



THE CORNERSTONE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH THOMSON

*Loving God, Loving People,
Making Disciples of Jesus*

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Vol. 58

December 2022

No. 12

Advent 2022

November 27

Hanging of the Green

Sermon: The Promise of the Newborn King

5:00 Community Christmas Concert

December 4

Sermon: Faith in the Newborn King

December 4-6

7:00-9:00 PM Drive-Thru Nativity

December 11

Sermon: Service to the Newborn King

Kids turn in Lottie Moon Banks

Week of Prayer for International Missions Begins

December 18

Sermon: Worship to the Newborn King

December 24

5:00 PM Candlelight Service with Lord's Supper

December 25

10:45 AM Christmas Family Worship

(No Sunday School or Nursery)

Dr. David Lambert, Lead Pastor

Isaiah prophesied of a King who would come and bring light to the nations who long dwelt in spiritual darkness. He would enlarge Israel and bring them great joy. He would shatter all oppression and bring freedom. He would bring an end to war and violence. Who would this king be? How would he accomplish such impossible wonders? Isaiah said this King would be unlike any other and would come in the most unexpected way—as a child! “For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. The dominion will be vast, and its prosperity will never end. He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it with justice and righteousness from now on and forever. The zeal of the Lord of Armies will accomplish this” (Isaiah 9:1-7).

In Advent and Christmas this year, we will focus on bringing **Glorify to the Newborn King**. While His glory is His own, we can magnify it in worship and adoration. I pray you will take full advantage of the many ways we can glorify King Jesus this month!

First you can make use of this year’s Advent Devotional written by members of our church—staff, deacons, choir members, and even our children in TeamKID. You will be blessed by these devotions as they help us focus on different ways we can glorify King Jesus. And don’t forget the family activities inside to enhance this joyous season.

Second, make worship a priority each of the 4 Sundays of Advent, and as we worship together on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning! That’s right, Christmas is on a Sunday! In addition to our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, we will gather at 10:45 Christmas morning (no Sunday School or nursery) to have a time of family-oriented worship. All ages will be in the sanctuary together to sing Christmas carols, pray, read Scripture, and I’ll bring a brief Christmas Day message.

On the first Sunday of Advent we will experience the Hanging of the Green that morning and come back that evening to hear the all-new Community Chorus bring a beautiful concert! I’ve enjoyed rehearsing with this group these past two months and can’t wait for you to hear the amazing sound of these talented people! The second and third Sundays of Advent bookend our Week of Prayer for International Missions. Prayerfully consider how God would have you give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering to support our missionaries around the world, bringing glory to the Newborn King and sharing His Good News with the nations.

My family and I are so thrilled that God has allowed us to experience ten Advents and Christmases with the FBC Thomson family as lead pastor, and I can’t wait to spend another one with you! Allow me to express my family’s gratitude for the way in which you recognized my ten years as lead pastor and celebrated my twenty-one years of service to our church. Julia, Abby, and I were moved greatly by the thoughtfulness of so many who worked to make the lunch such a delicious, beautiful, and meaningful time. The many kind words, thoughtful cards, and generous gifts were special expressions of love and friendship and a great encouragement to me personally. And to the church, thank you for the generous gift of a trip for my family and I to enjoy at a future time. We’re not yet sure where to go, but I will let you know and again express our gratitude for your generosity and love.

Neither Julia nor I could have ever predicted twenty-one years ago where God would take us here at First Baptist. That I would be here today as lead pastor, experiencing the fruit of past labors even as the work continues is nearly as unexpected as the King of Creation coming to rule in the hearts of His people through a baby in a manger! Praise be to God for His inexpressible, and often unexpected, gifts!



Dr. Matt Ward

First, Some Events That Are Technically in November

Because this month's newsletter comes out a week early, I'm going to remind everyone about some November events you should attend:

- Friday, Nov 25 — **church decorating** at 9:00 AM. Please come and help us make our building Christmas-tastic!
- Saturday, Nov 26 — the Trammell/Whisnant **Christmas Gospel Concert** at 6:00 PM. This concert is free! No reserved seating, and doors open at 5:00. As always, we will take up a love offering to cover their expenses.
- Sunday, Nov 27 — our community choir is presenting a **Christmas Choral Concert** here at FBC at 5:00 PM. A lot of hard work has gone into the music, and your ears will be tickled while your spirit is uplifted. The concert is free; any donations will be used to make future concerts a reality.
- Wednesday, Nov 30 — missions fundraiser and Living Nativity at 6:00 PM. Our Wednesday night program will be a focus on International Missions. We will have a dessert auction, a missions presentation, and our TinyKID Nativity! Come for supper at 5:00, stay for the missions encouragement.

