



The *December 2020*
Anchor

We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul...Heb.6:19a



As the Christmas season is upon us, we are often found with fond memories of Christmas past. It might be remembering a family meal, a special present that you gave to someone or perhaps something special you received. Christmas should be a good time for families, but it is often a stressful time because of the fear and pressure of the having the perfect Christmas to meet everyone's expectation. We can reduce that stress if we keep Christmas in perspective. Harlan Miller said, "Probably the reason we all go so hay-wire at Christmas time with the endless unrestrained, and often, silly buying of gifts is that we don't quite know how to put our love into words." Perhaps, if we can concentrate on the little things. Nora Roberts points out, "Nothing ever seems too bad, too hard, or too sad when you've got a Christmas tree in the living room." Maybe it has been a while since you put a Christmas tree. Perhaps, you can put one up this year. Or just use the occasion to breathe and be grateful. Alexander Smith said, "Christmas is the day that holds all time together."

Whatever we do and however we choose to celebrate, let us remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. He was the greatest gift that the world has ever received. The Bible tells us, "***For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life***" (John 3:16). God chose Mary, a virgin, to be the mother of our Lord. Jesus would grow to live a sinless life, and would become the end all sacrifice for sins, when He died on the cross. Praise be to God, He did not stay in the tomb! Instead, He arose from the dead, and lives forevermore. You see without Jesus' birth, we could not have had His death or His resurrection. It's in His resurrection that we have hope, that though we may die physically, we are alive spiritually for all of eternity.

We are already in the midst of Advent, as we count down each service to Christmas celebrating the lighting of candles representing Forgiveness, Faith, Hope, and Light. In addition to celebrating the Christmas season each Sunday in December, and teaching the Christmas Story on Wednesdays, we are hoping to air a special Christmas program that will be streamed live on Christmas Eve. Poinsettias and luminaires will honor those in our families who have gone on to heaven. While this Christmas season may be different because of the ongoing pandemic, we still need to celebrate and remember. Yes, our gatherings may be smaller than normal, and some members of our families may choose to avoid gathering to be safe from illness. Let's not judge them harshly, but rather show them love. The one thing the pandemic cannot change, is the reason why we celebrate Christmas -- Jesus.

This season, I encourage you to call someone who needs to hear that you love them. You can extend forgiveness to someone who needs it. Send someone a card to show who needs to know they are not forgotten. Be grateful and thankful that God loved you so much, He has already given you the gift of all gifts, when He gave you Jesus. May we all be healthy and prosperous this Christmas season and, may be, honor the Lord Jesus with our lives this Christmas season.

Merry Christmas to you and your family! Jennifer and I love each of you dearly.

In His service,

Pastor Toby



What a month! In school - out of school - meeting - not meeting - in person - on line only! And still trying my best to stay in touch with our Youth. I have been keeping up with everyone - calling, texting, and feeding all who need a meal or conversation. So far 7 have needed me!!

Hopefully, we can have our live nativity scene this month. Everything depends on the active COVID cases in Jackson County!

But we are still celebrating the birth of Jesus. Everyday is Christmas to us. I've asked the kids to send me their well wishes in pics. Enjoy!

Merry Christmas and Blessings to All!

Love, *Ann*



Absent from the body



Present with the Lord.

We lost 2 dear members of First Baptist Church in November - Gloria Easter and Jim Porter. Both passed on November 17.

We are grateful for their lives and everything they did to show love for God and His people.

They fought the fight; they ran the race and now, they are at peace and filled with joy as they stand before the throne of God.

Our prayers are with the Easter family and the Porter family during this time of sadness. May your hearts be filled with peace knowing your loved ones are with Jesus.



Advent Begins

We have begun the Christmas season with our first service of Advent.

Burt, Debra and Philip Lyons were our first family to light the candle signifying Forgiveness.

We begin this season by focusing on forgiving loved ones, those who have harmed us, even ourselves for any wrongs done.

Join us each Sunday - live or on line - as we hear the message of the coming of Christ.

