

LAST WEEK'S CHURCH RECORD

Sunday School 181
Worship Attendance in the Sanctuary..... 316
Worship Attendance (via Facebook views) 137
Weekly Budget Requirement \$16,093.00
Budget Gifts \$18,255.25
YTD Budget Requirements \$ 804,650.00
YTD Budget Gifts \$ 741,051.44

A NEW DAY

Total Campaign Goal \$ 850,000.00
Gifts for Week 102 \$ 2,969.75
Total Gifts \$ 368,404.86

OUR KNOWN SICK

At Home:
Paula Williams
Curtis Strickland
WakeMed:
Connie Brayboy

OUR CHURCH CALENDAR

TODAY

9:00am Sunday School
10:15am Morning Worship (Sanctuary or
Facebook Live feed)
11:15am Children's Library Opens
11:30am Preschool Christmas Party — Blue
Room
5:00pm Joy Gift Service— Sanctuary
Youth Christmas Party

WEDNESDAY

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

MONDAY

8:30am Meditation — Parlor

TUESDAY

10:00am Women's Bible Study — D11

**** REMINDER ****

**The Church Office will be closed beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday,
December 21; and will remain closed through Tuesday, December 26.**

ZEBULON BAPTIST CHURCH, 400 N. ARENDELL AVE., P. O. Box 366, ZEBULON, NC 27597

Telephone: 919-269-7329; website: myzbc.org

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday –Thursday — 9:00am to 4:00pm

Friday — 9:00am to 1:00pm

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — LOVE

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE — “There Is a Song in the Air” arr. Smith & Hustad

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her

that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.

*A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.*

*Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’*

— Isaiah 40:1-5 (NRSV)

***ADVENT HYMN** No. 87

“Arise Your Light Is Come” — Duck-Walter

Acolyte — Paige Robertson

Litany Readers — Robert and Diana Jones

LITANY FOR CANDLE OF LOVE

Reader: We hear God’s call to be part of making God’s dream for our salvation and flourishing a reality. We seek to use the gifts God has given us so that God’s love may transform us into bearers of good news.

Congregation: **We wait as people who have encountered divine Love that disrupts the status quo and ushers us into abundant life marked by mutual love and peace that flows from the flourishing of all people.**

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, our just peace, and the love that transforms us. May Love grow within us, transforming us into bold witnesses of God’s salvation with our voices and our lives. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF LOVE

SUNDAY SCHOOL TOURS

Pastor Ward will be visiting Sunday School classes over the coming weeks, following the tentative schedule below:

<u>Sunday School Class</u>	<u>Sunday Date</u>
Career & College	January 7
Women’s 2	January 14
Juniors 2	January 28

HEALTH AND WELLNESS BIBLE STUDY

The Health and Wellness Bible study has finished the current session and will begin a new session on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in D11. If you would like to join this study, **please text Suzanne Perry at (919) 631-4056 by TODAY, December 17** so that materials can be ordered.



NEWCOMERS LUNCHEON — SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024

Newcomers to Zebulon Baptist Church, whether new visitors or new members, are invited to join our ministry staff and a few of our deacons for a free luncheon in our Fellowship Hall following our 10:15 a.m. worship service on Sunday, January 14. **Please respond by submitting the QR form in this article or by calling the church office at (919) 269-7329 no later than Sunday, January 7, 2024.**



MEMBERS TO REMEMBER:

At Home: Glenn & Fay Horton

Coventry House: Rachel Massey

Remember these persons this week with your prayers, cards, contacts, or visits!



Year End Giving

The church office will be open until 4:00p.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** in order to be credited to your 2023 giving record. 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, and we greatly appreciate the generous, faithful, and obedient giving of our ZBC family throughout the year. For more information about our giving opportunities and ways to give, visit the **Giving** page of our website, or contact June Sanders at june.sanders@myzbc.org. There is also additional information in the December newsletter.

2024 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2024 offering envelopes are ready to be picked up in the foyer of Building D. If you do not find a box with your name on it, please contact June Sanders in the office, and she will gladly give you a box. Envelopes are available to anyone who would like a box (members, non-members, regular visitors, and children.)



