



THE MESSENGER

First Baptist Church of Mount Holly
December 2025



For to us a child is born, and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

Upcoming Schedule

Sundays

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:30 a.m.	Worship
3:00 p.m.	Graceful Praise Rehearsal*
3:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts*
4:00 p.m.	Handbell Rehearsal
5:00 p.m.	Illumination Student Ministry

* Does not meet each week; see leaders for details

Wednesdays

2:30 p.m.	Afterschool Program
5:15 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper
	Children's Choirs
6:15 p.m.	Prayer/Bible Study
7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal

Special Events

Dec. 6, 12:00 p.m.	JS Billy Graham Library
Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m.	Children's Sunday
Dec. 14, 3:00 p.m.	Church Christmas Social
Dec. 21, 10:30 a.m.	Christmas Cantata
Dec. 24, 5:00, 9:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

A beautiful candlelight service is a highlight of our Advent Season

FINDING PEACE THIS ADVENT

Let's be honest: December is crazy. Between the shopping, the wrapping, the cooking, and the traveling, it's easy to get to Christmas Day feeling more exhausted than joyful.

That is exactly why we are doing things a little differently this year. Our Advent theme is "A Weary World Rejoices," and the whole goal is to help us slow down and actually enjoy the Savior who brings us peace.

We have some incredible opportunities planned to help us catch your breath and celebrate Jesus' birth:

- **Children's Sunday, Dec. 7:** Is there anything better than seeing the Christmas story through the eyes of kids? Our children are leading worship at 10:30 a.m., Don't miss it.
- **Christmas Social, Dec. 14:** Our deacons are hosting our church-wide social. Come enjoy great food and fellowship.
- **Christmas Cantata, Dec. 21:** Our music ministry is sharing the Christmas Cantata at 10:30 a.m. Join us for a beautiful service of worship.
- **Christmas Eve:** We're wrapping up Advent with our Candlelight Service. We have two options—5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.—so pick the one that fits your family best.

Come as you are, bring someone with you, and may we find some peace on earth together.



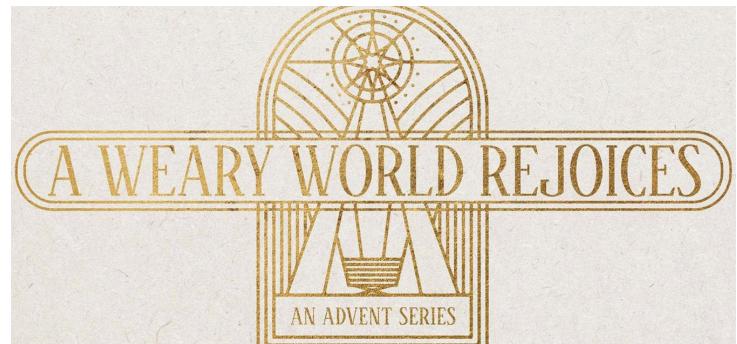
A VIEW FROM MAIN STREET

by Jeff Allen
Pastor
jeff@fbcmountholly.org

As we approach the holidays, we often feel an immense pressure to make this "the most wonderful time of the year." Yet, if we are honest, the season often brings as much exhaustion as it does excitement. We are not the first generation to feel this heavy weight.

The story of the beloved carol "O Holy Night" began in France in 1847. A local poet, Placide Cappeau, wrote the lyrics, and Adolphe Adam composed the haunting score. However, the song took on profound new meaning in 1855 when American abolitionist John Sullivan Dwight translated it. He didn't just see a Christmas carol; he saw an anthem for a broken nation. Captivated by the line "Chains shall He break," Dwight understood that the "weary world" was a reality

"If we are honest, the season often brings as much exhaustion as it does excitement. //



of suffering. He saw the birth of Jesus as the "thrill of hope" a tired world desperately needed. That same weariness echoes today. While our burdens may look different—defined by frantic schedules, anxiety, and the pressure to "do it all"—the answer remains the same.

This Advent, we are launching a conversation titled "A Weary World Rejoices." We will move past the hustle to encounter Jesus, not just as a baby in a manger, but as the true Giver of Rest and Prince of Peace. If you feel the weight of the world this December, join us. Let's slow down, breathe, and rediscover the hope that allows a weary world to truly rejoice.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

Our church is collaborating with area churches to offer food and monetary support to our community in need.

Food and monetary donations welcome!