Many Thanks to Trustee Gary Balsler!



Gary has been faithful to see to the needs of the church during this COVID 19 time.

He's been cleaning after each service and assuring we can enter into the church knowing it's safe to be here.

Thanks Gary!!

Adopt-a-Family

Please contact Jane Moore, Andrea Crow or the office to choose an item for the Adopt-a-Family Angel Tree. The angels will be posted on the bulletin board outside the office. Since it is difficult for many who would like help but can't come in, we will be keeping track of the items. You may also give donations for the purchase of gifts for the families.

First Baptist Church Adopt-a-Family

Family #39

Mother

Shoes size 8 1/2
Shirt and Pants size 1X
Coat size 2X
Purse
Pots and Pans
Hygiene Items

Girl Age 4

Shoes size 13
Clothing size 7/8
Coat size 7
Pajamas size 7/8
Underwear size 7/8
Doll
Learning Toys
Blues Clues Toy
Bubble Guppies Toy
Filled Stocking

Girl Age 3

Shoes size 9
Clothing size 4T
Coat size 4T
Pajamas size 4T
underwear size 4/5
Doll
Peppa Pig Toy
Minnie Mouse Toy
Learning Toys
Filled Stocking

Toothbrush and toothpaste for Mother and Kids

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper

Bucket of Cleaning Supplies

First Baptist Church Adopt-a-Family

Family #31

Mother

Shoes size 7 1/2
Shirt and Pants size 16
Coat size 16

Boy Age 6

Shoes size 2
Clothing size 7
Coat size 7/8
Pajamas size 7/8
Underwear size 7/8
Games
~~Books~~
~~Transformer Toys~~
Filled Stocking

Boy Age 8

Shoes size 4
Shirt and pants size 8
Coat size 8/10
Pajamas size 8/10
Underwear size 8/10
~~Books~~
Transformer Toys
~~Erector Set~~
Filled Stocking

Toothbrush and toothpaste for Mother and Kids

Paper Towels

Toilet Paper

Bucket of Cleaning Supplies

WE'RE ALL
IN THIS
Together



First Baptist Church

215 Ann Street, Ravenswood, WV 26164

Monday, December 7, 2020
1 pm - 6 pm

Due to COVID-19 precautions, we are encouraging all donors to make an appointment for this drive.

For an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org and use Sponsor Code: Ravenswood

Or call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767)

Schedule a blood donation appointment today:

Download the Blood Donor App | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

*Offers and items are non-transferable and are not redeemable for cash. Items are available while supplies last. ©2020 The American National Red Cross | 287501 W

Be Prepared for a World of Cuteness!

Jane Moore, with the help of Talia Martinez, is doing the annual children's Christmas play differently this year.

We will be showing a video of 2 separate plays during the morning worship service on December 13.

The first play is *Christmas in the Manger* featuring our little ones 5 and under.

The second play features our God's Cadets kids in *For Unto Us a Child is Born*.

The great thing about this play? You can watch it over and over again! It will also be on the church Facebook.



