



BBC



CONNECTIONS

Fall/Winter 2021



Facing Change Trusting Christ in the Journey

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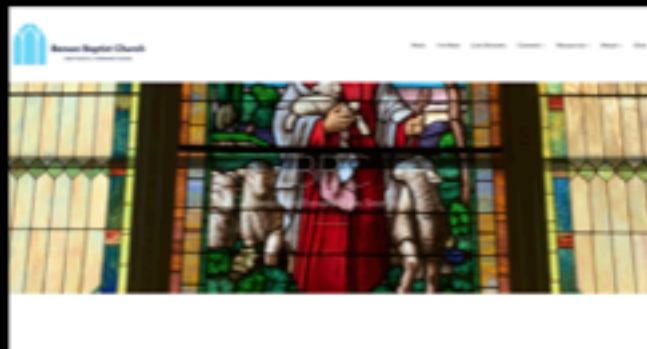
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Cover: The tree at Benson Baptist in the fall of 2020. The fall change will soon return.



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Search "Benson Baptist Church NC" on Youtube

Upcoming Sunday Events

Join us Sundays at 8:45 AM or 11 AM - in-person or online!



Pastor's Paragraphs

"For everything there is a season..."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Changing seasons have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I have lived in three different states in my lifetime. As a child I attended four different elementary schools, three different middle schools, and three different high schools. We moved around quite a bit and, as such, I have called seventeen different towns/cities "home." Where some of you have been at Benson Baptist your whole lives, I have been a part of twelve different congregations — all in the last twenty years. I am no stranger to changing seasons!

Each of those shifts in my life were different. Some were great shifts and I celebrated the change. Others were extremely difficult and I entered them with great hesitation.

One thing that I have learned in all of that upheaval is that God has been with me every step of the way. When I was a kid, my understanding of God was very fractured. I didn't grow up in church, so much of my understandings of faith were pieced together from what I'd heard from my grandmother and what I saw on TV or read in books. I did not have a full view of who God was in the shifting seasons and, as such, in some of them I found myself angry at God. "Why did I have to move again? Why can't I keep the relationships I've built? Why must I keep starting over?"

Each time, the Spirit gently prodded

me along, reminding me that even the most difficult of changing seasons would eventually lead to good moments and great relationships. As an adult, I now look back on all of those shifts and see that God used them to get me where I am today.

The thing is, I didn't want them. I wanted things to stay the same, to stay comfortable and under my control. Sometimes we have a firm grip on the changes we face, but most of the time we don't get to choose.

The thing about it is, the seasons are going to come whether we have control of them or not. Change is going to show up even if we don't welcome it. That's just part of living our lives in this world.

The only thing that remains constant in the midst of all of that is the God who journeys with us. If all we do is focus on avoiding the change (or even sabotaging it), we miss the fullness of God's calling to the next season — whatever that may be for us or our community of faith.

As with so many others before, I have no idea what the next change in season will be for us. What I do know is that our constant God is with us. I wonder what beautiful seasons will come as we face the change we are being called to?

Lawrence



Celebrating my 15th birthday, just before moving to my second of three high schools.



Rev. Dr. Lawrence Powers
Senior Pastor
lawrence@bensonbaptist.org

Notes from Todd

Reflecting on my 30+ years in church music ministry makes me both sad and hopeful.

I am sad that most people no longer see church attendance as a high priority. Going to church is not just part of my routine. It's where I get instruction, inspiration, and fellowship that are vital in my spiritual journey. I look around at all the empty spaces on Sundays and wonder where all the people are and how they are faring spiritually without regular undergirding of a church family and a live, in-person worship experience.

Maybe they are worshipping and studying somewhere else. But probably not. There was a time when church pews were full on Sunday mornings and not just when there was a wedding or funeral. As a music leader, there is nothing else like the sounds of voices lifted up in a full choir loft or a full sanctuary. I truly miss that.

I am hopeful, however, that some changes are taking place that one day will be seen as progress. Since the pandemic came in March 2020, we have added live-streaming and recorded services so that our homebound members and others can be part of the worship experience here when they are unable to attend in person. This has extended our reach to many more people, including a lot of non-members. To reach those who prefer small, informal gatherings over larger, formal worship services, we have begun looking at forming small groups who would meet either inside or outside our church walls.

