FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
OF PENSACOLA

The View from the Hill

December 2026



Hear. Live. Share. **The Story of Jesus.**

A NOTE FROM DAVE



Dave Snyder
Senior Pastor

It is now completely safe and normal to listen to Christmas music! I am so glad December is upon us as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior. Each year, December flies by like a feather in the wind. Slow down and embrace the joy of this season. Each day is an opportunity to capture God's love and faithfulness as we rejoice in Jesus' arrival in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago. Amid all the busyness, activities, and events, make sure you capture moments of praise. I am looking forward to spending my 9th Christmas with First Baptist!

Like in years past, I have provided an Advent devotional for your faith journey. This year, the devotional and my sermon series are called ***The Basics of Christmas.*** The word *advent* itself means "arrival" or "an appearing or coming into place." This 25-day devotional helps you build anticipation for Christmas morning. It is a joy each year to write my affections for the Savior and share them with you. Please visit our welcome center desk as well as our website to receive a copy. My gift for you. What comes to your mind when you think of the night when our Savior was born? Do you picture a manger with humans and animals together? Do you see shepherds and royalty worshipping a baby? Do you hear a donkey braying or a cow's cadence? Come join me on this journey this month. On this journey, we will look at the night of the first Christmas. We will hold the story in our hearts, hoping for greater worship and splendor as the promise is fulfilled in Bethlehem.

This month is shaping up to be busy and exciting! As you look through our newsletter, you'll see many wonderful events happening across our campus. It's a great opportunity to invite unchurched family members and friends to join us at First Baptist. What could make this Christmas more meaningful than seeing someone you love encounter the life-changing, eternal power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas. Enjoy this month. Soak in every moment God's amazing grace provides. Jesus has come. Rejoice.

I love being your pastor.

Blessings,

Dave





Peter Burmeister
Executive Pastor

Who Will You Bring This Christmas?

Let's be honest: for a lot of us, inviting someone to church feels a little awkward. We don't want to put anyone on the spot, and we sure don't want to hear "no." But Christmas has a way of reminding us how simple an invitation can be.

When Philip met Jesus, the first thing he did was go find his friend Nathanael. Nathanael was skeptical. Philip didn't try to win the argument. He just said, "Come and see" (John 1:46).

That's really all we're being asked to do this season. And December makes it easier. People who would shrug off an invitation in July are a lot more likely to say yes when it's Christmas.

We've got some great nights coming up. Our Christmas Kickoff is **Sunday, November 29, at 4:00 p.m. in Chipley Hall. A Pensacola Christmas runs December 4 through 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**, so think of the neighbor or coworker who loves this time of year. And on **December 16 at 6:00 p.m., the Gingerbread Bash in Chipley Hall** is a perfect one for people of all ages.

If you only invite someone to one thing, though, make it Christmas Eve. We'll gather in the **Sanctuary at 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 24**, to celebrate the birth of Jesus together. It's one of my favorite nights of the year at First Baptist Church, and it's an easy yes for a lot of people. Think about the family coming in for the holidays, your kids' friends' parents, or the family member who hasn't been to church in a while. Plenty of them would come if someone just asked.

You don't need a script. "We're going to the 5:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Want to come with us?" is plenty. Offer to drive. Save them a seat. Grab a meal before or after.

So pick two or three names and start praying for them this week. Then ask and let the Lord handle the rest.

Merry Christmas, First Baptist Church of Pensacola. I can't wait to see who you bring.

Peter



Help take the good news of Jesus to people who have never heard it. Your gift to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® sends and sustains missionaries among the unreached — and 100% goes to the field.
Today, 59% of the world still has no meaningful access to the gospel. That's billions of people waiting to hear a message you can help bring them.
Our giving goal at First Baptist is $150,000.

WEEK OF PRAYER
The Week of Prayer for International Missions is a special, focused time of prayer for Southern Baptist missionaries serving through the International Mission Board and the people whom they serve.
We invite you to join us in this season of prayer, **November 29 – December 5, 2026.**
In addition to prayer, your generosity in giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering can make an eternal impact.



