

First Thoughts...

In the C.S. Lewis classic, "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" readers are taken to the magical land of Narnia. When Narnia is living under the authority of the witch "it is always winter, but never Christmas."

There are people living like that now as Christmas never seems to come to them. There is only the empty feeling of no hope, peace, joy, or love--there's nothing left to believe in. The Good News is that Christ has come--Christmas is here! More than 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ took on human flesh and entered our world to save his people from their sins.

We continue through the season of Advent and commemorate each of the Sundays with the lighting of a candle. On Christmas Eve, we will light the final Advent candle. By doing this, we will show that the Light of the world has come.

I hope you'll take advantage of the wonderful worship and fellowship opportunities that come this time of year. Let's also realize that Advent can bring about a variety of emotions for each of us, so let's be kind and supportive of one another.

In our last business meeting, the church approved several personnel related items. Effective January 1, Rev. David Whipple will be permanent Minister of Music (traditional service) and Teresa Schlandt will be permanent Director of Education and Adults. I've enjoyed working with each of them in an interim role and am excited to continue serving the Lord together.

The church also approved making the Financial Administrator position part-time, effective January 1st. Joanna Pace will continue in this role (thank you Joanna). I will be working with our staff and the personnel committee to handle this transition.

On a related note, the Finance Committee recommendation concerning the new budget was discussed as well. The vote (with no discussion) will be on Sunday, December 7. The recommendation includes a format that is different from previous years, so please take time to review the explanation from the Finance Committee attached to the budget.

As always, thank you for your faithfulness in your attendance, prayers, service and financial support of our church. There's a few more days left to make a year-end contribution, so let's do our best to finish 2025 on strong financial footing.

Finally, I want to thank our CSC volunteers for another wonderful "Turkey Time" and distributing 225 food boxes to families in the community. This is one of the most important ministries we have and I hope keeps all the other stuff going on around us in perspective.

It has been a privilege to have been your pastor this past year. Lori and I are grateful to be part of First Baptist Church and call Clinton our home. From our home to yours: "Merry Christmas!"

Pastor Danny

Christmas Schedule Changes:

The Church Office, Family Life Center, & WEE Ministry will be CLOSED on December 24-26 and January 1. The CSC will be closed on December 23 & 30. There will be no Wednesday night activities on December 31.



Youth Ignite
Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
FLC Youth Room
Grades 6-12
Free Dinner, Games,
and Bible Study!



Youth Ugly Sweater Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 10
5:30 p.m.
Family Life Center, Youth Room
Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest



Youth Beach Trip Fundraiser

Tidal Wave Car Wash Vouchers
\$15.00 (value \$30)
These make great Christmas Gifts and can be used at any Tidal Wave in the country. They have a 1 year expiration date. Contact Kris Hicks if you would like to purchase.

Baptism Day



Morgan Hammer and **Ella Baxter** were baptized on Sunday, November 16.

FBC Kids
Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
Free Dinner,
Music, Bible Study
Parents sign in children in the FLC Lobby between 5:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. to eat dinner.



Kids Church

Sundays during the 10:40 a.m. Service in the Church Library (next to the nursery) for Age 3 - Grade 5.



FBC KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM CAROLS & COCOA

Wednesday, December 10
6:00 p.m.
Join us in the Sanctuary for a short Christmas Performance with cookies and cocoa to follow.

Santa Breakfast

Sponsored by WEE Ministry
Friday, December 5
6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Family Life Center, Gym
You are invited to attend and bring your children or grandchildren for crafts, breakfast and Pictures with Santa.



Basketball & Cheer

Practices will begin the week of January 5, 2026 and the first game will be Saturday, January 17, 2026. Last games are March 7, 2026. Upward Celebration is Monday, March 9, 2026.

Christmas Program
Sunday, December 21
10:40 a.m.
Sanctuary
Adult Choir & Orchestra



Sunday, December 21
5:00 p.m.
Sanctuary



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday, December 24
5:00 p.m.
Sanctuary

Combined Worship Service

Sunday, December 28
8:30 a.m.
Family Life Center
Dr. Vicki Violette will be preaching. There will be no LifeGroups or 10:40 service. There will be warm CINNAMON ROLLS!

