



FROM YOUR PASTOR...

Happy 2023! In this new year, we have a fresh opportunity to: listen for God’s spirit moving among us, discern where God is leading us, and be courageous innovators as we know that God is still “making all things new!”

Therefore, it’s important to understand *the difference between “essentials and non-essentials.”* In order to be faithful to our mission, we must be flexible with our methods and faithful to the task of following Jesus—which requires “discernment.” We discern God’s leadership by:

- **connecting** with God & one another,
- **clarifying** God’s direction as a community, and
- **committing** toward doing God’s will together.

While we certainly live in challenging times, this is also an exciting time to be a part of what God is doing and how God is re-forming the Church!

PLEASE READ OUR 2022 IMPACT REPORT INSIDE!

First Baptist is making an impact on our community for God’s kingdom!

So, let’s begin 2023 with God in the very center of our life together... listening prayerfully, loving generously, and acting courageously.

It begins as each one of us commits to see through the eyes of Jesus daily. It continues as we faithfully gather for worship, spiritual formation, and deepening community every Sunday. It culminates as we live missionally by serving our families and neighbors as the presence of Christ.

So, peace to you my friends and saddle up for the Journey into 2023!

Dennis

Dr. Paul Baxley, National CBF Executive Coordinator



FEBRUARY 5, 2023

Dr. Baxley will be joining us to preach in 10:45 a.m. morning worship followed by lunch and conversation.

He frequently preaches and teaches across the 30-year-old Fellowship as he leads this diverse community that includes nearly 1,400 congregations, thousands of individuals, 19 state and regional organizations, 800-plus chaplains and pastoral counselors, dozens of theological education and ministry partners, and 60-plus field personnel serving in 20 countries. Previously, Paul served as senior minister of First Baptist Church in Athens, Ga., since 2010. A native of Winston-Salem, N.C., he has also held pastorates and ministry positions in North Carolina and Virginia and is a former member of the CBF Governing Board.



CENTRAL/EASTERN NC FOOD BANK
POP-UP FOOD MARKET

CLC parking lot
2ND MONDAYS’
10AM—NOON

Please contact the church office if you can volunteer a couple of hours to help feed our community.



SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GATHERING @ 6PM

Grades 6-12 are invited for food & Bible study in the Christian Life Center on the first and third Sunday evenings each month, 6:00 - 7:30! We will continue our curriculum "Seeing Through the Eyes of Jesus." We will have a movie night in January, date TBD. Join us for Church Night basketball game at UMO on February 4. *If you would like to provide the meal one Sunday night for our youth please contact Darren!*



The next JOY meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 15, at 11:00 a.m. in the CLC. Be sure to mark your calendars!

thank you!



Dear Dr. Atwood & FBC,

We express our sincere thanks to you for your continuous support to Helping Hands Ministries. We want you to know that your monetary donation was a blessing in helping us to meet our goal with the Christmas boxes, and we are so thankful. May God continue to bless each of you.

Lula Newkirk

thank you!



Bereavement Ministry,

Thank you for the delicious meal prepared and served to us after Mama's funeral. Everything was delicious and it was so thoughtful of you to feed us and allow us this time to unwind and reflect.

We will miss Mama so much, but know she is now with Daddy and resting in the arms of Jesus.

Again, thank you for your kindness.

**Pam Warren
Cliff & Sue Phillips**

Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donations to support the students, families, and staff of Mount Olive Middle School at the holidays and throughout the school year. We are so grateful for all that you provide to help ensure success for our students both in the classroom and in our community. Our student population is very diverse and has a diverse set of needs, challenges, and accommodations necessary to achieve success. Your generous gifts help our students learn and achieve at their highest potential. We are blessed by the support and prayers of the First Baptist Church family as we strive to educate and enrich the lives of the students in our care. Many thanks for all you do to champion success at Mount Olive Middle School as well as in our community.

**EJ Cromartie
Principal
Mount Olive Middle School**

thank you!



Dear First Baptist Church,

Thank you so much for the monetary Christmas gift. With a new semester beginning soon, this is much needed to help with expenses at UMO. Thank you also for the opportunity to serve the church as choral scholars. The experiences we are gaining mean a lot to us personally and professionally. We look forward to a good spring semester at FBC.

Anna, Christian, and Jonathan

Dear Church Family,

Times like these that our family are going through is made easier when someone comes into your home to put food before you and says, "enjoy" -- expecting nothing more than that -- for us just to sit down and enjoy! And we did!

Thank you all for the visits, calls, cards, prayers and love sent out to us for several months. All that warmth was not lost -- even though Lloyd could hardly breathe, he was aware of all the warmth sent out to him -- as was I.

Lloyd loved First Baptist -- especially his SS class. We, as a family, thank each of you for all you have done. Please continue to pray for us.

Casey Sutton

To FBC, with gratitude. May God bless the church family for you all have blessed many families.

Ms. Sellers, Benevolence Recipient



How we are impacting our community and world through faithful stewardship and mission...