We have also begun to have thoughtful discussions about topics that, while controversial, cry out for our attention. Topics such as racism, sexual orientation, and abortion have largely been ignored by churches in the past. We can't expect everyone to agree on these issues, but we as Christians should be able to engage in honest, informed, prayerful dialogue and try to deal with these issues as Jesus would.

On September 15 we had our first chancel choir rehearsal since the pandemic began. It was refreshing to see at least a few choristers return, to sit in beautiful, comfortable new chairs in the choir room, and to see newly painted walls. When I apologized for the new paint smell, William Massengill chimed in, "It's the smell of progress."

Change is inevitable. Let's follow William's example and celebrate change that is progress and avoid change for the sake of change.

In His Service,

Todd

Todd Johnson
Minister of Music
todd@bensonbaptist.org



WILL'S WHIMS

In Genesis 12, God tells Abram (later known as Abraham), "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you."

After several years serving as a minister, I wondered what land God might be calling me too. As it turns out, God felt it would be fun to call this mountain-born-and-raised city-slicker to a small town that celebrates mules, and I could not be more grateful! You all at Benson Baptist have welcomed Celine and I into your church family with open arms and we have been so thankful for your love and hospitality as we begin this new chapter.

We just joined the church and moved into our new home, and so it looks like y'all are stuck with us. We have so much to look forward to over the coming years and I am loving getting to know our youth and children. Without our youngest members, the church ceases to be and ultimately fails in its calling to spread the love of God. I

have already begun dreaming what could be and how I can best walk alongside these teenagers and children as they grow and learn what it means to both love and be loved by God.

Abram agreed to go, and his life was changed. I am so excited to see how both my life and the lives of everyone here at Benson Baptist change as we go forward together.

Get to Know Will

Hometown: Asheville, NC

Favorite Part of NC: The Mountains

Undergraduate: Appalachian State

Degree: Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Graduate: Gardner-Webb School of Divinity

Favorite Icecream Flavor: Moose Tracks

Favorite Dessert: Krispy Kreme Donuts

Favorite Meal: Fried chicken with any of the sides with Smithfield's Chicken & BBQ (Will only discovered Smithfield's after moving to Benson!)

Married to: Celine

Parent to: Indy the hound mix

Favorite Place in Benson (So Far): Salvaged Heirlooms



Rev. Will Raybon

Minister of Youth and Children
will@bensonbaptist.org



The View from Debbie's Desk

The last year has been really rough: Both my parents passing away. My family having covid. The boys having emotional, physical, and mental issues start up. Don's been having back issues. My former pastor (at the church we go to) pled guilty to 32 counts of sex crimes and was sentenced to a minimum of 10 years and a maximum of 17 years in jail. (I just haven't been able to wrap my head around the thought that anyone and especially a pastor could do those things.) Halloween is coming up. I've already started seeing Asher affected. Halloween is a bad time for Asher. When the commercials come out that's when Asher has horrible nightmares. He tries to pretend he's ok but then he goes to sleep and it's not good. Also, we've sold our house in Benson so I can no longer call myself a Benson resident. ☹️ Which makes me sad. I love Benson. There's more but that's enough for this article. I know you get the picture.

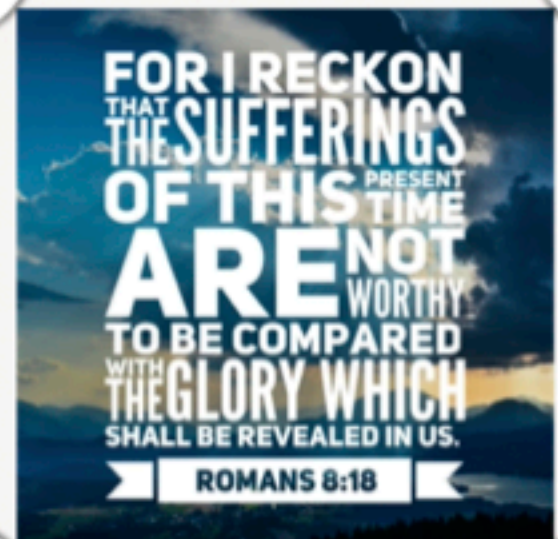
Facing change. Yes, indeed. Have I lost my faith? No way. Have I been more emotional and "Crusty"? (that's what Don is calling my being short and firm with people) Yes, I would say so. I know every step of the way God is with me. Do I acknowledge Him and thank Him for being with me every step of this past year? No, I fall short in that area. I am undeserving of His love, but I am blessed that He still loves me, helps me and stays with me even when I don't acknowledge it.

