



HANGING OF THE GREENS

10 am Sunday, December 1

PRIMETIME TRIP

Giant City Lodge
10:30 am Tuesday, December 3

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY

5 pm Wednesday, December 5

CROSSFIRE CHRISTMAS PARTY

4 pm Sunday, December 8

MID-WEEK ACTIVITIES

Wednesdays, December 11 & 18

3:30 pm FBC Kids Club

3:30 pm Crossfire M. S. Youth

5 pm Family Dinner

6 pm Crossfire H. S. Youth

6 pm Adult Bible Study

7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal

COMMUNION SERVICE AT VOYAGE ASSISTED LIVING

6 pm Thursday, December 12

FBC KIDS CHRISTMAS PLAY

"No Vacancy"

10 am Sunday, December 15

ALL CHURCH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

11:30 am Sunday, December 15

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CELEBRATION

10 am Sunday, December 22

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6 pm Tuesday, December 24

FBC MURPHY

Connect. Grow. Go.

DECEMBER 2019 BAPTIES NEWSLETTER

LOVE IS BORN

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

-John 1:14

We are approaching the joyous Christmas season. When I was a little boy, I would look forward to Christmas. While I grew up in India my gifts were mostly clothing and necessary things we needed but our parents always bought us one toy we could play with. We did not know what it would be until we opened the present on Christmas morning. So you know why I looked forward to Christmas, it was the toy. It was not the birth of Jesus the Savior.

Today in our families we buy lots of toys and gadgets for our children. I did it for my kids and still do. I wonder how much is actually centered around Jesus and why HE came.

I have been reading a book by Max Lucado, Because of Bethlehem. It inspired me to write the following.

Why did Jesus come? How did He look? What were the questions His mother had, etc? Max writes about an elementary school teacher and her imaginations. So the

teacher asked her students to make a list of questions they would like to ask young Mary the mother of Jesus. She received the following questions:

Could you believe that you were pregnant for the whole world?

What was the first words of Jesus as a baby?

Was He beautiful?

Did He ever get sick?

Did Jesus ever misbehave?

Was Jesus born with hair?

What was His favorite food?

Did He have a pet?

These questions are fair.

But what would be our questions as an adult?

Why did He come? I believe He did because His father requested it? He knew people on earth needed Him. Jesus knew what His created beings did. He understood that God

the Father loved them. But the chief reason is Jesus wants us to know that He gets it. He understands how we feel and what we face in our life, because He started as a baby and lived like us.

Jesus is not out of touch with our reality. He has been through testing, weakness and all. Jesus does care if I'm sad. The Word says, "He wept." He was ignored, rejected and yes, He went through much more than

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What Christmas Means

Come, Join Us for Christmas!

FBC MURPHY

Connect. Grow. Go.

Hanging of the Greens

10 am Sunday, December 1

This holiday service starts the advent season of our Savior's birth. It will take everyone through the significance of the decorations which adorn our Sanctuary and building.

FBC Kids presents: "No Vacancy"

10 am Sunday, December 15

"A Vacancy" is a wonderful children's musical that uses the Bethlehem stable and a cast of colorful and fun loving characters to tell the Christmas story. FBC Kids have been working hard and the morning will be a blessing to all who attend. The kids always do a great job!! Following the musical there will be an all church luncheon for everyone to enjoy.

Christmas Choral Celebration

10 am Sunday, December 22

It will be a morning of inspirational Christmas music with the FBC Choir proclaiming, the baby born in the manger is Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. This worship service is like no other with the choir telling the Christmas story with songs and hymns. It will be a wonderful spirit filled service for everyone! Please be sure to invite your family friends and neighbors.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

6 pm Tuesday, December 24

This very special service will feature the sights, sounds and spirit of Christmas with the sanctuary in its beauty with candlelight, holiday decorations and wonderful Christmas carols. It will be a beautiful and reflective service of the wondrous gift of Jesus. This is a perfect opportunity to invite your holiday guests to a wonderful Christmas service.

PLANNING FOR 2020 AT THE TRIMESTER BUSINESS MEETING



There will be a business meeting on **Sunday, December 8th**, immediately following the worship service at approximately **11:15 am**. The 2020 budget, new officers, deacons, and counsel members are on the agenda. Please plan to stay. Your input is always important and welcome.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSES FOR HOLIDAYS

The church office will be closed **Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24th-25th** so the staff may spend the Christmas holiday with their families. Please bring your holiday guests and family to the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24th.