Our Choir, Orchestra, and Soloists will be joined by singers and instrumentalists across the city to present three nights of glorious music. Once again, we are excited to welcome our special guests, the Pensacola Children's Chorus.



Join us for a fun, gospel-centered Christmas celebration for the whole family. Together, families will build gingerbread nativities, sing Christmas songs, hear the Christmas story, and discover that the greatest gift of all is Jesus!

Come dressed in your funniest, tackiest, most festive ugly Christmas sweater! You never know... you just might get asked to strut your stuff on our Ugly Sweater Runway!

We need your help as we prepare supplies and treats for the evening. Please scan the QR code and let us know how many people from your family will be attending. We can't wait to celebrate Christmas with you!



We will be having two Candlelight Services on Christmas Eve, **Thursday, December 24, at 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. We hope you, friends, and family will make plans to join us!



On **Sunday, December 27,** we will have two services only—**9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship in Chipley Hall and 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary.** Bible Studies will not meet that morning. Our regular three-service schedule will resume the following Sunday.

LEISURE TIMERS

Tuesday, December 8, at 10:15 a.m. in Chipley Hall
Join us for our Christmas celebration at 10:15 a.m. in Chipley Hall! Enjoy a warm time of fellowship, a delicious lunch, and a special Christmas program.

It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, laugh, and spend time together—make plans to join us for our next gathering!

Register at *fbcp.org/events* or call the church office at 850-433-5631.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



MOMCO

Wednesdays, twice a month, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Motherhood can be challenging, but it doesn't have to be lonely. Come enjoy a moment of fellowship, breakfast, and learning together how to navigate parenthood. Open for moms of all ages. Register at *fbcp.org/events*.

GATHER

Sunday, January 3, at 6:00 p.m. in Chipley Hall
Join the women of FBCP as we gather monthly to grow our friendships and flourish in God's Word with a devotion by Brooke Snyder. RSVP for dinner and if childcare is needed by December 31. Sign up on the events page of our website.

SAVE THE DATE:

Connect: Coming April 17, 2027

Tour of Tables: Coming September 28, 2027

IF:TABLE GROUPS

Interested in growing deeper in your relationships with the Lord and other women? An IF:Table group is a great way to do that, to sign up, contact Lori Kizziah at *lorikizziah@gmail.com*.

An IF:Table group is two hours, four questions, and six ladies who meet once a month for conversation and connection. The questions provided will help you get to know each other and deepen your walk with the Lord.

LADIES RETREAT

February 19-21, 2027

Step away from the noise and busyness to experience a Winter Retreat crafted for the heart to rest and enjoy fellowship.

"Restore My Soul" will be hosted at The Island Resort in Fort Walton Beach, FL. *www.TheIslandFL.com*

Through quiet moments, guided session, shared meals, and the calming rhythm of the ocean, you'll find space to release, renew, and return home restored. This is your invitation to rest deeply in our Father's presence and draw near to Him.

Begin budgeting now so you can register to join in the fun. Registration fee: $125, $50 due at sign up at *fbcp.org/events*.

Gulf front room $179/night

Pool view $149/night

Room rates can be shared with up to 4 per room, all hotel room costs will be due by **January 17**.

Our speaker will be Kasey Summers from Trussville, Alabama. Kasey is a mother to 3 children, ages 9, 6, and 3. She is an artist and enjoys sharing the word of God through her art. Kasey will share her heart, God's word, and a creative art project with us as she leads "Restore My Soul".

