

The Courier

a newsletter from your friends at
First Baptist Church
in Hamilton, Ohio



"Where everybody is somebody and Jesus Christ Is Lord"

December, 2016

From Daniel's Den We all have a CHOICE

The Christmas season is full of choices. What are going to do for Christmas this year? Are we going to your parents' house or my parents' house or stay home? Are the kids coming to my house or am I going to their house? What am I going to give the kids for presents? This person? That person? What am I going to give the poor? What Christmas programs am I going to go to? What am I going to give the church? Christmas is on Sunday this year... am I going to Christmas Eve or Christmas Day or both or neither? Christmas brings with it so many CHOICES!

The Christmas Story itself is filled with choices. The angel Gabriel announces to Zachariah that his prayers for a child had been answered. But Zachariah, filled with doubt, choose to question the reliability of the news and his decision proved to be unpleasant. Zachariah had a choice to make.

When Gabriel told Mary she was going to have a baby boy even though she was a virgin. She has a choice to make. *"I am the Lord's servant,"* Mary answered. *"May your word to me be fulfilled."* (Luke 1:38) Mary's choice was to believe that God could do anything in her life, and the outcome was a blessing.

Joseph learned that his fiancé was pregnant before they were married. He had a choice to make. When an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, *"Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."* When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. (Matthew 1:20-24)

The angels announced to the shepherds tending their flocks, *"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths*

and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:11-12) The shepherds had a choice to believe and respond, or not to act. *"When the angels had left them, and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'"* (Luke 2:15) The shepherds chose well and were given the privilege of being the first to share to gospel that God had been incarnate (put on flesh) and had come to save us from our sins.

Christmas is full of choices. A choice to believe that God visited the world He created in the flesh of a man, Jesus of Nazareth; that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One. Or we can choose not to put our faith in Jesus. What do you do with this Jesus? We can choose to doubt, or submit, or obey, or go and see, or proclaim what we have chosen.

The choice we make this Christmas about Jesus changes everything. The choice we make about Jesus determines where we will invest our time and our money this Christmas. The choice we make about Jesus this Christmas controls how we will act and react with our family and friends this season. The choice we make about Jesus this Christmas will govern the stress level we allow ourselves to take on and feel.

What choices are you confronted with this Christmas? Friends, Christmas changes everything. You have a choice to make this Christmas merry because of Jesus Christ, or a drudgery because of the weight of the world.

What will your choice be this Christmas?

Be the Light!
Pastor Dan

(Continued on inside)



American Baptist Women's Ministries

Bible Book of the Month Job

"But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and that He will stand upon the earth at last."

Job 19:25 (LB)

Operation Christmas Child



The results are in: **1,134** shoeboxes were processed at our relay center. Our congregation members donated **132** of those and our MOPS group donated

16. Many thanks to the **27** volunteers who manned our collection center plus the guys who set up and loaded the truck. We thank Dick and Ryan Inloes for the use of their truck and Larry Bowling for delivering them to Mt. Healthy. I appreciate the willingness of Cathi Thomas and Ann Brown to co-chair this project with me. The statistics we were given say that each box impacts 7 lives. With that in mind, our week's work could impact the lives of 7,938 people for the Kingdom of Christ. Praise God!

-In His Service
Nancy Whipple
ABW President

Job is a superb poem and cry of the human heart, challenging the doctrine that the righteous and the wicked receive what they deserve on earth. It is in revolt against the dogma that sin is the only cause of suffering. Using a familiar folk story as a basis, it is a dramatic questioning of God's justice in dealing with human beings and a study of the universal problem of suffering.

PRAY that families will continue to grow in closeness and commitment to God because of people who take time to share God's message of love.

Christmas Gathering

Smith Circle will meet at 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 13th, at the Courtyard Marriott for their Christmas gathering.

Missionary for the Month of December:

Debbie & Keith Myers Mexico

Debbie and Keith are serving in Central, Mexico. They are partnering with the Council of Rural Indigenous Evangelicals of Mexico, AR (CICEM) to provide pastoral accompaniment to the indigenous churches. This training consists of training pastors, church leaders, youth leaders and teachers for the children. They travel to six different areas outside of Puebla to serve and empower the people.

Emerson & Ivy Wu East Asia

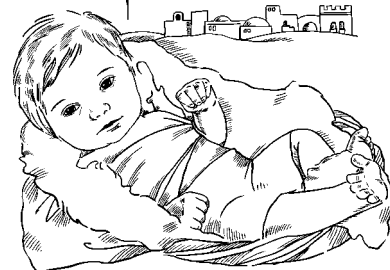
The Rev. Ivy and Emerson Wu serve as directors of the Global Chinese Training Ministry. They work with overseas partners and IM personnel to identify strategic locations to provide discipleship and pastoral training. Building on their service experience in church and campus ministries in Ohio and at the Macau Bible Institute, Ivy and Emerson help Christian training centers and Bible schools to run assessments and improve their curricula, libraries and faculty development. Ivy and Emerson also serve as IM liaisons to partners in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and global Chinese churches.



