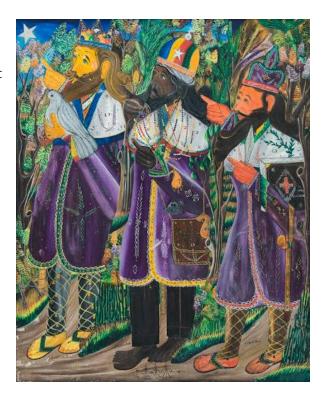
"For reasons that will never be entirely clear, God has a soft spot for religious strangers, both as agents of divine blessing and recipients of divine grace - to the point that God sometimes chooses one of them over people who believe they should, by all rights, come first. This is a great mystery, but it does nothing to obscure the great commandment. In every circumstance, regardless of the outcome, the main thing Jesus has asked me to do is love God and my neighbor as religiously as I love myself. The minute I have that handled, I will ask for my next assignment. For now, my hands are full."

+ Barbara Brown Taylor, Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others



André Pierre, The Magi

First Baptist Church on Fifth, Winston-Salem

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS Sunday, December 28, 2025 • 11:00 AM

PRELUDE: Away in a Manger M. Arnold

Annie Winkelman, Oboe Lauren Winkelman, Piano

INVITATION TO WORSHIP David Williamson

CALL TO WORSHIP Wally Cox

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

All: On those living in the land of the shadow of death

a light has dawned.

Leader: Lift up your hearts in prayer; lift up your voices in exultation.

For the Lord has drawn near and dwells among us.

All: God is here! The Messiah has come!

Let us join the angels in celebrating God's greatest gift!

*HYMN 126: Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12 David Winkelman

Leader: The word of God for the people of God,

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Christmas reveals to us the ever-present goodness

that we too often choose to ignore.

Signs and wonders are all around us for those who have eyes to see.

Let us confess our sin:

(Silent confession)

Leader: Compassionate God, like the Magi we still seek you.

All: We confess that our lack of faith often makes us fearful.

Leader: May your angels sing again to us of peace for body and soul.

All: We acknowledge that we have let our desires lead us astray.

Leader: May your star once more set our course firmly in your direction.

All: Often our faith settles into a lifeless ritual.

Leader: May your manger call us again to new expressions of love and devotion.

All: We have carefully kept our gifts

and have not freely given our treasure and our hearts to you.

Leader: May the Magi teach us the true spirit of giving.

All: Lord, may your Spirit linger in our hearts,

guiding us daily, until we are led into the very presence

of Love made flesh. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Joanne Henley

Leader: Into the realms of clerics and kings

God sent his son to teach the wise

and show the world what power there is in love. Through the love of Christ our sins are forgiven.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Peace is made possible in our hearts and in our world

through God's greatest gift —

the One who is called Prince of Peace.

As disciples of Jesus it is our joy to say to one another:

May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please share these words of peace with those around you.)

*HYMN 151: We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Kyle Caudle

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Cyrus Bush

How could it be, this baby in my arms sleeping now, so peacefully; the Son of God, the angel said. How could it be? Lord, I know He's not my own, not of my flesh, not of my bone; still Father let this baby be the son of my love. Father show me where I fit into this plan of yours. How can a man be father to the Son of God? Lord, for all my life I've been a simple carpenter. How can I raise a King?He looks so small, His face and hands so fair; and when He cries, the sun just seems to disappear. And when He laughs, it shines again. How could it be? Father show me where I fit into this plan of yours. How can a man be father to the Son of God? Lord, for all my life I've been a simple carpenter. How can I raise a King?

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Psalm 146: 3-9

Bethany Leggett

Leader: The word of God for the people of God,

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "When Wisdom Comes from Far Away"

Bethany Leggett

*HYMN OF RESPONSE 143: Go, Tell It on the Mountain

GO TELL IT

God calls all to respond! Our church welcomes you to share a new desire to follow Jesus or to join our congregation as a member. As we sing, please come to the front and share your commitment with one of our ministers.

*PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS WE GIVE

Nikki Byers

The giving of our material possessions, as well as our very lives, is an important part of active, vibrant worship of which all are invited to participate. In a moment, Deacons will pass the offering plates for you to share your financial contribution to support the ministries of First Baptist Church. If you would like to give online, you will find additional information in this worship guide and at our website, firstonfifth.org.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY: Carol of the Children

J. Rutter

Annie Winkelman, Oboe Lauren Winkelman, Piano

THE LIFE OF THE COMMUNITY

Kyle Caudle

*DOXOLOGY THE FIRST NOWELL

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord, Who hath made heaven and earth of naught, and with his blood our life hath bought. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel.

*BENEDICTION Bethany Leggett

POSTLUDE: Improvisation on ADESTE FIDELES

David Williamson, Organ

^{*}Those who are able will please stand.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession are reprinted from The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, ©2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources.

SERVING TODAY

<u>Deacon of the Week:</u> Nikki Byers <u>Children & Families Greeter:</u> Kim Wilkinson

Streaming and Sound Team: Billy Choe, Martha Greene, Greg Ryder,
Judy Eustice, Jeff Burchette, Amber Myers

IF YOU ARE NEW, WELCOME!

If you are visiting with us today for the first time, we welcome you! Please fill out a Connection Card located in the back of the pews, and give it to a minister after worship. This allows us to extend our hospitality and connect you deeply within the life of our church. If you're visiting with young children, we welcome them in whatever way is best for your family! Creative resources for our little ones guide their experience of worship in the Sanctuary, and worship care for infants through kindergarteners is available in the nursery on the first floor.

