

# First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. XLVIII - No. 22

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November 26, 2024



## Hanging of the Greens

*& Sounds of Christmas Concert*

**Sunday, December 1, at 5 PM in the sanctuary.**



### Children & Youth's Musical Christmas Program

Everyone is invited to the children and youth's musical Christmas program on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. All the young people from toddlers to teenagers have been hard at work preparing to share the amazing gift of Christ's birth!

For this year's Christmas dinner, we are having a **Finger Food Potluck**. Please plan to bring your favorite finger foods to share such as, slider, meatballs, chips & dip, or your favorite appetizer. We will meet in the fellowship hall at 5:00 p.m. to eat. The children and youth program will follow upstairs.

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# REFLECTIONS

*"Calling them like I see them"*

As of writing this article, my family has not yet seen the blockbuster of the season: *Wicked*. (We probably will have by the time you're reading this!) The movie is based on the smash Broadway musical, that was itself an adaptation of a novel by Gregory Maguire. I read that and I get why it's been such an incarnation in all its forms.

If you don't know, *Wicked* is a narrative reversal of the green-skinned witch from the Wizard of Oz, telling her story long before Dorothy shows up in a twister from Kansas. There's good reason for people latching onto and loving this story. It's something familiar and something novel at the same time and that's a delicious combination for story-lovers (read "humans").

We have long understood that humans beings crave the familiar. We love to listen to the music of our youth and go to Big Ed's and have the same slices we had when we were in little league. But there's an equally strong pull as human beings for something that we haven't done yet. What's the flavor of the day? Let's go to a place we've never been! We like both. It's just that you normally don't get both.

Jesus was a master of this combination of novelty and familiarity. "You have heard it said," he began, "but I say to you..." He begins with nostalgia, playing the hits, before turning it in a direction that no one was expecting and it turns out to be completely different than the version on the record. Jesus had this wonderful tradition (The Law and the Prophets) that he was constantly referring to, explaining, and sometimes simply just insisting on exactly as written. But his way of getting there is new and circuitous, a way that we don't see coming.

At our best, church can provide that. It's one of the vibes we're trying to curate at FBC. I have a kind of obsession with trying to teach and preach and approach things from an angle that is new to me. Y'all keep encouraging me when I do that, so you must be like me in that way. And yet, as creative as we can be, it is vital that we remain grounded in the wonderful tradition that we have. We revisit the same passages, but in a new way. When we get it right, it's a combination that's hard to beat.

Blessings on your table this week. I hope the meal you share with family or friends is exactly like you always remembered and like nothing you've ever had before!

*Peace, Rory*

## *Before His Presence with Singing*

Dear desire of every nation

This year, as Advent unfolds and we begin to sing of hope, peace, love and joy, I find myself focused on the lives of the people in Ukraine and in the middle east. I pray fervently for them to know the hope and peace of Christ, sine their surroundings are so fraught with war and killing. I feel acutely that the only hope for those nations is the miracle of God's kind of peace. I can't imagine the anxiety of life as those people know it, fearing that at any moment, a bomb could obliterate your home, your life, and/or the lives of those you know and love around you. But, I know that the long-expected Jesus can mean hope in hopelessness, peace in war and love where love seems scarce.

The first Sunday in advent is the day when we light the advent candle of hope. Charles Wesley's hymn speaks Christ as the hope of all the earth, and the dear desire of every nation.

The thing is, the only hope for those warring nations is indeed the love of Christ and His miracle of peace. Only if the love of God invades the hearts of the people waging the wars will peace ever come. But the miracle of Christ is that, even if earthly peace between nations is not present, peace in hearts can reign even in the midst of war. If we invite Jesus to "reign in us forever," we can place him on the throne of our lives and peace really will reign.

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,  
born to set Thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us;  
let us find our rest in Thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation,  
hope of all the earth Thou art;  
dear desire of every nation,  
joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,  
born a child, and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By Thine own eternal Spirit  
rule in all our hearts alone;  
by thine all sufficient merit,  
raise us to Thy glorious throne.

In Christ, **Tim**

NO EVENING BIBLE STUDY OR CHANCEL CHOIR  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH



### Noisy Offering

Thank you for contributing to the \$1,213.60 collection of the November Noisy Offering! Thanks to your generosity, children in our community will be able to receive a gift for Christmas through the Family Resource Center of Oak Ridge Schools (FRC). The FRC has provided Christmas Gifts for local children in need for over 20 years.

### AGAPE HELP CENTER NEEDS

The Agape Help Center is collecting boxes of cake mix and icing to give out for the month of December. You can drop off donations at any of the Agape drop boxes located in the church's Narthex or down stairs near the automatic doors.

### DECEMBER FBCFBC

On December 2, the book club will be discussing *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Robert May will lead the discussion of this book.

### Make a Difference Day

Saturday, December 7th

Our Focus is to help folks in our congregation with yard work such as raking leaves. If you or anyone you know is in need of this service, please call the church office at (865) 483-4615.

If you are not needing help with your yard this fall, we need your help to make a difference for those who do. We hope you are able meet us at the church at 9:00 a.m. on December 7th to help us serve those in our church.

