

LAST WEEK'S CHURCH RECORD

Sunday School 191
Worship Attendance in the Sanctuary..... 323
Worship Attendance (via Facebook views) 137
Weekly Budget Requirement \$16,093.00
Budget Gifts \$22,737.01
YTD Budget Requirements \$ 820,743.00
YTD Budget Gifts \$ 763,788.45

A NEW DAY

Total Campaign Goal \$ 850,000.00
Gifts for Week 103 \$ 8,762.00
Total Gifts \$ 377,166.86

OUR KNOWN SICK

At Home:
Paula Williams
Curtis Strickland

WakeMed:
Doug Radford

Pam Health Specialty
Hospital in Rocky
Mount:
Connie Brayboy

OUR CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY

10:15am Morning Worship (Sanctuary or
Facebook Live feed)
11:15am Children's Library Opens
5:00pm Christmas Eve Service—
Sanctuary
7:30pm Christmas Eve Service —
Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY

NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY

9:00am-4:00pm Office Hours

FRIDAY

9:0am-1:00pm Office Hours

MONDAY

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

**** REMINDER ****

**The Church Office will be closed on Monday,
December 25 and 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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — JOY

CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE — “Him the Shepherds Praise So Greatly” Walcha

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.”

Luke 1:46b-49 (NRSV)

***ADVENT HYMN** No. 79

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” — Neale-Coffin-Helmore

Acolyte — Kyleigh McLamb

Litany Readers — The McLamb Family

LITANY FOR CANDLE OF JOY

Reader: We come today as people who are surrounded by suffering and grief. And yet, the Spirit hovers among us, tending and anointing, inspiring freedom where there is captivity, declaring blessing in places the world has cursed, and igniting fierce joy where mourning and heartache prevail.

Congregation: **We wait as people who experience hardship and pain, yet we are called to witness to the persistent joy that sustains our life as God’s people.**

Reader: We light these candles as signs of our shocking hope, just peace, the love that transforms us, and fierce joy. May our lives shine with the tenacious joy of the Light who lives in our hearts as we wait and work for the coming of God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birth of Christ, experience the joy of salvation and celebrate with great love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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

Some church members have received emails from unknown addresses pretending to be members of our church staff. Please remember that no member of our church staff will solicit private or financial information, or monetary assistance. If you receive such an email that appears to be from a staff member, but are unsure if it is legitimate, please contact our church office immediately. Do not respond to the email, and especially do not offer any personal or private information.



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: Dot Brown

The Lodge at Wake Forest: Evelyn Allen
Remember these persons this week with your prayers, cards, contacts, or visits!



Year End Giving

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**, 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.)



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

A gift has been offered in honor of Waddell and Jane Mitchell by John and Susan Cashwell.

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.

CHORUS — "The Christmas Gift"

*'Tis the Gift of a Savior, 'tis the Gift of God's joy 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 joy, God's Holy Son!*

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

*A CAROL FOR ADVENT No. 85

"Christians All, Your Lord Is Coming" — Miller

*Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth.
Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth.
Dance and move to show God's glory; kneel and pause to hear God's word.*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Rise and let your songs be heard.

*Christians all, your Lord is coming, calling you to serve in deed.
See the ones who hurt and suffer, hear their cry and act with speed.
Set all selfish ways behind you. Purge your hearts of sinful greed.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ in you will meet their need.*

*Christians all, your Lord is coming, He will rise up from the dead.
Lift the cup of sin forgiven; bless the host and eat His bread.
Mend the ways where peace is broken, give yourselves to true Shalom.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Dwell as one in church and home.*

*Christians all, your Lord is coming, hope for peace is now at hand.
Let there be no hesitation, walk in faith where life demands.
Bear the word that God has given; share the birth that stirs your soul.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ will come and make you whole.*

OFFERTORY — "The First Nowell" Gehrke

*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.*

SCRIPTURE READING AND PRAYER Luke 1:26-56

(Page 45 in New Testament of Pew Bibles)

SPECIAL MUSIC — "Song of Mary" arr. Larson

Soloist — Liz Lytch

Ensemble — Jackson Glasgow, Don Horton, Lisa Horton, and Tammy Staples

SERMON — *Featuring a Very Special Appearance . . .* Rev. Ward Page

***HYMN OF COMMITMENT** No. 102
“Joy to the World” — Watts-Handel-Mason

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** — “Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising” arr. Kickstat

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

CCL #1437762

SL #20535958

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 p.m. — Sanctuary

7:30 p.m. — Sanctuary

Please join us for a Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service at one of the above listed times. A nursery will be provided for the 5:00 p.m. service.

CHRISTMAS BENEVOLENCE 2023

As of Tuesday morning, December 19, 11 local families are now preparing for a joy-filled Christmas thanks to your generosity through the Christmas Benevolence Ministry. Thank you to all those that sponsored families, made donations, helped with organizing, loaded vehicles, made deliveries, and shopped for groceries and remaining items. It could not have been done without you! As we reflect upon the culmination of this year’s ministry, let’s keep in mind:

“We need Joy as we need air.

We need Love as we need water.

We need each other as we need the earth we share.” (anonymous)

Benevolence is a year-round ministry. May we all continue to share and experience Joy, spread Love, and take care of one another.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Holly Lee and Shannon Speller

YOUTH NEWS

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

KANKI AND MOVIE — Wednesday, December 27, the youth will go out for our annual trip to Kanki and a movie.

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.

POINSETTIAS AND MISSION TREE DONATIONS

The booklets listing the Poinsettias and Mission Tree Donations for 2023 will be available in the church office.



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.

The Christmas Post Office will be taken down on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

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 Debbie Ladd.

USHERS for this morning are Jim Calhoun, Grayson Cannady, Kevin Deaton, Tyler Hester, Edward Hull, and Patrick Williams.

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS are Ann Brooks, Mary Pat Hicks, Kayla Howell, and Susan Richert.