There will be **no** monthly work day at Matthew 25: Ministries during the month of December.

There will be a Christmas luncheon for all of the volunteers at Matthew 25 on Thursday, December 8th, at 11:30 a.m. We will leave the church at 10:30 a.m. Anyone who have volunteered even one time is welcome to come to the luncheon. Please sign the list on the bulletin board.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM



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(Continued from front- Daniel's Den)

Christmas series: Christmas Changes Everything

11/27 - part 1: Christmas Changes our Future: A Forecast

12/04 - part 2: Christmas Changes our Purpose: A Promise

12/11 - Chancel Choir Cantata "Joy"

12/14 - FBC Christmas Banquet - THE JESUS PAINTER

12/18 - part 3: Christmas Changes our Priorities: A Dream

12/24 - Christmas Eve part 4: Christmas Changes our Destiny: An Announcement

12/25 - Christmas Day part 5: Christmas Changes our Family: An Heritage

January 2017 series **RESET**

1/01 - Reset my Life - Set the defaults for 2017

1/08 - Reset My Heart - It All Starts in the Heart

1/15 - Reset My Mind - I Am there for I Think

1/22 - Reset My Voice - Good News for Bad Times

1/29 - Reset My Hands - Soul at Peace, Hands at Work

Pathway To Hope Pregnancy Care Center

After many months of working, waiting, and praying, we are excited to announce that we have officially purchased a new home for our center! The new building is located at 202 Monument St. The significance of this address is not to be undervalued, for directly across the street from our new home is the only Planned Parenthood in all of Butler County. There were 528 induced abortions from this county in 2015 alone. As we move 40 yards from Planned Parenthood, we hope to see that number to drop drastically.

We look forward to the day when a woman going to her appointment at Planned Parenthood sees a Pregnancy Care Center directly across the street that offers free care, education, and medical services. She crosses the street to see what we have to offer. Our open, comfortable sitting area provides a stark contrast to the sterile, cold waiting room at Planned Parenthood. An advocate takes time to listen to her story, sympathize with her struggles, and understand why she believes an abortion is the right choice for her. The advocate shares with her the value of the life inside her womb. Her genuine love and care for both the mother and her child are a refreshing change from the Planned Parenthood doctors who insisted on abortion. Down the hall, our nurses offer a free ultrasound to give her a picture of the human life inside her. The mother hears the heartbeat of her child, sees the helpless body, tiny fingers and toes, and the option of abortion becomes unthinkable. Pathway

to Hope will walk alongside this mother throughout her pregnancy and motherhood to help her spiritually, emotionally, and materially. As she develops relationships with our advocates, she will receive wise, Biblical counsel and friendship. We will help her with all the baby items she needs- a crib, car seat, etc. But even more importantly, we will provide support, love, and care in a time that seems desolate and hopeless. We will be a refuge for women in crisis pregnancies, offering hope for the future. Every woman in Butler County who enters that Planned Parenthood will have alternate, life-affirming care directly across the street.

In order for this vision to become a reality, we need your help. We have taken the first big step-purchasing the building. We have begun repairs on the roof and architectural designs for the interior. But there is a great deal of work yet to be done, renovating and preparing it for move-in. To accomplish this, we need you! You will be a part of these exciting new steps with us. We need your help to pull up carpet, tear down walls, and advocate for our cause in the community. The whole Body of Christ must come together to create a community that values and celebrates LIFE. With your help, we will change our neighborhood, our city, our county, our world.

SAVE THE DATE: DEMOLITION DAYS

Saturday December 3rd and 10th from 8am-12pm, we will have large crews of volunteers coming in to completely gut out the interior of the building. Do you like swinging a sledgehammer? This is the job for you! If you are interested in helping with this project, or coordinating a group from your church to help, please email volunteerforlife2229@gmail.com.

Prayers and Praises

PRAISE God for the provision of a new home and all His continued provision for Pathway to Hope. He has demonstrated His great faithfulness throughout our history, and we have seen His mighty hand over the last couple months.

PRAY that we would be a refuge for women in crisis pregnancies. Pray that women who are considering abortion would be led to our doors, and that God would prepare us to advocate for life with wisdom, love, and grace.

—Lori Haskell,
Director Pathway To Hope
Pregnancy Care Center
415 Henry Street
Hamilton, OH 45011

Aaron's Attic
Caring For Your Soul This Season
A Brief Advent Devotional

As the Advent season (celebrating the arrival of Jesus in the Incarnation) comes upon us, I challenge you to take time to care for your soul. Yes, along with Advent comes the arrival of countless Christmas sales, parties, and events to plan and prepare for - all of which can be overwhelming. And, if we are not intentional in guarding against it, we can get lost in the current. But, if we are intentional, we can answer Jesus' call to go deeper in our relationship with Him. The question is, will we carve out the time to hear Him calling & respond?

