First Baptist Church of Mount Holly

THE MESSENGER

November 2026






. . . for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6:21

Upcoming Schedule

Sundays

9:30 a.m.	Sunday School
10:30 a.m.	Worship
3:30 p.m.	Girl Scouts*
4:00 p.m	Handbell Rehearsal
5:30 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 Dinner
	Children's Choirs
6:15 p.m	Prayer/Bible Study
7:00 p.m.	Adult Choir Rehearsal

November Events

Nov 1	All Saints Sunday
Nov 7	FBCJST Event: "The Real Christmas Story"
Nov 11	Veterans Day - No Wednesday Night
Nov 12	Holly Seniors Community Lunch
Nov 15	Administrative Board Meeting
Nov 26	Thanksloving
Nov 29	First Sunday of Advent

ThanksLoving is coming, join us at the table

THANKFUL HEARTS MAKE ROOM AT THE TABLE

Last month we spoke of the harvest. Now the psalmist asks the question every harvest raises: "What shall I return to the LORD for all his goodness to me?" (Psalm 116:12). Gratitude finds its fullest voice when we share.

For 37 years, the THANKSLOVING FEAST has been our answer, growing from 40 meals to more than 400 last year, served to:

- Our neighbors dining in or driving through from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- A local retirement center
- Holy Angels staff and residents
- The homeless, through Moving Mountain Ministries
- Meals on Wheels recipients
- Medical personnel in our area

Ways to Give Thanks

Serve — Fill plates, deliver meals, or clean up. Sign-up sheets are in the gathering area and online.

Bake — Bring desserts the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (9 a.m. – 2 p.m.) or Thanksgiving morning.

Give — Designated offerings, not the church budget, fund 60 smoked turkey breasts and all the sides ($4,000–$5,000). Make checks to the church, marked THANKSLOVING FEAST, or give online.

A Table Set by Grateful Hands

Jesus speaks of a coming feast where "people will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast" (Luke 13:29) with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Matthew 8:11). Let's share a foretaste of that table at our GREAT BANQUET.

Love you, mean it!
The THANKSLOVING Team



A VIEW FROM MAIN STREET

by Jeff Allen
Pastor
jeff@fbcmountholly.org

The World War II era Swiss theologian Karl Barth once observed that joy "is the simplest form of gratitude." It is a line I share on every email I send. Being reminded of this truth daily is an essential part of my day. Because when I slow down enough to notice that each breath is a gift, joy follows close behind. Not the performed kind. The real kind. The sort that bubbles up without being asked for.

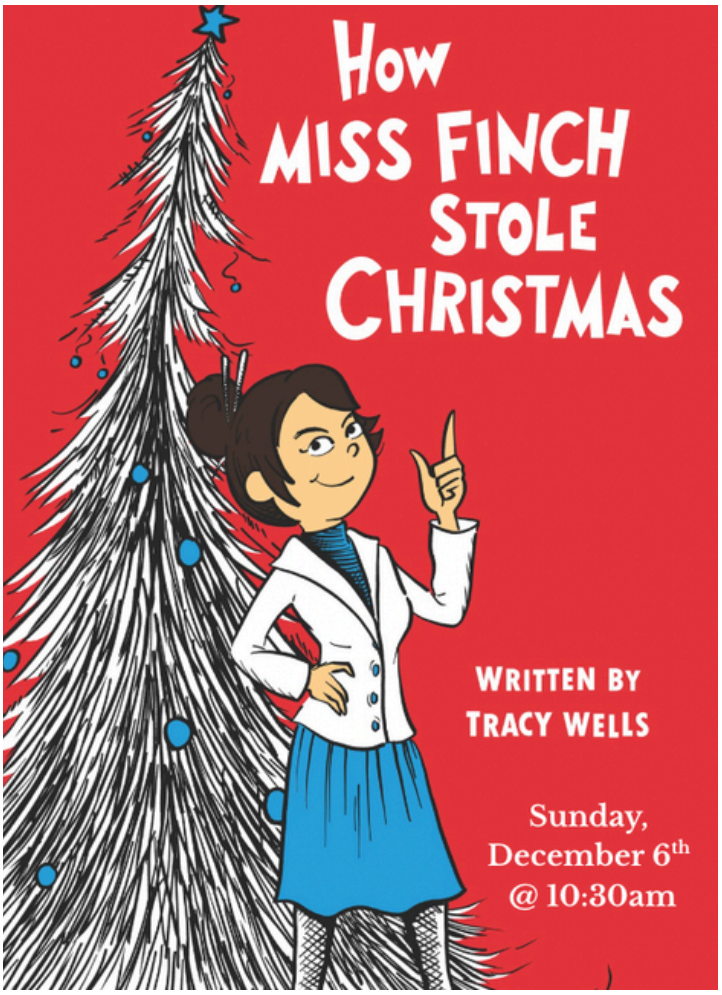
> "Joy is the simplest form of gratitude. (Karl Barth)"

That is where I want us to be as we move into November. Our congregation has been doing beautiful, honest work these last months. You told us where you already serve on in our church. You told us what makes you come alive at First Baptist. The gifts of this church are not out there somewhere waiting to be discovered. They are already here, right in our pews. They are in you.



On November 15 and 22, I want to spend two Sundays to discuss what it looks like to actually use what God has placed in our hands. This is not obligation. It is not another ask from your pastor. It is an invitation to joy. Because the most grateful thing we can do with a gift is open it and share it with somebody else. We are "Entrusted" with much that we can share.

