

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 now as Christmas never seems to come to them. There is only the empty feeling of no hope, peace, joy, or love--there's nothing left to believe in.

The Good News is that Christ has come--Christmas is here! More than 2000 years ago, Jesus Christ took on human flesh and entered our world to save his people from their sins.

We will begin the season of Advent this month and commemorate each of the Sundays with the lighting of a candle. On Christmas Eve, we will light the final Advent candle. By doing this, we will show that the light of the world has come.

After all that our church has experienced this past year, with its joys, sorrows, losses and victories, let us gather once again to catch a glimpse of the wonder that is Christmas. May we remember afresh and anew that "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us (John 1.14).

It's been an incredible year. God has been faithful and brought us together once again to this moment to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I hope you'll take advantage of the wonderful worship and fellowship opportunities that only come this time of year. Let's also realize that Advent can bring about a variety of emotions for each of us, so let's be kind and supportive of one another.

As always, thank you for your faithfulness in your attendance, prayers, service and financial support of our church. There's a few more days left to make a year-end contribution, so let's do our best to finish 2023 on strong financial footing.

Finally, on behalf of Lori, Cally, Lucy, and Matt, I want to thank you for being part of our lives this past year. We are grateful to be part of First Baptist Church and call Clinton our home. So, from all of us: "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!"

Pastor Danny



First Baptist Church Drawing
by Al Rodd '87
If you would like to purchase a drawing of First Baptist Church for \$10, you can pick them up in the church office. The funds raised will go towards creating an additional Historical Room.



Youth Ignite
Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
FLC Youth Room
Grades 6-12
Free Dinner, Games,
& Bible Study

Youth Christmas Party

Wednesday,
December 13
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
FLC Youth Room
Pizza, Games, Ugly
Christmas Sweater Contest,
and Dirty Santa (gifts provided).



Youth Cabin Retreat

Gatlinburg, TN
Friday, January 12-
Sunday, January 14
Cost: \$75.00 per student (cost includes lodging, all meals, and transportation) Bring your Bible, appropriate swimwear for indoor pool and hot tub, and money for shopping at Tanger Outlets. The theme is "We Are The Clay." Scholarships available - see Kris. Chaperones: Kris Hicks, Garry & Johanna Whitley and Hanna Hicks

Church Trip

Friday, June 14
7:00 p.m. CST
First Horizon Park
Nashville, TN
Ticket Cost:
\$35 per person
Must be paid in full to reserve your ticket by January 8.
We have 50 tickets available!



Wednesdays
5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.
Free Dinner, Music, Games
& Bible Study

Kids Church

Sundays during the 10:40 a.m.
Service in the Church Library.

WEE Ministry Santa Breakfast

Friday, December 1
6:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.
Family Life Center
Crafts, Breakfast and Pictures with
Santa! Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Parade

Saturday, December 2
6:00 p.m.
FBC will have a float in the Clinton
Christmas Parade this year! We
need: Candy Donations and
Children to ride in the float.
Please let Ms. Lauren know if
your child can participate!

The Tale of The Drowsy Shepherd

Presented by the FBC Kids Choir
Wednesday, December 6
6:00 pm.
Sanctuary

FBC Kids Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 13
5:30 p.m.
3rd Floor Classroom
Pizza, Cookies, Movie "The Star"
Movie starts at 5:40 p.m.
Let Ms. Lauren know if you can
send any of these items: candy
canes, Christmas Candy, or
holiday Little Debbie Cakes.

Encore Trip Cumberland County Playhouse

All 40 tickets have now been reserved. Please call the Church Office if you would like to be added to a "wait list."

White Christmas and Lunch at the Cumberland County State Park

Tuesday, December 12
Leave FBC at 10:00 a.m. EST
Buffet Lunch at 11:00 a.m. CST
White Christmas 1:00 p.m. CST
Buc-ees on the way back home
Arrive in Clinton around 6:00 p.m.

Total cost of the trip (lunch, ticket, & transportation) if riding on a van will be \$50, and if driving your own vehicle, the cost will be \$45.

NEW CREATIVE ARTS OPPORTUNITY: Hand Building Pottery Class



Make Your own Christmas Crèche
You will be able to make figurines of Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. If you wish to make animals you may do so as long as you are finished by 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 3
2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall
Age 10 and up.
Ages 10-15 must come with an adult to help them.
Cost: \$45.00 per person
Scholarships are available if needed - Contact Amanda
RSVP to Church Office by Dec. 1.
We will not be glazing, staining or painting in class.

C.S.C. October Report:

We served 335 individuals in October compared to 216 in September.
75 children, 160 adults, 100 seniors
Second Harvest reports that food insecurity is the highest since 2014. 8, 928 food items were distributed vs. 6,485 September.
1,202 clothing items were distributed and 57 miscellaneous items such as toiletries, tissue paper, baby diapers, Depends, etc. There is a great demand for Depends. We are now accepting clean, washable fall and winter clothes. Please do not bring any more summer clothes other than T shirts. No dry clean items please. Consider KARM or some other charity for dry cleaning items. We also accept linens in good condition. Blankets, sheets, and pillows are often requested. Coats are now in high demand.



If you would like to donate a Christmas Food Box for a family in need, they are \$25.00 each. Please mark your envelope Turkey Time!

Towers Craft

Third Thursday, Monthly
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Led by Julia Spradling
At the Towers
Volunteers Needed

Towers Movie Nights

Sunday, December 3, 6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 12, 6:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.
Join us at the Towers for a Movie and Popcorn!