The church office will also be closed on **Wednesday, January 1st**, New Year's day. In case of an emergency, please contact a Deacon or Kristy Dunning at home.

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we do. He still loves us. Jesus conquered the pain and suffering--now He sits next to His father, God. That's why He came to connect us back to God.

"The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven." (Hebrews 1:3 NLT)

I am looking forward to reaching Him someday. We have an inheritance waiting for us.

So this Christmas can be different. Let us ponder why and what Jesus did for us and share this with our children with their gifts.

I'm thankful for the gift of Jesus and the hope for my future with Him.

We the Samuel family send our love to each and everyone of you.

God bless. Merry Christmas!

In Christ's steps,
Pastor Shaker

During this Christmas season, your church staff wishes you the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace that knowing Jesus brings.

May your Christmas be filled with joy. May God continue to bless you in the coming year as He has blessed us so richly this past year.

Thank you for letting us serve you in 2019!

Pastor Shaker, Pastor Jake, Kay, Steve, Barb, Grant, Karen, Jacob, Kathie, & Bradley

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OF OCTOBER 2019 MEETING

Meeting was called to order with prayer.

Last Meeting's minutes : October 15, 2019 minutes were approved by consensus.

Financial Report: The September 2019 Financial Report was approved by consensus

Deacon's Report: The Deacon Care team met October 14, 2019. Diane Reader will attend "Celebrating Spiritual Care" program on October 22 at John A. Logan College. Christmas for shut-ins plans were finalized and visits with shut-ins were shared. Thanksgiving and military cards were distributed.

Leadership Covenant: Date for the Leadership Conference is Sunday, November 3 after church.

Ministry Team Reports:

Outreach and Evangelism: Trunk or Treat will be Sunday October 27 after the morning service. December outreach event, in lieu of Pasta with Santa, is in the works, tentatively looking at 12/4.

Missions: The mission team plans to go back to the Sunday morning "Mission Moment" presentations monthly. Melody Zhang, Assistant Director of Children's Hope International will speak at FBC on 10/27. ABC will be collecting offerings for the Retired Ministers and Missionaries. SPIN is having a blanket drive. FCA is getting started at MMS. The Ministerial Alliance will be providing donuts for the weekly meetings.

Youth Discipleship: Volunteers are needed for Wednesday nights 3:30-5:30 for the Middle School group. Late night Laser Tag was on 10/4/19. Seventy-two people participated.

Children's Discipleship: Volunteers are needed for the Wednesday after-school program 3:30-5:30. There is a need for a teacher for the Sunday morning third to fifth grade group. Christmas program is planned for 12/15/19. Tamara Schuman is organizing.

Family Discipleship: Team members are considering Friday night small gatherings to help connect new staff members to church families.

Staff Relations: Barb Troutman is retiring. Staff will review the job description to see how to proceed. There is still a need for a custodial assistant to be trained to help one Sunday a month. The council members have asked for a better mechanism for communications between staff and council members.

Strategic Planning: Committee/Team will be reviewing the Church Covenant and developing a 5-year plan.

Finance and Stewardship: Stewardship campaign – there have been some positive responses.

Minimum wage increases January 1; we need to evaluate how this will affect our budget for 2020.

Building and Grounds: Railing on SW entrance is in progress – railings are being manufactured for all of the stairs outside. Jake Miller submitted an estimate for the youth house soffit repair. He also gave separate estimates of other repairs needed.

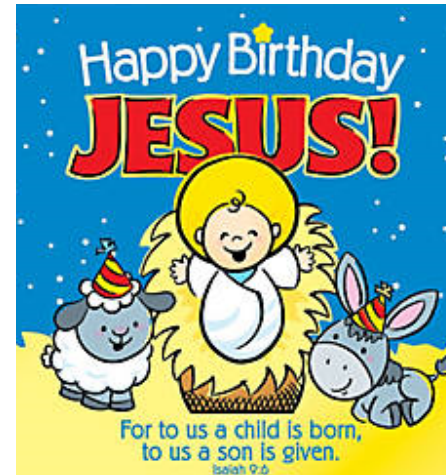
Special Events: 150th Anniversary celebration team meeting Thursday to finalize plans. Saturday 3:00 open house, dinner at 5:30 (Pat's barbeque dinner and desert). Saturday 7:00 evening service. Sunday morning (no small group meetings) coffee hour 9:00-10:00, service at 10:00. Christmas dinner December 15 after children's program Sunday morning.

