

Forerunnel

First Baptist Church 1024 E. Stuart Drive Galax, VA 24333 276-236-5185 www.fbcgalax.org

Volume 50, No. 12 December 1-31, 2023



For millions of people, the Christmas season means nothing more than parties, gifts, decorations, and time off work. For Christians, however, this time of year is a happy reminder of the hope we have because of Jesus Christ.

"May your unfailing love rest upon us, O LORD, even as we put our hope in you."

Psalm 33:22

Before Jesus came, God seemed distant, hidden in the <u>Holy of Holies</u> in the temple, accessible only to the <u>high priest</u>. Worshipers wondered whether their sacrifices were acceptable. They doubted their salvation.

Christ means hope—

- To the person out of work,
- To the struggling single mother,
- To the dying believer.

Even if you're just slogging your way through the <u>disappointments of life</u>, if you have Jesus, you have hope. And he is not a false hope, a childish fairy tale that we wish will have a happy ending. When Christ <u>rose from the dead</u>, that ended the argument. Period. Our hope in him is solid and it is real.



Sundays

9:45 am—Sunday School
(Classes for all ages)
11:00 am—Worship Service
(Live on FBC Website & 98.1 FM Radio)
6:00 pm Kids & Youth Meetings

Mondays

5:30 pm Bible Study Attend in Person or www.fbcgalax.org or through Facebook

Wednesdays

6:00 pm—Prayer Group 6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal



<u>Dec. 3—First Sunday of Advent</u> <u>Dec 3—Called Business Meeting</u> <u>Following Worship Service</u>

Dec 3—Tru-North Pizza & Movie @ 6 pm

<u>Dec. 4—Soup Kitchen—Please have</u> Bread & Desserts to the church by 1 pm

Dec. 10th—Live Nativity @ 6:15 pm & FBC Choir's Christmas Program @ 7:00 pm

Dec. 12 —Women on Mission @ 11 am

Dec. 13 -Kingdom Kids @ 5:30 pm

Dec. 21—First Day of Winter

Dec. 21— Loss Support Group @ 11:30

<u>Dec. 24—5:30 pm</u> <u>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service</u>

Dec. 25—Christmas Day
Church Office will be closed
December 22nd & December 25th



Hope has to do with trust and confidence. It is the resting of the human heart on God, with full trust that he will care for us and our salvation, and will give us the happiness he has promised. It is an eager expectation and anticipation of what is sure to come—an active, faith-infused waiting for God to fulfill that which he started by the power of the Holy Spirit:

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see,

we wait for it with patience.
Romans 8:23–25, ESV

God wants us to live with hope and assurance that all his promises will come true for us and that our future is firmly and safely secure in his hand for our good.

Christmas is a renewal of hope. It reconfirms it for us if our vision has grown dim. It was settled long ago, so we don't have to doubt anymore. Jesus is the fulfillment of our hope, our deepest longings come true.

From my family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas... Kevin

Jesus Our Hope - Inspirational Thought
"We have lasting hope through the salvation we
have in Christ ... Hope means that even when it looks
like it's all over, it's not all over yet. That's why the
Bible says we can rejoice even in our tribulations.
God is working in our <u>hard times</u> to produce proven
character and hope in us."

Dr. Tony Evans, Totally Saved



"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day," "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen," and "O Holy Night." What do all of these familiar carols have in common? They, along with many other favorites, are included in the Music Ministry's Christmas presentation taking place on Sunday evening, December 10, at 7:00 p.m. And don't forget to arrive early and walk through our Live Nativity!

The Sanctuary Choir has been hard at work preparing for this awesome worship event, so we hope you'll invite your friends and family to join us. Beautiful choral and instrumental music, along with stirring narration, take us on a journey to Bethlehem where we find the shepherds and angels worshipping the Christ Child. These familiar melodies do indeed come alive and make our hearts sing!

We look forward to seeing you as we celebrate the true reason for the season with our church family and community. As always, the Music Ministry wishes each of you a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, And with fear and trembling stand; Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, Our full homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood; Lord of lords in human vesture In the Body and the Blood, He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way, As the Light of Light descendeth From the realms of endless day, That the pow'rs of hell may vanish As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph; Cherubim, with sleepless eye, Veil their faces to the Presence, As with ceaseless voice they cry, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Lord Most High.

