FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
NEWPORT NEWS

First News

November 11, 2026

Be in the Light! Advent 2026

Recently, I enjoyed an amazing experience. Along with some good friends, I sat in the stands at Lane Stadium to watch the Virginia Tech Hokies play my beloved, and pitiful, Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. My team lost, but the day was marvelous. Enter Sandman is all its advertised to be, the Marching Virginians are superb, and the stadium environment, with the mountains in the background is jaw-dropping.

For much of the game, I was sitting in the sun. It was warm, comfortable, and even the gusts that whipped the flags could not chill my body. Midway through the 4th quarter, however, the sun went down, and everything changed. I began shivering, the wind cut through every layer of clothing, and my hands turned to ice. I was in the stadium shade for 30 minutes, and it took me hours later until I was warm again. My whole experience shifted when the sun went down.

The Advent season officially begins on Sunday, November 29. Light overcoming darkness is one of Advent's most poignant themes. Perhaps you remember the words of John 1:4-5:

In Him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.



Youth Fall Retreat

Our youth will be going on a Fall Retreat at Eagle Eyrie this weekend. It will be a time of fun, worship, and getting together with other youth from Virginia. Please be in prayer for safe travels and that each participant will experience the love of Christ.

Participants and parents of participants, please check your email for important information about the parent meeting tonight at 8pm in the Youth Assembly Room.

Deacon Nomination Announcement

It is time to nominate a new slate of active Deacons for 2027. We are looking to add 3-5 additional active Deacons to join our current rotation. Deacons help to support the Pastor and staff in the mission of the church, ensure peace and harmony in the church, and work for cooperation in all aspects of church life.

Deacon Nomination Forms are available to the congregation in the church office during the week, at the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings, or by clicking the link below. These forms explain deacon qualifications as they appear in our by-

Light is life! In Jesus, we find light in the midst of darkness, love in a broken world, hope for a healed future, and peace for an anxious present. The Light of Jesus shines in the darkness, and the darkness does not win.

During our Advent season at FBCNN, we will focus on Light. We will challenge ourselves with the words of 1 John 1:5 - 7, part of which we share at every communion service:

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

Our goal as a church this Advent is simple: **Be in the Light**, as Jesus is in the Light. How? Here are four challenges to **Be in the Light** I hope you will prayerfully consider and accept:

1. Be in the Light by being present in worship.

2. Be in the Light by inviting a friend to our Advent events and worship services.

3. Be in the Light by praying and reading your Advent devotional each day (we will have Advent devotional books available at the worship services starting November 22).

4. Be in the Light by loving and serving your neighbor.

As a church family, let's stretch toward the Light of Jesus this Advent. Let's pray, love, and serve together. Let's

laws and the Bible. Please review the form's instructions, prayerfully consider nominating members to be reviewed by staff, interviewed by the Deacon nominating team, and approved by the church. Please be sure to sign your form so your nominee(s) will be included.

The deadline for turning in Deacon Nomination Forms is this Sunday, November 15th. Thank you for participating in this process!

Deacon Nomination Form

Thanksgiving Bags

Thanksgiving bags will be handed out to collect items to help those in need provide a nice Thanksgiving dinner to their families. Return the bags and items on Sundays to the sanctuary foyer or preschool foyer, or during the week to the church office. Thanks as always for your unwavering generosity!

Items needed:

- 15 oz. Can Corn
- 15 oz. Can Green Beans
- 15 oz. Can Peas
- Stove Top Dressing
- 15 oz. Sweet Potatoes
- Cake Mix
- Can Icing
- Jar of Turkey Gravy
- Pumpkin Pie Filling
- Bag of Rice
- Box of Mac and Cheese
- Can Cranberry Sauce
- Corn Bread Mix



invite friends to our worship services and the amazing special events we have planned to celebrate the Advent season. In fact, at the end of this newsletter, we have a special graphic that lists our special church wide Advent events so you can begin praying for people to invite. Please keep it for reference, share it with your classes and use it as a prayer guide for our Advent church gatherings.

In a season that grows more chaotic and consumeristic every year, let's commit to God and one another to **Be in the Light** this Advent.