Worship and Ministry Team: Hanging of the Greens service will be on 12/1. We need to purchase another drum set so David Brooks can take his home.

Nominating Team: Kristy Dunning, Vicki Ardrey, and Carol Klaine are seeking volunteers for the 2020 cycle for Deacons, Council Members, and Clerk.

Senior Pastor's Report: Baptisms and baby dedication were tentatively scheduled for November 10, but it looks like it will be pushed forward to December sometime.

The next Leadership Council meeting will be 11/19/19 at 6:00 p.m.



CALLING ALL FAMILIES HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!! WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 5-7:00 PM

All children and their families are invited to join us for a party to celebrate the real reason for the season.

The evening will include dinner, birthday cake, the Christmas story, games and family photos. Be sure to invite your neighborhood kids and their families to this Christmas spirit filled evening of fun.



NO VACANCY

Bethlehem is about to be overrun by "Tourists" coming into town for the tax.

This is bad news for a stable full of animals.

Seth the Sheep is concerned the visitors will want sweaters.

Claude the Cow lost ten pounds last time, making milkshakes. Micah Mouse, a grouchy rodent, realizes Bethlehem visitors will leave tasty leftovers but fears the extra mousetraps.

Together, the animals scheme ways to keep the "tourists" out of Bethlehem.

However, before they know it, a young couple expecting a Baby, has taken up residence in their stable!



CROSSFIRE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 8th 4pm

All middle and high school students are invited to an evening of Christmas food, games, gifts and fun. Everyone is to meet at the church at 4:00 pm and will board the church bus for a Progressive Dinner; going from house to house enjoying what their hostesses and hosts have prepared. Following dinner, everyone will return to the church for some big giveaways, an ugly sweater contest and a white elephant gift exchange. It will be a fun filled evening.



FBC KIDS CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18TH, 3:30-6 PM

All children Kindergarten through the 5th grade are invited to a Christmas party with all the trimmings at the Wednesday Night FBC Kids Club. There will be Christmas music, Christmas crafts, Christmas games, the Christmas story...Christmas, Christmas all afternoon.

Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm and pickup time is 6:00 pm.

PEANUT ROLLS FOR THE SUMMER MISSION TRIP

Just in time for Christmas and your holiday events. The Summer Mission Team will be making those fabulous FBC Peanut Rolls on **Friday, December 13th**. The cost is \$12 a dozen. If you would like to order a dozen or two or three (they freeze wonderfully), contact Kristy Dunning at 534-3054 or the church office.

The peanut rolls can be picked up at the church on Friday evening, December 13th and Sunday morning, December 15th.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES TAKING A CHRISTMAS BREAK

The Wednesday night groups will only **meet December 11th and 18th**. FBC Kids Club, Crossfire Youth, Family Dinner and Bible Study with Pastor will **NOT** meet on Wednesdays, December 4th, 25th, and January 1st due to Happy Birthday Jesus Party and school Christmas break. All activities will resume on Wednesday, January 8th, 2020.



PRIMETIME TRIP

On **Tuesday, December 3rd**, the PrimeTimers will be enjoying a leisurely lunch at Giant City Lodge. The Lodge will be all decked out in its holiday decor for everyone to enjoy. The bus will leave the church at 10:30 am. Lunch is dutch treat. If you would like to go, the sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall or contact the church office to have your name added to the list. All active senior adults are invited!!!



HOMEMADE COOKIES & CANDIES ARE NEEDED

The Deacon Care Team will be assembling and delivering Christmas care packages to our church's nursing home residents and shut-ins on **Monday, December 9th**. If you would like to brighten the holidays for our home bound and nursing home seniors, make some homemade cookies and candy. Please have your goodies at the church no later than **Sunday, December 8th**. Thank you for bringing some holiday spirit to those who are unable to participate in our church family holiday events. Your thoughtfulness will be a blessing to you and our beloved shut-ins.



COMMUNION AT VOYAGE ASSISTED LIVING

Our Deacon Team is planning their quarterly Communion Service at the River to River Assisted Living facility on **Thursday, December 12th at 6:00 pm** in the east building. Everyone is invited to be a part of the service. The residents would love having the fellowship. You and the residents will both receive a blessing! Please plan to attend.

