

The First Baptist Connection

January 2022

News and Updates for our Family in Christ

Visit our website @ www.fcbloom.org

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

- 5th Avery Malone
6th Remington Roark
9th Pauline Auxier
Teresa Coffin
Debra Hudson
10th Tasha Hudson
12th Janet Brown
16th Earl White
19th Laynie Chambers
22nd Erin Wilson
23rd Joann White
Michelle Foxworthy
24th Younkyung Kim
25th Evvie Nicholson
26th Jennifer Moody

We encourage anyone who is unable to attend worship in-person to participate online:

1. Links for live worship services are posted weekly at [Facebook.com/groups/fcbloom](https://www.facebook.com/groups/fcbloom).
2. Recorded worship services are available to the public at [YouTube.com/fcbloomfield](https://www.youtube.com/fcbloomfield).

Blessing Box Needs

Our Blessing Box is a resource for those who need items not available in the Food Pantry. Please consider donations of sunscreen, paper products, hygiene items, cleaning supplies, and baby items. Monetary donations are also appreciated. Thank you for supporting this ministry. Any questions can be directed to Cheri Graf @ 812-384-8980.

Tithes and Offerings

We have three simple options for giving tithes and offerings:

1. Give online at fcbloom.org.
2. Mail a check to the church at 500 Lincoln Drive.
3. Place tithes in the Giving Box in the Narthex.

FBC NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Leadership Retreat – January 8

Our almost-annual FBC Leadership Retreat will be Saturday, January 8, at the church from 9am-2pm, with lunch provided. Church Council, Deacons, Trustees, Bright Beginnings Board, and at least one representative from all church boards, teams, and committees are encouraged to attend. Our focus will be on praying and planning for the year ahead. In case of inclement weather, our backup date is January 15.

Hoops for Him – 2022

Hoops for Him will be returning in 2022! Mark your calendars each Saturday starting January 22nd and ending March 12th, 2022. Any child age 4 through the 6th grade may participate in this program that teaches basic basketball skills and the love of Christ. Online Registrations will be available after Christmas via our Facebook page. Contact Eric Moody today if you are willing to help plan out the season. Many volunteers are needed to coach, lead devotions, and work the concession stand each Saturday.

Bright Beginnings Daycare Update

We had so much fun at our Christmas Party. Miss Betty read *The Night Before Christmas* as well as *The Christmas Story*. We had a variety of yummy treats, including cupcakes and snowballs (white cheddar cheese balls), and crafts, including a nativity scene ornament. Ms. Megan made everyone a Wreath Christmas Ornament with their picture on it and the date to hang on their trees.

Our Dillman Farm orders were passed out this month. Thank you, to all who ordered. We raised a lot of money for the daycare with that fundraiser. We also got our first shipment of pictures in.

For the New Year we will have a lot of new friends joining our daycare and are so eager to meet them. We also will have weekly devotional time with Ms. Megan. Hopefully we will be able to play in the snow during recess times as well.

Golden GIVING

Live out Jesus' golden rule by preparing gift bags for people in need.