SPIRITUAL FORMATION MINISTRY

TUESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY — Women's Bible Study will be using Bible studies in the *Nurturing Faith* magazine (available outside the church office on the literature rack). All weekly Bible studies are dated using the Sunday date, and each week we will be discussing the study dated the Sunday prior to our Tuesday meeting date. All ladies are welcome to join the group on Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in room D11 for a time of Bible study, discussion, and fellowship.

This Bible Study will not be meeting on Tuesday, December 26, but will start back on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with love so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever Amen.

CHORUS — "The Christmas Gift"

'Tis the Gift of a Savior, 'tis the Gift of God's love who came to us from heav'n above. The Promised Messiah born in Bethlehem's stall came to free His own as the Lord of all.

Sing, sing a simple song of cheer; an Advent gift for all is here! Sing! Sing, for this Holy One is a gift of love, God's Holy Son!

SPECIAL MUSIC BY THE CHERUB CHOIR

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

***ADVENT HYMN** No. 98
"Hail to the Lord's Anointed" — Montgomery

OFFERTORY — "The Journey to Bethlehem" Franck

*ADVENT DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

Our hope is in the God we love, who blesses us from heav'n above, praise God on high for Jesus' birth, whose loving Spirit fills the earth. Amen.

***A CAROL FOR ADVENT** No. 124
"The First Nowell" — English Carol

PASTORAL PRAYER

ANTHEM — "Joy Has Dawned" arr. Larson
The Sanctuary Choir

SERMON — *To Bring You Eye Witness News* . . . Rev. Ward Page
John 1:6-8
(Page 73 in New Testament of Pew Bibles)

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT** No. 96
"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" — Thomerson

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBERS

BENEDICTION

*CLOSING CAROL — “Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*POSTLUDE — “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” arr. by Callahan

*The Congregation is invited to stand as they are able.

CCL #1437762

SL #20535958

JOY GIFT SERVICE

December 17, 5:00 p.m.

All our graded choirs will be singing: Music Mates, Cherub and Junior Choirs, Youth Choir, and Youth Handbell Choir

Please bring your unwrapped gifts from the tags on the Joy Gift Tree.

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Preschool Christmas party will be **TODAY, December 17**, right after worship in the Blue Room. Lunch will be provided!

POINSETTIAS AND MISSION TREE DONATIONS

The booklets listing the Poinsettias and Mission Tree Donations for 2023 will be available on the tables in the Sanctuary for those that would like to have a copy. If you are not able to get a copy at today’s worship service, there will be more copies available in the church office.

CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE 2023 UPDATE

Thank you to all that have stepped forward to contribute to the Christmas Benevolence Ministry. We are grateful for your donations, time, and prayers. Items for sponsored families are due in a Sunday School classroom (wrapped or unwrapped) **TODAY, Sunday, December 17**. Please remember to label all items (example: Family 12, Child 1). Here are some remaining needs:

- full bed (bed frame and mattress)
- queen mattress

If you would like to volunteer for our “Prep Day” on December 18 or “Distribution Day” on December 19, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. Please reach out to Holly Lee (919-810-7036, priority.holly@gmail.com) or Shannon Speller with questions.

YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH JOURNEYS — No Journeys this week! We will be returning to Wednesday night Journeys on January 10, 2024.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY — Our Youth Christmas party is **TONIGHT**, Sunday, December 17. We will begin at 5:00 p.m. at the Joy Gift Service. Bring the item (unwrapped) with the tag from the Joy Gift tree 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 TODAY, Sunday, December 17**. Please go to the sign up link, 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 the “graduated and forever youth” and hope it brightens their day.



COLLEGE AND CAREER CHRISTMAS PARTY

Meet by the vans at 6:30 p.m. for a fun night together on Thursday, December 21. See Lauren with any questions.

OUTREACH TEAM members greeting visitors after worship will be .
DEACONS welcoming visitors and members this morning are Jim Calhoun and Sarah Hester.
PRAYER TEAM member dedicated to prayer for our ZBC worship service, our Zebulon community, our world, and many shared prayer concerns is Roger Peterson.
USHERS for this morning are Craig Hopkins, Justin Howell, Will Letchworth, Justin Perry, Tommy Vinson, and Logan Williams.
NURSERY VOLUNTEERS are Lara Deaton, Sherry Hayes, Grace Viera, Rachel Viera, and Susan Richert.