

Zebulon Baptist Church  
400 N. Arendell Ave.  
Post Office Box 366  
Zebulon, North Carolina 27597-0366

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Zebulon, NC  
Permit No. 42

## Zebulon Baptist Church

*A center of worship*

*A place of ministry*

*A fellowship of believers*

*Reverend Ward Page, Senior Pastor*

*Phone: 919-269-7329*

*Visit us on the web: [myzbc.org](http://myzbc.org)*



*Address Service Requested*

### DECEMBER YOUTH NEWS

**JOURNEYS IN DECEMBER** — We have started preparing our hearts for Christmas on Wednesday nights during our Journeys time. Each week we will have an Advent study. Come to the Blue Room from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. for some fun, refreshments, and Bible study.

**December 6** — Advent Study: Week 2

**December 13** — Advent Study: Week 3

**December 20** — NO JOURNEYS

**December 27** — NO JOURNEYS

**SHOPPING FOR FAMILY** — The ZBCY will go out to lunch and shopping for our Benevolence family on Sunday, December 10. Please bring money to support buying presents to make this family's Christmas special. We will also go out to lunch before shopping, so bring money for that as well.

**YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY** — Our Youth Christmas party will be Sunday, December 17. We will begin at 5:00 p.m. at the Joy Gift Service. Be sure you have picked a card off the Joy Gift tree, and bring the item (unwrapped) with the tag on the gift to the service. We will sit together and then begin our progressive dinner party after the service concludes! Hope to see you all there for a fun and festive night together.

**KANKI AND MOVIE** — Wednesday, December 27, the youth will go out for our annual trip to Kanki and a movie. Sign up will end Sunday, December 17. Please go to the sign up link, [bit.ly/zbcysignup](http://bit.ly/zbcysignup), to secure your spot!

### COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

The ZBCY have carefully prepared care packages for our college and career students. These boxes may be picked up from the Sanctuary building (on a table in front of the choir room). If you are a family member or friend that would like to pick up the box, please deliver it to the individual in time for the holiday season and end of the semester. The ZBCY are praying for all of these "graduated and forever youth" and hope it brightens their day.

### DECEMBER 2023

Advent is my favorite season in the church liturgical calendar. Every week in December, there are some great opportunities to gather, worship, give, serve, and fellowship. Every carol we sing, every gift we purchase, every party we attend—they all build the anticipation of the celebration we will soon experience as we remember the Incarnation, *Emmanuel*, "God-is-with-us."

Advent is also a season of upheaval. I do not refer to the busyness of the season: the various engagements, the shopping, the stress. No, Advent is a season in which our lives are transformed. My family is about to move to a new home in Zebulon, bringing to a conclusion my transition as your new pastor. After years of being residents of Raleigh (Raleighites?), we will finally be Zebulonites! But while this transformation certainly has the fingerprints of God upon it, it was still one my family chose.

I think about Mary, whose life was transformed the moment a heavenly messenger told her she would bear the Messiah. What choice did she have, but to obey and give thanks that she had "found favor with God"? What a disturbing experience that must have been!

In his Advent Devotional entitled *Honest Advent*, Scott Erickson confesses:

*I'm actually afraid of revelation. All great stories come at a cost, and the cost of revelation is that it's going to ask something of us. In any divine annunciation, you receive revelation as a gift, yet at the same time you receive notice that all that you had planned is ending. It's all over. Everything will change—most of all you.*

Advent is a time to reflect on the coming collision of heaven and earth, when God became human, a divinity wrapped in mortal skin and swaddling clothes. The impact can be frightening, unsettling, even violent. But the revelation of Jesus Christ, *Immanuel*, "God-is-with-us," invites us to welcome transformation into our midst.

Are you prepared for an upheaval this Advent season? May God continue to form us through the revelation of Jesus Christ today and always. Amen.

Blessings and Peace to you this season,  
Rev. Ward Page

### CHILDREN'S CHOIRS SINGING IN DECEMBER

**December 3, Morning Worship** — The Music Mates Choir

**December 10, Morning Worship** — The Junior Choir

**December 10, Evening Worship** — The Junior Choir

**December 17, Morning Worship** — The Cherub Choir and Youth Choir

**December 17, Evening Worship** — **The Joy Gift Service** — All our graded choirs: Music Mates, Cherub and Junior Choirs, Youth Choir, and Youth Handbell Choir

### ADVENT WREATH WORKSHOP

**December 3 at 4:00 p.m.**

**In the Fellowship Hall**

Bring a pie tin or something to hold your wreath, and maybe some clippers to help cut your greenery.

### SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

*O Holy Light*

**December 10 at 5:00 p.m.**

Our Sanctuary Choir and instrumentalists will present the beautiful musical, *O Holy Light*, by Mary McDonald. The music is a wonderful collection of new and familiar carols. Our Junior Choir will be joining the Sanctuary Choir for one piece. Our Adult Handbell Choir will also be presenting their Christmas music. Plan now to invite your friends and neighbors to join us on Sunday evening, December 10. The musical will begin at 5:00 p.m. and a nursery will be provided.

