

## Prayer?

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

## Year-End Giving.

To be sure you receive contribution credit for 2024, please have your giving to the church by the following times:

**Offering:** Dropped in the giving boxes on or before Sunday, December 29, 2024.

**Postal Mail:** Postmarked by USPS by December 31, 2024 (any mail postmarked in 2025 must be credited to 2025)

**Online:** By 11:59pm on December 31, 2024.

\*The church offices will be closed from December 23 to January 1 so please make prior arrangements for your year-end giving. If you have any questions or special considerations, please email the Finance Team at [finance@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:finance@eastcooperbaptist.com)

843.856.3222 x PRAY (7729)  
[prayer@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:prayer@eastcooperbaptist.com)

# NEW TO ECBC?

For more information email [info@eastcooperbaptist.com](mailto:info@eastcooperbaptist.com)

First Time Guest?

We'd love to get to know you!

SCAN DIGITAL CONNECT CARD



## Sermon Notes.

**Speaker:** Buster Brown, Senior Pastor

**Message:** YOLO In 2025? (Further Up and Further In?)

**Text:** Proverbs 4:18-23

<sup>18</sup>But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day. <sup>19</sup>The way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know over what they stumble. <sup>20</sup>My son, be attentive to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. <sup>21</sup>Let them not escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. <sup>22</sup>For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh. <sup>23</sup>Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life." Proverbs 4:18-23

"They went through winding valley after winding valley and up the steep sides of hills and, faster than ever, down the other side, following the river and sometimes crossing it and skimming across mountain lakes as if they were living speed boats... 'FURTHER UP AND FURTHER IN!' roared the Unicorn, and no one held back." C.S. Lewis, *The Last Battle*

**Forerunners of the further only approach to life (expressive individualism):**

Nero (37-38 A.D.) murdered his wife, brother-in-law, mother, and committed suicide at age 30. Some of his last words were said over and over: "What an artist the world is losing."

Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) helped inspire the French Revolution and said, "All I need to do is to look inside myself... my goal is to make known my inner self, exactly as it was in every circumstance of my life." He abandoned his five children to early deaths at an orphanage.

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900) called people to live beyond the "slave morality of biblical Christianity" to embrace a strong-willed master morality that would be seen in the strong man. He spent the last decade of his life in an asylum thinking he was alternately Jesus Christ, Napoleon, or Buddha.

Michael Foucault (1926-1984) saw sexual experience as a path to self-glorification, and advocated legalization of bizarre behavior. He died of HIV/AIDS.

Jean-Paul Sartre (1905-1980) said, "man is nothing else but what he makes of himself." He was known for his broken relationships, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Timothy Leary (1920-1996), was a Harvard professor and advocate of the use of psychedelic drugs for self-illumination.

**"FURTHER UP AND FURTHER IN"**

Matthew 16:24-26

Revelation 21:3-5

(continued >>)

## Sermon Notes.

(continued)

"Jesus said to them, 'I AM the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.'" John 6:35

"Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I AM the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" John 8:12

"So Jesus again said to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, I AM the door of the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I AM the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture... I AM the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.'" John 10:7-9, 11

"I AM the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6

**APPLICATION:**

1. There is a PATH that grows brighter and brighter until full day vs the WAY of the wicked.
2. Seeing clearly vs stumbling in the dark.

*"You only live once" reduces us to a godless and, therefore, flat universe. You live on a dying planet in a solar system with its own impending expiration date within the expanding universe headed for heat and death... if you find the sweet buzz of infatuation or love, under the dogmas of self worship, you will move on when your lovers fail to deliver on your expectations of fulfillment. If you dabble with transcendental meditation, magic crystals, or whatever other Eastern trend is sweeping the West, you end up, like a junkie, chasing elusive highs. Deep down, an existential dread haunts you, the terrible sense that you are somehow missing out on what life has to offer... YOLO loses its pull as the electrifying call of romantics, bohemians, and thrill seekers. It becomes instead the defeated sigh of someone who wasted their years chasing a mountain top high that the flatlands of self worship can never provide."* Thaddeus Williams, *Don't Follow Your Heart*, p. 95-96

3. Pleading with passion/blood earnestness (Proverbs 4:20).
4. Embracing the beauty of everyday living in light of the goodness of God and the hope of eternity.

(Regarding the arrival in the eternal heaven) "And we can most truly say that they lived happily ever after. But for them, it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures in Narnia had only been the cover and the title page; now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read; which goes on forever; and which every chapter is better than the one before." C.S Lewis, *The Last Battle*

DECEMBER 29, 2024



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING®

CHURCH GOAL: \$650,000

DECEMBER - JANUARY



EAST COOPER BAPTIST CHURCH

[eastcooperbaptist.com](http://eastcooperbaptist.com)



# 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 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 and Classes**  
Sanctuary 9:30am  
**Contemporary Worship and Classes**  
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](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/give).



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

## Get to Know.

**Rick Clanton**



### ELDER ON THE MISSIONS TEAM

Rick accepted Jesus as his Savior when he was 11. Many godly people, including his family, pastor, and Sunday school teacher, shared the gospel with Rick as a child and served as examples of what it looks like to follow Jesus. He has attended ECBC for eight years and serves on the Missions and Benevolence Committees. He enjoys fishing, boating, and spending time with his grandsons.

2025

# REFRESH

PURSUING UNITY

## 4 WEEK SERIES BEGINNING IN JANUARY

Refresh is a yearly class for all East Cooper Baptist members that includes new content each year. This year, we will be talking about Pursuing Unity. This class will also contain an update to our vision goals and reminders about our vision language. We look forward to growing with you there!

Refresh classes will be on Sunday mornings during both the 9:30 and 11:00am worship hours. It will also be offered at 6:30pm on Wednesdays.

The dates for the classes are January 5, 12, 19, and 26 in the East Cooper Gym.

For more information and to register, go to [eastcooperbaptist.com/refresh](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/refresh) or scan the QR code



## Upcoming.

### LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

100% of your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering support International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries.

**GIVE TODAY!**



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING\*  
CHURCH GOAL: \$650,000

[eastcooperbaptist.com/lottiemoon](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/lottiemoon)

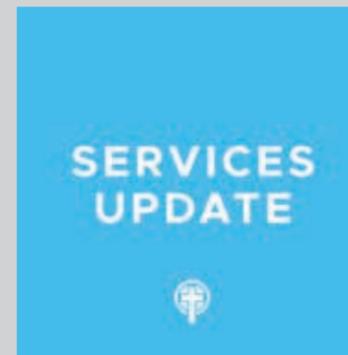
### SERVICES UPDATE

Beginning January 5, we will update our services schedule:

Traditional  
9:30am, Sanctuary

Contemporary  
9:30 & 11:00am,  
Worship Center

Website Livestream  
9:30am



[eastcooperbaptist.com/events](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/events)

### ITALY MISSION TRIP

Join a group of women to go with Rose Anderson to work with our partners Steve and April Brown in Palermo. This team will work with and serve local moms and build relationships with them.

**APPLY ONLINE.**



[eastcooperbaptist.com/serve](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/serve)

### SERVE IN FAMILY ADVOCACY

From protecting the unborn to supporting those in crisis, you can serve with one of our local partners, Lifeline Children's Services & Lowcountry Pregnancy Center, to support children and advocate for families.

**SIGN UP TODAY!**



[eastcooperbaptist.com/serve](http://eastcooperbaptist.com/serve)

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SCAN DIGITAL CONNECT CARD



12.29.24

## 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:

9:30am  11:00am

I am a first time guest

Name

Spouse

Birthdate

MO DA YR

Spouse Birthdate

MO DA YR

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