Encore News:

An Encore Christmas

Thursday, December 4
12:00 p.m.
Family Life Center, Hearth Room
RSVP by Monday, December 1.
Catered lunch - \$10.00 each
Games, Service Project, Niagara Falls & Toronto Trip Info.
Service Project: We will be putting together 4 baskets of snacks to take to the Fire and Police Stations in Clinton, Please bring your favorite store bought snack item for the baskets (ie, chips, cookies, granola bars, Little Debbie's)

Encore Trip to Niagara Falls & Toronto

7 Days 6 Nights
May 24 - May 30
Cost: \$950*
*Per Person Double Occupancy
Add \$254 for single occupancy.
\$75.00 DUE UPON SIGNING UP
(Deadline to sign up is January 24, 2026 in the Church Office)
Final Payment Due: March 17
Checks should be payable to DIAMOND TOURS.
YOU MUST HAVE A VALID U.S. PASSPORT OR U.S. PASSPORT CARD FOR THIS TRIP

Christmas Memorials Poinsettias \$10



Wreaths \$25

Memorial for: _____

Given by: _____

Amount Given: _____

Mail to FBC, P.O. Box 268
Clinton, TN 37717

Christian Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Caroln Cagle** (11/13).

From the Pulpit in December

8:30 a.m. Family Life Center
9:30 a.m. LifeGroups
10:40 a.m. Sanctuary
07 John 1:14-18 **PEACE**
14 Luke 1:26-38 **JOY**
21 Matthew 1:18-24 **LOVE**
28 Dr. Vicki Violette (8:30 a.m. Combined Service FLC)

Wednesdays in December

03 Dr. Chisholm “As You Go” book pages 89-117
10 FBC Kids Christmas Program
17 Business Meeting
24 Christmas Eve Service
31 No Activities

Pastor’s Book Club

Mondays, December 1 & 8
10:30 a.m.- 11:30 a.m.
Family Life Center, Hearth Room
The Gospel of John
by Amy-Jill Levine
6 Sessions led by Pastor Danny
Book Cost: \$10.00



Photography Group Field Trip

Photograph:
Steam Locomotive & Passenger Train
Sunday, December 7
Carpool to Knoxville from the church at 2:45 p.m. and return to church at 5:30 p.m.

Special Called Business Meeting

Sunday, December 7
Vote on Finance Committee Motion (no discussion):

This motion proposes the adoption of the 2026 Proposed Budget. This budget shows a total operating budget of **\$961,761**, which represents a **0.25% reduction** compared to the 2025 budget. **This approval is subject to the following key conditions:**

A. **Interim Budget Period:** The adopted budget will be effective only for the first quarter of the 2026 calendar year, covering the period from **January 1, 2026 to March 31, 2026**.
B. **Budget Year Realignment:** Effective April 1, 2026, the church will officially shift its budget year. The next full budget cycle will run from **April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027**.

Free RAM Mobile Telehealth

Tuesday, December 2
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
FBC Clinton Parking Lot
Remote Area Medical provides free, quality healthcare to those in need. First-Come, First-Served until capacity is reached. No ID or Insurance required!



Visit the Angel Tree

in the Main Church Building, Garden Room (level 2) or in the FLC Lobby. Contact Beth Green or Sondra Davis if you have questions. **Gifts are due at the church by December 7.**

Deacons’ Meeting

Tuesday, December 9
5:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium

Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 18
5:30 p.m.
Meet in the Main Church Building, Glassed Lobby, for your assignment. RSVP to the Church Office.

Oct. Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$ 61,069
2025 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$ 15,501
2025 Weekly Budget Req.	\$ 18,542
Budget Expense	\$ 84,521
October Deficit/Income	(\$ 23,452)
2025 Deficit/Income	(\$ 111,793)
TOTAL October 31	(\$ 132,245)



ONLINE GIVING

Giving options to FBC Clinton include the offering envelope system (checks and cash), scanning the QR code (digital giving), or by setting up a recurring bank draft through the church office.

Lottie Moon & Global Missions Offering Goal: \$7,000 (FBC goal combined)

Lottie Moon: \$100.00
Global Missions: \$50.00
Total received to date: \$150.00

November Business Meeting Report

October Minutes and Financials were approved. The church approved the hire of **Teresa Schlandt** for permanent, part-time, Director of Education and **Rev. David Whipple, Jr.** for permanent, part-time, Minister of Music (traditional service). The church approved that the change of the Financial Administrator position to part-time. Finance Committee recommendation was discussed.

Business Meeting

Wednesday, December 17
6:30 p.m.
Lower Auditorium

Towers Movie Night

Sunday, December 7, 6:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 13, 6:00 p.m.
Friday, December 19, 6:00 p.m.
Popcorn & Drinks will be served.

Towers Craft

Third Thursday, Monthly
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Towers

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FRIENDLY GUIDE

DECEMBER 2025



TIDINGS
of
JOY

A Celtic Christmas
Celebration

by Joseph Martin

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
10:40 A.M.
SANCTUARY

ADULT CHOIR & ORCHESTRA