In our worship services leading up to Christmas, we will be light the traditional Advent candles. These four candles, with one being lit each week, represent Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Each of these are given to us as gifts from our Great Provider, Jesus the Messiah. I encourage you to give each of these gifts a week's worth of reflection as we approach the celebration of our Savior's birth. I will walk through a brief reflection on each below and I suggest using them as a model for your own devotional time during the Advent season. Don't neglect caring for your soul in the midst of the Christmas rush and don't miss the fact that Jesus is calling you into a deeper relationship with Him.

Hope - Nov 30th through December 3rd

Hebrews 6:19 tells us that the Hope that we have in Jesus is an anchor for our soul. Our hope in Him anchors us. This is similarly recognized in Psalm 42:5, "*Why are you in despair, O my soul? And why have you become disturbed within me? Hope in God, for I shall again praise Him For the help of His presence.*" When our souls are despairing, we must hold to our hope in God. Whatever disappointments may come, whatever trials and struggles, our soul will be satisfied if we keep our focus on Jesus and allow our hope in Him to hold us in the midst of the storm. Spend time telling the Lord why you hope in Him.

Other suggested verses to pray through during the week: Psalm 33; Psalm 71; Jer 29:11-13 (A promise from the faithful Lord to the faithless people in Exile); Matt 12:21 - We hope in the Name of Jesus (which means "the Lord Saves") our Immanuel ("God with Us" - which He promises in Matt 28:20); Rom 5:1-5; Rom 8:18-25; 1 Tim 4:10

Love - December 4th through 10th

John 15:13 tells us that no one demonstrates a greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. Jesus has laid down His life for us. And, because of His love for us, we are able to love (1 John 4:19). It is the love of Jesus that fuels us and changes us to be more like Him. Where humans love because we recognize value in another person, the love of Jesus gives us our value. Spend time praising and thanking the Lord for His love

for you. In what ways does He continually show His love for you? Praise Him for those as well!

Other suggested verses to pray through during the week: Eph 3:14-19; Rom 8:37-39; Jeremiah 31:3; Zephaniah 3:17; 1 Cor 13; 1 John 4:8; Jude 1:17-25

Joy - December 11th through 17th

Great joy surrounds the coming of Jesus into the world. In fact, Zechariah, around 500 years before Jesus came, prophesied that the Lord would come and that we should respond with joy: "*Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD.*" (Zech 2:10). John the Baptist leapt for joy in his mother's womb when Mary greeted John's mother, Elizabeth (Luke 1:44). The angel's announcement of the Gospel even comes with "*good news of great joy which shall be for all the people*" (Luke 2:10). Our joy is found in our Lord who is our salvation. If we have lost that joy or are missing out on the fullness of joy, we should pray in accordance with Psalm 51:12, "*Restore to me the joy of Thy salvation, and sustain me with a willing spirit.*" Let the Lord know why you have joy when you think about Him and His works on your behalf. And, if you need more joy, ask Him to help you have a greater understanding of who He is, what He has done, and who you are in Him.

Other suggested verses to pray through during the week: Psalm 5:11; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 30:5; Psalm 71:23; Isaiah 44:23; John 15:11; Romans 14:17

Peace - December 18th through 24th

Philippians 4:7 instructs, "*And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*" How are our hearts guarded? How do we find balance in the midst of a chaotic season which is supposed to be centered on Jesus? We find the guard for our hearts and minds - I would even suggest souls - in the peace that comes from Christ Jesus. Jesus has put us at peace with God, even while we were still His enemies, as Romans 5:10 tells us. Pray for the peace of Jesus to reign in your soul, heart, and mind; in your life; and in your loved ones hearts this holiday season. Pray for the Lord to bring peace in relationships that are broken or strained. Tell your Lord why you are grateful for His peace. Ask Him to help you understand just how wonderful His peace, living in your heart, is. Praise Him for the peace which surpasses all understanding - even in the midst of a chaotic world.

Other suggested verses to pray through during the week: Psalm 4:8 (His peace brings rest); Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 55:6-13; John 14:27 & John 16:33; Romans 12:18 & Romans 14:19; Colossians 3:15; Ephesians 2:14-15

-Pastor Aaron Osterbrock



Happy December Everyone! Wishing You and Your Family the Merriest Christmas!

Wait, let's talk about November first. I had such a wonderful time with all of you during our November meeting. I loved the time that we shared just allowing ourselves to take a break and to be thankful for our families, our children, our husbands, Moppett workers, our lives, and our homes. Giving ourselves that time I believe made extra special and blessed the rest of our meeting time. I certainly left MOPS that day and wanted to get home to try Becky Culbertson's pie crust munchies (not the official name); I also wanted to get right on roasting a turkey, clearing out space in my fridge for the fixings. Needless to say I am motivated for my part in making a great Thanksgiving meal. Thank you to Becky Culbertson for her successful talk and spending time with our group.