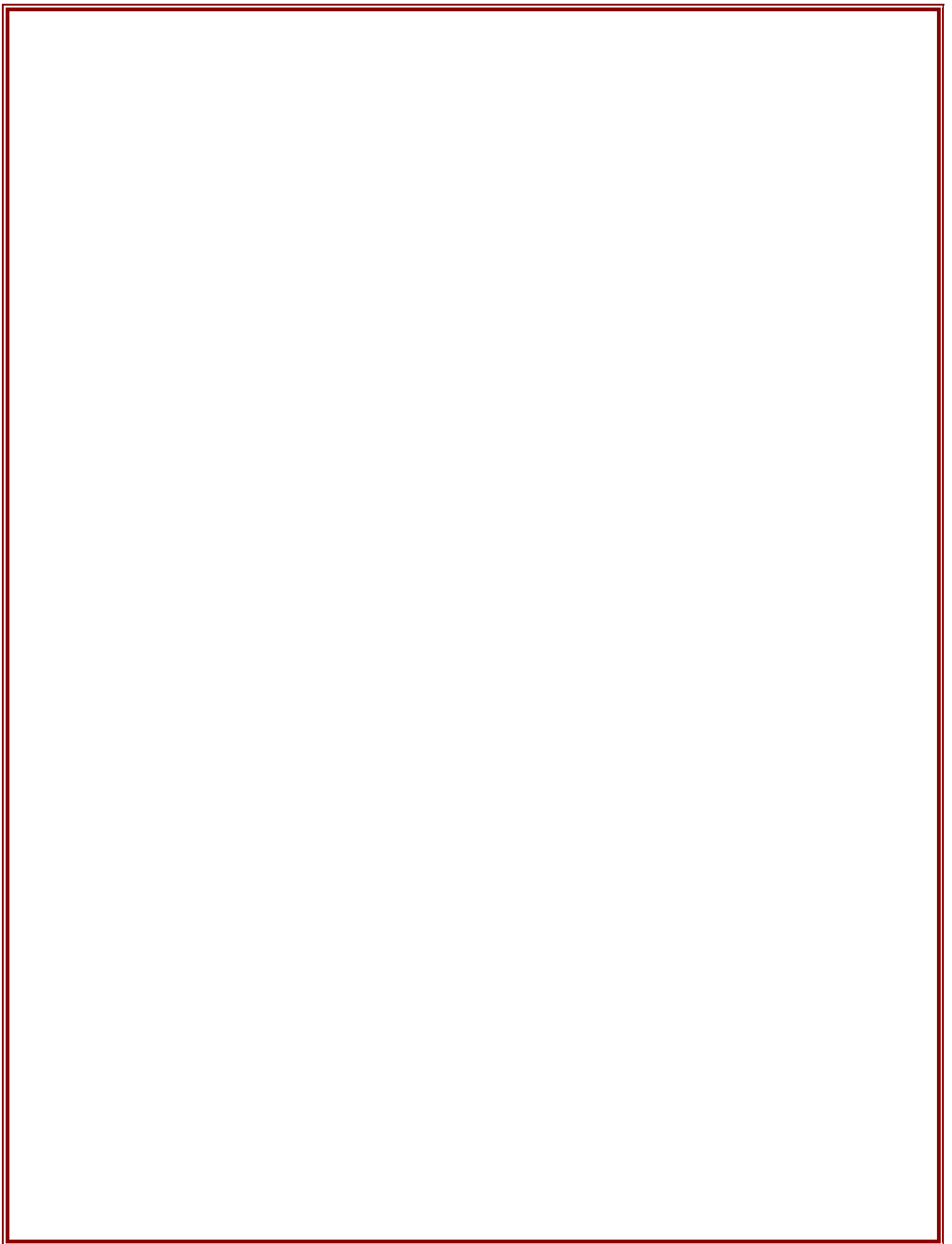


What you need:

- Gallon-size zip bags
- New socks
- Hand warmers
- Bus fare or tokens
- Bottled water
- Nonperishable food
- Toiletries and first-aid items
- Paper and markers

What you do:

1. Gather supplies, using the ideas above. Fill bags to make care packages.
2. Write notes or draw pictures for recipients, placing one in each bag.
3. Zip bags and keep them in a vehicle to distribute. Or deliver them right away to people in need (or to sick or homebound people, nursing home residents, a homeless shelter and so on).
4. Pray that God will use your gifts to help and encourage each recipient.



A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN

Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.

Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live.

Isaiah 55:1-3

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

James 4:8-10

So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

Luke 15:20

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

God really wants to be close to us. I wonder if you would like to grow closer to God in 2022.

We don't know what the year will hold. Planning and goal-setting can be very precarious. But if our goal is to grow closer to God, we can pursue that ambition regardless of all other factors. Both the pleasant circumstances and the hardships present opportunities to seek God's face. The year might be volatile, but God does not change.

I would encourage you to develop a strategy for meeting with God. Implement some kind of rhythm for deliberately ushering your heart and mind into his presence. This might include a Bible reading plan, scripture memory, prayer journaling, deliberate use of Christian music while exercising or driving, fasting, stillness in God's presence, or getting involved in some new ministry opportunity that puts you in contact with God's heart in a fresh way.

There are lots of ways to pursue God's presence, and I haven't come close to naming them all. But having a plan is important. It is difficult to accidentally grow closer to God.

Regardless of how close I am to God right now, I always have the opportunity to experience God in deeper ways.

The other thing is, the moment I realize I've gotten off track in my walk with God is the very moment when I can start afresh. There doesn't need to be some lengthy time of wallowing in despair or guilt about not doing well enough. Any moment is the perfect moment to deliberately turn toward God again.

The above passages teach us that God is already pursuing us! Getting closer to God is not a matter of some huge effort on my part. It may be more of a matter of surrender, of setting things aside, or of asking God to show me what He is already up to in my life. Our Father is standing nearby, ready to run and embrace us!

Jesus is called "Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us!" Christmas has invited us to be closer with Him.

Grace and peace,
Nathan

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January 2022

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 FAX No: 812-384-8982
 Bright Beginnings Daycare: 812-384-0400
 Bright Beginnings Preschool: 812-384-2647

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!
2 Communion	3 7:00 Choir Practice	4 6:30 Trustees	5	6 6:30 Deacons	7	8 9:00-2:00 FBC Leadership Retreat
9 8:30 Fellowship Breakfast 9:00 Kingdom Kids	10 7:00 Choir Practice	11	12	13 6:30 Ch Council	14	15 9:00 White Christmas Box distribution
16	17 7:00 Choir Practice	18	19 9:00 Bible Study	20	21	22 9:00 Hoops for Him
23 9:00 Kingdom Kids	24 7:00 Choir Practice	25	26 9:00 Bible Study	27	28	29 9:00 Hoops for Him
30	31					