SUPPORTING GOD'S WORK OF LOVE THROUGH FIRST BAPTIST ON FIFTH

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through the ministries of our church! Should you desire to give today, you can do so by placing your gift in the offering plates or by scanning the QR code to give online. Because you will need to enter your personal financial information when registering online, we encourage you to set up your account on a secure network at home before using the app for the first time.



YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION DEADLINES

Thank you so much for supporting the ministries of our church through your financial gifts! To be included in your 2025 contribution statement, please be aware of the following deadlines:

- Hand-delivered contributions must be received by 10:00 am on 12/31
- Mailed contributions must be postmarked no later than 12/31. (Please be aware that your bank's bill pay vendor may batch checks together for mailing, so it's advisable to avoid waiting late in the month for a December contribution.)
- Stock transfers can be processed through the First Baptist Church brokerage account at Alex Brown. To ensure processing can be completed by 12/31, plan to start the process by 12/15 and notify Sally when your transaction has been initiated.

Thank you for giving faithfully to God through First Baptist on Fifth





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Guest Proclaimer, Bethany Leggett

Bethany Leggett is an ordained Baptist preacher and alumna of Wake Forest School of Divinity. She finds her divine gift in asking questions, which she traces back to her time as a journalist and now as a director of communications at Wake Forest University. Her ministry, Back Row Bound, is focused on a desire to increase the agency of women in the church through digital platforms and writing curriculum that centers the voices of those overlooked in the Bible or by church history.

Leaving Home

Epiphany Worship at First Baptist on Fifth Writer Kelly Corrigan once said, "life happens when you leave the house." Life surely happens, and often it happens not just when you leave the house, but when you leave home. Journeying away from what's known and familiar is a common experience, even if disorienting and unclear. This Epiphany at First on Fifth, we'll explore what *life* happens when we leave home and what *light* we find along the way, drawing our imagination from God who left home to dwell among us in Jesus, and Jesus, who calls us to "come and see."

January 4 | Epiphany Sunday Leaving Home: Pitching Tents John 1:1-14

Communion Sunday; Receiving of Star Words

January 11 | Baptism of the Lord Sunday
Leaving Home: Underwater
Matthew 3:13-17
Baptisms of Nathan Mitchell, Julie Hall, and Day Pinto

Deacon Ordination and Installation

January 18

Leaving Home: Come and See John 1:29-42

January 25 Leaving Home: Follow Me Matthew 4:12-23

February 1 Leaving Home: Required Micah 6:1-8 Communion Sunday

February 8 Leaving Home: Repaired Isaiah 58:1-9a

February 15 | Transfiguration Sunday Leaving Home: Fearless Matthew 17:1-9

Sign-Up for Text Alerts!

As winter weather rolls in, we want to make sure we are able to communicate effectively in the event of emergency updates. Text "first" to (336) 703-9745 to opt-in for text updates.

December 31 | Youth Serve at Second Harvest

Youth and Parents are invited to serve at Second Harvest Foodbank on Wednesday December 31 from 9-1pm. Let Kyle know if you plan to attend, so we can plan for serving and lunch.

January 4 | Epiphany Brunch, No Sunday School Please join us in Kelly Auditorium at 9:45 to kick off the new year as we enjoy some light brunch food and fellowship.

January 4 | Youth Epiphany Party 4:00-7:00pm In celebration of the Magi traveling and giving gifts to the Christ-child, the youth ministry will have a progressive dinner that will begin with appetizers at the Hull's, continue with the main course at the Knight's, and conclude with desserts and a white elephant gift swap in the Commons at the church.

January 11 | **Deacon Ordination & Installation**

On January 11, in worship, we joyfully install and ordain eight new Deacons to the work of servant leadership in our church. The Deacons extend care and connection with our members and cultivate the spiritual well-being of the church.

January 19 | Youth and Kids Ice Skating

Youth, Kids, & Families are invited to an afternoon of ice skating on Monday January 19 from 1-4pm at the Winston-Salem Fairgrounds (414 Deacon Blvd.). \$15 includes entrance and skate rental. Contact kyle@firstonfifth.org for more information.

January 25 | Churchwide Sunday School

You are invited to join a special churchwide Sunday School gathering on January 25! We hope you will join us as we share memories and hopes as part of 100 on Fifth: Home in the Heart of the City celebration. Together we remember the stories that built this place and renew our calling to build the church for generations to come. This gathering will be all-ages friendly!

January 28 | Quarterly Church Conference

As is our custom, we will gather by Zoom to do the regular business of the church for our Quarterly Church Conference on Tuesday, January 28, at 6:30pm. See the newsletter that week for more info!

THIS WEEK AT FIRST

SUNDAY, December 28

10:30 am Coffee and Conversation (Commons)

11:00 am Worship (Sanctuary & online)

MONDAY, December 29

TUESDAY, December 30

8:00 pm Evening Prayer (online)

WEDNESDAY, December 31

9:00 am Youth Serving at Second Harvest (offsite)

THURSDAY, January 1 Church Office Closed

FRIDAY, January 2

SATURDAY, January 3

SUNDAY, January 4

9:45 am Epiphany Brunch (*Kelly*) 11:00 am Worship (*Sanctuary & online*) 4:00pm Youth Epiphany Party (*offsite*)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 5:00pm Friday, 8:30am - 1:00pm

Seeking Donations | Crisis Control

The gift for January is Beef Stew. Please drop off donations in the first floor bins. Thank you!

Seeking Donations | Una Bendición

The Missions Committee invites you to donate canned goods (beans, peas, corn, etc.) to Una Bendición, which provides a point of connection between Spanish-speaking families and the many available resources in our city. Please place donations by the Crisis Control bins.

CHURCH STAFF

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Jacob Hill

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Ryan Jones Media Contractor ryanjones@dogoodbrands.biz

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