We have reached our December meeting. Hands down Christmas is my favorite time of year...well, until Easter, Amen! The theme for December is Hope. Yes, I am the leader and will make this meeting about my daughter (smile). Of course I'm kidding. Even bigger and better than the smile and peace that my little daughter Hope brings to my life is the Hope that I have through every circumstance in Jesus Christ! Our motivational verse for this month is Romans 5:2 *Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

When I think of hope I just smile and immediately call on my relationship with Christ. I can think of times in my life that could have caused me great sorrow, but because I know and I receive the hope in Christ, I know that my next steps are managed and that whatever happens I am in the best care. How awesome is this! I can choose to be sick with trepidation, regret, anger, or whatever other emotion or thought that spins me to the negative cycles or I can choose Christ and begin to study on hope, talk to people who have this great hope, and remember the eyes of the children receiving our shoeboxes. I think that it is important as believers to continue surrounding ourselves with fellow believers because in this we can see how each of us counts on the hope we have in Christ and can be renewed in our own hope and strengthened to go and face our world.

This month we'll have another speaker with us, Pastor Dan, sharing with us what it means for us and our life to have the hope of Christ, how we can have this hope, experience hope amid crisis, and be able to live out loud with the assurance that comes with hope in Jesus.

Moppett workers, my heart was filled and so grateful when Mike Gipson informed me that we were covered in all of the kid rooms. You are an amazing group of servants and all of the MOPS moms thank you very much. We recognize what your work allows us to do and without you our fellowship could not happen. You are loved!

*Remember, we could use more Moppett workers, even if you just want to be on a standby list in the case of a cancellation, we want your service. Your commitment to these moms and the children is valued and greatly appreciated. Please get with me or Cathi Thomas if helping with children is your gift and you want to volunteer your time once a month to help.

Love and Blessings!
Heather Nguyen

Budget Status Report

The Month of October, 2016

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$65,447
Offerings	<u>70,705</u>
Over (Under) Budget	\$ 5,258
Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$64,985
Offerings	<u>70,705</u>
Over (Under) Actual	\$ 5,720

The Year Through October, 2016

Projected (Budgeted) Spending	\$694,350
Offerings	<u>619,026</u>
Over (Under) Budget	(\$75,324)
Actual (Budgeted) Spending	\$688,627
Offerings	<u>619,026</u>
Over (Under) Actual	(\$69,601)

–The Board Of Trustees





Awana News!

December

- 7th - Christmas Parties (Individual Clubs)
- 14th - No Club - Church Family Christmas Banquet
- 21st - No Club - Christmas Week
- 28th - No Club - Christmas Week

Many thanks to all who donated canned goods through the last few months, we were able to gift several boxes of delicious food to Laurel Avenue Church of God for their food pantry. Asking the kids to bring their favorite food was a great way for them to understand that our offerings can be used to bless others. We're certain that many families will be blessed, definitely with mac and cheese!

We only have one Awana night in December which is the 7th, because of the church banquet, and Christmas week etc. The different groups will be remembering and celebrating Jesus' birthday that evening. All groups will still begin at 6:30. The T&T groups will be together in room 107, they will be eating from 6:30 onwards and will be making a craft also. The Sparks will be celebrating in room 110, and the Cubbies will also be focusing on Jesus' birthday in room 102. We are asking the Cubbies to bring a \$5 gift for a gift exchange if they are able.

Awana will restart in the new year on January 4th. We are still in need of people who can step in and sub for our regular listeners when they are sick, with cold season upon us we are often missing help.

Don't forget, we follow Hamilton City Schools with severe weather so if school is cancelled due to snow then we will also cancel Awana.

–Claire Metzger, Cheryl Motzer,
Awana Leaders



KingsKids Present
Christmas In Kid City
Sunday, December 18th
6:00 p.m.

Childcare

Just a reminder that there is a sign up board outside of the nursery room. We have five areas each Sunday that comprise of nursery babies (under ones), toddlers (under twos), kiddie church (two - four), kinderchurch (four - kindergarten), and kids church (first - sixth). For some families our childcare is the only time they are away from their children and are able to relax knowing their children are lovingly cared for. Please note that we ask that sick children not be dropped off for childcare as we do not want others to be sick also.

We do welcome toys that are gifted to the church but ask that we can check them first for any cracks or anything that may not be age appropriate.

Giant Christmas Card

The giant Christmas card is up! Please stop by and see if you recognize a few faces. Why not send a limited edition miniature one to a friend? All donations will be used to support the gift buying for the Salvation Army ministry.

Adopt-A-Child/Adopt An Angel For Christmas

The Salvation Army is once again sponsoring the Adopt-A-Child or Adopt-An-Angel program. We are asking the church family to become involved in helping the less fortunate. We need your kind hearts to help out the families that are less fortunate in our own community. There are many families in need. Without you this program would not be possible. The Salvation Army does a great job helping families in our local area, Butler County. That is very important!

Names are available. Please look for Mike Gipson in the connector to get your names.

Thanks for the past years that you have helped and let's make this a great year as we help those less fortunate families in Butler County!

–Michael Gipson



From The Heart
Of Marilyn

College Corner

E-Mail From God

Come See The Light

“Everything was created through him . . . What came into the existence was Life, and the Life was Light to live by. The Light-Life out of the darkness; the darkness couldn’t put it out.”

