

Event Dates for January and February 2024

Jan 01	New Years Holiday —Office Closed
Jan 11	Ministers Conference—10:30 AM
Jan 11	Trustees Meeting—5:30 PM
Jan 16	Administrative Committee—6:30 PM
Jan 18	Pastor's Book Roundtable—10:00 AM
Jan 29	Executive Board Meeting—11:00 AM
Feb 01	Pastors & Wives Dinner—6:30 PM
Feb 08	Ministers Conference—10:30 AM
Feb 11	Super Bowl of Caring Sunday
Feb 15	Pastor's Book Roundtable—10:00 AM
Feb 22	SCBC IMPACT Conference— Church at the Mill, Spartanburg
Feb 25	One Night Laurens County—4 PM

Pastor's Book Roundtable

**January 18th
10:00 am**
**February 15th
10:00 am**



A—Admit to God you are a sinner. Repent and turn away from your sin.
(Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; 1 John 1:9; Acts 3:19)

B—Believe that Jesus is God's Son and that God sent Jesus to save people from their sin. (Romans 5:8; Acts 4:12; Acts 16:31; John 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18; John 14:16)

C—Commit your life to Jesus. Trust Him to be your Savior and Lord.
(Romans 10:13; Matthew 16:24; Luke 9:23)

ABC'S OF BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

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 2024

Volume 55 Issue 1



Pastors & Wives Dinner February 1st at 6:30 PM



**Blue Ocean
Seafood
Restaurant
Clinton, SC**

Please RSVP

SAVE THE DATE

ONE night

LAURENS COUNTY

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2024 4PM-8PM

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
1279 S. Frontage Rd, Fountain Inn, SC 29644

TRAVIS AGNEW
Lead Pastor
Rocky Creek Church

NGU
Student Band

**DODGEBALL
TOURNAMENT**
BEFORE THE MEAL!



Monday, January 15, 2024

First Baptist Abbeville
307 North Main Street
Abbeville, S.C. 29620

6-8pm – light refreshments will be served*

Speaker Connie Normand of Abbeville
Free Clinic

Contact-Darlene Lovette 864-942-7659
(dlovette64@yahoo.com)



Associational Staff

Associational Missionary

Reiny Koschel

Crisis Center Director

Kay Leagans

Administrative Assistant

Crystal Goforth

Financial Secretary

Lory Satterfield

MISSION CENTER HOURS

Monday-Thursday

8:30 am-4:30 pm

Lunch hour 12:30pm-1:30pm



**THANK YOU,
LBA churches
for completing the
2023 Annual Church
Profiles.**

If this is addressed incorrectly, please call to let us know.

NEWSLETTER
Laurens Baptist Association
Post Office Box 745
Laurens, SC 29360
(864) 984-0123

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

Executive Board Meeting January 29th at 11:00 am LBA Mission Center



**All pastors plus one
Representative from each church are invited
and encouraged to attend.**

Ministers Conferences

**January 11th
10:30 am**

**February 8th
10:30 am**

LBA Mission Center

**Trustees Meeting
January 11th
5:00 PM**

**Administrative
Meeting
January 16th
6:30 PM**

“Trump Card”

DISCLAIMER: THE FOLLOWING CONTENT MAY BE DIFFICULT FOR SOME TO HANDLE, READ AT YOUR OWN DISCRETION... (if anybody actually reads these articles anyway). No, no, I will not be wading into politics or into anything regarding our previous (and maybe next) President in this article. So, feel free to take a deep breath and join back with me in a minute. Feel better?

For those of you who know me, you know that I like to play all types of board and card games. In fact, I picked out a couple of new ones for my wife to give me for Christmas. Growing up, our family would frequently gather around our dinner table and play games. Holidays allowed us the time to have an extended game day marathon. In many games there is a single card (or some combination) that is sometimes referred to as “trump” card. A trump card is the one that has more value or influence than the others. If you are lucky enough to have this card (or combination) it could save you from destruction or completely destroy whatever your opponent may send your way. The trump card is the most important and valuable card in the game.

A while back we got a new card game called, “Exploding Kittens.” Now if you are offended by the title, remember I did give a disclaimer at the beginning. The good news is that no actual kittens are harmed in the playing of this game. The “Exploding Kitten” card is this game’s killer card, draw it you die...unless you have a “defuse” card. You see, the defuse card trumps the kitten blowing up and keeps you in the game. The point is, in this game if you have a “defuse” card you cannot die. It is the trump card to have, to hoard, to hold, and to play when needed. The problem is that there are other cards that your opponent may play that allows them to either ask for, or randomly pluck cards from your hand including the defuse card. Ok, enough about trump cards and felines blowing up.

Have you ever thought about what the “trump” card is, so to speak, for us Christians when it comes to our engagement with our world? Is there one specific trait, ability, or action that believers can exercise that can help them to persevere and overcome in any situation? As I was thinking about it, I believe that love is that “trump card.” Now I know when you start talking about love, it conjures up warm fuzzies and romantic interludes, but that is not our trump card. If it were, then we would always feel warm fuzzies and affection toward others in every circumstance. The Biblical idea of love is so much more than just feelings and fuzzies, it is the ability to choose to genuinely want the best for another person. And, not only want what’s best, but to act in a way that demonstrates we have their best interest at heart.

The Bible tells us that “God is love” (1 Jn 4:16) and we rejoice in that. The Bible tells us that “God so loved the world” (Jn 3:16) and we cherish that. The Bible tells us that “God demonstrated His love toward us” (Rom. 5:8) and we celebrate that. We can go on and on regarding the reality and majesty of God and His love for us. But, love becomes our trump card when we choose to be a conduit for God’s love, and actually choose to love others. Others who hurt us, because “love covers a multitude of sins” (1 Pet 4:8). Others, who are against us, because to “love your enemies” (Mt 5:44) is one of the greatest ways to prove we understand real love. Others, who may seem unworthy because we are to “bear with them in love” (Eph 4:2). We could go on and on, because the Bible clearly teaches us that to truly have experienced God’s love, it’ll enable us to truly love others — expecting nothing in return.