SEWING FOR JESUS

Sewing for Jesus has had a very productive year. We made items for Operation Christmas Child, as well as many items for missionaries in Liberia, Guatemala, Indonesia and East Indonesia. We also made medical missionary bags for the Baptist Nursing Fellowship and adult bibs for FBCP's In-Home Ministry. Thank you to our wonderful church family who have supported us through donations throughout the year to make this ministry possible. Also thank you to our Pastors, church staff and ministry leaders for their support and prayers. We look forward to the coming year with anticipation for what the Lord has in store for this exciting ministry. May all of you have a wonderful holiday season and a blessed New Year.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Wednesday, December 2: Invite Night - Christmas Party
Monday, December 7: Challenger Banquet
Wednesday, December 9: Family Groups - Pancakes
Sunday, December 13: Serve Sunday - Caroling
Wednesday, December 16: Family Groups - Gingerbread Bash
December 18 - January 4: Christmas Break

SAMARITAN HANDS

Samaritan Hands clothing needs:

- Men - jackets: all sizes (not suits)
- Men - jeans: small, 31/32, 32/30
- Women - jackets: large, 16, 18
- Women - pants: large, XL, XXL, 14, 16

Please drop off donations at Samaritan Hands or the Welcome Desk.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

WE SURPASSED OUR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD GOAL!!

7,621 SHOEBOXES!!

By the time you read this, a semi will have delivered 7,583 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to the Atlanta Processing Center, and in January volunteers will pack the 38 shoeboxes that FBCP members packed online, for a total of 7,621 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. THANK YOU to all the people who prayed, shopped, sorted clothes, bagged marbles and barbies, assembled shoeboxes, donated money, and packed shoeboxes. Because of your efforts, 7,621 children will hear about the Good News of Jesus Christ; will take home the Greatest Gift booklet describing John's experience with Jesus and will have the opportunity to attend the 12-week discipleship class called The Greatest Journey. (For everyone who is wondering, we sent 7,152 shoeboxes last year, so we are up 9.4% this year.)

It is difficult to envision 7,621 children. To put it into perspective, It's 299 more children than were enrolled at UWF last year as full time undergraduate students. If they all wanted to attend a UWF football game, 400 of them would have to stand as there wouldn't be enough seats. If they all went to a Wahoos game, 1,600 would be turned away as exceeding the Wahoos stadium's official capacity of 5,038 people even sitting on the grass. They could all attend an Ice Flyers Hockey game, but it would increase average attendance by 1,603 people and they would have to open the upper tiers to seating.

Most importantly, each one of these children is a child Jesus loves and for whom He sacrificed his life. Please pray the shoebox they receive will bring them joy and they will be open to receiving the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Feel like you missed out on an easy opportunity to tell a child about Jesus? You can still pack a shoebox online using this QR code through **December 31st.**

CHURCH TO CHURCH



November 14 was a cold Saturday morning, but FBCP C2C volunteers braved the cold to serve 1300 food insecure families through our church partners.





While food was being distributed, Leroy and his box building team were busy preparing for our **December 12** distribution. Our packing days are **Friday and Saturday, December 4 and 5.**

Please be in prayer for the families receiving food, and consider volunteering for this Christ-honoring ministry.

WARMTH FOR WEIS

Our Shoe Project on November 4 was such a special day for over 500 students at C.A. Weis Elementary School. Over 55 volunteers showed up with a smile and a kind voice to be the hands and feet of Jesus to these students. We received so many handwritten thank you notes this year. We still need your contributions to this very special project. You can make checks payable to FBCP, marked for Weis Shoe Project, or you may also give electronically.

CHESS CLUB AT C.A. WEIS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Sim Hassler is teaching chess to students at Weis in the afternoon S.A.I.L. Program. If anyone has chess sets they are no longer using, he needs them. They can be left at the Welcome Desk. Thank you for supporting the students at C.A. Weis Elementary School.

FLOWER ARRANGING

Due to restructuring the flower arranging committee and due to the safety of the volunteers who deliver to our In-Home Ministry members, we no longer accept vase donations. Goodwill on Olive Road will accept your donations.

