursday, December 11th at Chickahominy House in Williamsburg at 11:30am. The bus will leave FBCNN at 10:30am. There will not be rehearsal this day.

Nursery Help Needed

Do you have a heart for children? Love the sound of giggles, Goldfish snacks, and rocking chairs? Then the FBCNN Nursery is the perfect place to serve! We're looking for caring volunteers to help during:

- 8:30 AM Worship Service
- Infant-Kindergarten Sunday School
- 11:00 AM Worship Service

Your time and love make a lasting impact on our youngest church family members - and give parents the gift of peaceful worship and learning. If you're ready to lend a hand, please contact Sharon Hertzler at shertzler@fbcnn.org. Come share God's love in the sweetest way possible - one Goldfish cracker at a time!

First Friends Playgroup

First Friends Playgroup meets most Tuesday mornings 10-11:30am for children ages 1-3. It is free and open to everyone. Caregivers must stay with their child. Contact Sharon Hertzler at shertzler@fbcnn.org for more information.

deductible for 2025, even if they are not received by the church until 2026.

You can also go online to www.fbcnn.org or use Bill Pay through your own bank's website.

Support the Mission Through Your RMD Contributions

As you plan your financial giving this year, we invite you to consider directing your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your retirement account to support the ministries of First Baptist Church.

If you are age 73 or older and have a traditional IRA, you are required to withdraw a minimum amount each year from your RMD. By making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) directly to the church, you can fulfill your RMD requirement while reducing your taxable income. It is a meaningful and tax-efficient way to support the church's mission.

Every week you and your child can expect fun songs, playful movement activities, colorful toys, exciting board books and creative art projects. Caregivers must stay with their child. Drop off is not an option.

AGES 1-3

FIRST FRIENDS PLAYGROUP



Why play with us?
We aim to help your child prepare for preschool, while providing learning tips for parents to encourage child development.

FREE!
OPEN TO EVERYONE!

OCT 14	NOV 11	DEC 2
OCT 21	NOV 18	DEC 9
OCT 28	NOV 25	DEC 16

TUESDAYS
10:00 - 11:30

Playgroup meets at First Baptist Preschool
12716 Warwick Blvd. Newport News, VA 23606
Questions? Email us! preschool@fbcnn.org
www.fbcnnpreschool.org



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 14 at 8:30am and 11am! 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-@fbcnn youth.

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

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 combined worship service from 8:30am and 11am this past Sunday.

December 7

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, lsplitzer@fbcnn.org

Monica Garcia, Financial Coordinator, monica@fbcnn.org

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

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

Nikki Reid, Executive Assistant, nikki@fbcnn.org

Lindsay Rew, Preschool Director, preschool@fbcnn.org

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