One of our church family has been posting on Facebook almost daily these sayings from an app called 'Calm.' She does not know

how much reading these have helped me. When I see one, I pause and let the words sink in. To me this is a God thing - something He does to help me. He's reaching out to me in my world a place where I go to hide from the real world and gives me comfort and peace even if it's only for a moment.

I am trying to look forward to the future with a more positive, Christ like attitude. I want to show people that I love God with everything that I have and even though it's been a rough year, God is seeing me through it one step at a time, day by day.

Debbie



Debbie Champagne
Administrative Assistant
debbie@bensonbaptist.org



taylor's

thoughts

Who are you in the midst of change is a question that has been at the forefront of my college years. I came into college in 2018 and had never even thought about the possibility of a pandemic and now here I am in 2021 about to graduate in one. Change is something that I have had to become accustomed to over the last few years.

I personally neither hate or love change. I believe that change can be unbelievably hard and that it can also bring about goodness. When I think of change I am often reminded of the Exodus. While the Israelites had just been freed from the Egyptians they complained to Moses to send them back to Egypt because surely it would be better for them there. They were facing change and they did not like the way that it felt. We as readers can laugh at them or question them because we have the full story, but for them they didn't know what would be ahead.

For us we have been in the same place many times over the last few years. How often do you hear someone say "I just wish we could

do this again," or "I want some normalcy," or "when this is all over we can go back to what we were doing before." While I have said those things myself, I wonder if my focus on what I miss about the past is hindering me from walking ahead into what God has for the future or being here in the present moment.

To face change we have to be present right where we are. Micha Boyett in Sarah Bessey's *A Rhythm of Prayer* writes a prayer called *A Prayer Against Efficiency* and in it she says this, *"God, teach us to pause in this moment, to tuck ourselves into the curve of your slow arm, that we may know the miracle of now, the gift of this moment: you beside and beyond us, welcoming us outside of all we measure, and standing with us in it. May we see the goodness of our still hours and days, sunrises, sunsets, and the darkness where our rest is found. Order us, that we may stand within time holding your hand. That we may know we are enough, not because of what we make of these hours, but because within these hours - with you- we are being made."*

May you pause here in the midst of change and be present with yourself and God knowing that you are being made.



Taylor Long
College Ministry Intern
taylor@bensonbaptist.org



Fox Tales

With mixed feelings I always look forward to this time of the year. Growing up in Louisiana, I only saw pictures of how beautiful the fall colors could be since we, for the most part, we're surrounded by evergreens. Cooler temperatures were something you eagerly awaited to arrive in November if we were lucky.

Once I moved to Kentucky for graduate school, I fell in love with the very separate and unique four seasons of the year along with the splendor of color each of them would bring.

Over the past 24 years of living in North Carolina, I have been able to continue to anticipate God's creation for this time of the year with one exception that everywhere I have lived has in common...ragweed or the technical name known as goldenrod.

My allergies alert me to the first bloom of this evil weed before my eye ever discovers it. The watering eyes, snuffy nose, and sneezing begins on key in late August announcing its arrival. Medication is increased, tissue sales rise, and carefully choosing outdoor activities all become a way of life until the first frost.

How can the enjoyment of something so comfortable and beautiful be accompanied by so much dread? Isn't this how most change in life happens though? We eagerly await Mule Days only to dread the traffic issues, we eagerly await the arrival of a new born baby only to await sleepless nights, we eagerly anticipate buying that first home only to dread the yard work and the list goes on.

Over the past 18 months we have experienced a rollercoaster of changes throughout the pandemic... our numbers go up/then the go down, we wear mask/we don't wear mask/we go back to wearing ask, we wait for a vaccine/ we get a vaccine/then

not everybody takes the vaccine. We question when everything will be "normal" again.