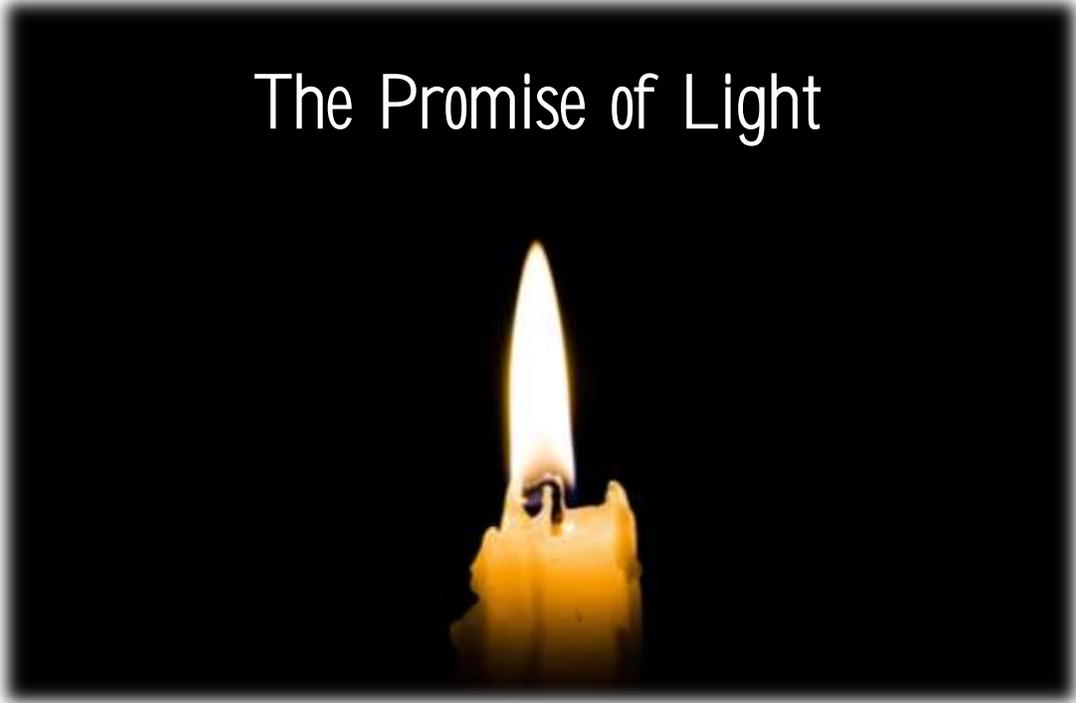
Youth Live Nativity

Weather and Covid permitting, the Junior and Senior High Youth will be presenting a Live Nativity on the church courtyard on December 20 from 6:30 to 7:30.

Everyone is invited to drive by and enjoy the sights and sounds of Christmas.



The Promise of Light



In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. And darkness was over the face of the deep.

Then God said, "Let there be Light!"

And light was promised from the beginning.

Everyone is invited to view the premier of
The Promise of Light

On Facebook

on December 24, Christmas Eve at 6:00.

Following the program, enjoy a drive-by of the church
to see the luminaries in all their brilliance.

Staff Gifts

The Deacons are collecting for the annual staff Christmas gifts to recognize the services our staff provides throughout the year.

The goal is \$1500. If you would like to donate to this collection, please ear-mark your checks with 'Staff Gift' or go to FBCravenswood.org and give through Tithe.ly. Thank you for giving.



Christmas Cards

We have had a tradition here at FBC at Christmas to bring cards in for the congregation and put the cards in a mailbox outside the office. This would allow us to reach out to our people with uplifting Christmas messages and save on postage at the same time.

This have change this year though. Due to less people coming in to the church, smaller groups attending services, and many staying home to avoid contact with others during this pandemic season, we will not be doing our in-house Christmas cards.

If you wish to send a card out but do not have a current (9/2020) Church Contact List, call or contact the office and Susan will email or mail you a copy.

Watch the Map!



We will be following the school map for our services. If the school map is **orange or red**, we will **not** be having in-house church service that Sunday. The new map is released on Saturday evenings.

We will make all-calls to advise if the church is closed by Sunday morning at 9:30 to alert you about future services.

Stayed Tuned!

Christmas Boxes Delivered!

Many Thanks to Talia Martinez for reaching out to our young people for Advent.

Talia made 25 boxes and delivered them to our kids with an Advent Calendar, games, candy and goodies to help them learn about Advent.

Talia is the Children's Representative on the Board of Christian Education.

Kudos to Talia!

All creatures great and small



Best Costume - Logan Kerns





Enjoyed Trunk or Treat!



Little Chuckles and Things



Whether destroying the evil in the universe (Logan Kerns) or bashing the COVID 19 germs in the sanctuary (Gary Balser), First Baptist Church is on top of it!



