

Prayer?

Please list your prayer requests with detailed information of people in need. Thank you!

Year-End Giving.

Thank you so much for your generosity and faithfulness to East Cooper Baptist Church and its ministries! To be sure you receive contribution credit for 2021, please have your giving in by the following times:

Offering: Dropped in the giving box on Sunday, December 26th.

Hand-delivered: To the ECBC office by 12:00 noon on **Thursday, December 30th**. The church offices will be closed on Friday, December 31st. Contributions that are hand-delivered after 12:00pm on the 30th will be credited to 2022.

Mail: Post-marked by USPS by December 31, 2021. Any mail postmarked in 2022 will be credited to 2022.

Online: By 11:59 pm on December 31st, 2021.

If you have questions, please email finance@eastcooperbaptist.com

843.856.3222 x PRAY (7729)
prayer@eastcooperbaptist.com

NEW TO ECBC?

For more information email info@eastcooperbaptist.com

First Time Guest?

We'd love to get to know you!

SCAN DIGITAL CONNECT CARD



Sermon.

Speaker: Buster Brown, Senior Pastor

Message: Good News of Great Joy Announced to... Shepherds?!

Text: Luke 2:7-20

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.' ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!' ¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.' ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."
Luke 2:7-20

The birth announcement of Jesus is filled with wonder and surprises.

"Jesus was created by a mother whom he created. He cried in the manger in wordless infancy, He the Word, without whom all human eloquence is mute." Augustine (354-430)

The shepherds were considered second class citizens who could not fulfill judicial offices or be admitted into court as witnesses. It was a common understanding to buy wool, milk, or a kid from a shepherd was forbidden, under the assumption that it would be stolen property. It is understood that some shepherds earned their poor reputation, but others became victims of a cruel stereotype.

"I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." Luke 5:32

"For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being

(continued >>)

Sermon.

(continued)

might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'
1 Corinthians 1:26-31

1. We are all "shepherds."

"The Christmas story reminds us that hopelessness is the only doorway to true and eternal hope. It is only when you give up on you that you seek and celebrate what God, in holy love, offers you in the person and work of his son, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is true that hope is a thing; it is a person, and his name is Immanuel."

Paul David Tripp, *Let Us Adore Him*

...Helping broken people treasure Jesus.

2. Embrace the shepherd's journey.

"Go and see...went in haste"

"As for me, I said in my prosperity, 'I shall never be moved.' By your favor, O Lord, you made my mountain stand strong; you hid your face; I was dismayed."
Psalm 30:6-7

3. The shepherd's response: worship and on mission with the Lord.

4. Keeping the Christ event central: pondering (thinking deeply about) the reality of the Advent.

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING (Stanza 2)

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord:
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus our Immanuel.

A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

"And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God."
Philippians 1:9-11



Your mobile devices are welcome! After the service, we encourage you to share encouraging pieces of the sermon or worship service on social media. Tag ECBC using #ecbccharleston.

Listen to sermons online at eastcooperbaptist.com/sermons

DECEMBER 26, 2021



DECEMBER - JANUARY
LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS OFFERING®
CHURCH GOAL: \$500,000



 **EAST COOPER**
BAPTIST CHURCH

eastcooperbaptist.com

Hello.

Please complete the perforated section and take to the Welcome Desk or place in any giving box located around the church.

I/We attended worship at:

9:30a 11:00a

I am a first time guest

Name

Spouse

Birthdate Spouse Birthdate

Address

City

State Zip

Mobile

Spouse Mobile

Email

Spouse Email

Preferred method of contact: Call Text Email

Interested in the following:
 Become a Christian
 Join the Church
 Meet with a Pastor
 Subscribe to newsletter
 Other



Welcome.

We're glad you are here to worship with us. If you are new to East Cooper Baptist, we would love to meet you. Please stop anyone with a blue name-tag and let us answer any questions you may have. Thanks for being our guest.

Buster Brown, Senior Pastor
busterb@eastcooperbaptist.com | 843.856.3222 x2006

Traditional Worship
Sanctuary 9:30am & 11:00am
Contemporary Worship
Worship Center 9:30am & 11:00am

Ways to Give.

Giving is part of our worship to God. Through your faithful giving, God continues to change lives here in our area and around the world.



Give in-person by dropping your gift in any giving box located throughout the church.

Give online by visiting our website at: eastcooperbaptist.com/give.



Give via text by texting the word "GIVE" to 843-202-4848.

COVID-19 Update.



The Delta Variant has declined in our area, therefore, the leadership voted recently to move to mask optional effective November 1. We appreciate your kindness and consideration as we navigate this season.

We encourage you to be praying for the medical staff in our community as they navigate this season's challenges due to COVID-19.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING® CHURCH GOAL: \$500,000

Starting in 1888, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was established to empower the international missions efforts for Southern Baptists. Your giving enables missionaries to be sent to make disciples and multiply churches among unreached peoples and places for the glory of God. 100% of your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering support International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries.



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING® CHURCH GOAL: \$500,000

The International Mission Board uses 100% of the gifts given to Lottie Moon to send missionaries all over the world. Our church goal is \$500,000. You may give:

- ONLINE at eastcooperbaptist.com/lottiemoon
- BY GIVING BOX
- TEXT 843-202-4848: 50 lottiemoon (to give \$50.00)

You may check the progress of our offering online, too! Questions, please email: finance@eastcooperbaptist.com

361 Egypt Road • Mount Pleasant, SC 29464 • 843.856.3222

Upcoming.

For detailed event information, please go online. eastcooperbaptist.com/events

REGULAR SERVICES NEXT WEEK

Next week, January 2, we will have regular service hours in both venues. Our Nursery will be available for parents at 9:30 & 11:00am. We encourage kids of all ages to worship with their parents!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

RENEW

We are asking everyone in the East Cooper family to join us for a 4-part class on Sunday mornings starting January 9th called Renew. Visit eastcooperbaptist.com/renew to register.



REGISTER TODAY.

LIFELINE INTERNATIONAL ADOPTION INFO MEETING

During this meeting, you'll hear directly from members of Lifeline's staff about the heart of their ministry, along with a general overview of our programs and the adoption process. January 9 at 7:00pm.



Attend this webinar: lifelinechild.org/information-meetings

SERVE IN WORSHIP MINISTRY

Sunday morning worship is such a vital part of our church! It takes a team of volunteers to help bring music to our venues! If you are gifted musically and desire to use it, volunteer at eastcooperbaptist.com/serve.



SIGN UP TODAY!

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