– John 1:3-5, The Message

My Child,

My Son, Jesus, came into your world as Life itself—powerful, dynamic Life—full of energy and hope. He came into your world as Light, blazing out of the darkness, pushing back the shadows.

All of this Life and Light was contained in a human being, so people didn’t understand who they were dealing with when they met Him. He looked like an ordinary person. But He was with Me when the world was made. Every single thing in creation was created through Him. So no wonder people didn’t quite “see the Light” when they met Him.

Although they stood in darkness and didn’t understand the Light, they could never put it out? He’s still shining! Let Him shine in you.

The Father of Light,
God

December
2016



We continue to provide a meal at Serve City on the 3rd Monday of each month. Thanks to our MOPS members for making the October meal. November, January, March, May, and July our friends at Harvest Christian Fellowship Church organized by Sharon Braun Benzing will be serving. December, Nancy and Karen will be serving. February and April is Nancy's service sorority group and/or the Adult Choir. June, the ABW Circles will serve. August, the meal will be served by friends of Nancy. Call Nancy with any questions at 863-2309. Your support is appreciated.

–Nancy Whipple
Women's Ministry Team

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Winter Reminder!

If Hamilton City schools do not open on a weekday because of snow or ice, the church will not be open that day either.

–The Board of Trustees



Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is in the narthex and has already been blessed with hats, gloves and scarfs. Any other clothing such as coats are needed and would be gratefully accepted if laid under the tree. All these gifts go to local charities for children and families in the Hamilton area who are in need this winter. These will be donated after Christmas.

Joy! Christmas Cantata

At 10:30 Sunday morning, December 11th, the Adult Choir along with Zion Lutheran Church Choir will present *Joy!* It's a wonderful time for us to celebrate Jesus' birth in song with special guest musicians. You won't want to miss it.

–Laurin Sprague

Cherub Choir

The Cherub Choir will present their musical Christmas gift to Jesus, *Bedtime In Bethlehem*, during morning worship on Sunday, December 4th, the second Sunday of Advent. Chris Metzger will be reading a Christmas bedtime story. The Cherubs will then sing *He Come The Glory, Away In A Manger*, and *Baby Jesus, We Love You*.

–Marsha Helton & Sydney Wilson



Cookies and Candies Needed!

As the carolers go out, they take a tin filled with homemade Christmas goodies to leave at each home visited. We are in need of cookies and candies to fill these tins. You may bring the goodies and place them on a table outside the Family Center by Thursday, December 8th.

Christmas Day & New Years Day Worship

Gather with us for our Christmas Day and New Years Day worship service at 10:30 a.m., Sunday December 25th and January 1st. All First Baptist Sunday School classes will **NOT** meet on Christmas Day or on New Years Day.

Brian Begley,
Sunday School Superintendent



Christmas Caroling

We will meet at the church at 4:00 p.m. Sunday, December 11th, and enjoy light snacks, coffee, and cider served by the Family Life Committee, a little fellowship with one another, and divide into teams to receive assignments for this very special mission. We will leave promptly at 4:30 p.m. to deliver tins of homemade cookies and sing carols to our shut-ins. It is guaranteed that you will receive the greater blessing as you bring Christmas cheer into the homes of our shut-ins. Bring your little ones as they love to have the children visit them. Please sign the list on the bulletin board if you plan to join us for caroling.



Christmas Banquet Wednesday, December 14th 6 o'clock

Enjoy an evening of Christian fellowship as we celebrate the joy of the season with a delicious meal prepared by Tim Swicegood, beautifully decorated tables, each one different as each one is decorated by a different lady and a wonderful presentation. After dinner, we will move to the sanctuary and be awed in a service of worship by *The Jesus Painter*. *The Jesus Painter* will bring faith to life in living color through a live painting performance as he paints before our eyes THE LIFE OF CHRIST. This "Sermon without words" explains the meaning and significance of the life, death and resurrection of our Savior. Three giant pictures will be painted as we worship and contemplate THE LIFE OF CHRIST. The Jesus painter says, "HE IS THE ARTIST, WE ARE THE BRUSH. WE EXIST TO MAKE JESUS FAMOUS."

The menu for the evening is Turkey and Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Green Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, Beverage, and a variety of pies. The cost for the dinner will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under the age of 12; \$15 for **immediate family living in the same household**. This will be a very appropriate opportunity to bring the whole family and invite friends who you would want to introduce to Christ and your church family. Please RSVP on the Connect Card or to the office.



(Addresses of those who have served us over the years.)