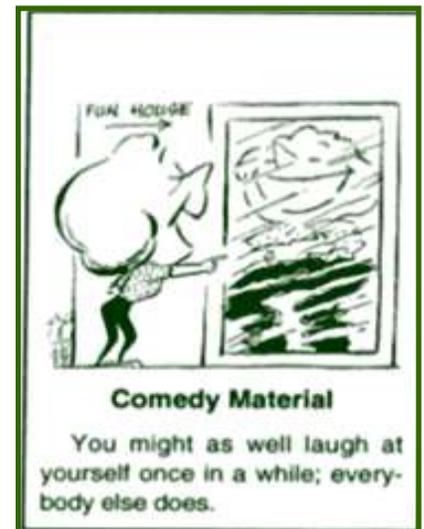
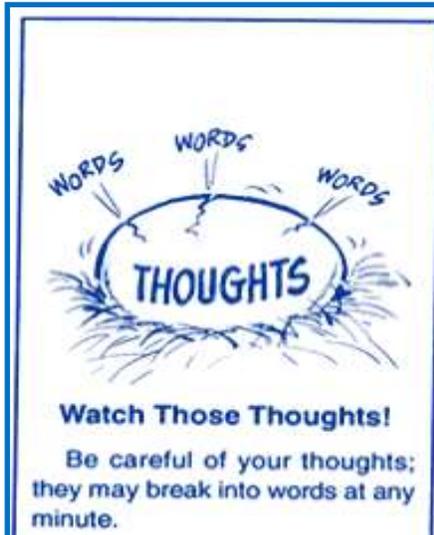
False Pretenses

Some people claim they're not loafing; it's just that they work so fast they're always finished.



Dreams of the Broke

No wonder we dream of a white Christmas; it leaves most of us in the red.



Calendar 2021

The Church calendar for 2021 is being finalized this month. If you or your committee have any meetings or special activities planned, please let Susan know by **December 15** so she can get it on the new calendar.

All officers and committees will receive the 2020 church calendar. If you are not an officer or on a committee and would like one, please contact the office.

2021

CommUnity Kitchen

We are working on the 2021 CommUnity Kitchen schedule. If you are able to help - even for one Saturday a **year** - please contact the office.

There are openings each month and cooks and helpers are needed. Families, friends, groups - all can bring a smile to someone's face.

Please consider reaching out to our community in this way.

Your help with this ministry is greatly appreciated.



Flower Calendar 2021

The Flower Calendar for 2021 is now on the side office door.

If you are interested in donating an arrangement for the altar flowers, please sign up today!

We have 2 florists in Ravenswood, Affectionately Yours and Ravenswood Floral (formerly Cooks) or you can design your own arrangement for that special Sunday. Just designate which one you would like. Thanks!!!

Thank you to our Veterans



Cprl Adam Greathouse



Adj Gen James Hoyer



On a Blessing Mission!

The *Board of Christian Education* joined with the *Deacons* and the *Young Adults* to reach out to a silent few in our church. Thanksgiving meals were delivered to 40+ senior citizens (70 and older), shut-ins and a few special situations.

Our older people have been so confined and unable to get to church, we wanted to share some love and let them know they are not forgotten.



Thanks for helping with our missions!!



If your pumpkin roll seems a little nuttier this year—Well, there's a reason! :)

We can all thank those ladies of CIRCLE who again fixed those luscious rolls. It's the easy way to have a Thanksgiving dessert!

Your support helped with a number of missions:

- MOP (Mission Outreach Project)
- Weirton Christian Center
- Gabriel Project
- Special Projects in West Virginia
- Myanmar (Burma) missionaries
- Star
- Scholarship Girls
- Local needs
- Baby showers
- And many more - Local, State and National



ADULT PROGRESSIVE DINNER SPECIAL COVID EDITION

December 5, 2020 5:00 p.m.

Non-progressing Bonfire starting and ending at the Bashaw's



HOT DOGS AND BUNS PROVIDED

Please bring a **finger** food dessert
And your own individual beverage

We'll be heating things up with our
ANNUAL ORNAMENT EXCHANGE!
Bring an ornament if you want to participate in that

We will be outside and socially distancing
DRESS WARM!!

