

# First Baptist Church of Eatonton Messenger

FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST SHARING GOD'S LOVE AND GRACE WITH ALL



## FROM THE PASTOR

I'm reading from a variety of resources these days as I travel through Advent. There are so many good things to share. I hope you find this one from **Kate Bowler** enriching. Kate Bowler is a writer and professor at Duke Divinity School:

Advent is the season when we practice waiting with intention. We are not at the manger yet, but we are already preparing. We are not in the fullness of joy, but we are sowing toward it. Advent hope is patient, persistent, and sometimes a little ridiculous.

Jean-François Millet's painting *The Sower* shows a peasant striding across uneven ground, flinging seed into the dusk. His face is shadowed, his arm mid-motion, scattering seed with no certainty of what will grow. It's not neat or guaranteed. It's an act of gritty trust in a future he cannot see.

Perhaps that's why I've become strangely attached to him. Recently I inherited not one but eight *Sower* statues that had been abandoned in Duke University's furniture storage. They now live in my office, standing sentinel in every corner. And because people are kind (and maybe a little mischievous), friends, relatives, and relatives of friends have begun knitting outfits for him. Last week he wore a very tasteful turkey costume.

So now *The Sower* looks like a pilgrim of hope in tiny seasonal knitwear. It makes me laugh every time I see him—and it also reminds me why this image matters. Hope is often absurd. Why scatter seed when the soil looks barren? Why keep showing up when the outcome is uncertain?

Psalm 126 promises that "those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy." Advent is our chance to keep sowing—to bless the hard ground, to plant even in our waiting, to trust that God's harvest is coming.

So here we are: sowers in scarves, knit pants, and turkey costumes. Let's scatter hope anyway.

*Blessed are we who scatter seed into uncertain soil,  
who labor without guarantees.  
Blessed are we who trust God with tomorrow,  
and keep sowing anyway.*

Where in your life do you feel called to keep sowing, even when the ground looks barren? What small, even ridiculous, act of hope might you take today?

*Sowing,  
Craig*





# WAITING IN SONG: A MUSICAL JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT

As we enter this sacred season of Advent, I find myself reflecting on the unique way music shapes our waiting. In a world that rushes headlong toward Christmas Day, our Advent hymns invite us to do something countercultural: to slow down, to watch, to listen, and to prepare our hearts.

Each Sunday, as we light another candle on the Advent wreath, we're surrounded by melodies that have guided generations of Christians through this season of expectant hope. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" doesn't hurry us toward the manger—instead, it allows us to feel the longing of God's people waiting in darkness for the light. When we sing "each longing heart rejoices," we join our voices with centuries of believers who understood what it means to yearn for God's presence.

Music has a remarkable power to teach us patience. A song cannot be rushed without losing its meaning. The rests between notes are as important as the notes themselves. Similarly, Advent reminds us that the waiting is part of the gift. God doesn't just arrive at Christmas; God is present with us in the anticipation itself.


This year, I encourage you to let our Advent music be more than background. Listen to the minor keys that express our world's brokenness. Notice how the melodies gradually build toward joy. Pay attention to the words we're singing—they're prayers set to music, shaping our hearts to receive the Christ child anew.

Whether you're singing in the choir, humming along in the pews, or simply letting the music wash over you in a quiet moment, know that you're participating in something ancient and holy. You're joining the song that began with angels announcing good news and continues until Christ comes again.

May this Advent season tune our hearts to the music of God's grace.

*In joyful expectation,*  
*Dylan*

## WORSHIP THROUGH MUSIC



*Christmas on the Avenue*

**HOPE HAS DAWNED. NOEL!**

A cantata for Christmas by Mary McDonald

*Come celebrate the true spirit of Christmas with your community, praising the Lord with beautiful music and timeless carols!*

DECEMBER		
Choirs	7	Eatonton First Methodist
Handbells	6:00 PM	Eatonton First Baptist
Orchestra		Eatonton Presbyterian

Eatonton First Methodist  
103 W. Magnolia St. Eatonton, GA



**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

Wednesday, December 10 after Dinner

Wear Festive Attire

Golf carts will be available to ride.

**Christmas Caroling**

First Baptist of Eatonton will be caroling on Madison Ave  
Wednesday, December 10 after 7pm.  
If your porch light is on we will ring your doorbell and sing for you.  
If it's raining unfortunately we will not be out.  
Hope to see and sing for you Wednesday night!!!





# SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

## WELCOMING FOR DECEMBER

Clayton Lancaster

## USHERS FOR DECEMBER

Don Baker, Tim Camp, Hollis Harrison,  
Mike Reagin, Jim Ryan

## DEACON FOR DECEMBER 7

Jim Ryan

## DEACON FAMILIES

Sherri Farmer Family, David Giddens Family,  
Luke Harvey Family, Harris McCollum Family,  
Ed Ricketson Family, John Wojtas Family

## DEACON FOR DECEMBER 14

Bill Sharp

## DEACON FAMILIES

Tammy Baker Family, Mary Jo Balas,  
Linda Copelan Family, Jim Hall Family,  
Jim Kauffmann Family, Ben Leverette Family,  
Jeff Russell Family

## WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday, November 23 119

Sunday, November 30 130

## BIRTHDAYS

12/04 - Steve Benton  
12/08 - Janette McCollum, Jim Hall  
12/10 - Lawson Peebles  
12/12 - Hayden Harper  
12/15 - Chad Davis  
12/16 - Chris Hewette  
12/17 - Walker Cannon

## ANNIVERSARIES

12/09 - Steve and Lisa Tubbs  
12/11 - Howell and Penney Cardwell  
12/12 - Russell and Susan Davis  
12/16 - Kent and Cindy Duffey

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Join Us For Our  
*Advent Services*  
**Sundays at 10:50AM**

November 30 - Hope  
December 07 - Peace  
December 14 - Joy  
December 21 - Love



**CHRISTMAS  
DINNER**

Wednesday, December 10  
6:00PM

Turkey, Ham, and Dressing Provided  
Please bring casseroles, vegetables,  
salads and desserts.

RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE  
BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5



**UGLY CHRISTMAS  
SWEATER SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 21**



*Christmas Eve*  
*Candlelight and Communion Service*  
Wednesday, December 24 at 5:00PM





First Baptist Church  
P.O. Box 3400  
Eatonton, GA 31024  
Return Service Requested



# ADVENT MISSION OPPORTUNITIES HELPING THOSE IN NEED!

Putnam Christian Outreach Thanksgiving Bags

Service League Toy Drive

Shop With a Cop

Stepping Stones Angel Tree

Putnam County High School Mistletoe Ball

Circle of Love Christmas Dinner

**Any donations to help with these projects is greatly appreciated.**