Pastor Randy

Thanksgiving Dinner Wednesday, November 18 5pm Payne Fellowship Hall

Come out and enjoy a time of eating smoked turkey and wonderful fellowship! We will need sides and desserts to go along with the delicious turkey. If you are part of a group that would like to contribute sides and/or desserts to this special meal where we remember all the reasons God has given us to be grateful, please let the church office know.

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever!

Mark your calendars for a fun filled presentation of The Best Christmas Pageant Ever! Children and adults from First Baptist Church and Denbigh United Presbyterian Church will be combining their talents to make this a wonderful way to start the Christmas season. Invite your family and friends to come out to FBCNN on Friday, December 4 at 7pm and/or Saturday, December 5 at 3pm. Admission is free and tickets are not required.

Community Missions

We are excited to announce the addition of McIntosh Elementary School as our community mission partner. The need is great as a majority of the students are economically disadvantaged.

Mary Ann Hutchinson will be leading this new action team. She is looking for team members that share her love for this mission. Please prayerfully consider joining her team.

Additional News from FBCNN

Upcoming Events

November 12 - Peninsula Mobile Food Bank will be in our parking lot. Please let those in need of food assistance know about this opportunity.

November 13-15 - CBFVA Youth Fall Retreat (see article above for more information)

November Staff Work Anniversaries and Birthdays

Birthdays
11/1 - Wendy Buck
11/3 - Lesley Spitzer
11/16 - Clara Prillaman

Anniversaries
11/1 - John Irving, 5 years!
11/30 - Monica Garcia, 20 years!

Take a moment to let each one know you are thinking about them.

November 18 - Churchwide Thanksgiving Dinner (see article above for more information)

Please see below for a list of some of the wonderful events happening at FBCNN so we can "Be In The Light" during Advent!



Let There Be Lights!!!

We have reached over 31% of our goal to help Shine the Light of Jesus both inside our building and throughout our community. Thank you so much for your generosity as we have raised $79,500! Please prayerfully consider how you might contribute to this project, which will bless many within our church and beyond.



Budget Planning and Preparation for 2027

Please keep our Financial Coordinator, Monica Garcia, staff, Stewardship Team, and Ministry Teams in your prayers as we work on what our budget needs will be next year. Information about dates for budget discussions and a vote on the budget will be coming soon.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7

Making an Impact in 2026

The Shine The Light Campaign is still underway, and there is still time to make a meaningful impact!

Your generosity makes a difference. Your IRA may offer a powerful way to sustain the mission and ministry of First Baptist Church.

If you are age 70 1/2 or older and have a traditional IRA, consider making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to First Baptist. If you are age 73 or older, your gift may also count toward



Nursery Help Needed

The Children's Ministry is looking for caring volunteers to help in the nursery during:

- 8:30am Sunday Worship Service
- 9:45am Toddler Sunday School
- 6:30pm Wednesday night activities

If you can lend a hand, please contact Sharon Hertzler at shertzler@fbcnn.org.



Sound Team Needs You!

We are looking for a few people who are willing to run sound for our 8:30 or 11am service. No experience is needed and training is provided.

your required minimum distribution (RMD).

Now is the time to act. To count toward your 2026 charitable giving, your QCD must be completed by December 31, 2026. We encourage you to begin the process in November, if possible, to allow ample time for your IRA administrator or custodian to process the gift.

Taking the next step is simple: contact your IRA administrator or custodian and request a direct charitable distribution to First Baptist Church. Be sure to allow sufficient processing time to meet the year-end deadline.

Your gift helps keep the church's ministry strong, the mission moving forward, and the light shining in the places it is needed most. Thank you for your faithful generosity and for the many ways you invest in the life and ministry of First Baptist Church.

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, November 15 at 8:30 and 11am! Dr. Brian Williams, BGAV Field Strategist, 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-@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

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 8:30am and 11am worship service from November 8th.

November 8

Staff Contact Info

Randy Shepley, Senior Pastor, **rshepley@fbcnn.org**

Juan Garcia, Associate Pastor Hispanics, **jgarcia@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**

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

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Nikki Reid, Executive Assistant, **nikki@fbcnn.org**

Lindsay Rew, Preschool Director, **preschool@fbcnn.org**

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