Rev. & Mrs. Branan Becknell
47 Acadia Drive
Rockland, Maine 04841

Rev. & Mrs. Jim Bell
8206 Hampton Bluff Terrace
Chesterfield, VA 23832

Rev. & Mrs. James Flye
1159 W. Chester Pike, K11
West Chester, PA 19382

Rev. & Mrs. Steve Gage
1252 10th Street SW
Valley City, ND 58072

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Martin
26W235 Gerome Avenue
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Rev. & Mrs. Adam Metzger
110 Chapel Hill
Battle Creek, MI 49015

Dr. & Mrs. Dennis Metzger
1086 Arbor Springs Drive
Hamilton, OH 45013

Mr. & Mrs. Karl Metzler
3494 Oxford-Middletown Road
Trenton, Ohio 45067

Cherie Young Owens
109 Timberland Drive
Canton, Georgia 30114

Pastor Tim Schwartz
2921 Minnesota Avenue
Kansas City, Kansas 66102

Mr. & Mrs. Ted Soderholm
3292 N White Heather Place
Tucson, Arizona 85750

Rev. & Mrs. Jeremy Spence
P.O. Box 552
St. Paris, OH 43072

Dr. & Mrs. Douglass Willey
5506 Cherryleaf Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46268

Thank You, You Servants of the Lord

On behalf of the trustees I want to publicly thank all those volunteers who have helped the board this year in one fashion or another. No contribution has been insignificant by any measure. Volunteers used whatever gift they had "to serve others as faithful stewards of God's grace," as noted in 1 Peter. By various means they have blessed the trustees and this church. In some cases, the trustees didn't even have to ask for the favor. The assistance was rendered because of the attentiveness and initiative of the volunteer. Collectively, the aid provided has undoubtedly saved the church thousands of dollars this year.

The Apostle Paul, in 1 Corinthians, observes that there are different kinds of service. There certainly has been a variety this year: Wednesday night dinners were cooked, dinner money collected, floors and carpets cleaned, the HVAC system maintained, plumbing and electrical trouble corrected, kitchen problems analyzed, insurance and legal advice proffered, weeds pulled, flowers purchased and planted, leaves corralled, snow plows and salt spreaders installed and removed, snow shoveled and plowed, salt spread, cabinet doors reattached, meeting halls reserved, offerings counted, door windows installed, door locks adjusted, furniture repaired, lobby remodeling accomplished, decorations hung and stored, new message boards installed, and a van donated.

And that surely is not a complete list!

Another list likely to be incomplete, yet one I will risk publishing, are the names of at least some of those volunteers: Nancy Whipple, Ruthie Wallace, Linda Wallace, John Wallace, Johnnie Wallace, Jerry Wallace, Imogene Swindall, Gary Swindall, Carl Schwab, John Riczko, Dan Morrow, Evelyn Maddox, Mary Law, Ryan Inloes, Janet Hazelwood, Dave Hazelwood, Loretta Hampton, Jerry Hampton, Glendene Hall, Mike Gipson, Ron Gerth, Jim Cecere, Teene Campbell, Charlie Campbell, Mike Braun, Bill Brantingham, Zeke Bowling, Marilyn Bowling, Brian Begley, Jim Baker and Lois Anderson.

Thank you, each of you...including those whom I may have failed to name because of my faulty memory. None of you sought recognition or compensation. Your motivation was a desire to supply the needs of God's people as if serving the Lord Jesus, Himself. In so doing, your works of service have built up the body of Christ, as the Apostle Paul foresaw.

Your reward will come one day. Hebrews 6 promises that *"God is not unjust; He will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them."*

—Rod Anderson, Trustee Chairman

Just-in Time's Student Ministries December Calendar

December 4

Leaders will be having a meeting at 5:30pm.

December 7

Midweek Bstud will be going on from 6:30 to 7:30pm.

December 11

Students we will be having our annual Christmas Party this evening! We will enjoy food, games, community and of course the white elephant gift exchange! Make sure to bring a worth no more than \$5. Parent or student, please let Justin know if you plan to be there. The time and location will be announced soon, but plan for this event to be in the evening.

December 14

Join us at the annual FBCH Christmas Banquet! This family event is open to all family and friends. Come for a great evening of fellowship, entertainment, and food.

December 18

Leaders, we will be having our Spring planning session at Larry and Linda Wallace's house starting at 5pm. There will be no student activities tonight.

December 21

Leader Christmas Party will be at Josh Click's house starting at 6pm.

December 25

Bring your family and come to our Christmas service starting at 10:30am!

December 28

No evening ministries.

December 31

The term "mark your calendars" was invented for such a day as this! Students, we will be having our next UNITED event at the Underground to bring in the New Year! The event starts at 8pm and goes until 12:30am. We will have LIVE BANDS, PRIZES, MECHANICAL BULL, FOAM PIT, and SKYLINE CHILI. Bring in the new year with a couple hundred of your closest friends. Tickets will on sale at the beginning of December for \$15. See Justin for more details.

Parents/guardian details: We will be taking students to and from this event from FBCH. We will leaving at 7:30pm from the parking lot of FBCH and coming home after the event around 1:30am. This is a public

event, but UNITED will be doing an extended piece at the end of the night where we will share the Gospel and a charge for 2017. We encourage students to bring friends to this event for this reason. However, all students who leave with us, must come back with us. And those students who choose to meet us there will not be able to come home with us. We are choosing to arrange rides this way for safety reasons. If you have questions about anything please contact Justin.

For further updates please follow our Facebook page. If you have any questions, call Justin at (513) 658-2277.

