

First Light

First Baptist Church - Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Vol. XLVIII - No. 23

Website: www.fbcoakridge.org • Email: fbcoffice@fbcoakrige.org

December 10, 2024



Churchwide Christmas Caroling

Sunday, December 15, at 5:30 PM

(We will meet in the Fellowship Hall)

Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 22, at 11:00 AM

Children & Youth's Musical Christmas Program & Finger Food Potluck

Sunday, December 22, 5:00 PM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service & Communion

Tuesday, December 24, at 5:00 PM



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Before His Presence with Singing

How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far?

We do the Christmas thing every year. With the exception of during the pandemic, we've done Christmas cantatas every year for 18 years, and many, many more before that. The thing that keeps them from all being the same for me, the thing that will make this year different, is being on the inside. Placing myself in the story. Setting aside the familiarity of it all and inserting myself as a character in the drama.

It really isn't very far to Bethlehem from here. I can smell the hay and the animals. I can feel the blunt ends of the straw that pads the baby's bed. I can hear the cow lowing. The sheep quietly bleating. If I mentally reach out, I can touch the soft, wiry fleece of the sheep. I can look into the manger and see Jesus asleep, and if I go just a little further, I can touch his tiny hands.

Of course, the question, "How far?" isn't one of geography in our case. It's not very far to Bethlehem for us because Jesus is on His way to us. We just have to meet him.

Singing and reading of Christ's birth each year IS different each year. Each time we visit Bethlehem and the manger, there is something new for us. We are different each time we come. The year behind us has shaped us differently. So, enter to touch and see and smell and experience the nativity anew.

I love that the final stanza of this hymn paraphrases Christina Rossetti's stanza. We sing these words in another Christmas hymn, "In the Bleak Midwinter." Give of yourself again to the Christ child.

How far is it to Bethlehem, not very far?
Shall we find the stable room lit by a star?
Can we see the little child, is He within?
If we lift the wooden latch, may we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there, oxen or sheep?
May we peek like them and see Jesus asleep?
If we touch His tiny hand, will He awake?
Will He know we've come so far just for His sake?

O what can I give to Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I'd bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I'd do my part;
yet what can I give to Him? Give Him my heart.

In Christ, **Tim**



Children & Youth's Musical Christmas Program Finger Food Potluck

Everyone is invited to the children and youth's musical Christmas program on December 22nd. 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.



Holiday Office Hours
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
DEC. 24TH & DEC. 25TH
JAN. 1, 2025



MAY THE BIRTH OF CHRIST RING
BLESSING AND JOY INTO OUR LIFE.

Merry Christmas!
from Your First Baptist Staff!

Thank you!

Thank you to all the youth and adult volunteers who came out to my place to rake and blow all the leaves from my yard. I deem it a great outpouring of Christian love and service for all those involved, including those who fed all the hungry participants.

Miriam Griffin

Thanks to all the people that came out in the cold Saturday to Make a Difference.

Doug Turner

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.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If anyone needs offering envelopes, please let Adrienne Giles or the church office know.

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. The main entrée will be ham. 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 p.m. at Joy Reedy's home - 109 Downing Drive, O.R.

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



Youth Choir Rehearsal
Sat., December 14, 10:30 a.m.

PASSPORT YOUTH CAMP

When: June 30 - July 4th

Where: Berea College, Berea, KY

Your Cost: \$100 before January 1st/ \$150 after Jan. 1st.

Total cost to the church is \$478 for this reason there is a large fundraising need to keep the student price at \$100. Due to this we are requiring 2 things for student registration:

- 5 hrs of fundraising or missions - Opportunities including pumpkin patch (Oct) and Spaghetti dinner (Apr) as well as missions opportunities through the youth group.
- 5 church attendances - These include Sunday School, Sunday Service, and Feast

JANUARY FBCFBC

When Silence Sings by Sarah Loudin Thomas will be the book we will be discussing on Monday, January 6, 2025. After the rival McLean clan guns down his cousin, Colman Harpe chooses peace over seeking revenge with his family. But when he hears God tell him to preach to the McLeans, a failed attempt to run away leaves him sick and suffering in their territory. He soon learns that appearances can be deceiving, and the face of evil doesn't look like he expected.

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE ARE GOING TO MEET AT NOON RATHER THAN 12:30 AS WE DID PREVIOUSLY. Contact Dianne May (865) 482-9766 if you have questions.



Sunday, December 15

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

Sunday, December 22

Chancel Choir Christmas 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

Prayer Requests

IMMEDIATE: Jim Walls. Roscoe Shipley. Diane Williams. Spencer O'Neil & Shawn Strickland (friends of Tedi Newman). Ray & Gretta Lloyd. Dwayne & Hilda Geske (Lois Scott's nephew & niece.) Debbie Hoebel (Lois & Gerald Scott's daughter). Frank Janous. Lynn Satterfield (Gary Giles' sister). Bobby Bowers and family. Jim Younkin. Becky & Eric (friends of Jonathan & Sarah Ray). Ricky Phelps (Tim Bounds' nephew). Stoney Lowell (friend of Jodie Johnson). Jack Burgan (Jeff Burgan's dad). Larry Carter. Dave Bunton. Katie Emmerson (Ellin Ward's daughter). Debbie Pulliam (Carol O'Shaughnessy's sister). Heidi Rose Harris. Bruce Marshall. Jackie Laney's dad, Barney. Sherry Bath (Gigi Naeve's friend). Mark Ebeler (friend of Carol O'Shaughnessy). Tammy Lee (Kay Smith's sister). Adrian Flory. Sandra Burns (Johelen Stephenson's cousin). Wanda Vines (friend of Sandy Davidson). Carolyn Maples (Brandon Weaver's aunt). Joyce Dippel (Jan Stoutland's sister). Robert Darnell (Diane Qualls' brother). Frances Darnell (Diane Qualls' mother). Richard Evans. Cheryl King (Diane William's sister-in-law). Ben Davidson (Tom Davidson's nephew).

LONG TERM: Mary Jane Williams. Peggy Scott. Darla Sutton. Virginia Griffith (Lisa Bowers' mother). Bobby Cline (Mark Belvin's brother-in-law). Larry Fields. Scott Ethridge. Rick Nation. Jo Ann Tunstall. Theresa Bowers.



fbc
Oak Ridge

Loving God, Loving Others

Our services are streamed live and recorded at:

www.fbcoakridge.org/live-streaming



NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING

ALEXANDER GUEST HOUSE:

Katie Landis, RM. 217.

CANTERFIELD OF OAK RIDGE:

Frank Janous, RM. 216.

Jean Webster, RM. 303.

COURTYARDS SENIOR LIVING:

Dot Senn, RM. 105.

LIFE CARE CENTER OF BLOUNT COUNTY:

Norval Ziegler.

SHANNONDALE OF MARYVILLE:

Shirlene Dale, RM. 114.

Our Ministry Continues Throughout the Week

Church Office: 483-4615 /483-4657

OUR STAFF:

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Rory Naeve

Minister of Music: Rev. Tim Bounds

Minister of Children: Hannah Simic

Minister of Youth: Rev. Shawn Simic

Church Secretary: Lola Murray

Facilities Manager: Chris Peterson

Wednesday Services

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday Services

10:00 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Morning Worship

5:30 p.m. Feast (Youth)