Food Needed:

- Canned meat
- Canned fruits
- Canned veggies
- Rice and beans
- Peanut Butter and Jelly
- Pasta Noodles/Sauce

Monetary Donations:

Feel free to give cash, check or online through our church giving page:

fbcmountholly.org/giving

**Give what you can.
Take what you need.**

**EMERGENCY
FOOD
SUPPORT
HERE**





TELLING STORIES

by Tori Freeman
Minister of Youth and Children
tori@fbcmountholly.org

Christmas in my house is a mix of chaos and joy. Wrapping paper covers the floor, excitement dances across little faces, there are never enough batteries, and always too many tiny pieces to keep up with.

It's a beautiful kind of chaos, but it can also be a hurried season. We rush to buy last minute gifts, squeeze in every seasonal event, stay up too late, and get up too early, trying to cram in as much as we can.

I often feel weary. When Christmas is over, I can finally catch my breath, but only for a moment before Gray's birthday arrives two weeks later.

If you're like me, you don't have much room for rejoicing when weariness takes up so much space.

This year, I don't want to survive the season, I want to live it. I want to slow down, and lean into the promise of hope and joy that Christmas brings. I invite you to join me. Let's not be consumed by the season, let's dwell in it. Making room in our hearts for the wonder, the quiet, and the joy that reminds us why the weary world truly can rejoice.

“Making room in our hearts for the wonder, the quiet, and the joy that reminds us why the weary world truly can rejoice.”

*Gaudete Ministries
presents*

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

**Saturday, December 20
1:00 pm
in the Sanctuary**



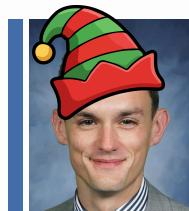
**David Masterson, piano
Beth Allen-Gardner, soprano
Cole Freeman, violin**

Kingdom Kids
presents

DELIVERING CHRISTMAS

A disgruntled delivery man is forced to work on Christmas Eve. As he delivers presents, he discovers that the true gifts of Christmas are greater and more important than anything he can bring in a package.

**Sunday, December 7
10:30 a.m.**



MUSIC NOTES

by Cole Freeman
Minister of Music
cole@fbcmountholly.org

There are many emotions associated with the Advent season: Peace, Love, Hope...but the one that speaks to me the most is Joy. The fulfillment of God's promise and the celebration of our faith Incarnate begins in this season. What greater joy than this?!

In this time that the world has turned into one of frenetic busyness and wearying travel, I pray that you will find a moment of calm and joyous hope in the familiar sounds of your favorite melodies that remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas.



“Joy to the World, the Lord is Come! Let Earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, let Heaven and Nature sing!”

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



Churchwide Christmas Social Sunday, December 14 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Please join us on Sunday, December 14 for a Churchwide Christmas Social that is Sponsored by the Deacons of FBCMH.

Thanksloving Donation

In Honor of:
Gary and Hilda Farmer
Randy and Ginger McLean
Lanny Ray and Lancy Rhyne
Peggy McGlohon
Jeane Newhart

October Finances Update

October Receipts	\$23,468
October Expenses	\$43,843
Receipts YTD	\$381,574
Actual Expenses YTD	\$462,338
Budgeted Expenses YTD	\$499,903
Annual Budget	\$599,884



Operation Christmas Child

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude to the following organizations for their contributions to our OCC Shoebox Ministry!

- **Dresses for Orphans** donated 250 T-shirts for boys and girls
- **Little Dresses for Africa** for providing feminine hygiene products.

These gifts will bring smiles, health, and hope to children in need.

CIRCLES Men's Ministry

Breakfast Gathering Saturday, January 24

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Come for fellowship, learn more and share the journey. Open to all - bring a friend. Hosted by FBC's 3 Circles

Questions? Ask Randy McLean, Aubrey Horton, Mark Hudome, Carson Dean or Matt Williamson

Christmas Cards for Homebound Ministry Deadline is December 7

Help us bless our Homebound Members and Seniors this Christmas! We are collecting cards to be delivered with a **Poinsettia** and a **bag of goodies**.

Please place your cards in the labeled box in the Gathering Area by **Dec. 7**.

A Few Guidelines:

- One card from your family for each person/couple on the list.
- Use names only on the envelopes; addresses are not needed.
- Please do not seal the envelopes.
- Handmade cards from children are a special treat!

Homebound Members

Dale Barrow
Jack Barnes
Frances Black
Jerry & Becky Causby
Mary Lou Davis
Peggy Garrett
Elsie Hilderbran
John & Alice Jones
Pat Kinney
Evelyn Rodden
Barry & Janice Still
Dickie & Luann Thomas
Lib Wiles
Dr. Bob & Virginia Winecoff



First Baptist Church of Mount Holly



Contact Information

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Staff

Jeff Allen, Pastor
Cole Freeman, Minister of Music
Tori Freeman, Minister of Youth/Children
Rebecca Hope, Administrative Assistant
Sheila McDaniel, Church Accompanist

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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