



"Emerging Star 2" by Virginia Wierenga

First Baptist Church  
Greensboro, North Carolina  
gathers for  
The Worship of God  
*First Sunday of Advent*, December 1, 2024

So may we know the hope that is not just for someday but for this day— here, now, in this moment  
that opens to us: hope not made of wishes but of substance,  
hope made of sinew and muscle and bone, hope that has breath and a beating heart,  
hope that will not keep quiet and be polite, hope that knows how to holler when it is called for,  
hope that knows how to sing when there seems little cause, hope that raises us from the dead—  
not someday but this day, every day, again and again and again.  
-“*Blessing of Hope*” by Jan Richardson

Steeple Bells 10:30 a.m.

Prelude Woodson Faulkner *organist*  
“He Shall Feed His Flock” by G. F. Handel

Opening the Bible Jonah Carlson

Gathering Rev. Alan Sherouse  
The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath Teresa, David and Patrick Whitehead  
All creation holds its breath.  
**The time is almost here.**  
The heavenly choir of angels waits for its cue to sing.  
**Excitement is all around us.**  
Prepare your hearts – The grace of God takes human form.  
Good news! Emmanuel, God-with-us, comes to us.  
**We gather to make ready our hearts for the coming of Christ, with hope.**

## Hanging of the Green

Congregation:

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here until the son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

### The symbol of the Evergreen Miller Norman

Congregation:

O come, thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heavenly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

### The symbol of the Flowers Cadence Gallagher

Congregation:

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease fill all the world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

### The symbol of the Light Shane Anderson

Congregation:

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirit by thine advent here;  
And drive away the shades of night, and pierce the clouds and bring us light!  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel.

*During the singing of this stanza, children are invited  
to come forward for Children's Time.*

### Time for Children Rev. Amy Starr Russell

*Children (first grade and younger) may attend Junior Church  
and will return to the sanctuary during the Hymn of Response.*

## †Hymn 135

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” HYFRYDOL

### Prayers of God's People Rev. Buck Cochran

Scripture Lesson Rev. Courtney Willis  
Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon Rev. Sherouse  
"A Community of Hope"

†Hymn of Response 154  
"O Little Town of Bethlehem" FOREST GREEN

*If you would like to become a member of this congregation,  
you are invited to speak to a pastor at this time.*

Stewardship Prayer Amelia Britt-Spencer *deacon*

Choral Offering Sanctuary Choir

"Creation Will be at Peace"

Words by J. Paul Williams, based on Isaiah 11:6-9; Music by Anna Laura Page

*In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease;*

*in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace.*

*The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed,  
their young will play together: a little child will lead.*

*The leopard and goat will graze, the lion will feed on straw.*

*They will war no more; a child will lead them all.*

The Lord's Supper Rev. Sherouse and Margaret Crawford *deacon chair*

Communion Meditation Woodson Faulkner *organist*

Life of the Community Rev. Sherouse

†Benediction Rev. Sherouse

†Postlude Woodson Faulkner *organist*  
"Recessional in C" by Gordan Young

*Thank you to Cheryl Angel, Susan Bowers, and Sharon Starr  
for our new handcrafted Advent paraments.*



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH GREENSBORO

# LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

December 1, 2024

## ADVENT CALENDAR

Advent Calendars made especially for First Baptist Greensboro are available to take home and use throughout the season! You'll see 25 gold circles that you will scratch off each day in December. We recommend using a coin for best results! It will reveal what prompt to do that day. May it bring you hope, peace, joy and love this Advent season.

## ADVENT SUNDAY SCHOOL | Sundays in Advent

During the Advent season, all are invited to join Rev. Courtney Willis in the Chapel on Sunday mornings for a special Advent Sunday school class. This class will take place on Sundays December 1, 8, 15 and 22 at 9:30 am. All Sunday school classes, including the adult gathering in the Living Room, are encouraged to attend. Make plans to join this special class this Advent season!

## ADVENT MIDWEEK | Wednesdays December 4 & 11 starting at 5:30 pm

Join us on Wednesday evenings for Advent Midweek! We'll start the night with a fellowship meal at 5:30 pm followed by special Advent themed activities for adults. Learn more and register for dinner at: [fbcgso.org/advent-midweek-2024](http://fbcgso.org/advent-midweek-2024)



## FALL BOOK CLUB | December 5 at 5:30 pm

Come be a part of our last Fall Book Club in December! You have about a month to read our December book, *A Christmas Memory* by Truman Capote. We'll gather together on Thursday, December 5 at 5:30 pm in the Living Room to discuss the book together. If you have any questions, reach out to Courtney Willis ([courtney@fbcgso.org](mailto:courtney@fbcgso.org)).