Reminder: Drive-Thru Nativity is Sunday-Tuesday

Any time we make a change it results in some confusion, so we're asking everybody to write this down. Our Nativity runs from Sunday to Tuesday (Dec 4-6) this year. One of the reasons we have made this change is to get more help with the day-1 setup.

Would you please set aside the **afternoon of Sunday, December 4** to help us set out props and secure the sets? It takes hands and feet to put all of our props in place. You don't have to be a "decorator" to help us make the Nativity beautiful, but it's gotten very difficult to get the work done on Monday when so many of our volunteers are working.

And then a reminder about the schedule:

- 5:00 — the supper line opens
- ~6:00 — we want our actors to start getting into costume, our parking lot attendants to start directing traffic, and our tech team to live-test the lights and narration
- ~6:30 — we want our actors to move into position
- ~6:45 — we want to let traffic flow to the Nativity entrance and then release them to our Census Taker as soon as possible.

We've learned that letting the line start 15 minutes early not only relieves a lot of pressure on the parking lot, but it also helps everything finish a little bit sooner. The past few years, the last car has left between 9:15 and 9:30. We will do everything we can to end as close to time as possible, but I ask us all to remember that this is our "Christmas gospel presentation"; for many of our guests, this is their first time. We do this once a year, and we can be patient and encouraging of one another as we give our guests the best Nativity experience they could possibly have.

Christmas Feast on Wednesday, December 14

Finally, an invitation to everyone to join us for a special dinner on December 14. Dinner will be served at 6:00, and the dinner is the program — your cost is a donation to missions. The food will be fantastic!



Rev. Ben Tarver

Thanksgiving is upon us and we have so much to be thankful for! First, I am thankful for a church family that loves and supports my family. You all are such a blessing to us!

Also, I want to say thank you to those of you who selected a foster care child from our angel tree. I am thankful for the small part we play in easing the burden for these kids and their foster families.

The Youth Christmas Party is coming up on Sunday, December 11, at my home from 6-8 PM. There is a \$15 gift exchange, and we will have games and food. I look forward to this time of celebration and fellowship each year!

The youth are going on a Ski Trip over President's Day Weekend, February 17-20. We are heading back to Winterplace, WV! Winterplace has plenty of slopes and ski lifts for all levels of skiers. This is also a fantastic location to learn to ski or snowboard for the very first time – I learned at Winterplace when I was a youth! The basic cost for the trip is \$300 with additional costs for any rentals, such as helmets, ski bibs or lessons (if you wish to take them). There are also opportunities to go snowtubing. You do not have to go skiing to have a great time on this trip either, you can snow tube, play games with other youth and have fun in the snow. The cost for a non-skier is \$150 and this covers all food and lodging for three nights – a pretty good deal!

Finally, make sure to pick up an Advent Devotional. Do not forget to go through the *Faith @ Home* activities inside. There is a Photo-A-Day Advent Social Media Challenge (please use the hashtag!), a family discussion guide for *Drive-Thru Nativity*, a family Christmas movie discussion guide for "ELF," and an "*I Spy: Christmas Lights*" checklist to use as your family drives around looking at lights and decorations! Enjoy these family times together and let them guide your discussions to the wonder of Jesus, Immanuel, God with us.

Merry Christmas!

Ben



Every Christmas, the Deacons of First Baptist Church deliver a beautiful plant to each homebound member. If you would like to contribute to this ministry, please bring your \$14 donation labeled "Homebound Plants" to the church office or place it in the offering box.