Justin Davis
Youth Pastor

Christmas Scripture Cake

½ c. Judges 5:25b	II Chronicles 9:9, to taste
Jeremiah 6:20	Pinch of Leviticus 2:13
2 T. I Samuel 14:25	½ c. Judges 4:19b
6 Jeremiah 17:11	2 c. Nahum 3:12
1 ½ c. I Kings 4:22	2 c. Numbers 17:8
2 t. Amos 4:5	2 c. I Samuel 30:12

Whip the Judges, Jeremiah & I Samuel until light. Beat the 6 Jeremiah yolks & add to mixture. Add Kings, Amos, Chronicles & Leviticus, alternately with Judges. Fold in Nahum, Numbers & Samuel, then also the Jeremiah whites, beaten stiff. Bake 2 hours in a greased 10" tube pan @ 300 degrees.

Interpretation of Christmas Scripture Cake

½ c. butter	1 t. nutmeg
2 c. sugar	½ t. cloves
2 T. honey	pinch of salt
6 egg yolks	½ c. milk
1 ½ c. flour, sifted	2 c. figs, chopped
2 t/ baking powder	2 c. raisins
2 t. cinnamon	2 c. almonds
½ t. ginger	6 egg whites, beaten stiff

Beat together the butter, sugar, & honey. Beat the egg yolks and add sifted flour, baking powder, spices & salt, alternately with the milk. Stir in the figs, raisins & almonds. Fold in the 6 egg whites which have been beaten stiff. Bake the cake in a well greased 10" tube pan. Lining the pan with greased brown paper may provide added protection. Bake at 300 degrees for 2 hours.



Child Care Schedule

Nursery (Morning)

December 4 - Krys Schramm & Sydney
December 11 - Linda & Larry Wallace
December 18 - Kathy Inloes & Teen Helper
December 25 -

Toddler

December 4 -
December 11 -
December 18 -
December 25 -

Kiddie Church

December 4 -
December 11 - Claire & Chris Metzger
December 18 - Sharon Brewer & Lauren Hampton
December 25 -

Kinderchurch

December 4 - Jill O'Hara & Dorothy Hollowell
December 11 -
December 18 - Jill O'Hara & Dorothy Hollowell
December 25 -

(December 25th Kiddie Church & Kinderchurch combined)



Attention All Morning Worship Child Care Workers

We have many slots available for our workers to sign up to be in nursery, toddler and kiddie church. Please see Cheryl if you can help out with any of these areas. We also would like to have someone to help out with Karen Buchanan during KidsChurch in room 200 during the sermon. If you have a child in any of these areas, please consider taking a turn to help out. A helper with Karen Buchanan would be someone to be with her, oversee restroom breaks, etc. as an extra adult. With our church growing in attendance, our workers need to grow in numbers too. Call Cheryl 608-8468, text, facebook, or see at church to volunteer. Thanks so much.



Wednesday Family Dinners

December 7

Menu: Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy,
Green Beans, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Loretta's
Texas Sheet Cake
Hosts: FOCUS

December 14 - Christmas Banquet

Menu: Turkey & Dressing, Mashed Potatoes, Green
Beans, Sweet Potatoes, Ambrosia, Cranberry
Sauce, Rolls, Variety of Pies
Hosts: Trustees

December 21 & 28

There will be no meal because of Christmas break

Reminder: Adults should contribute \$5.00 per person for the meal (including children who eat from the main table), \$15 per family (those living in the same household), and \$1.50 for children under twelve who eat from the hot dog table. Be sure to make your reservation on the Friendship Folder each Sunday.

The cost for the Christmas Dinner, December 14th, will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children under the age of 12; \$15 for **immediate family living in the same household**. Make your reservation on the green sheet in the Fellowship Folder.

Reminder: Anyone desiring to borrow items, such as, chairs, tables, coffee pots, etc. are now **required** to fill out a sheet in the office with name, date, item, and number borrowed and then the date, item, and number returned. Please see Ellie.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

December 2016

4

9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship-Cherubs
Bedtime In Bethlehem
5:30 Student Ministries -
Leaders Meeting
6:00 KingsKids

11

9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship - Cantata
"Joy"
4:00 Carolers gather
for Light Snacks
4:30 Carol to shut-ins
Student Ministries
Christmas Party

18

9:15 Sunday School
10:30 Worship
4:15 Missions,
Diaconate, CE
Boards in Rm 200
5:00 Student Leaders
meeting @ Larry &
Linda Wallace home
6:00 KingsKids present
*Christmas In Kid
City*

25

Have A Blessed
Christmas!!
10:30 Worship

5

12

11:00 Women's Christian
Book Club @
Fairfield Library

19

5:30 Meal for Serve City

26

6:30 Cabinet Meeting

6

9:30 MOPS Steering
Committee

13

6:00 Smith Circle
Christmas
Gathering at the
Courtyard Marriott

20

9:30 MOPS

27

7

5:45 Family Dinner
6:30 Awana Christmas
Parties
6:30 Student Ministries
6:30 Bible Study & Prayer
7:00 Praise Team
7:30 Chancel Choir