So come ready this November. Come expecting God to do something with you. The joy he has for you is on the other side of giving yourself away.



Ministry Spotlight

Kitchen Ministry Team

Behind every shared meal at FBC — every funeral luncheon, covered-dish supper, and Wednesday night dinner — there's a kitchen ready to go. That doesn't happen by accident. It happens because of our Kitchen Ministry Team.

Led by Ken and Missi Fortsch, this team keeps our church kitchen organized, clean, and prepared for every event that needs it. They quietly set the stage so other ministries can do their work without missing a beat.

A well-tended kitchen is a form of stewardship, the act of caring for the building and resources God has entrusted to us.

To the team: Thank you, Ken and Missi, and everyone who serves alongside you. The hospitality of our church rests on your quiet, faithful work.

To the congregation: Thank a team member when you see one. Clean up after yourself when you use the space. If you'd like to lend a hand, reach out to Ken or Missi.



TELLING STORIES

by Tori Freeman
Minister of Youth and Children
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"Lord, I'm just grateful that I got to wake up today" is the opening line of Forest Frank's song, "Okay".

We are in a season where gratitude is highlighted more as we draw closer to Thanksgiving. The truth? Every day we wake up is a day we should be grateful for. After all, this is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it!

As the weather has begun to cool off, I am personally grateful. Chilly nights bring me joy and I often sit outside until the sun sets. (sometimes well after the sun sets) I am reminded of how important it is to soak in every bit of God's creation.
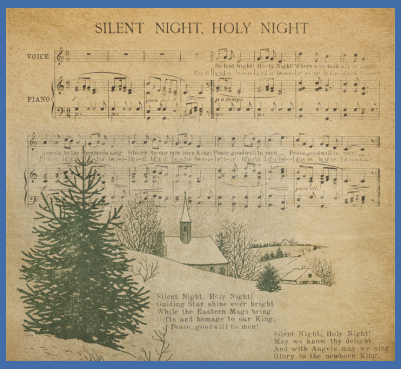
Gray usually sits outside with me and a few nights ago, I snapped a simple picture of our time together. He was sitting on his tractor "mowing the grass", the crescent moon was shining bright, and I was sitting in a chair simply enjoying the scene, and thanking God for that moment.

Gratitude should be as easy for us as breathing. As long as there is breath in our lungs, we should be praising the Lord. There is *always* something to be thankful for.

I encourage you this Thanksgiving season to sit and be grateful. Sitting outside might not be ideal, but sit in one of your favorite places, and thank God for what is around you.



"This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it."



There is still time to join the Christmas Cantata rehearsals!

The choir has begun its preparation for our Christmas Cantata, practicing each Wednesday evening at 7pm, from now until December 9th.

If you used to sing in an ensemble, have been thinking about giving choir a try, or just love belting out those Christmas tunes along with the radio, we would love to have you join us!



MUSIC NOTES

by Cole Freeman
Minister of Music
cole@fbcmountholly.org

I heard a story once of a long international flight announcing that they would provide free wifi to all passengers, which was met with a hearty cheer from all those on board. Within about an hour of the flight, the wifi had crashed so many times that the offer had to be rescinded and no internet access was available to any passenger for the rest of the journey. Unsurprisingly, there were a number of angry complaints during and after the flight. One can imagine that if no wifi had been promised, there would likely have been no complaints about its absence.

How often does this scenario arise in our day to day life? Not simply with spotty internet signal, but when our car doesn't start, or the microwave is broken, or we have to wait more than a day for an Amazon package? These conveniences which would have been considered luxurious for a king not that long ago are now treated as necessities that we cannot imagine living without.

It is in this spirit that Paul states that he "learned to be content whatever the circumstances" (Phillipians 4:11) and also encourages us to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18) As we move towards Thanksgiving, let us be reminded of the countless blessings bestowed upon us each and every day.

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

OCC

We're Collecting Something Special This Month... PRAYERS

That our Lord begins preparing the hearts of all the children who will receive shoeboxes.

Community Wide Lunch

November 12
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Register by November 6
Email Randy McLean
isaiah41@duck.com or sign up at The Gathering Place. Everyone is welcome!

September Finances

September Receipts	$37,149
September Expenses	$64,772
Receipts YTD	$398,908
Actual Expenses YTD	$410,626
Budgeted Expenses YTD	$403,426
Annual Budget	$537,901



Angels are available on the Angel Tree. We ask that you make a donation to the Angel Tree Fund instead of buying presents. **Donations may be made in worship, the office, or online!**

There will be a shopping day the week of Thanksgiving for all the gifts. Sign up by the tree if you would like to assist. Questions? Contact Christie Batchelor 704-575-5006 or christiehb@att.net

Donations

In Memory of Jerry Causby by:

- William & Julia Blalock to the Operating Budget.
- Verna Jo Ellis to the Operating Budget.
- Millie Hunsucker to the Landscaping Fund.
- Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne to the Operating Budget.
- Dick & Barbara Voorhees to the Operating Budget.
- Patrick Wittekind to the Operating Budget.
- Mary Lou Davis to the Transportation Fund.

In Memory of Jack Barnes by:

- Verna Jo Ellis to the Holly Seniors.
- Lanny Ray & Lancy Rhyne to the Operating Budget.
- Jack Barnes Family to the Building Fund.
- Millie Hunsucker to the Robert & Virginia Winecoff Scholarship Fund.
- Fellowship Sunday School Class to the Holly Seniors.
- Johnny & Judy Rollins to Operation Christmas Child.

First Baptist Church of Mount Holly

Contact Information

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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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