Last Month

We Came	Morning Worship	Sunday School	Wednesday	We Gave
October 30	293	199	83	\$16,809.92
November 6	318	204	97	\$18,160.10
BUDGET		NON-BUDGET		
Required	\$739,016.70	Cap. Improvements		\$18,409.00
Received	\$721,282.45	Ferguson Property		\$5,150.00
Disbursed	\$676,952.55	Go & Tell Mission Fund		\$32,131.00

End-of- October Final Finances

Christmas Eve
December 24, 5 PM
 Candlelight Service with Lord's Supper

Christmas Day
December 25, 10:45 AM
 Family Worship
 (No Sunday School or Nursery)



FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER
Wednesdays, 5:00 PM
Fellowship Hall

December 7
 DTN– No activities

December 14
 Christmas Family Feast

December 21
 No Wednesday Night Activities

December 28
 No Wednesday Night Activities

\$5.50 ADULTS – \$3.00 UNDER AGE 12
 PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY NOON ON MONDAYS

Church Office Closed

November 24-25
 Happy Thanksgiving



December 23 & 26
 Merry Christmas



January 2
 Happy New Year

Week of Prayer for International Missions



12/11-12/18

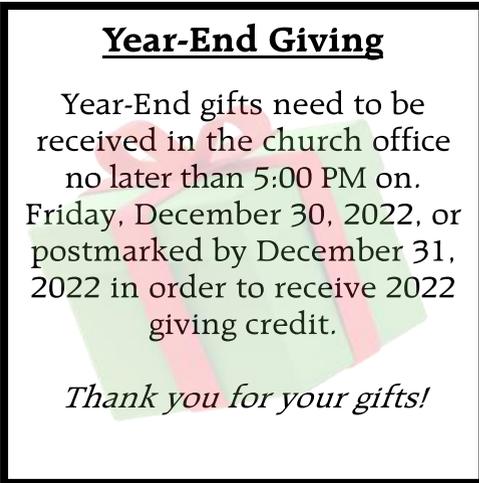
Use the prayer guide enclosed or pick one up in the church office.

Our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal is \$13,000.

Year-End Giving

Year-End gifts need to be received in the church office no later than 5:00 PM on Friday, December 30, 2022, or postmarked by December 31, 2022 in order to receive 2022 giving credit.

Thank you for your gifts!



Drive-Thru Nativity

December 4-6
 (Sunday-Tuesday)
 7:00-9:00 PM



Missions Night
 Wednesday, November 30

5:00 PM: Dinner

6:00 PM:
 Missions Program followed by TinyKid Nativity

There will be a dessert auction to benefit our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



December Ministry

Winter Wearables

Warm socks, hats, scarves, gloves, etc.
 (Any Size or Gender)

Please place items in the blue bin in the atrium



DECEMBER

SUN	9:00	Cornerstone Cafe
	9:30	Sunday School
	10:45	Morning Worship
MON	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
	10:00	Stretch & Flex, Gym
TUE	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
	10:00	Church Staff Meeting, 402
WED	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
	10:00	Stretch & Flex, Gym
	5:00	Family Night Supper, FH
	5:30	Open Warehouse
	6:00	<i>Disciples Pathway</i> (Adults, Fellowship Hall)
	6:00	TinyKID (Ages 3-K), Chapel
	6:00	TeamKID (Grades 1-6), Gym
	6:00	Elevate (Grades 7-12), WH
	7:15	Adult Choir Rehearsal, S
THU	6:30	<i>Stand in the Gap</i> Prayer Group, Parlor
	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
FRI	9:00	Walking Track open (until 5:00 PM)
	9:00	Nautilus Room open (until 1:00 PM)
	10:00	Stretch & Flex, Gym

Thursday, December 1

1:00 PM Blood Drive-Bloodmobile

Sunday, December 4

Foster Care Gifts Due Back

7:00 PM Drive-Thru Nativity

Monday, December 5

7:00 PM Drive-Thru Nativity

Tuesday, December 6

7:00 PM Drive- Thru Nativity

Wednesday, December 7

No Evening Activities

Saturday, December 10

9:00 AM Foster Care Gift Wrapping

DTN Deconstruction

December 11-18

Week of Prayer for International Missions

Sunday, December 11

Children's Lottie Moon Banks Due Back

2:00 PM Thomson Christmas Parade

6:00 PM **Youth Christmas Party at the Tarver's**

Tuesday, December 13

11:00 AM Young at Heart

6:00 PM Stewardship Committee Meeting

7:00 PM **Deacon's Meeting**

Wednesday, December 14

6:00 PM Christmas Family Feast

Wednesday, December 21

No Evening Activities

Friday, December 23

Church Office Closed

Saturday, December 24

5:00 PM **Christmas Eve Service with Lord's Supper**

Sunday, December 25

10:45 AM Christmas Family Worship (No SS or Nursery)

Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Wednesday, December 28

No Evening Activities