Gerard Moultrie. CCLI Song #154773. Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. <u>www.ccli.com</u>. CCLI Li



There are lots of special Christmas events planned for the month of December.

Growing up as a kid, Christmas was always a very special and magical time of year, and to be honest it still is for me. Being brought up in the church and celebrating the Christian Christmas traditions is such an important part of a child's life. I still get excited and have wonderful feelings of nostalgia. I love attending the choir's annual Christmas musical as it kicks off the Christmas Season. Who doesn't enjoy hearing and singing the beautiful Christmas carols? I have wonderful memories of being chosen to be an angel for the nativity scene. It was such an honor. Back in the day, the angel costumes might consist of a white sheet and a tinsel halo. The shepherds costume would involve a bath robe and a piece of cloth wrapped on your head. It was always a little chaotic getting everyone dressed but it was so exciting and so much fun. It is so important to teach the children the true meaning of Christmas! There was always a Christmas party with delicious snacks. "Treat bags" were given out with candy, chewing gum, an apple & an orange. In those days, that was truly a special treat. We always attended church on Christmas Eve. It just wouldn't have been Christmas without being in church on that special night! These are things you will never forget. Let's keep these traditions alive for our children so they can know the true meaning of Christmas and have these very special memories. Believe me, they will last a lifetime!



GREETINGS FROM THE HISPANIC CHURCH. WE WOULD LIKE TO SHARE PSALM 95: 1-7.

1—WELCOME LET US SING UNTO THE LORD: LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO "THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION.

2—LET US COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE WITH

THANKSGIVING, AND MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO HIM WITH PSALMS.

3—For the Lord is a great God and a great King above all gods.

4—IN HIS HAND ARE THE DEEP PLACES OF THE EARTH: THE STRENGTH OF THE HILLS IS HIS ALSO.

5—The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.
6—O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker.

7—FOR HE IS OUR GOD, AND WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF HIS PASTURE, AND THE SHEEP OF HIS HAND. TODAY IF YE WILL HEAR HIS VOICE.

For God, a great God, and great King, above all gods he is. Depths of the earth are in his hand,



The Lottie Moon Christmas offering starts this month. Our goal for this year is \$3,000, with 100% of the money going directly to sustain the international missionaries and their work. If you would like to donate, the prayer guides and special offering envelopes are located at the Welcome Desk and at the church office, and beside the offering boxes.

We also wanted to give an update on Memory from Africa and her nursing school progress. She is underway in the classes. She needs money to help cover her tuition for the year and her balance needs to be paid by January 2024. She needs \$700 dollars to cover the tuition so she can complete her classes. If anyone would like to help Memory, you can contact the church office or contact Christy Sumner at 276-235-2531. Thank you so much for your donations for all the ministries we support.

WOM shopped and packed 63
Operation Christmas Child
Shoeboxes! We are overjoyed and
so appreciative of your support.







"I will give thanks to You, Lord, with all my heart. I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing the praises of Your name, O Most High." Psalm 9

Revelation 4:11 says, "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being."

Kingdom Kids shared their love and prayers by making special cards for Mighty Max. Kingdom Kids prayed a special prayer for not only Mighty Max's healing but also for Mr. Mike's surgery and healing.



November 2023 Attendance Records

| Sunday School 11 am Worship Evening Attendance Hispanic Worship | 11/05/23 102 171 66 <u>52</u> 391 |
|--|---|
| Sunday School 11 am Worship Evening Attendance Hispanic Worship | 11/12/23 104 180 112 <u>45</u> 441 |
| Sunday School 11 am Worship Evening Attendance Hispanic Worship | 11/19/23 110 209 47 <u>45</u> 411 |
| Sunday School 11 am Worship Evening Attendance Hispanic Worship | 11/26/23 98 172 80 <u>40</u> 390 |

Please Note: If you placed an order for 2024 offering envelopes, they will be placed on a table in the church Narthex on Sunday, December 3.

