



Newsletter of Fruitland Baptist Church

Craig Stepp, Senior Pastor  
William C. Hardin, Associate Pastor

## Pastor's Perspective

Dear Fruitland Family,

Since we entered into the Christmas season, I feel like it has flown by in all aspects of life. I wonder how many of you feel the same? This has carried over into our Sunday morning service in regards to the lighting of each Advent candle, and for that I am sorry. I took a stroll through the church sanctuary, admiring the Christmas decorations, and focused on the Advent wreath and candles and began to go through the meaning of each one. With the new year on the horizon, I began to wonder if I leave the meaning of the Advent candles behind until a new Christmas season comes back around the next year. Take a moment and read over what each candle means:

The first candle (purple) symbolizes hope and is called the "Prophet's Candle."

*"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.'"* (Mark 1:1-3)

The second candle (purple) represents love and is called "Bethlehem's Candle."

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son

into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." (John 3:16-17)

The third candle (pink) symbolizes joy and is called the "Shepherd's Candle."

"And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.'" (Luke 2:10)

The fourth candle (purple) represents peace and is called the "Angel's Candle."

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

The fifth candle (white) represents light and purity and is called "Christ's Candle." It is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day.

"The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!'" (John 1:29)

As we creep closer to the new year, my challenge to you is to not leave the meaning of the Advent candles in the Christmas season but to bring them along with you as you live day to day in the new year. It is my prayer that each of us carry these five important characteristics of the Christian life close to our heart. Let's do our best to live a Christ filled

life that displays hope, love, joy, and peace in 2020. Happy New Year! May God Bless You!

Written in love,

Pastor Craig

### Fruitland Family Date Night

Come beat the winter blues by joining your Fruitland Family for some fun jumping and a yummy dinner at Blaze Pizza! On Saturday, January 4th we will meet at Sky Zone Trampoline Park at 4:00 PM. Sign up early so we can get a group discount.

### Kenya / Rwanda Mission Trip 2020

*July 13th - July 26th*

Next Meeting: Monday, January 6th at 6:00 PM

First deposit of \$500 is due and last date to sign up for the trip is January 6th!

Our mission is to live out Acts 1:8 and be the hands and feet of Jesus in Africa. We will help build and dedicate a church in Kiyoo along with women's activities, school outreach, home visits, and a block party. We will also give 4 Kenyans the opportunity to come with us on their first international mission vision trip to Rwanda, where we will continue sharing the Good News and Love of Jesus. If you are interested in going or helping support this trip by giving financially, please see Candi Mains.

### Seniors Lunch

*Wednesday, January 8th*

All seniors are invited to join Pastor Craig and the Church Staff on Wednesday, January 8th at Binion's Restaurant at 12:00 PM for lunch and a time of fellowship together.

### Student Team Meeting

*Sunday, January 19th at 4:00 PM*

Anyone that works with our Fruitland Students is welcome to join us as we plan out the next few months. Youth that want to have an input are welcome to come as well!

### Billy Graham's Prayer for a New Year

*This prayer from Billy Graham, written for The Saturday Evening Post in 2008, is just as relevant more than a decade later.*

Our Father and our God, as we stand at the beginning of this new year we confess our need of Your presence and Your guidance as we face the future.

We each have our hopes and expectations for the year that is ahead of us—but You alone know what it holds for us, and only You can give us the strength and the wisdom we will need to meet its challenges. So help us to humbly put our hands into Your hand, and to trust You and to seek Your will for our lives during this coming year.

In the midst of life's uncertainties in the days ahead, assure us of the certainty of Your unchanging love.

In the midst of life's inevitable disappointments and heartaches, help us to turn to You for the stability and comfort we will need.

In the midst of life's temptations and the pull of our stubborn self-will, help us not to lose our way but to have the courage to do what is right in Your sight, regardless of the cost.

And in the midst of our daily preoccupations and pursuits, open our eyes to the sorrows and injustices of our hurting world, and help us to respond with compassion and sacrifice to those who are friendless and in need. May our constant prayer be that of the ancient Psalmist: "Teach me, O Lord, to follow your decrees; then I will keep them to the end" (Psalm 119:33).

We pray for our nation and its leaders during these difficult times, and for all those who are seeking to bring peace and justice to our dangerous and troubled world. We pray especially for Your protection on all those who serve in our armed forces, and we thank You for their commitment to defend our freedoms, even at the cost of their own lives. Be with their families also, and assure them of Your love and concern for them.

Bring our divided nation together, and give us a greater vision of what You would have us to be. Your Word reminds us that "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12).

As we look back over this past year we thank You for Your goodness to us—far beyond what we have deserved. May we never presume on Your past goodness or forget all Your mercies to us, but may they instead lead us to repentance, and to a new commitment to make You the foundation and center of our lives this year.

And so, our Father, we thank You for the promise and hope of this new year, and we look forward to it with expectancy and faith. This I ask in the name of our Lord and Savior, who by His death and resurrection has given us hope both for this world and the world to come.