### December Fellowship Table

The next Fellowship Table is Friday, December 13, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased immediately before and after Worship Service on December 1 & 8th. Come as early as 11:30 a.m. and enjoy fellowship around hors d'oeuvres, although serving of the meal will not begin until 12 Noon. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Stoutland.



### Discussion Group

**Movie:** Love Actually (2003) R – directed by Richard Curtis. (R-rated content)

*(While we usually avoid R-rated films, we choose films for their meaningful content for discussion.)*

**Viewing:** Streaming on many pay-per-view platforms for -\$4 or less.

**Time & Place:** Friday, Dec. 20, 6:30 pm at Joy Reedy's home - 109 Downing Drive, O.R.

**Questions:** Contact Mike Crowell, Brandon Weaver, or Joy Reedy.

### Our December Volunteers

#### Sunday, December 1

11am Nursery ..... Jackie Laney & Meghan Bowers  
Children's Church..... Amber Slessinger & Karen McCall

#### Sunday, December 8

11am Nursery ..... Karry Garcia & Amber Slessinger  
Children's Church..... First Christian

#### Sunday, December 15

11am Nursery ..... Tedi Newman & Angie Walls  
Children's Church..... Lela Moore & Susan Williams

#### Sunday, December 22

..... CHOIR CANTATA  
No Nursery or Children's Church

#### Sunday, December 29 - CHILDREN'S FUN DAY

11am Nursery ..... Hannah Simic & Gigi Naeve  
Children's Church..... Hannah Simic & Gigi Naeve

### FINANCE MEETING

Sunday, November 3, 2:00 p.m./RM. 105

### TRUSTEES MEETING

Monday, November 4, 7:00 p.m./RM. 105



# DECEMBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2ndFL. 11:00 AM Worship &amp; Communion 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] <b>2:00 PM Finance Mtg./RM.105</b> 4:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal <b>5:00 PM Hanging of the Greens &amp; Concert</b> 6:00 PM First Christian Church/2ndFL.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>8:30 AM -5:00 PM [ARC -M. Stanley/RM.131] 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 12:30 PM FBCFBC/Library 6:00 PM -8:30 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym] <b>7:00 PM Trustee Mtg./RM.105</b></p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 AM -5:00 PM [ARC -M. Stanley/RM.131] 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy]</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 1:30 PM -3:30 PM [Fiber Friends /Parlor] 5:00 PM -7:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study/FH 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5</p> <p>1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 6:00 PM -9:00 PM [ORCband /FH] 6:00 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM -8:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym]</p>	<p>7</p> <p><b>9:00 AM -12:00 PM Make A Difference Day</b> 10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2ndFL. 11:00 AM Worship Service 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 4:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal <b>5:30 PM Feast (Youth Christmas Party)</b> 6:00 PM First Christian Church/2ndFL.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:30 AM -5:00 PM [ARC -M. Stanley/RM.131] 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 6:00 PM -8:30 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym]</p> <p style="text-align: center;">~FIRST LIGHT~</p>	<p>10</p> <p>8:30 AM -5:00 PM [ARC -M. Stanley/RM.131] 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy]</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 1:30 PM -3:30 PM [Fiber Friends /Parlor] 5:00 PM -7:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study/FH 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 6:00 PM -9:00 PM [ORCband /FH] 6:00 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM -8:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] <b>12:00 PM Fellowship Table/FH</b></p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball] <b>6:00 PM PARADE</b></p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2ndFL. 11:00 AM Worship Service 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 4:30 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal <b>5:30 PM Christmas Caroling</b> 6:00 PM First Christian Church/2ndFL.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:30 AM -5:00 PM [ARC -M. Stanley/RM.131] 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 2:00 PM Library Team Mtg. 6:00 PM -8:30 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym]</p>	<p>17</p> <p>8:30 AM -5:00 PM [ARC -M. Stanley/RM.131] 11:00 AM Staff Mtg. 1:00 PM Pastor Study Time 5:00 PM -7:45 PM [Basketball/Abernathy]</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 1:30 PM -3:30 PM [Fiber Friends /Parlor] 5:00 PM -7:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] 6:00 PM Prayer Meeting &amp; Bible Study/FH 7:15 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 6:00 PM -9:00 PM [ORCband /FH] 6:00 PM Chancel Bells 6:30 PM -8:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] <b>6:30 PM Movie Discussion Group/J. Reedy's</b></p>	<p>21</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday School 10:45 AM First Christian Church/2ndFL. <b>11:00 AM Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata</b> 2:00 PM [Pickleball/gym] <b>5:00 PM Christmas Finger Food Potluck</b> 6:00 PM First Christian Church/2ndFL. <b>6:00 PM Kid's &amp; Youth Christmas Program</b></p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:30 AM -5:00 PM [ARC -M. Stanley/RM.131] 9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym] 6:00 PM -8:30 PM [ORPhOrchestra]/FH] 6:30 PM -9:00 PM [Scouts129/gym]</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>5:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Church Office Closed</p>	<p>25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CHRISTMAS DAY</p>	<p>26</p> <p>1:30 PM Agape Help Center 4:30 PM -6:30 PM [Basketball] 6:00 PM -9:00 PM [ORCband /FH] 6:30 PM -8:30 PM [Pickleball/gym]</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 AM -11:00 AM [Pickleball/gym]</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 AM -12:00 PM [Adult Basketball]</p>
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