### JOY GIFT SERVICE

**December 17 at 5:00 p.m.**

The Music Mates, Cherub and Junior Choirs, Youth Choir, and Youth Handbells Choir will all present their Christmas music in this service that concludes with bringing forward our unwrapped gifts for children and youth in our Christmas Benevolence Ministry. This wonderful service begins at 5:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary with nursery provided for infants and toddlers.

### LAST WEDNESDAY NIGHT REGULAR PROGRAM 2023

Wednesday, December 13 is our last regular Wednesday night. We will start back on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. The Sanctuary Choir will enjoy dinner and rehearsal on Wednesday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

### THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, MONDAY, DECEMBER 25, AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2023**

### CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE 2023

Thank you to all that have made the decision to contribute to the Christmas Benevolence Ministry. Your generosity is greatly appreciated! We have just a few families remaining and the sign-up notebook is outside the church office. The Joy Gift Tree can be found outside the parlor and is another great way to support Christmas Benevolence. Feel free to select a tag(s), purchase the item, and bring it to the Joy Gift Service. Please know we are in need of a few volunteers to help with organizing, last minute shopping, errands, and distribution on December 18 and 19. Please let Holly Lee (919-810-7036, [priority.holly@gmail.com](mailto:priority.holly@gmail.com)) or Shannon Speller know if you would like to volunteer!

Here are some remaining needs:

- Please reach out if you have connections to window sales/repair.
- 2 car seats for 19-month old twins (Car seats have an expiration date on the bottom. Please check prior to donating and refrain from donating any seats that have been involved in an accident.)
- full bed (bed frame and mattress)
- queen mattress

Many requests for bicycles this year!



### ZBC CHRISTMAS POST OFFICE

Our ZBC Christmas Post Office is open. You can place Christmas cards to fellow church members in the appropriate boxes of our Christmas Post Office, located outside the Fellowship Hall. **PLEASE remember to mail cards to homebound members, and PLEASE mail cards to members who may not come to church often.** Remember to check the post office regularly for greetings sent to you.

### HELP NEEDED IN THE NURSERY!

Zebulon Baptist Church is in search of a part-time Assistant Nursery Worker to provide dependable, safe, secure and nurturing care to the children in our church, ages 0 through 5 years old. If you are interested, please visit (<https://tinyurl.com/ZBC-Assistant-Nursery-Worker>) to review a complete job description and send a message to the personnel team. You can direct any questions to [personnel@myzbc.org](mailto:personnel@myzbc.org), Trisha Jones (Administrative Deacon Personnel Chair), Ben Possiel (Administrative Deacon for Nursery Staff), Shannon Speller (Minister of Children, Outreach and Missions), or Kelly DuPont (Nursery Deacon).

## Year End Giving

Each year our church receives a large portion of our gifts during December as members make gifts to be recorded on their giving record for taxes. As of the last Sunday in November, we have received 83% of our Unified Budget for the year. If we meet our goal for December, we will have reached 99.98% of budget! The New Day Campaign has received 75% of the 2023 (Year 2) goal as of the last Sunday in November.

Following is additional information about the offerings to consider at Zebulon Baptist:

The **Unified Ministry Budget** is the day-to-day budget, also known as the Unified Budget or Operating Budget. Offerings to the Unified Ministry Budget allow Zebulon Baptist Church to: do missions within our community, state and world; support our ministers and staff; provide Sunday School and Bible Study curriculum; and, maintain all the support services needed in the operation of the church.

The **New Day Capital Campaign** is an offering to pay obligations for facility projects, complete additional special projects for the campus and facilities, as well as to provide resources that enable us participate in mission partnerships and mission action.

There are a variety of ways you can give to Zebulon Baptist Church:

**In Person** – You can put your offering in the offering plate during any worship service or bring it by the office anytime during business hours.

**Online via credit card** – Visit our website at MyZBC.org and click the **Worship** tab, then click on **Giving**. Or scan this QR Code with your smartphone. Enter your information in the form, designating how you would like your offering to be applied. You can make a one-time donation or select a recurring interval.

**Electronic Funds Transfer** – This method withdraws your designated donation from your bank account at the interval you select. You can download a form from the **Giving** page or pick one up from the church office. The completed form must be submitted to the church office during business hours.



Visit the **Giving** page of our website to review some other ways you may choose to give.

We encourage you to consider making gifts of cash, stocks, or other assets to God through this church to be used in support of our Ministry Budget or New Day Campaign. The church office will be open until 4:00 p.m. on Friday, December 29, 2023 to receive your gifts that will be credited on your 2023 giving. Also, any mailed gifts must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2023 to be counted in this tax year. Online gifts must be made by December 31, 2023 as well in order to be credited to your 2023 giving record. We greatly appreciate the generous, faithful, and obedient giving of our ZBC family, especially at this time of year.

If you have questions about Giving to ZBC, please contact June Sanders at [june.sanders@myzbc.org](mailto:june.sanders@myzbc.org).

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