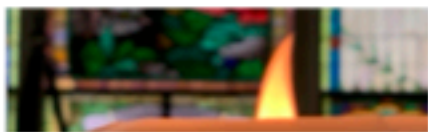
Throughout our churches and living as Christians, we, too, have mixed emotions of how change will look. All change brings with it both good and often unexpected consequences. When God created this world for us to live in, do you believe that He did not plan for change? With most things balance is needed thus requiring different directions for events. When we invite Christ into our hearts, a change in how we make decisions should take place. When we went to virtual church services, we found that even though we missed the fellowship of being together some of our shut-Its felt more apart of church again.

BBC has had many changes in staff, schedules, committees, and newly elected deacons. This will be a personal change for me since I have only experienced sitting in deacon meetings as a staff member. Some of the changes we have seen and will see may not always be viewed as favorable decisions. In the opinion of others, the changes may be considered just what is needed. Life is about balance, a give and a take. In all things we need to seek God's balance for our lives whether it is in an agreeable situation or not. What God has created as a positive for one person may not appear as a positive for another. This is where our faith in God is mandatory in order to survive the changes in our personal lives and that of the world.

May we consciously approach each of the coming days seeking His direction in our lives in this ever changing world so that God's balance may be seen.

Rev. Marie Fox





Join us as we remember
those we've lost since the
last edition of BBC
Connections:

Barbara Denning

JULY 8, 1954-JULY 10, 2021

Frances Whittington

JUNE 21, 1925-AUGUST 17, 2021

Larry Williams

SEPTEMBER 1, 1941-AUGUST 18, 2021

WELCOME TO THE WORLD!

Join us in welcoming the newest
addition to our church family!

**Samuel "Sam" Tucker
Worthington**

**Son of Paul and Ashlyn
Worthington**

Born June 2, 2021



All Saints' Day

31st



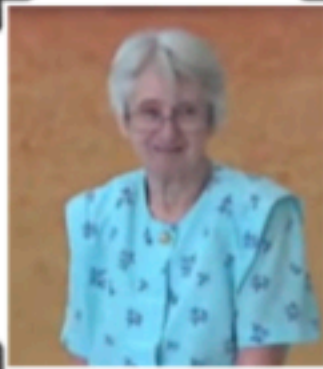
Oct



Special services of remembrance for those we've lost

8:45 AM & 11 AM
In-person or online at bensonbaptist.org

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!