- LOCAL BENEVOLENCE: \$9,040.56 – Assisted 93 households with electricity, water, gas, rent, transportation; two-night lodging for a displaced family.
- CARVER ELEMENTARY: \$900 – Cushions for reading nooks for students.
- MOUNT OLIVE MIDDLE SCHOOL: \$4,050 – Furnishings for Engagement Resource Room sponsored by FBCMO (\$3,000); sponsored 8 students for Christmas (\$1,000); provided locker fees for 10 students (\$50).
- HELPING HANDS MISSION: \$1,500 – helped with food boxes for needy at Christmas (\$500); helped with food boxes for Thanksgiving and other ministries as needed (\$1,000).
- ALL THE KINGS CHILDREN: \$1,000 – for children’s Christmas gifts.
- SPOKEN WORD MINISTRY: \$300 – for ministries to the blind.
- BICYCLE MINISTRY: provided bikes to 12 out-of-state and international students at the University of Mt. Olive.
- JACKSON, MS WATER CRISIS / CBF MISSISSIPPI: \$2,000 provided to CBF Mississippi to purchase bottled water during water crises for residents caused by severe storms.
- WESTFALL INDIA MISSION (0.5% of offering): \$786.14.
- THE COOPERATIVE BAPTIST FELLOWSHIP (10% of offering): \$15,722.47.
- ALKEBULAN COMMUNITY REFORM: \$400 – sponsorship of golf tournament to benefit the scholarship fund for high school students in Wayne County.
- THE OUTLAW FOUNDATION: \$440 - sponsorship of golf tournament to raise money for cancer patient’s needs.
- THE GRATITUDE PROJECT - \$25,000 approved for the following initiatives **NOT INCLUDED IN TOTAL FOR 2022**.
 - \$5,000 – *Keys to Success* by Janet Rose, FBMO Member.
 - \$10,000 – *AtKC Learning Lab* by All the King’s Children 501(c)(3).
 - \$10,000 – *Beyond the Game* by Fellowship of Christian Athletes 501(c)(3).
 - Application Pending – *Housing for Hope* by WARM NC 501(c)(3).

TOTAL OF \$36,139.17 GIVEN TOWARD LOCAL, NATIONAL, & GLOBAL MINISTRY AND MISSIONS IMPACTING PEOPLE!

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Office closed	3 10 a.m. - Staff meeting	4 7 p.m.-Choir Rehearsal resumes	5	6	7 CLC – O'Brien
8	9 Food Bank Farmers Market 10 – 12 noon CLC parking lot	10 10 a.m. - Staff meeting	11 6 p.m. - Prayer & Bible Study resumes 7 p.m.-Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14
15 3 p.m. Trustees 4 p.m. Diaconate 5 p.m. Coordinating Council	16 Office closed MLK, Jr. holiday	17 10 a.m. - Staff meeting	18 6 p.m. - Prayer & Bible Study resumes 7 p.m.-Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21
22	23	24 10 a.m. - Staff meeting	25 6 p.m. - Prayer & Bible Study resumes 7 p.m.-Choir Rehearsal	26	27	28
29	30	31 10 a.m. - Staff meeting				

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday
9:00 am-12:30 pm & 1:30 pm-4:00 pm

USHERS/GREETERS

Luther Thompson
(If you are willing to help, please contact Luther.)

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sunday School Groups (9:30 AM)
Sunday Morning Worship (10:45 AM)
1st & 3rd SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GATHERING (6-7:30 PM)
Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study (6-7PM)
Wednesday Chancel Choir Rehearsal (7PM)

**YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS ARE APPRECIATED VIA OUR ONLINE GIVING LINK: fbcmountolive.org/give-online
OR MAIL TO: FBCMO PO Box 239 Mount Olive, NC 28365**

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Melvin/Owens Wedding prep.	4 Melvin/Owens Wedding
5 Guest Preacher Dr. Paul Baxley National CBF Church-wide lunch	6	7 10 a.m. - Staff meeting	8	9	10	11
12 *11:30 - YAC	13 Food Bank Farmers Market 10 – 12 noon CLC parking lot	14 10 a.m. - Staff meeting	15 11:00 a.m. – JOY meeting	16	17	18
19 3 p.m. Trustees 4 p.m. Diaconate 5 p.m. Coordinating Council	20	21 10 a.m. - Staff meeting	22	23	24	25
26 *11:30 - YAC	27	28 10 a.m. - Staff meeting				

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Sunday School Groups (9:30 AM)
 Sunday Morning Worship (10:45 AM)
 *Young Adult Class (YAC) 2nd & 4th Sundays after church (food & Bible study)
 1st & 3rd SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH GATHERING (6-7:30 PM)
 Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study (6-7PM)
 Wednesday Chancel Choir Rehearsal (7PM)

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January Birthdays

1 Jean Bunch	22 Mark Humphrey
Donald Godwin	23 Morgan McCoy
7 Erma Jean Jones	24 Charles Davis
12 Teresa Swanda	Kristin Whiting
15 Wayne Gardner	26 Cole Atwood
18 Ken Dilda	28 Dylan Atwood
Carrie Talton	Rayne Caudill
	Dale Overman

February Birthdays

1 Charles Herndon	19 Leona Brock
3 Jeannie Byrd	21 Preston Parker
Morgan Evans Howell	Michael Phillips
7 Peggy San Fratello	Edna Thigpen
10 Bryan King	24 DeWayne Parvin
13 William Saviak	25 Catherine McDonald
16 Bill Rose	
17 Wayne Whiting	



FIRST BAPTIST
MOUNT OLIVE

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