Hope to see ya there!

RSVP to Debby Bashaw 304-532-1805

*Just in case!!
We will be monitoring the weather – if too wet or too cold
Also if Jackson County is red*

Focus on Sunday School:



During the month of December, we all turn our thoughts to the coming of the Christ Child. Our hearts are filled with wonder at the sights and sounds around us. Our children are excited for that coming night when Santa Claus will enter our homes and deposit wished-for gifts under a tree sparkling with lights.

Others, however, may look and see tawdry signs of commercialism. But let's look again. We may see signs that allow us a chance to witness for Jesus.

Angels abound throughout Christmas. The angels heralded the birth of our Savior. That tree topper on your Christmas tree is a symbol of the angel that visited Mary, the one that visited Joseph to say you will have a son and call His name Jesus.

A favorite song of children at Christmas is Jingle Bells. Shepherds would use bells so that lost sheep would be able to find their way home. We pray for the lost that each soul will be able to turn to Jesus and enter heaven.

The Christmas trees and wreaths are made of evergreen trees. They symbolize the everlasting love of our Father in heaven that so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son to us who believe.

The shining Christmas Star that also is at the top of some trees is a remembrance of the Star above Bethlehem that led the Magi to the Christ Child.

The gifts we give represent those gifts that were given to the Jesus at His birth.

The candles that we light during Advent, allow us to reflect that Jesus is the light of the world. He came to defeat sin and bring us to the heavenly light of the Lord.

The Candy Cane is a familiar sight. It symbolizes the Shepherd's crook that gently guides sheep to safety. The white stripe is the purity of Jesus who lived without sin, but took on our sin when He was on the cross and shed His blood, which is shown by the red on the candy cane.

The multicolored lights on the tree remind me of a rainbow that shows the everlasting covenant between our heavenly Father and the earth.

All around us, we see the sights and hear the sounds of Christmas. I pray that everyone will take a moment to remember what this season is about. I also pray that we will take the time to be like the angels on that holy night and proclaim to the lost, ***“Unto you is born this day a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.”*** May your Christmas be blest.

December Birthdays



Megan Watkins 12/2
Ben Mize 12/4
Melissa Bennett 12/7
Tom Stephenson 12/8
Carolyn Mellinger 12/10
Mark Gerstell 12/14
Brent Confer 12/16
Jo Hendricks 12/22
Jesus 12/25

Bible Book of the Month December 2020

Matthew



CHURCH PRAYER CALENDAR

Prayer for our fellow members is an important part of our relationship with the Lord and helps us to grow closer as a church family. Each day during this month there is a different individual or family that you are asked to include in your prayers.



December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Jon & Jane Moore	2 Eugene & Jessica Morgan, Aiden, Jazalyn	3 Rick & Cathy Murray	4 Nikki Nicholson	5 Megan Noble, Brody
6 Jesse & Holly Nowry	7 John & Jennifer Ortt	8 Allen & Holly Palmer	9 Adam Palmer	10 Tyler & Jennifer Pitts, Owen, Isabella	11 Mick & Susan Price	12 Mary Proctor
13 Amy Perdue	14 Kay Pursley	15 Roger & Belinda Rader	16 Juanita Raines	17 Don & Melissa Raynes	18 Lee & Connie Reynolds	19 Tyler & Michelle Ritchie, Josh, Mary Beth
20 Rhonda Ritchie	21 Brent & Angel Ritchie, Conner, Lincoln, Beckham	22 David & Felisha Scott	23 Darrell & Camille Smith	24 Jim Speer	25 Bill & Liz Stewart, Michael, Riley Mary Beth	26 Tim & Connie Staats
27 Cole & Diana Staats	28 Ron & Amy Starkey	29 Warner Stephens	30 John & Rose Stephenson	31 Tom & Beverly Stephenson		

O Come

Let Us

Adore Him



Christ, the Lord!