

## First Thoughts

In the C.S. Lewis classic “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe” readers are taken to the magical land of Narnia. When Narnia is living under the authority of the witch “it is always winter, but never Christmas.” There are people living like that today in our world and Christmas never seems to come to them. There is only left the feeling that there is no hope, peace, joy, or love—there’s nothing left to believe in.

Advent is a time to slow down and allow these four themes to become real once again. During this four Sunday season of preparation, let us take time to light candles, sing, and reflect upon God’s presence in our lives and that “the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1.14). Use our Advent devotional guide to help you through these days. And, please take advantage of the opportunities for worship and fellowship that we’ll have over these next few weeks!

It’s been an incredible year. We’ve all navigated through trials and triumphs along the way. We’ve shared joys and sorrows too, so let’s be mindful of those for whom Christmas is an especially difficult time to recall the absence of a loved one. Let’s encourage and thank God for the moments we have with each other. Remember, “Life is a Gift.”

As the month of December begins, I’m also mindful that we are entering the last month of our fiscal year. Let’s do our best to finish this year on strong financial footing as we enter 2023(!) together. Your regular, faithful giving through tithes and offerings is the foundation of our mission and ministry. Thank you for your financial gifts and support and your generosity as we conclude this year as a family of faith.

Remember these words from the Apostle Paul: “But when the time was right, God sent his Son, and a woman gave birth to him. His Son obeyed the Law, so he could set us free from the Law, and we could become God’s children” (Galatians 4.4 CEV).

The time has come to make the journey to Bethlehem and let the stable astonish us once again. The Good News is that Christ has come--Christmas is here! “Those walking in darkness have seen a great light!” and for this reason we celebrate our belief that Christ has broken into the sin and darkness of our world. The light of the world is Jesus.

It’s a privilege to be Pastor of Clinton’s First Baptist Church. Thank you for your friendship, love, and support of my family this past year. I’m also grateful to work alongside our church staff as we all appreciate being part of your lives too.

May the Lord bless during this Advent season, and “Merry Christmas!”

Pastor Danny

## Youth Refuge

Grades 6-12  
FLC Youth Room  
**Sundays**  
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.  
Dinner, Bible Study & Games  
**Wednesdays**  
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.  
Dinner, Fellowship, Games and Homework!  
*\*December 14 will be the last Refuge of 2022. Refuge will resume on January 4.*

## Youth LifeGroup Christmas Party

**Sunday, December 11**  
9:30 a.m.  
FLC Youth Room

## Youth Refuge Christmas Party

**Wednesday, December 14**  
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.  
FLC Youth Room  
**Dirty Santa—Gifts provided.**  
Hot Chocolate, Pizza, Presents, Fun and Fellowship  
RSVP by December 9 so we can make sure we have enough gifts!



## 2023 Budget Vote

**Sunday, December 4**  
8:30 a.m. & 10:40 a.m.  
Vote at the end of each service.



## Keyboards at Christmas

**Sunday, December 4**  
3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.  
Sanctuary  
Tickets are free but needed. Call the church office to reserve your tickets. Doors will open 1 hour before each performance.

## Encore Cookie Swap

**Friday, December 9**  
11:00 a.m.  
FLC Hearth Room  
Soup and Chili lunch provided!  
Bring **three dozen** cookies to swap and a tin to take your cookies home in. **RSVP** to the church office at 865-457-9353 or email vicki@fbclinton.org.



## December Schedule Changes

- *Business Meeting has been moved to Wednesday, December 14*
- *There will be only one service at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 25 (Sanctuary) and Sunday, January 1 (FLC).*
- *No LifeGroups on Sunday, December 25 or Sunday, January 1.*
- *WEE Ministry will be closed Friday, December 23, Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2.*
- *The Church Office and Family Life Center will be closed on Monday, December 26 through Wednesday, December 28 and Monday, January 2.*
- *No Wednesday Activities on December 28.*

## Kids Church

Sundays during the 10:40 a.m. Service, kids can leave with Ms. Lauren after the children’s message. Pick up in the Church Library located behind the Sanctuary, next to the nursery.



## FBC Kids

**Wednesdays**  
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.  
Dinner, Music, & Bible Study! Kids need to be signed in at the Family Life Center. Pick up in the car line in the lower parking lot.

## Happy Birthday Jesus Party!

FBC Kids  
**Wednesday, December 14**  
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.  
Pizza and Birthday Cake!  
Sign kids in at the FLC. Pick up in the car line in lower parking lot



## Kids Pajama Day

Kids can wear their pajamas to church and sit with Ms. Lauren for our **Christmas Day Service at 10:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary.

## WEE Ministry Santa Breakfast

**Friday, December 2**  
Drop-in 6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.  
FLC Gym  
Bring your children or grandchildren and join the WEE Ministry for Breakfast, Pictures with Santa, and lots of fun crafts!

## Clinton Upward

Practices begin week of January 2. Games begin January 14. Awards Night is March 7.

## Towers Movie Marathon!

“The Santa Clause”  
Sunday, December 4  
6:00 p.m.  
“How the Grinch Stole Christmas”  
Sunday, December 10  
6:00 p.m.  
“Polar Express”  
Saturday, December 17  
6:00 p.m.  
Christmas Cookies/Treats, Hot Chocolate, Popcorn, & Coke will be served at all movies. Everyone is welcome!



## Towers Craft

**Saturday, December 10**  
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Volunteers needed. Everyone is welcome to attend!

