

Church News

Bellview will host their first annual New Year, New Life BBQ & Fireworks Show on January 2, 2026 beginning at 6:30 pm. Register by scanning the QR Code.



Friendship welcomes their new pastor, Travis Coleman and his wife, Jennifer.



Thursday, February 19, 2026
Shandon Baptist Church
5250 Forest Drive, Columbia, SC 29206



Dr. Jamie Dew
New Orleans Baptist
Theological Seminary



Dr. Hershael W. York
The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary



Cristo Moore
The Grove
Community Church

Focus on WMU
Sunday
February 15
For ideas on how to
highlight WMU in your
church, please visit
[wmu.com/churchwide/
focus-on-wmu-sunday](http://wmu.com/churchwide/focus-on-wmu-sunday).



THANK YOU, LBA churches
for completing the 2025
Annual Church Profiles



Associational Staff

Associational Missionary

Reiny Koschel

Crisis Center Director

Kay Leagans

Office Manager

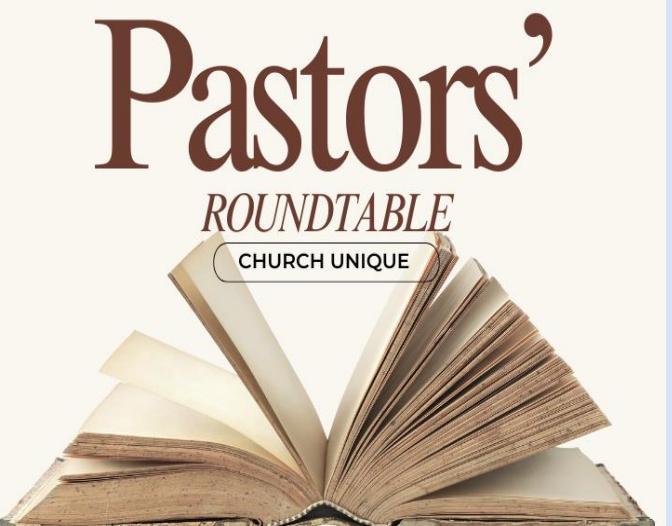
Lory Satterfield

MISSION CENTER HOURS

Monday-Thursday

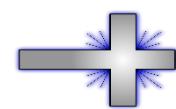
8:30 am-4:30 pm

Lunch hour 12:30pm-1:30pm



JANUARY 22, 2026
&
FEBRUARY 26, 2026
10:00 am

Lunch provided following the discussion.
RSVP Reiny if you would like to participate



Return Service Requested

NEWSLETTER
Laurens Baptist Association
Post Office Box 745
Laurens, SC 29360

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Laurens, SC 29360
Permit No. 86



For HIS Kingdom, By HIS Power, For HIS Glory

Laurens Baptist Association

Equipping Churches to Reach

"Laurens Island"

Churches Working Together For HIS Kingdom, By HIS Power, For HIS Glory

LBA NEWS

January/February 2026

www.laurensisland.org

Volume 57 Issue 1

LBA Mission Center & Crisis Center will be closed in observance of Christmas & New Year's holidays

December 24, 2025 - January 1, 2026. We will reopen January 5, 2026.

LAURENS COUNTY ONE NIGHT

Sunday, February 22 | 5:00 - 8:00 PM
6th - 12th GRADE

LAURENS AGRICULTURE CENTER
168 Fairgrounds Road, Laurens, SC 29360

PIZZA, WORSHIP, GIVEAWAYS

MORE DETAILS TO COME IN THE NEW YEAR

Women with a for Missions Luncheon

January 31, 2026, 11:30 a.m.

Laurens First Baptist Church Gymnasium
300 W. Main Street, Laurens

Ages 10-110 are invited!

Registration will begin January 11

This is a free event with donations accepted
to cover cost of the meal.