Sandra Jones



Landon Whitman



Jonah Teske



Jackson Powers



Will & Celine Raybon



Robert Schaffer



Jennifer & John Teske



Thomas & Robert McQuade



October

Austin Spears 10-2

Matt Frazier 10-4

Halle Adams 10-5

William Massengill 10-5

Beth Pate 10-6

Anne Lee 10-6

Debbie Smith 10-6

Reagan Vanek 10-7

Jake Vanek 10-9

Westin Vanek 10-9

Betsy Stevens 10-10

Sue Price 10-11

Maynard Barnes 10-13

Brian Naig 10-13

Braston Newton 10-13

Charley Johnson 10-20

Tommy Rogers 10-21

Gayle Holmes 10-22

Belinda Kiziah 10-22

Robbie Hood 10-24

Kendall Tart Dunn 10-24

Aleen Langdon 10-25

Mary Helen Paige 10-25

Jenna Hope Johnson 10-27

Tommy Dixon 10-28

Liz Whittington 10-28

Deborah Turner 10-29

Darlene Martin 10-31

November

Emily Canaday 11-1

Daniel Powers 11-1

Cody Barnes 11-2

Josh Williams 11-2

Alyssa Newton 11-5

Vanessa Carrillo 11-8

Charles Tolley 11-11

Victor Barfield 11-12

Penny Hester 11-13

Mark Godwin 11-15

Judy Oberbauer 11-15

Kathy Byrd 11-16

Chris Spears 11-16

Lee Campbell 11-17

Joy Lynn McGee 11-17

Erin Warren 11-17

Sue Guin 11-18

Donna Johnson 11-18

Jeffrey Jones 11-18

Rebecca Neighbors 11-18

Penny Dixon 11-22

Hilda Honeycutt 11-24

Lindsey Dixon 11-25

Sterling Holmes 11-25

Judy Johnson 11-26

Rick Kiziah 11-27

Bromley Royal 11-28

Heather Powers 11-29

December

Loretta Byrd 12-5

Gordon McLamb 12-7

Laynelle Stancil 12-7

Ann Johnson 12-8

Larry Martin 12-8

Avery Lynn Neighbors 12-9

Hannah Jernigan 12-12

Brian Killebrew 12-12

Natalie Farris 12-13

Brittany Adams 12-17

Richard Johnson 12-17

Michelle Naig 12-17

Judy Warren 12-17

Janet Matthews 12-18

Devon Powers 12-18

Angelina Victoria Carrillo 12-19

Joshua Naig 12-19

Rene Honeycutt 12-21

Earl Honeycutt 12-21

Loria Lay 12-26

Jane Pope 12-27

Sally Miller 12-28

Maria McQuade 12-29

Kara Johnson 12-30

January

Cody Hoyle 1-1

Emi Poole 1-2

Bennett Coats 1-3

Joe Dunn 1-4

Bennett Harris 1-5

Robbie Harper 1-5

Victoria Lambert Carrillo 1-7

Emily Warren 1-8

Jan Hodges 1-9

Lois Hood 1-9

William Johnson 1-9

Caroline Massengill 1-10

Rodney Harris 1-11

Clay Pope 1-14

Sheila Cagle Jones 1-15

J.H. Langdon, Jr. 1-17

Jeffrey Lambert 1-17

Jenny Johnson 1-21

Myra Padilla 1-22

Jacob Dunn 1-23

Sandra Jones 1-24

Dina Adams 1-25

Judy Kennedy 1-25

Mackenzie McGee 1-26

Chris Underwood 1-26

Mary Bowman Aylin 1-28

C.C. Canaday, III 1-30



New BBC Connections Publishing Schedule:

January

May

October

Other Ways to Keep Up With Us:



Weekly Emails



BBC App on
your phone or
tablet



On the web at
bensonbaptist.org

More and Sign-Up:

www.bensonbaptist.org/enews

www.bensonbaptist.org/app

October 10th

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY



BBC CHILDREN

KIDSPARK

Games, Missions, & Crafts
Sundays, 6-7

MEGA CORN MAZE



BBC Youth - October 31 @ 4 PM
BBC Children - November 7 @ 1 PM

Join us for a fun evening
of trunk or treating!

Trunk or Treat

When: October 24, 6:30pm
Wear: Your Halloween best

Lighthouse Parade to Follow!

BBC YOUTH

BIG GAMES NIGHT

NOVEMBER 19

6 - MIDNIGHT



**Benson
Baptist
Youth**

DEEP ROOTS. FORWARD VISION

Looking Forward 21-22

**Sunday Night 5:00 - 7:00
Fellowship Hall**

5:00 - 5:45: Community Meal
5:45 - 6:00: Community Catch-Up
6:00-6:20 (every other Sunday): Youth Music
6:00 - 7:00: Games & Bible Study
*unless otherwise announced

OCTOBER

Sunday, 10/3 - Youth Parent Meeting @ 4 PM
Saturday, 10/16 - Service Project @ Four Leaf Clover
Sunday, 10/24 - Trunk or Treat/Lighthouse Parade
Sunday, 10/31 - Tart's Mega Corn Maze @ 4 PM

NOVEMBER

Friday, 11/19 - Big Games Night @ 6 PM
Sunday, 11/21 - LAST Sunday Night
Sunday, 11/28 - Hanging of the Green/Fundraiser

DECEMBER

Sunday, 12/5 - Youth & Children Christmas Cantata
Friday, 12/17 - Christmas Party @ TBD
Sunday, 12/19 - Blue Christmas
Friday, 12/24 - Christmas Eve



**Benson
Baptist
Children**

DEEP ROOTS. FORWARD VISION

Looking Forward 21-22

**Sunday Night 5:00 - 7:00
Fellowship Hall**

5:00 - 5:45: Community Meal
5:45 - 6:00: Community Catch-Up
6:00-6:20 (every other Sunday): Children's Music
6:00 - 7:00: KidSpark
*unless otherwise announced

OCTOBER

Sunday, 10/10 - Children's Sunday
Sunday, 10/24 - Trunk or Treat/Lighthouse Parade

NOVEMBER

Sunday, 11/7 - Tart's Mega Corn Maze @ 1 PM
Sunday, 11/21 - LAST Sunday Night
Sunday, 11/28 - Hanging of the Green

DECEMBER

Sunday, 12/5 - Youth & Children Christmas Cantata
Sunday, 12/12 - Christmas Party @ 1 PM
Sunday, 12/19 - Blue Christmas
Sunday, 12/24 - Christmas Eve



THEY'RE BACK ON A NEW NIGHT!