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Kevin Rosenfeld.....Senior Pastor

Mrs. Wendi Pemberton......Minister of Music

Ms. Barbara Bourne........Administrative Secretary
Mrs. Marie Combs........Financial Secretary
Mrs. Nancy Hazelwood.....Organist
Mrs. Patty Davis.......Pianist
Ms. Lynn Frank.......Weekday Preschool Director
Pastor Kevin Rosenfeld....Preschool/Extended Session
Pastor Kevin Rosenfeld...Sunday School Director
Mrs. Penny Adams.....Bus Ministry Director
Mrs. Martha Easter, RN....Volunteer Health Nurse
Rod Hale.....Sexton

CHURCH PHONE: 276-236-5185 CHURCH FAX 276-236-5186

E-MAIL: secretary@fbcgalax.org Website: www.fbcgalax.org



www.facebook.com/FBCGalax

Church Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00 Friday-8:30-1:00



Max Brown, Wanda Riggen, Sam & Nancy Blair, Rose Houk, Debra Cone, Doris Spangler, Lewis Porter, Jacob Holderfield. Mike Coleman.

Debbie Adams, Imogene Frye, Ava Rhodes, Benny & Shirley White, Eddie Davis, Jr. , Steve Conley, Doris Bedwell, Maya

Young & Barry Newman. Glennis Morris—Waddell Nursing & Rehab—Room 118B Martha Combs—Hillsville Health & Rehab—Room 116 Judy Hennis—Waddell Nursing & Rehab—Room 103
Pray for our Country & the U.S. Military & Other Coalition Forces. Pray for Israel.

Much Love & Sympathy to

Arthur, Wendi, Mimi & Jaycie for the passing of Art's Mother, Mildred Pemberton on 11/15 Beverly Rios & Family for the passing of Dr. Juan Rios on 11/26

The Budget Team would like to remind everyone that a designated beautification fund has been established to help with ongoing church improvements and repairs. There is still time to contribute to this fund by 12/31/23 to have it included in your 2023 contribution statement for yearend tax reporting. Thank you for helping improve our beautiful church building and grounds. Great things are happening at FBC due to your continued generosity.

DECEMBER TEAM VOI LINTEERS

| | DECEMBER I EAM | IVOLUNIEERS |
|--|---|--|
| December 3 December 10 December 17 December 24 December 31 | NURSERY Tara Spurlin Noelle Edwards Sally Hill Penny Adams Erica Testerman | |
| December 3 December 10 December 17 December 24 December 31 | SECURITY TEAM Don Houk and Natl Terry Anders & Sco Cody Edwards & B Mark Burnett and Don Houk and Day | ott Hall illy Whitaker Gerald Cox |
| December 3 December 10 December 17 December 24 December 31 | WELCOME CENTER Sarah Keatley Robert Leonard Debbie Patterson Regina Snow Pam Turner | FIRST IMPRESSIONS Dick & Linda Cooley Johnny & Karen Dickson Calvin & Sue Griffith Marty & Cathy Parks Basil & Nancy Carpenter |
| December 3 December 10 December 17 December 24 December 31 | TECH SOUND Mike Stevens Trevor Anders Bryan Dillon Mike Stevens Gary Ballard | TECH PROJECTION Jessica Whitaker Bryan Dillon Jessica Whitaker Trevor Anders Jessica Whitaker |

PASTOR KEVIN'S DECEMBER 2023 SERMON SERIES

December 3-"Keep Awake" Mark 13:24-37

December 10-"Modesty Makes An Appearance" Mark 1:1-8

December 17—"Are We Sufficiently Prepared For the Events of the Days Ahead" John 1:6-8, 19-29

December 24—""God's Presence Can Not Be Contained" 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service "Christmas From Isaiah's Perspective" Isaiah

December 31- "Low Sunday" Galatians 4:4-7



Sunday, December 10th at 7:00 pm The First Baptist Church Choir Presents "Fantasia Noel"

Celebrate the traditions of Christmas-NOELWhile exploring an adventurous,
new musical "FANTASIA"

Noel— a joyous shout celebrating the birth of Christ;