IT'S A BOY!

Congratulations to Jacob and Madison Floyd on the birth of a baby boy, **Bennett Thomas Floyd**, born on November 5. Also, congratulations to big sister, Pressley, big brother, Beau, grandparents, Rusty and Darla Fritts, and great grandfather, Billy West.

Christian Sympathy

is extended to Jennifer Fraker, whose father, **Don AuBuchon**, passed away (November 2) and to the family of **Elizabeth Wallace** (November 14).

From the Pulpit

Sundays in December

8:30 a.m. Family Life Center

10:40 a.m. Sanctuary

03 Mark 1:1-8

10 Matthew 2:13-18

17 1st Service: Luke 1:26-28

2nd Service: "O Holy Light" Adult Choir Christmas Cantata

24 Combined Service 8:30 a.m. in the FLC: Matthew 1:18-24

(No LifeGroups, No 10:40)

31 Combined Service 8:30 a.m. in the FLC - Led by Dr. Vicki Violette

(No LifeGroups, No 10:40)

LifeGroups

Sundays @ 9:30 a.m.

We have LifeGroups for all ages.

Adult Bible Study

Wednesdays in December

6:30 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

06 FBC Kids Christmas Program

13 Pastor Danny

20 Business Meeting

27 No Activities

O Holy Light

Sanctuary Choir Christmas Cantata

with Trombone Quartet

Sunday, December 17

10:40 a.m.

Sanctuary

Christmas Caroling

Tuesday, December 19

5:30 p.m.

Caroling to our homebound members. Please let the church office know if you want to participate.

Longest Night Service

Thursday, December 21

5:26 p.m.

Sanctuary

A service of light in the midst of darkness...

Spirit Sisters Meeting

(Widows Support Group)

1st Monday, Monthly

6:00 p.m.

Family Life Center - Hearth Room



Augusta & Mackenzie Ridley

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Christmas Memorials
Poinsettias \$10
Wreaths \$25



Memorial for: _____

Given by: _____

Amount Given: _____

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

October Financial Summary

Budget Receipts \$ 74,256

2023 Receipts/Wkly Avg. \$ 16,684

2023 Weekly Budget Req. \$ 17,315

Budget Expense \$ 80,834

October Deficit/Income (\$ 6,578)

2023 Deficit/Income (\$ 28,029)

TOTAL October 31 (\$ 34,607)

2024 Budget Vote

Sunday, December 3

8:30 & 10:40 a.m.

FBC Missions

Offering Goal



The FBC Missions Goal for Global Missions and Lottie Moon goal is \$8,000 (combined). Scan the QR Code for more info.

Business Meeting Report

The **October** Financials and Minutes were approved. The Bylaws addition in last months F.G. was approved. Cook's Mechanical will repair a leaking pressure valve on the chiller. Chattanooga Fire Protection will perform a five year internal inspection and will need a lift which was approved. Rusty Fritts' resignation as Deacon was approved. The Youth Cabin Rental was approved for the Youth Retreat, Jan. 12-14. Kris Hicks was approved to be ordained into the gospel ministry. Lillian Osborne was added to the church roll by baptism. The 2024 Budget was discussed.

Business Meeting

Wednesday, December 20

6:30 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

Deacons Meeting

Tuesday, December 12

5:30 p.m.

Lower Auditorium

2024 Deacon Eligibility

Please call the church office if you would like to have your name removed from the 2024 Deacon Eligibility List. This list will be mailed to church members the first of January. Nominations will be due back by January 31.

THE FRIENDLY GUIDE - PO BOX 268 - CLINTON, TN - (865) 457-9353

POSTMASTER: Please send change of address notices to The Friendly Guide
PO Box 268, Clinton, TN 37717. Friendly Guide (USPS-210-520) published monthly
by First Baptist Church, 225 North Main Street, Clinton, TN 37716. Periodical postage
paid at Clinton, TN



ONLINE GIVING



THE BAPTIST IDENTITY

Four Fragile Freedoms

Pastor Danny will be leading a study on "The Baptist Identity - Four Fragile Freedoms" by Walter B. Shurden on **Wednesdays.**

January 10, 24, 31

February 7, 28

March 6, 27

TWO TIMES TO CHOOSE

FROM: 10:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m.

in the Lower Auditorium.

Book Cost: \$10.00

Please contact the Church Office at 865-457-9353 if you want to order the book.

IN THE
Heart OF
CLINTON
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



FRIENDLY GUIDE

December 2023

HOPE, PEACE, JOY, & LOVE

ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

THE TALE OF THE DROWSY SHEPHERD - FBC KIDS PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 6:00 P.M., SANCTUARY

O HOLY LIGHT - SANCTUARY CHOIR CANTATA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 10:40 A.M., SANCTUARY

(8:30 A.M. DR. CHISHOLM WILL BE PREACHING, FLC)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 5:30 P.M.

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 5:26 P.M., SANCTUARY

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 8:30 A.M., FAMILY LIFE CENTER

(NO LIFE GROUPS AND NO 10:40 SERVICE)

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 5:00 P.M., SANCTUARY

NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 8:30 A.M., FAMILY LIFE CENTER

(NO LIFE GROUPS AND NO 10:40 SERVICE)

The Church Office and Family Life Center will be closed

December 25-27 and January 1.

The WEE Ministry will be closed December 25, 26 and January 1.

The CSC will be closed on Tuesday, December 19

No Wednesday night activities on December 27 and January 3.