SWEATER WEATHER SUNDAYS

January 9, 16, 23, 30

JANUARY 9

TBA

JANUARY 16

Church-Wide Game Night

JANUARY 23

TBA

JANUARY 30

5th Sunday Sing Event



WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need volunteers to join us in the sound booth for services!

We'll train you on how to run the sound board, video, and stream services and join those who lead in worship through this important ministry!

Contact Lawrence for more info!



YOUNG ADULT Community



FALL COOKOUT

THE PARSONAGE | NOVEMBER 6
ALL COLLEGE-AGED & YOUNG ADULTS INVITED



JOIN OUR PRAISE BAND

Do you sing? Do you play an instrument (guitar, piano, drums, violin, trumpet, etc.)?

WE NEED YOU in our Contemporary Praise Band for our 9:45 AM worship service. (Even if you're not a regular attendee at BBC).

You can play every week or be on a rotation. Rehearsals are Wednesday nights.

Contact: lawrence@bensonbaptist.org for more information!



We Need You!

JOIN OUR CHOIR

More information: todd@bensonbaptist.org



CHURCH-WIDE SPIRITUAL FORMATION RETREAT

MARCH 11-13 | FORT CASWELL
OAK ISLAND, NC



SENIOR ADULT GROUP CHECK-IN

WEDNESDAYS AT 3:00PM

CALL: 508-924-1873



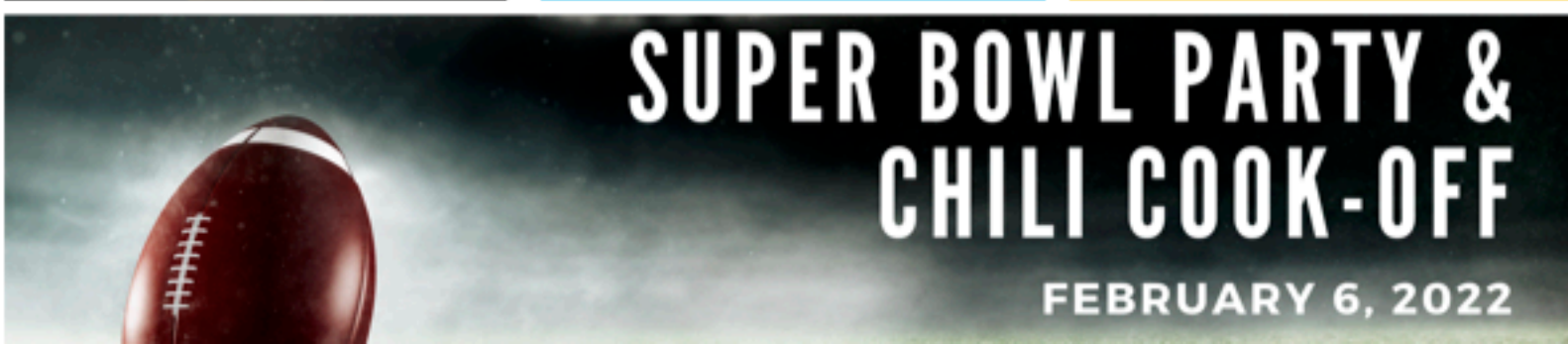
SPRING COMMUNITY GROUPS

Kick-off on February 13, 2022
Dinner, Discussion, Growth



SUPER BOWL PARTY & CHILI COOK-OFF

FEBRUARY 6, 2022



Advent & Christmas 2021

It does not seem like it's time for the season of Advent again, but it is just around the corner! We have a full schedule of events planned at BBC for you and your family to connect with Christ and one another and can't wait to share them with you! Here's a few of the things coming up:



Services to celebrate the beginning of the season of Advent and to reflect on our decorations.