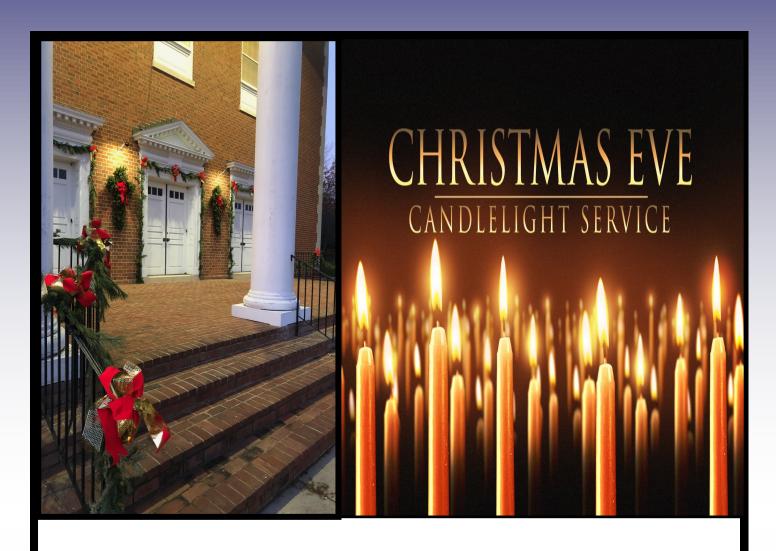
NOEL—an intimate and grateful acknowledgement that
"now He is born, now He is here...now all is well."
Join us in celebration of His coming!
Sound the trumpets and raise His banner high,
in adoration and praise!
Sing "Noel, God is with us!"
FANTASIA NOEL, Christ is born!



Live Nativity Sunday, December 10 Presented by the Kids & Youth



Arrive a little early to enjoy the
Live Nativity
6:15 pm —6:45 pm
Before The
Choir's Presentation
You may also enjoy the Nativity
following the program.



Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service

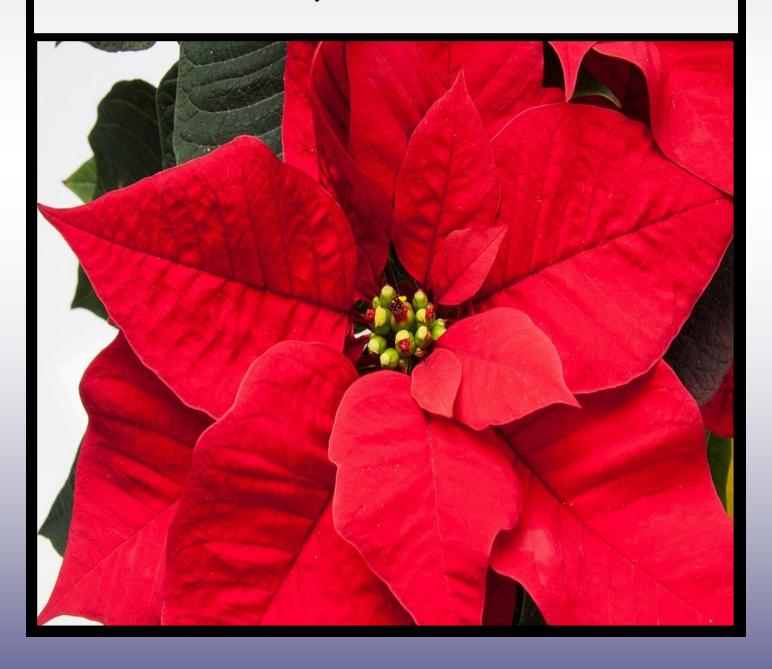
Sunday, December 24th At 5:30 pm FBC Sanctuary

"Christmas From Isaiah's Perspective"

TO PLACE A POINSETTIA IN THE SANCTUARY IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE, PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE

THE COST IS \$10.00 PER POINSETTIA

YOU MAY TAKE YOUR POINSETTIA HOME WITH YOU AT THE END OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH



Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Blessing November 19th

Thank you so much! 212 shoeboxes were filled!





The Operation
Christmas Child
Shoeboxes
were packed with
much love and a
shoebox blessing
with prayer for
the children who
will be receiving the
boxes was given at
FBC!



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND



The FBC Operation
Christmas Child Team
would like to thank
everyone for your
donations and for
making the 2023
campaign a
huge success!

KIDS & YOUTH NOVEMBER GRATITUDE ACTIVITIES INCLUDED Shoebox Blessing, Rocks of Hope & Visiting Galax Health & Rehab



Be sure and visit your FBC Library!

We have Christmas book selections for your holiday reading, and the library will be decorated for the Christmas season.

Stop in on Sunday morning and enjoy a cup of hot coffee or tea and see what is available for your reading pleasure or Bible study.

The library is located on the main floor down the hallway from the church office across from the restrooms.