26TH MURPHYSBORO COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Everyone is invited to the 26th Annual Murphysboro Community Christmas Dinner on Christmas Day, **December 25th from 11:00 am-1:00 pm** at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 606 Plum St.

Meals for delivery to the elderly and disabled may be arranged by calling Mary Ann at 303-4768 before Dec. 20th.

This is a community event and everyone is welcome.

FBC IS LIVE-STREAMING SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

FBC is now able to share it's Morning Worship message through live-streaming.

So if you are unable to be at Worship on Sunday mornings, all you have to do is go to FBCMurphy Facebook page and click it on. It is also able to store the worship messages so they can be watched at a later time and date.

Go check it out. Be sure to join our "friends" and encourage others to visit FBC's Facebook.

GREETERS

December 1

Frank and Shirley Aldridge

December 8

Volunteers Needed

December 15

Buddy & Helen Payne

December 22

Van & Angie Robinson

December 29

Bob Heiple & Joan Mifflin

If you are unable to help, please
contact Cindy Stamm at 319-0781.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

December 1

Matt & Elaine Hardwig

December 8

Suzanne Goad Family

December 15

Dave & Vicki Ardrey

December 22

Rhett & Angela Barke

December 29

Kevin & Stephanie Kelley Family

If you are unable to help, please
contact the church office.

MEALS ON WHEELS

December 23-27

Monday

Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady
Gayle Gillmore

Tuesday

Christmas Eve
No Delivery

Wednesday

Christmas Day
No Delivery

Thursday

Jane Beese & Alice Berry
Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady

Friday

Jane Beese & Alice Berry
Lou Polsgrove & Mary Leady



**POST THIS ON YOUR
REFRIGERATOR!**

Christ is
BORN

WELCOME CENTER

December 1

Frank or Shirley Aldridge

December 8

DeAnn Stilley

December 15

Chuck or Kim Grammer

December 22

Lou Polsgrove

December 29

Betty Cox

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

3	Carol Brown	21	Jesse Stilley
3	Verna Nobel	27	Helen Payne
5	Justin Raines	27	Connor McBride
6	Karen Rahming	27	Karter Holland
6	Machelle Mifflin-Bivens	28	Courtney Raines
6	Carol Klaine	28	Ethan Penrod
7	Glenann Kiel	29	Terri Miller
9	Maddie Rowe	30	Christina Hunziker
13	Kay Hamilton	31	Mike Mifflin
13	Traci Hunziker	31	Joel Samuel
13	Nancy Ellis		
13	Blake Derocher		
14	Zander Smith		
14	Dakota Smith		
16	Tylor Grob		
21	Sylvia Carvell		



“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 NIV

Thanks to our many
VOLUNTEERS

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Hanging of the Greens 5:00 PM Girls Small Group	2 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 7:00 PM H.S. Guys Group	3 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:30 AM PrimeTime to Giant City Lodge	4 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 5:00 PM Happy Birthday Jesus Party 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	6 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	7
8 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Worship 11:15 AM Business Meeting 12:00 PM Fellowship Hall Reserved 4:00 PM Crossfire Youth Christmas Party	9 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM Deacon Care Team 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 7:00 PM H.S. Guys Group	10 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	11 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 3:30 PM FBC Kids Club 3:30 PM M.S. Crossfire Youth 5:00 PM Family Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study with Pastor 6:00 PM H.S. Crossfire Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:00 PM Communion Service at Voyage Assisted Living	13 Making Peanut Rolls 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	14
15 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM FBC Kids Present "A Vacancy" 11:30 AM All Church Christmas Dinner 5:00 PM Girls Small Group	16 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 7:00 PM H.S. Guys Group	17 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 6:00 PM Leadership Council Meeting	18 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class 3:30 PM FBC Kids Club Christmas Party 3:30 PM M.S. Crossfire Youth 5:00 PM Family Dinner 6:00 PM Bible Study with Pastor 6:00 PM H.S. Crossfire Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	19 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	20 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	21 1st Day of Winter
22 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Christmas Choral Celebration	23 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Church Office Closed MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	27 Meals on Wheels 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	28
29 8:30 AM Coffee Hour 8:30 AM Praise Team Rehearsal 8:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 9:00 AM FBC Kids' Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School & Life Groups 10:00 AM Worship	30 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study 10:00 AM Ladies Exercise Class	31 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	1 Church Office Closed Happy New Year!	2 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	3 7:30 AM Prayer in Pastor's Study	4