

perspective



Can you believe it? December is practically already here! Where did all the time go? It seems like summer was just last week. And I would swear it was *not* that long ago that I stepped into the role of your Interim Music Coordinator. But here we are, nearing the end of eleven whole months together. We've made it this far and –ready or not– December cometh! And with it sweeps in a holiday whirlwind

of eating, shopping, gift-wrapping, traveling, napping... How will we ever find time for it all?! It's so easy to get caught up in the hubbub –and rightfully so; it is good to celebrate and share the holiday spirit with those around us. Amid the festive hustle and bustle of this frantic holiday season, I hope you find time to slow down and savor the season. Remember we celebrate because of one silent night all those years ago. Take time to appreciate the little things; the magic of community, the laughter of friends, and the comfort of home and family. Spend time with each other, share cheer, spread love, give to those in need –that's what Christmas is really all about: spreading the light and love of Christ to a dark and desperate world, waiting for its Messiah.

If you're like me, the holiday season is so deeply, intrinsically linked with music; it almost seems to permeate the air at Christmastime. Carols fill our hearts, ballads warm our souls, hymns of prayer and praise comfort us and elate us. The month of December is bursting with opportunities to spread Christmas cheer to all those around, especially by “trolling an ancient, yuletide carol”. Below are a few of my favorite festive musical events around FBC Lufkin that YOU can participate in too!

Firstly, on **Sunday, December 7th at 6:00pm**, we will present the 12th annual Christmas concert, *Celebrate!*, in collaboration with our long-time partners at New Beginnings, our extended choir-family, our children's ensembles, and a full, thirty-piece symphony orchestra of church and community members and students from SFA. Before the concert starts, we will collect canned goods to donate in support of CISC food bank, as we have in years past. Be sure to arrive early and claim your seats –they go fast! Doors will open at 5:15pm.

Secondly, on **Sunday, December 21st**, we will go Christmas caroling to some of the homebound members of our church. We will gather in the parking lot on Second Street at **5:00pm**. Bring a light jacket (weather necessitating), a festive hat, and a smile.

Finally, on **Wednesday, December 24th at 5:30pm**, we will join together for our annual service of *Carols, Candles, and Communion*. This is always a highlight of the Christmas season for many, as all our weeks of waiting culminate in the night of Christ's birth. Children and families are all welcome to attend this beautiful, reflective service.

Hope to see you around this month at FBC Lufkin.
Merry Christmas!

Tate Ashby
Interim Music Coordinator

ADVENT 2025

Advent Worship

11/30 Hope

12/7 Peace

12/14 Joy

12/21 Love

Christmas Eve

Carols, Candles, Communion

5:30 p.m.

Giving Tree

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30
ANGELS DISTRIBUTED

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
GIFTS DUE

SUGGESTED PRICE
\$40

POINSETTIAS

Order form at the Great Hall Welcome Desk

\$9.00 EACH

ORDER BY NOV. 30

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 21

Meet at the church at 5 p.m. to visit
our homebound members.

2026 Budget

The 2026 church budget was adopted at church conference on Wednesday, November 19. The \$1,774,333 Church Ministry Budget will be mailed to you, along with a letter from your finance committee in early December. Be watching your mailbox for this most important and exciting budget and letter.

Lufkin Downtown Christmas Parade

Saturday,
December 6

Join our Deacons as they give out Free Hot Chocolate to all along First Street by the church.

memorials

Memorial Gifts have been given to the following Funds & Ministries of FBC:

Building Fund In Memory of:

Linda Ford
Sue Woodward
Johnnie Simpson
Gip Friesen
Bubba Wood
Bill Gibbs
Tom Willis
Jean Walter
Jeannene Courtney
Lynda Cheavens
Sarah Rich
Jesse Walker
George Chandler
Joe Davis

Music Ministry In Memory of:

Wanda Cozad
Franklin Spruiell

Organ Repair Fund In Memory of:

Sue Woodward

Special Friends Ministry In Memory of:

Bubba Wood

Deacons for the month of December

Kolby Buckner
903-646-4462 (cell)

Jimmy Ford:
936-635-6696 (cell)

Pat Oates:
936-229-1182 (cell)

(936) 634-3386 / www.fbclufkin.org

new members



Morty & Louise
Halyard



Mark & Patty
Grantom



Michael & Kristi
Skillern



Stephanie
Reinhardt

Sympathy to

The family of Sue
Woodward.

Sheila Wood in the loss
of her sister-in-law, Linda
McDugald.

Church Office Hours

M - Th: 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Closed during the lunch hour
(12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.)
Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Financial Report
Year to Date

Budget	\$1,597,310.90
Budget Receipts	\$1,402,236.76
Building Fund	\$172,229.00
Other Designations	\$115,045.89
Other Receipts	\$114,207.31

Staff

Walker McWilliams,
Interim Pastor/ Minister of Missions

Katie Baker,
Minister to Preschool & Children

Truett Newton,
Minister to Students

Celebrate!

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

Sunday, December 7

6:00 p.m.

Presented by First Baptist Church
and New Beginnings Baptist Church

Collecting canned goods for CISC