The problem is that loving others is often not very easy to do, but it is always right to do. If we have enough faith to see God do the miraculous, but miss doing it with love, the Scripture says it is worthless (1 Cor. 13:2)! I am afraid that many of us may not really believe that---worthless?? The reason for the disclaimer at the beginning, was to warn you that something very provocative was to follow. Well, loving the unlovable and underserving is probably as provocative as it gets. It is so easy to become conditioned to emphasize knowing and believing the right things, but we are far less conditioned to emphasize on how we actually live that out. Yet, all faith without love, leads to nothing!! So, my prayer and focus for our Association of Laurens Baptist Churches is that in this New Year that we would truly choose to love others with a reckless abandon, which will not require any disclaimer but may lead us in being able to share about a God who so loved the world...

Reiny

	Oct - Nov 2023	Thru 11/30/23	Thru 11/30/22
*Bar None Cowboy	0.00	351.71	306.98
Beaverdam	375.00	1,125.00	1,125.00
Bellview	3,054.83	16,205.33	16,077.91
Bethabara	100.00	550.00	550.00
Bethel	0.00	0.00	1,250.00
Beulah	1,310.59	7,345.93	7,938.17
Calvary	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cedarwood	1,072.34	5,376.38	5,702.09
Chestnut Ridge	5,914.10	27,326.19	35,203.99
Clinton First	1,000.00	5,500.00	5,500.00
Community	600.00	3,300.00	2,500.00
Cross Hill First	781.00	3,882.00	3,286.00
Davidson Street	879.31	4,378.12	4,485.66
Durbin Creek	246.35	1,594.34	1,751.11
Eastside	333.34	1,833.33	2,583.34
Friendship	0.00	5,294.63	3,843.85
Gray Court First	200.00	400.00	200.00
Harmony	204.51	1,027.98	876.40
Henderson	678.07	2,990.46	3,696.76
Highland Home	500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Hillcrest	115.11	2,127.21	2,055.60
Holly Grove	148.00	1,461.00	1,671.00
Hurricane	306.36	1,601.91	1,630.66
Joanna First	400.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
Lanford	250.00	1,375.00	1,375.00
Laurens First	3,088.50	20,915.61	17,217.31
Laurens Second	194.79	1,115.28	200.00
Lucas Avenue	720.51	4,261.84	5,058.60
Mountville	621.93	4,302.95	5,134.11
Mt. Gallagher	600.00	3,500.00	3,300.00
Mt. Olive	200.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Mt. Pleasant	65.23	212.31	249.23
New Beginning	70.00	415.00	395.00
New Prospect	254.66	2,621.86	3,487.88
Northside	100.00	550.00	550.00
Pine Grove	414.71	2,759.29	2,756.84
Pleasant Grove	1,293.63	4,929.13	4,564.38
Poplar Springs	183.33	849.97	833.31
Princeton	257.80	1,660.60	1,466.50
Rabun Creek	434.84	2,276.73	2,222.50
Rosemont	913.00	5,163.00	6,115.00
Union	1,372.86	4,327.20	973.05
Warrior Creek	1,387.36	5,657.16	3,520.08
Waterloo	60.00	330.00	330.00
Wayside	143.23	894.72	914.56
Welcome	359.37	1,817.77	1,539.00
TOTAL	31,204.65	168,406.94	169,236.87
Thank you for supporting Associational Missions by giving at least 3% of your undesignated offerings. * Other Church Starts			

CRISIS CENTER

Hours of Operation
Tuesday & Thursday
9:00 am - 11:30 am

January 2023 Schedule

Tuesday	Jan 02	Mt. Gallagher
Thursday	Jan 04	Holly Grove
Tuesday	Jan 09	Beaverdam
Thursday	Jan 11	Union
Tuesday	Jan 16	Bellview
Thursday	Jan 18	Martha Franks
Tuesday	Jan 23	Clinton FBC
Thursday	Jan 25	Henderson
Tuesday	Jan 30	Cornerstone

February 2023 Schedule

Thursday	Feb 01	Hillcrest
Tuesday	Feb 06	St. James
Thursday	Feb 08	New Prospect
Tuesday	Feb 13	Laurens FBC
Thursday	Feb 15	Martha Franks
Tuesday	Feb 20	Friendship
Thursday	Feb 22	Laurens Second
Tuesday	Feb 27	Warrior Creek
Thursday	Feb 29	Chestnut Ridge

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

Crisis Center Needs
January
Green beans, corn

Crisis Center Needs
February
Spaghetti Noodles & Sauce

HomeLife, Mature Living, & Devotional Magazines are always needed

Crisis Center is in Need of the Following:
Boys & Men’s Clothes - Baby Diapers & Wipes

Note of Thanks from
Connie Maxwell Children’s Home
Thank you for your donations from the Laurens Baptist Association Churches. Your gifts are very much appreciated!

A Message from
Kay Leagans, Crisis Center Director

As we begin a new year,
I would like to thank our churches and
individuals in Laurens County that
provide food and other essential items
for the Crisis Center to distribute.

May God bless you is my prayer.

Thank you
Thank you to all of the churches that brought DJJ packets. We received at total of 793 packets!

Souper Bowl
of Caring
Sunday
February 11th



Winner
of Clemson/Carolina
Peanut Butter / Jelly
Challenge is
Clemson 1002 Peanut
Butter

Carolina 346 Jelly
26 Churches
Participated