Youth & Children Christmas Program

December 5

An annual favorite, join our youth and children as they remind us of the reason for the season. *Time TBA*



A service of music, reflection and joy led by our Chancel Choir! *Time TBA*

Blue Christmas Service

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND RECOGNITION OF THE GRIEF AND LOSS EXPERIENCED DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

SUNDAY DECEMBER 19
7PM

BENSON BAPTIST CHURCH
IN-PERSON OR ONLINE AT BENSONBAPTIST.ORG

The holidays are often full of the pain of loss — and not everyone understands. Join us for our annual Blue Christmas service as we pause to reflect and remember.



Join us on Christmas Eve for candlelight services at 5pm (Skits, Praise Team, Videos) or 7pm (Traditional Lessons & Carols).



Come move through the Stations of the Nativity in our Sanctuary for self-led prayer and reflection as you enjoy the decorations and Talze music. M-W, 9:30am-4pm, Sundays, 2pm-4pm.

Thank You

Watch Me Grow School's Out event was held on June 13 and the children enjoyed planting seeds and making handprint stepping stones — thanks to my master cement mixer, Shane Johnson! Thanks also to Amy Hardison for her assistance. We had five children in attendance and they enjoyed outside games, ice pops and a goodie bag.

The Kindness Rocks Back to School event was held on August 8 and the children, as well as the youth, enjoyed painting rocks and making cards for Benson Elementary School staff. They also participated in a secret decoder kindness game and had ice cream sundaes. A great time was had by all!

Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this capacity!

Amy Whittington



Vacation Bible School took place on July 18-22 and it was a BLAST!

A HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers who helped pull off our escape into the wilderness with Moses!

We had over 60 children in attendance throughout the week as we learned about how God cares for and loves us.

We couldn't have done it without you and are looking forward to next year's VBS!

2022 VBS Director: Natalie Farris

2023 VBS Director: Renee Underwood



Photo Galleries

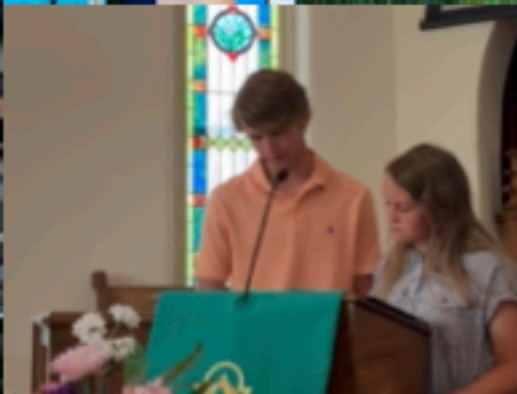


Photo Galleries



The Directory IS Still Coming!

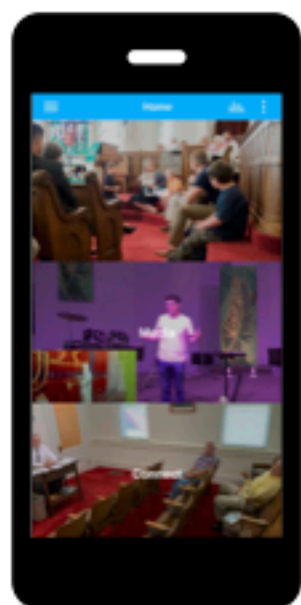
We are still working on the new BBC Directory! Thank you for sending in your photos and updating your information with the office. While we've received some photos, we're still missing quite a few. PLEASE send in your photo ASAP so that we can get the directory out to everyone!

Also, look for an email in October with information on how to access the directory via the secure app or website.

From the BBC Archives:



Dr. Larry Williams pauses for a laugh and a photo alongside Rev. Niles Compton at the Benson Baptist Church 100th Anniversary Celebration in 1987.



Download Our App!

Search 'Benson Baptist Church' in your Apple, Google Play, or Amazon (Kindle) store to:

- Give your tithes and offerings securely online (Give one time or easily set up reoccurring gifts)
- Access sermon video/audio archives and Children's Sermon videos.
- Check the calendar for upcoming events
- Sign-up for events, classes and more
- Pay using a card for events, classes, wreaths, poinsettias, etc.