Sponsored by Laurens Baptist Association Women's Missionary Union

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE
PASTORS & 1 ELECTED LAY MEMBER
FROM EACH MEMBER CHURCH



BLUE OCEAN
SEAFOOD
RESTAURANT

January 29
6:30 PM

RSVP
by calling Reiny
or LBA office

Courageous Prayer

Well, we are about to finish another year of life. As I write this, Christmas is almost upon us, and another year is staring us right in the face. A new year is exciting in many ways - a chance to start over, a chance to reengage, a chance to finally do the things we have been saying for years that we need to do. However, for many of us, the new year will also require a bit of fortitude and courage.

The same exciting opportunities can quickly become challenging obstacles. The same New Year that offers the opportunity to lose some excess weight is the same New Year that requires the difficult, disciplined decision to actually do the work necessary to lose it. Now, your New Year's opportunity may have nothing to do with weight, but whatever opportunities for change are available will always be followed by the challenge of implementing the behaviors that make that change possible. All of this is beginning to sound like *weigh* too much work (pun intended). I'm starting to think I might just wait another year to move from the opportunity stage to the implementation stage.

If meaningful change is actually going to happen, it will require the courage to get it done. Courage is a key component in refusing to put off for another year what needs to be done now. Some of us may feel a bit like the Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, who believed he lacked the courage to face what was before him. Courage is not the absence of fear; it is the decision to move forward and act in spite of fear and doubt. Anyone who has truly demonstrated courage will tell you that fear was present—but it did not have the final word.

Aurelia and I are blessed with four grandchildren. About a year ago, my oldest son shared a story with me about something Judah, our oldest grandson, said during a family prayer time. As part of their family devotions, they were praying for missionaries from their church who were preparing to serve in a faraway and difficult country. As my five-year-old grandson began to pray, he said something like, “Lord, I would be afraid if you sent me to go to a faraway country. But if you do send me, give me the courage to go.”

When that story was shared with me, I couldn't help but get a bit choked up. That little man understood enough to know that obedience to Jesus can be scary at times. His innocence and honesty were not masked by sanctimonious spiritual jargon, as many of us adults might be tempted to use. Instead, he openly admitted his fear - but he didn't stop there. He also recognized that God is able to provide exactly what is needed in fearful moments and to infuse courage to obey. His prayer was not that God would refrain from sending him, but that if God did send him, He would provide the courage necessary to obey.

As we face a new year, our greatest struggles will not ultimately be with weight, debt, or any other challenge - formidable as those may be. Our greatest struggle will always be whether or not we choose to obey the Lord as He leads in our lives. God told Joshua in Joshua 1:9 (NAS), “Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” The God who called Joshua to lead was the same God who promised to provide the courage needed to carry out that calling.

My prayer for our churches as we enter 2026 is that we will acknowledge our fears but refuse to be led by them. May Judah's prayer for courage become our prayer of trust in the God who leads us into the New Year. Let us not allow fear of the unknown to keep us from embracing the courage that comes from the One who knows all. Like many things in life, this is far easier to preach than to live - but God calls us to do both.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Reiny