KENTUCKY MISSION TRIP DECEMBER 26th—29th

FBC is collecting money to buy gifts for children at Dr. Mary Bennett's Sonshine Children's Center All donations are greatly appreciated!

Dr. Mary Kathryn Bennett
is founder & director of Sonshine Children's Center.
For more than 50 years, Mary has served the Lord in the Linefork Valley ministering to children and families.
She fostered over 120 children and adopted 17.
On July 12th Mary celebrated her 81st birthday.
On October 6th she received the Dr. Harold Helms Living
Legacy Award. Her faithful service and continued "YES" to the Lord has impacted more lives than we can ever begin to count!







A Note From Pastor Mary:

On September 27th, I had another heart attack. I was at UK Hospital in Lexington, KY, until September 30th. The doctors there say I am the lady who had nine lives, and now on #11. I feel fine, just moving slow. Will do my duties as usual. Our workers do a great job keeping things moving forward and the kids are all doing just fine. Please keep us in your prayers.

Gratefully yours, Mary Bennett

November Preschool News



Activities included a Thanksgiving Feast & A Fireside Pow Wow







Mrs. Rosenfeld's
4 Year Old Class
Packed
22
Christmas Child
Shoeboxes!



A Note from the Board of Directors

God's Storehouse (GSH) and the Board of Directors are excited about the direction this important community organization is heading. Indulge us while we describe

how God's grace is elevating the GSH mission. First and foremost the new (to us) facility we will be leasing is finally under renovation now in the former Oldtown Market building; we have been blessed with grants obtained from the Twin County Community Foundation and Virginia Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services which supports local farmers through purchases of local beef and vegetables in the amount of \$130,000; and GSH core programs of providing food security and peer recovery interaction changes lives and elevates our community. In just the first nine months of 2023 (January-September) God's Storehouse has provided 13,558 hot meals and given 2,438 food boxes to individuals and families with food insecurity. The Celebrate Recovery program meets weekly to provide support for community members recovering from addiction and had 1781 participants at the meetings from January to September 2023. God's Storehouse and Celebrate Recovery have 14 Peer Recovery Specialists that provide one-on-one support to those in recovery. Since the Celebrate Recovery Program started in 2018, it has seen numerous participants maintain over one year of sobriety and some with many more days and years of sobriety. While we are grateful that the initiatives of God's Storehouse and Celebrate Recovery are assisting so many people, God's Storehouse Board of Directors is looking to the future in contemplation on what will be needed to operate our facility so we can continue providing the life-changing programs and outreach that occurs every day in our community.

When we open our facility in 2024, we want it to be open Monday-Friday, approximately 50 hours a week, for those in need. We envision a welcoming facility and staff, meals being served multiple times a week, individuals in need receiving peer counseling, children and adults receiving tutoring and GED services, and many more opportunities we will continue to identify. With those services come the day-to-day expenses of operating a building with utilities and overhead, development programs; and having a staff person in place to direct and recruit our community volunteers and programs, work on fundraising, and manage the GSH operations.

We know that with our expanded operations we will have utility bills (electric, propane, water, internet) that we have not had to pay before. There will be general office and operating expenses with equipment, accounting services, etc. We will have staffing costs to operate the facility and keep it open approximately 10 hours a day for 5 days a week, with a director being there 30 hours a week and other assistance for the remaining 20 hours a week. While we all know the efforts that the Parks family and our Executive Director Kisha Johnson provide, this is done on a small stipend basis that equals a few dollars an hour for the countless time they spend operating our programs and serving those in need. Our business plan, prepared with assistance from the regional Small Business Development Center, shows that we will need Kisha and other paid staff going forward to be successful and reach our goal for community service.

So how can you help? We are looking for 100 individuals/families/ groups that are willing to pledge and donate \$100 a month for the next year, and hopefully for many years going forward. A monthly donation of that amount will provide \$120,000 in operating funds each years towards our general overhead expenses. If you are unable to pledge that amount, we are grateful for any amount you feel you can pledge monthly or donate towards that overall goal. Other funds we receive will be obtained through donations, grants, rent of incubator offices, and the kitchen space, reimbursement for peer counseling, etc. Those funds will be put back into GSH programs including meals, food boxes, peer recovery, Celebrate Recovery, literacy programs, and many others. The GSH Board and Executive Director will continue to work with local churches, businesses, and individuals to provide weekly meal services to our most in need community members.