## SPONTANEOUS NATIVITY | Sunday, December 15 at 4:30 pm

Parents are invited to bring their children at 4 pm to the back of the Fellowship Hall to pick out their costumes. They will get to choose from animals, shepherds, angels, and wise men. The children will then head to the sanctuary and find the pew that is labeled with their "part." We welcome everyone else to join us at 4:30 in the sanctuary for the program. Our advent story truly comes alive through the music, scripture, and energy of our children! Following the program everyone is invited to the Fellowship Hall for breakfast for dinner! No reservation required for dinner.

## NC A&T CHRISTMAS CONCERT | Sunday, December 8 at 4 pm

First Baptist Greensboro is honored to again host The North Carolina A&T State University Choir for their annual Christmas Concert. This free event is Sunday, December 8 at 4 pm in our sanctuary. Join us for a wonderful way to celebrate the Advent season.

### OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

In the coming Advent season, we have two unique opportunities to give.

#### HONOR CARDS

This year we are offering Honor Cards for Peacehaven, Backpack Beginnings, Greensboro Urban Ministry, and Community Housing Solutions. Honor Cards will be available to purchase in the Atrium Sundays before Sunday school and after worship and Wednesday evenings at the Fellowship Hall. You may pay with cash or check. Checks should be made out directly to the organization. Last day to purchase Honor Cards is Wednesday, December 20.

#### GIVING TREE

Once again, the Missions Committee is sponsoring a Giving Tree which will hold tags listing Christmas wishes for children in foster care through Family Room and Baptist Children's Home. You can stop by the Giving Tree in the atrium any Sunday or Wednesday evening. You may also come by when the church is open through out the week (Monday – Thursday, 9 am – 4 pm and Friday 9 am – noon). Please bring all gifts to the Giving Tree no later than Monday, December 16.

### WOMEN'S RETREAT | February 7-9, 2025

Join us this February for an intergenerational women's retreat in which we hope women of ALL ages will come for fellowship, faith formation, and fun!



Early Bird: \$175 (\$50 deposit due by 12/18) Standard: \$190 (\$50 deposit due by 1/8)

A limited number of single rooms are available for an additional \$75. Registration includes two nights in a shared hotel-style room, four full meals, and a LOT of fun! Any questions or concerns? Please contact Courtney Willis (courtney@fbcgso.org). Sign-up at: [fbcgso.org/womens-retreat-2025](https://fbcgso.org/womens-retreat-2025) or scan the QR code.

### PASTORAL STAFF

**CHRIS CHERRY**, YOUTH & FAMILIES

**BUCK COCHRAN**, MISSIONS & COMMUNITY

**SETH HIX**, MUSIC (INTERIM)

**ALAN SHEROUSE**, SENIOR PASTOR

**AMY STARR RUSSELL**, CHILDREN & FAMILIES

**COURTNEY WILLIS**, FORMATION & CARE

1000 WEST FRIENDLY AVENUE, GREENSBORO, 27401 | 336-274-3286 | [FBCGSO.ORG](https://fbcgso.org)

FBC Greensboro Women's Retreat  
*A Good Life:*  
Living Simply, Joyfully and Abundantly



**FEBRUARY 7-9, 2025**

SIGNUP AT: [FBCGSO.ORG/WOMENS-RETREAT-2025](https://fbcgso.org/womens-retreat-2025)





# POINSETTIA MEMORIAL AND HONORARIUMS

Order a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve in honor or in memory of a loved one. Simply fill out the form below, tear it off and give it to Keighley Johnson ([keighley@fbcgso.org](mailto:keighley@fbcgso.org)) or submit a form at [fbcgso.org/poinsettias-2024](http://fbcgso.org/poinsettias-2024). \$20 per poinsettia. Submissions are due by December 16 in order for names to be listed in Christmas Eve bulletin. Poinsettias can be taken home after the Christmas Eve evening service.

IN MEMORY OF	BY	IN HONOR OF	BY



First Baptist Church  
Greensboro