*Amen.*

# JANUARY 2020

# FRUITLAND BAPTIST CHURCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>01</b> NEW YEAR'S DAY	<b>02</b> B'DAY: BUD CHANDLER	<b>03</b> B'DAY: CHRISTOPHER GLASPY	<b>04</b> B'DAY: BOB GILBERT -FRUITLAND FAMILY DATE NIGHT AT SKY ZONE TRAMPOLINE PARK & BLAZE PIZZA 4:00PM
<b>05</b> B'DAY: LILLY BASTING -NO BREAKFAST -DEACON MTG 4:00PM	<b>06</b> -KENYA / RWANDA MISSION TRIP MEETING 6:00PM	<b>07</b> B'DAYS: BRAYDEN CHILDRESS / JAN HOWARD / AMY SINGLETARY / CRAIG STEPP / RICHARD STILLWELL -MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00AM AT FBBC	<b>08</b> B'DAY: SHERMAN BLYTHE -10:30AM – BIBLE STUDY -12:00PM – SENIORS LUNCH AT BINION'S RESTAURANT -6:00PM – FELLOWSHIP -6:00PM – CIA TO REST HOME -6:30PM – MISSION FRIENDS / STUDENT MINISTRY / BUSINESS MEETING -7:40PM – CHOIR	<b>09</b> B'DAYS: ROBIN CASTO / WAYNE HOWARD	<b>10</b> B'DAYS: GORDON CORN / TERESA HEATHERLY	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> MCT MTG 4:00PM	<b>13</b> B'DAY: MARY SNYDER	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> B'DAYS: ISAIAH BARKER / KRISTI KICKLIGHTER / DAVE MAINS -10:30AM – BIBLE STUDY -6:00PM – FELLOWSHIP -6:30PM – MISSION FRIENDS / STUDENT MINISTRY / BIBLE STUDY -7:40PM – CHOIR	<b>16</b> B'DAYS: STACEY GRESOCK / SALLY GROSS	<b>17</b> B'DAY: SCOTT GROSS	<b>18</b> B'DAY: FRANK SPADA
<b>19</b> B'DAY: WYATT SUTTON -STUDENT MINISTRY TEAM MTG 4:00PM -PRAISE TEAM 5:30PM	<b>20</b> B'DAY: CASSIE CASTO	<b>21</b> B'DAY: GRIFFIN MASTERSON -MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 7:00AM AT FBBC	<b>22</b> -10:30AM – BIBLE STUDY -6:00PM – FELLOWSHIP -6:30PM – MISSION FRIENDS / STUDENT MINISTRY / BIBLE STUDY -7:40PM – CHOIR	<b>23</b> B'DAY: RUTHIE BRITTAN	<b>24</b> B'DAY: BRACKLEY KICKLIGHTER	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> B'DAYS: LEAH COOK / MARSHALL KIRKBY	<b>27</b> B'DAY: NATHANIEL WHITE	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> B'DAY: BRYANNA PENDLEY -10:30AM – BIBLE STUDY -6:00PM – FELLOWSHIP -6:30PM – MISSION FRIENDS / STUDENT MINISTRY / BIBLE STUDY -7:40PM – CHOIR	<b>30</b> B'DAYS: MARK HOWARD / KENNY MANEY -GLASSES FOR MISSIONS AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH / LOVE'S KITCHEN 10:30AM-1:00PM	<b>31</b>	

## WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

**SUNDAY:** Sunday School – Fellowship 9:30am; Bible Study 9:45am Morning Worship 11:00am

**WEDNESDAY:** Young Adult Bible Study & Fellowship 6:00PM; CIA & Mission Friends 6:30pm; Youth 6:30pm; Bible Study 6:30pm; Adult Choir Practice 7:40pm

View Church calendar on our website @ [www.fruitlandbaptist.org](http://www.fruitlandbaptist.org)

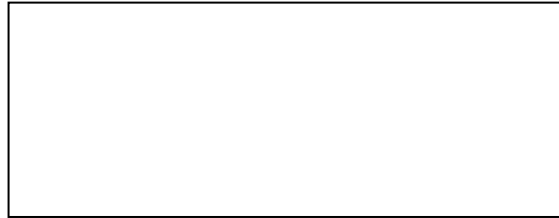
Fruitland Baptist Church  
150 College Street  
Hendersonville, NC 28792-9294  
[www.fruitlandbaptist.org](http://www.fruitlandbaptist.org)



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



### Winter Jam / Youth

*Saturday, March 21st*

We will go to Charlotte on Saturday, March 21st for the 2020 Winter Jam Concert. We will leave Church at 2:00 PM. The concert starts at 7:00 PM and doors open at 6:00 PM. The cost is \$15.00 plus a can of food.

### Journey Camp 2020

We still have a few spots left for any Youth in grades 6th-12th. The cost is \$310 and this includes the cost of the lake day! We are going July 6th-10th which is also the week that FBC Hendersonville will be attending! We did this so you can hang out with some of your friends from school while you are there! If you are interested in going, you need to fill out a form and turn in a \$50 deposit to Candi ASAP!

### Mission Emphasis For January

Central Asia Missions

### Grandparent Valentines in February

Adults, be on the lookout for forms to fill out if you are willing to be adopted by one of your Fruitland Students. This is a great way to bridge the generations together and invest in our Youth and give them an opportunity to serve others.

### Bethlehem Toy Store Report

By Glo Nock, Director

Thank you to everyone who prayed, bought, sorted, brought, bagged, carried, encouraged, invited, witnessed, checked-in, fed, organized, shopped, participated, called, cried and cared for others through this year's C.B.A. Bethlehem Toy Store.