We ask that you prayerfully consider becoming a partner with GSH and making a monthly pledge going forward. Funds can be paid monthly, quarterly, or yearly. GSH is a 501c3 organization so any donation is tax deductible. As a show of confidence in our organization and the belief that we, the Board, have in what we are doing at GSH, we have each agreed to pledge \$100 a month gong forward for operational support. We hope you will join in this effort.

Thank you for your belief in our community and your willingness to serve those in need.

Kisha Johnson—Executive Director Board Members:

Mandy Archer, Keith Barker, Mark Burnette, Dewitt Cooper, Angela Jackson, Raquel Lyons, Jimmy Moss, Kevin Rosenfeld, Beth White, and Jolena Young





| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNEDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Noelle Edwards Marie Thomas | 4 Jane Alderman | 5 Debbie Adams Erika Gonzalez | 6 Robert Leonard | 7 | 8 | 9 John Adams, Jr. |
| 10 Dorothy Bowles | 11 | 12 | 13 Rosella Munoz Audrey Turner Debi Dixon | 14 Linda Riddle Crystal Adams | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Sara Lindsey | 19 Donna Garland Melanie Dowell | 20 | 21 Joy Turner | 22 Tammy Wyatt | 23 |
| 24 Erica Testerman | 25 Gay Helms Ginger Vaughan | 26 | 27 Patricia Edwards | 28 Jackie McGrady Cindy Rodriguez | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Linda Painter Don Houk | | | | | | |



December 2023 Services & Activities

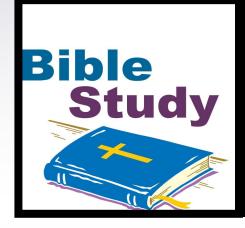
| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship 1st Sunday of Advent Called Business Meeting TruNorth—6 pm Kids Explorer - No Meeting | 4 5:30 pm Bible Study | 5 10 am Paper Pals | 6 6:00 pm Prayer Group 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 6:15 pm Live Nativity 7:00 pm FBC Choir 's Christmas Program "Fantasia Noel" | 11 5:30 pm Bible Study | 12 10 am Paper Pals 11 am Women On Mission Women on Mission | 13 NO Prayer Group NO Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm Kingdom Kids | 14 | Fellowship Hall Reserved for Common Ground Sunday School Class Christmas Party | 16 |
| 17 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship | No Bible Study— Studies will resume January 8th | 19 10 am Paper Pals | 20 11 am Preschool Christmas Program 6:00 pm Prayer Group 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal | 11:30 am Loss Support Group | 22 Church Office Closed | 23 Fellowship Hall Reserved |
| 24 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 5:30 pm Candlelight & Communion Service | Merry Christmas And Happy New Year Church Office Closed | Pastor Kevin's Mission Trip To Kentucky | 27 NO Prayer Group NO Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm Kingdom Kids Kentucky Mission Trip | 28 Kentucky Mission Trip | Returning from Kentucky Mission Trip | 30 |
| 31 9:45 am Sunday School 11 am Worship New Year's Eve | | | | | | |





SOUP KITCHEN December 4

Please have bread and desserts to the church by 1:00 pm



PASTOR KEVIN'S
MONDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY
5:30 pm
Attend in Person or View
Livestream on www.fbcgalax.org
or watch through Facebook
December Studies held on 4th & 11th



December 12

@ 11:00 am Please contact

Christy Sumner for more information



Loss Support Group Dec. 21 @ 11:30 am

For More Information
Please Contact
Bruce Thomas or
Call the Church Office



PRAYER TIME
LED BY PASTOR KEVIN
WEDNESDAY @ 6:00 PM
IN THE CHURCH PARLOR
(December 6th & December 20th)



CHOIR REHEARSAL WEDNESDAY @ 6:30 PM (December 6th & December 20th)

FBC Choir Christmas Concert Sunday, December 10 @ 7:00 pm



Kingdom Kids December 13 & 27 @ 5:30 pm



Tru-North & Kids Explorers
YOUTH MEETINGS
Sunday Evenings @ 6:00 pm

(Schedule will vary in December)



PAPER PALS

Each Tuesday @ 10 am
(Volunteers cut out and prepare craft projects for the Preschool Teachers)
All Volunteers Are Welcome!