NEW MEMBERS

Henley Henderson, Baptism
Hadley Henderson, Baptism

KINGDOM PARTNERS

DECEMBER 6:
International Mission Board
3806 Monument Ave.
Richmond, VA 23230
President - Dr. Paul Chitwood

DECEMBER 13:
Myrtle Grove Baptist Church
5920 Lillian Highway
Pensacola, FL 32506
Pastor - Josh Morea

DECEMBER 20:
Church on Bayshore
622 Bayshore Drive
Niceville, FL 32578
Pastor - James Ross

DECEMBER 27:
Pine Terrace Baptist Church
6212 Pine Blossom Road
Milton, FL 32570
Pastor - Nathan Brown

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

The Pastor, Staff and Church Family extend Christian sympathy to the following:

Tom Williams and family in the loss of his mother, Kathryn Williams, on October 31, 2026.

Anita Myers and family in the event of her passing on November 10, 2026.

Friends and family of Robert (Bob) Taylor who passed away on November 15, 2026.

Friends and family of Billie Martin who passed away on November 17, 2026.

Ellen Vinson and family in the sudden death of her grandson, Carey Vinson, also son of Joe Vinson, Sunday November 22, 2026.

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

DECEMBER 6, 2026
SANCTUARY – As a loving reminder of our sweet Alecs Barona from his family: Mom, Dad, Kristen, Grey; Dec 9, 1990 - Oct 25, 2011.

DECEMBER 13, 2026
SANCTUARY – In loving memory of Larry Hicks, given by his wife Marie Hicks and family.

DECEMBER 20, 2026
SANCTUARY - In loving memory of Brett Cobb, given by his family.

DECEMBER 27, 2026
SANCTUARY - In memory of Herman and Irene Williams, and Lynda Shuman, love Dennis Shuman.

MEMORIAL AND HONORARIUMS

Memorials

Dolores Barrow
Tommy & Betty Mott, SHM
Beth Parker, SHM
Mary Vikery, SHM
Steve & Scottie Vickery, SHM
Comer & Kathy Knight, Martha's Vineyard
Alan Nickelsen, SHM

Sheldon Bernau
Lisa Bernau, Tradition Music Ministry

Linda Griffin
Frank & Bernice Osborne, LEAFF

Jerry & Diane Norris
Lisa Bernau, Martha's Vineyard
Frank & Bernice Osborne, Warmth for Weis

Patricia Perkins
David & Sophie Ranney, Traditional Music Ministry

Honorariums

FBCP Staff
Barry & Amanda Howard, Housework

Claudia Bernau
Lisa Bernau, Lottie Moon

To register for meals and events stop by the Welcome Desk or visit *fbcp.org/events*

To sign up via phone, call us at (850)433-5631.

FAMILY DINNER

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 5:00 P.M.

Make your reservation each week by Tuesday at noon by visiting *www.fbcp.org/resource-center* **or call the Welcome Center Desk (850)433-5631**

TICKET PRICES

Adult Meals: $5 | Child Meals: $3
Family Max*: $20
**Family Max = 8 immediate family members*

DINNER MENU

Wednesday, December 2
Chili with Baked Potato, Cornbread, Dessert
Kids: Hot-dogs with Fries
Adult Alternate: Salad

Wednesday, December 9
Spaghetti with Traditional Meat Sauce, Side Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert
Kids: Grilled Cheese with Fruit Cup
Adult Alternate: Salad

Wednesday, December 16
Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Roll, and Red Velvet Cake
Adult Alternate: Salad

OFFERING REPORT

October 25, 2026

Weekly Needs	$118,653.85
Weekly Receipts	$113,904.80
Year to Date Needs	$474,615.38
Year to Date Receipts	$500,846.86

November 1, 2026

Weekly Needs	$118,653.85
Weekly Receipts	$62,022.04
Year to Date Needs	$593,269.23
Year to Date Receipts	$562,868.90

November 8, 2026

Weekly Needs	$118,653.85
Weekly Receipts	$106,055.20
Year to Date Needs	$711,923.08
Year to Date Receipts	$668,924.10

November 15, 2026

Weekly Needs	$118,653.85
Weekly Receipts	$70,133.16
Year to Date Needs	$830,576.92
Year to Date Receipts	$739,057.26

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF PENSACOLA
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