14

6:00 Christmas Banquet

21

No Evening Programs
6:00 Student Leader
Christmas Party @
Josh Click's home

28

No Evening Programs

1

8

11:30 Matthew 25
Christmas luncheon
for volunteers

15

22

29

2

6:00 FOCUS Class
Christmas Gathering
in Room 200
7:30 Miami Choral Winter
Concert Hall
Auditorium

9

16

23

30

3

9:00 Men's Prayer
Gathering

10

10:00 Chancel
Choir/Orchestra
Rehearsal

17

24

6:00 Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Communion Service

31

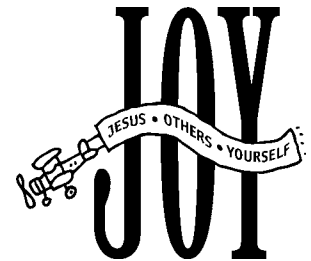
New Years Eve!
8:00 Student Ministries -
UNITED

December

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

- | | | | | | |
|------|---|------|---|------|--|
| 1 - | Melissa Geiss
Scott McRoberts | 15 - | Dan Morrow | 30 - | Alex Caswell
Judy Farris
Ralph Shearer
Dylan Spicer |
| 2 - | Janice Adams
Teresa Patrick
Olive Belle Young | 16 - | Jack W. Baker
Dan Clemens | 31 - | Darryl Paragin |
| 3 - | Mike Braun
Jordan Brown
Arah Mae Williams | 17 - | Bart Reed
Landon James Johnson | | |
| 5 - | John Riczko | 18 - | Sharon Braun Benzing
Daniel Hounshell | | |
| 7 - | Dottie Jackson | 20 - | Lindsey Minnich
Joseph Wallace | | |
| 8 - | Mike Click
Luella Lerch
Justin Van Meter | 21 - | Brooke Begley
Susan Zeek | | |
| 10 - | Amber Farmer Bryant
Daniel French
Barry Pickett
Linda Stanger | 22 - | Paul "Bud" Braun | | |
| 11 - | Zakory Evan Dudley
Juli Ford
Carl Lakes
Jennifer Wallace
Noëlle Wilson | 23 - | Zachary Beltz
Brad Hoover
Kris Simpson
Andrew Walker | | |
| 12 - | Larry Bowling
Walter Jackson
Abigail Riczko | 24 - | Marilyn Becknell
Chuck Witmer | | |
| 13 - | Kim Schuermann | 26 - | Marjorie Corley
Beth Payne
Loretta Hampton | | |
| 14 - | Brad Begley
Brandi Emenaker
Earl Gabbard
Leigh Anne Gribble
Alexander Sprague
Michael Stanger
Michael Stanger
J. K. Walker
Kim Wolter | 27 - | John Haberthier
Steve Turner
Nathan Walker
Grace Yantes | | |
| | | 29 - | Brian Dickman
Thomas Farris
Karen Gerth
Shirley Henson
Chuck Riczko
Lil Wilson
Judy Young | | |

Note: Please call the church office if you notice that one of your family members has been inadvertently overlooked on the birthday calendar. We do not intend to overlook anyone but do not realize it unless you inform us.



First Baptist Church
1501 Pyramid Hill Boulevard
Hamilton, Ohio 45013
Phone: 513-868-1412



Christmas Eve
Tuesday
December 24
6 o'clock

Personal Notes

From Colleen Hefner

What wonderful blessings you have ALL been to me and our family during these past 2 months as I'm recovering from extensive surgery. It's so very comforting to know how our church family really cares. I thank you for all the cards, flowers, letters, phone calls—but most of all your love and prayers. We love you all.

From Mary Epp (HFSO Guild Treasurer)

Thank you for allowing the HFSO Guild officers to hold our monthly meetings in the First Baptist library. Most appreciated.

From Jeremy and Aleesha Spence and Family

Thank you for the prayers, messages and cards as we journeyed through the shooting, death and funeral of Aleesha's brother, Sgt. Allen Brandt. Your love brings us comfort as we mourn Allen's passing and yearn to see him again someday in heaven. We ask that you continue to share the Gospel and support your local law enforcement in memoriam. We also ask that you continue to pray for his family as they travel a difficult road: his wife, Natasha, and his children, Fritz, Kate, Claire and Belle. We love you!

We will meet together as a church family to praise and worship the One whom God provided for our redemption! Join us and share in the singing of carols, a devotional message from the pastor, and a candle lighting service. Bring your entire family, your out-of town guests, and friends for this hour which will prepare your heart for Christmas day, as we celebrate the birth of our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

The Courier is a monthly publication of The First Baptist Church of Hamilton, Ohio. Deadline for articles to be submitted is the fifteenth day of each month. The Pastor: Dr. Dan Clemens; Editor: Ellie Dinger. Our purpose statement: *We are believers in Jesus Christ, called of God, Gathering for Worship; Instruction and Fellowship...Scattering for Care, Evangelism and Transformation of the World for His Kingdom.*

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