	Oct-Nov 2025	Thru Nov 2025	Thru Nov 2024
*Bar None Cowboy	-	147.78	369.21
Beaverdam	-	1,125.00	1,125.00
Bellview	3,612.39	22,591.46	20,241.37
Bethabara	-	-	150.00
Bethel	-	-	-
Beulah	765.78	7,969.88	8,718.42
Cedarwood	1,134.00	5,092.34	5,833.92
Chestnut Ridge	6,000.00	44,947.36	27,563.86
Clinton First	-	479.50	3,000.00
Community	600.00	3,000.00	3,300.00
Cross Hill First	736.00	3,968.00	3,762.00
Davidson Street	873.76	4,283.82	4,470.42
Durbin Creek	111.39	1,662.41	1,510.70
Eastside	333.34	1,833.34	1,833.33
Fairview	250.00	875.00	-
Friendship	-	4,908.98	3,062.58
Gray Court First	-	400.00	200.00
Harmony	109.05	1,565.05	1,172.80
Henderson	494.94	3,097.90	3,056.19
Highland Home	375.00	1,125.00	1,125.00
Holly Grove	1,065.00	4,030.00	3,589.00
Hurricane	416.01	1,734.17	1,357.92
Joanna First	-	900.00	2,000.00
Lanford	250.00	1,375.00	1,375.00
Laurens First	2,864.56	16,584.49	21,602.18
Laurens Second	140.11	585.26	1,124.80
Lucas Avenue	583.34	3,185.93	3,248.85
Mountville	646.61	3,189.16	5,034.96
Mt. Gallagher	600.00	3,900.00	2,400.00
Mt. Olive	200.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Mt. Pleasant	-	-	53.36
New Beginning	30.00	300.00	350.00
New Prospect	372.69	2,362.91	3,024.57
Northside	100.00	550.00	550.00
Pine Grove	552.09	3,499.90	4,005.67
Pleasant Grove	779.63	5,006.54	4,332.27
Poplar Springs	100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Princeton	344.92	1,811.80	1,917.82
Rabun Creek	205.76	2,028.85	2,551.69
Rosemont	830.00	5,080.00	5,578.00
Union	419.57	2,494.04	5,208.75
Upstate Gathering	-	2,000.00	144.69
Warrior Creek	-	1,166.63	3,527.33
Waterloo	-	-	567.00
Wayside	118.19	639.23	566.13
Welcome	351.60	1,674.02	1,903.48
TOTAL	26,365.73	175,370.75	168,708.27

CRISIS CENTER

Hours of Operation

Tuesday & Thursday

9:00 am - 11:30 am

January

Tuesday, 6 - Beaverdam
 Thursday, 8 - New Beginning
 Tuesday, 13 - Clinton First
 Thursday, 15 - Martha Franks
 Tuesday, 20 - Northside
 Thursday, 22 - Union
 Tuesday, 27 - Warrior Creek
 Thursday, 29 - Upstate Gathering

February

Tuesday, 3 - Laurens First
 Thursday, 5 - St. James
 Tuesday, 10 - Welcome
 Thursday, 12 - New Prospect
 Tuesday, 17 - Bethel
 Thursday, 19 - Martha Franks
 Tuesday, 24 - Pine Grove
 Thursday, 26 - Mountville

If your church cannot provide at least 3 volunteers, call Kay at 984-0123.

January Needs

Soup, Canned Meats, Canned Fruits

February Needs

Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti Noodles,
 Macaroni & Cheese

HomeLife, Mature Living, & Devotionals
are always needed

Collect non-perishable canned goods and donate to the

Laurens Baptist Crisis Center after the Big Game on February 8, 2026

SOUPER BOWL

Thank You!

To everyone that gave out of the abundance of your hearts to the many missions projects last quarter!

* Twenty-seven churches contributed nearly 2,000 personal hygiene & paper products to Connie Maxwell Children's Home!

* Two hundred and ninety JOY Boxes were collected for The Master's Mission to distribute!

* We met our goal of 500 Prisoner Packets for DJJ and delivered 159 for adults and 60 to AMIkids in Clinton.

* Eighteen churches participated in the Clemson/Carolina Challenge by collecting jars of peanut butter and jelly, respectively. A total of 525 Peanut Butter & 405 Jelly & 8 mixed jars were donated to the Crisis Center making it the true winner!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

GOOD NEWS CLUB

Currently seven of our churches are sharing the Gospel in local schools by partnering with Child Evangelism Fellowship of the

Upstate by leading Good News Clubs. Schools that need adopting are: Clinton Elementary, E.B. Morse Elementary, Laurens Elementary, and Gray Court - Owings Elementary.

If you or your church are interested in further information, please visit www.cefspartanburg.com or call (864) 574-0236.

Associational event calendar is now on our website, www.laurensisland.org, click on the 'calendar' tab.

Printed copies are also available in the office.