## Angel Tree

Visit the Angel Tree in the Garden Room (Level 2). Gifts are due by December 11 unless you hear from the Angel Tree Ministry with a different date.

## Christmas Memorials

**Poinsettias \$10**  
**Wreaths \$25**



Memorial for: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Given: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to FBC, P.O. Box 268  
Clinton, TN 37717

## Let the Stable Still Astonish

Adult Choir Christmas Program  
Sunday, December 18  
10:40 a.m.  
Sanctuary

## Family Night at Christmas

Sunday, December 18  
6:00 p.m.

Join us for Refreshments, Talent Showcase and Fellowship! If you have a special Christmas poem, song, instrument, or dance, you would like to share during this event, please contact the church office to get on the program. You can call (865) 457-9353 or email [Katrina@fbclinton.org](mailto:Katrina@fbclinton.org).

## Christian Service Center

Christmas Food Boxes will be distributed on Monday, December 19. Drive-thru begins at 9:00 a.m. CSC will be closed on Tuesday, December 20.

## The Longest Night

Wednesday, December 21  
5:26 p.m.

Sanctuary  
Not everyone feels merry during the holidays. Let us seek the God of Hope together, reflecting on the shadows while looking at the light...

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Saturday, December 24  
5:00 p.m.  
Sanctuary

## Online & On the Air

Sunday Services are online via the First Baptist Clinton, TN Facebook page or YouTube channel. The Traditional Service is aired on WYSH AM 1380 and WYSH FM 101.1 at 11:00 a.m., Sundays, and is on a 1 week delay.

## Christian Sympathy

Sympathy is extended to the family of **Mary Lee Carmichael** (Hoagy Carmichael's sister).

## From the Pulpit

Sundays in December

8:30 a.m. Family Life Center

10:40 a.m. Sanctuary

04 Luke 1:26-28

11 Luke 1:46-56

18 Matthew 1:18-24 (8:30 a.m.)

Adult Choir Program "Let the Stable Still Astonish" (10:40 a.m.)

25 Luke 2:15-21 (10:00 am

combined service ONLY)

## LifeGroups

Sundays

9:30 a.m.

We have LifeGroups for all ages.

## Monthly Fellowship Dinners

Wednesday, December 7

5:15 p.m. - 6:15 p.m.

RSVP to the Church Office.

Cost: \$8.00 for adults

(Kids & Youth eat free weekly)

Menu: Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Chocolate Cake

## The 2nd Greatest Story Ever Told

Share your testimony

Wednesday, December 7

6:30 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

Taught by Jason Taylor

## Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, December 13

5:30 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

## Spirit Sisters

(Widows Support Group)

Meetings are the **1st Monday, monthly at 6:00 p.m.** in the FLC Hearth Room. Social outings will be on the 3rd Monday monthly.

## October Financial Summary

Budget Receipts	\$ 73,827
2022 Receipts/Wkly Avg.	\$ 15,447
2022 Weekly Budget Req.	\$ 17,732
Budget Expense	\$ 74,426
October Deficit/Income	(\$ 599)
2022 Deficit/Income	(\$28,702)
TOTAL October 31	(\$29,301)

Remember, your end of year giving must be received in the church office by noon, December 30, or postmarked by December 31 to be included in your 2022 contributions. Thank you for your generous support to our church.

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES ARE READY FOR PICK UP IN THE HALLWAY BEHIND THE SANCTUARY.**



Scan the QR Code to Connect with online giving.

## Business Meeting

Wednesday, December 14

6:30 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

## Business Meeting Report

The **October** Financials and Minutes were approved. The 2023 Budget was discussed. **Copeland Brothers Electric** will be hired to replace two outdoor lights. The following letters will be transferred: **David & Christie Williams** (Second Baptist), **Garret Zody** (Faith Missionary Baptist), **Bobby & Mary Wesson** (Tannehill Valley Baptist Church, Alabama). The following names were added to our church roll: **Jamie & Shelley Phillips** (son, Cooper).

## Missions Goal

The Lottie Moon and Global Missions combined Goal is **\$8,000**.

## Christian Service Center Report, October

33 Children, 122 Adults, 84 Seniors  
**Total:** 239 individuals and 143 families  
6,494 food items were distributed  
599 clothing items  
34 miscellaneous items such as sheets, diapers, etc.  
48 coats (includes the last week of September)

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## The Mayberry Bible Study Vol. 2

Wednesdays beginning January 11!  
6:30 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

We are starting a new year by making a return trip back to the town of Mayberry! On Wednesday nights, Pastor Danny will be leading this study once again as we review biblical themes and insights from another four episodes from the popular TV series *The Andy Griffith Show*.

**Workbooks are available in the church office for \$5!**

## C.S.C. Clothing Closet

The C.S.C. is accepting winter clothing, coats, sweaters and jackets. All clothing should be clean. No dry clean items accepted. No summer clothing accepted at this time.



## Keyboards at Christmas

Sunday, December 4

3:00 p.m. & 6:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

## Let the Stable Still Astonish

Adult Choir Christmas Program

Sunday, December 18

10:40 a.m.

Sanctuary

## The Longest Night Service

Wednesday, December 21

5:26 p.m.

Sanctuary

## Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24

5:00 p.m.

Sanctuary

## Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25

10:00 a.m. (only)

Sanctuary

No LifeGroups

See inside the newsletter for more details on these events.