



# ***The Bell Tower***

## **December 2023**



### **BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

#### **BIRTHDAYS**

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jeff Coffin
	John Cummings
	Dixie Hudson
4 <sup>th</sup>	Ruth Baker
5 <sup>th</sup>	John Bailey
6 <sup>th</sup>	Leslie Copp
11 <sup>th</sup>	Carolyn Sullivan
12 <sup>th</sup>	Lois Kirchoff
15 <sup>th</sup>	Josie Hudson
17 <sup>th</sup>	Steve Clark
	Tony Resler
18 <sup>th</sup>	Virginia Hendrix
20 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Stewart
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Brandt Hudson
28 <sup>th</sup>	Donna Miller
31 <sup>st</sup>	Bruce Porter
	Tiffany Brooks

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

1 <sup>st</sup>	Dennis & Karen Kutch
18 <sup>th</sup>	Bruce & Carla Porter
20 <sup>th</sup>	Walter & Sylvia Pischel
26 <sup>th</sup>	Alan & Janet Brown

#### ***Watch FBC online:***

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

#### ***Tithes and Offerings***

If you would like to support the church online, please visit our website at [www.fbcbloom.org](http://www.fbcbloom.org).

#### ***Church Office Hours***

Tuesday-Friday  
9:00am-12:00pm & 1:00-3:00pm

#### ***Food Pantry Hours***

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00am-11:00am  
Tuesday Evening 4:30pm-6:00pm

#### ***CLC Access***

Daily access to the CLC, for those who don't have a key, will now be available during regular church hours by checking/signing in with FBC Secretary Heather Malone. Access to the CLC will be by utilizing the walkway through the church Narthex.

# FBC NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

## *Food Pantry Holiday Closures*

The Food Pantry will be closed the week of Christmas, December 26-28. They will return to business as usual on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

## *Christmas Cantata, December 10*



The First Baptist Church Kingdom Kids and Adult Choirs will be celebrating Christmas through music on December 10th at 6:00 pm. The Kingdom Kids, directed by Brenda Flanagan, will be singing a number of special arrangements. The program also includes a performance by an IU music student. The Adult Choir will be presenting the cantata "Together for Christmas", under the direction of Andrew Sohn. The cantata will feature soloists as well as narrators. Following the cantata will be a reception in the

Fellowship Hall with a plentiful bounty of goodies. Please join us as we celebrate Christ's birth in song and fellowship.

## *Children's Christmas Party December 16*



*Love Feast 2023*

## *White Christmas December 14-16*

We will be packing White Christmas boxes in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, December 15. There will be coffee, milk, and donuts available for volunteers. Distribution will take place on Saturday, December 16 from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

## *Fellowship Breakfast Sunday, December 17*

Due to the Christmas Cantata being scheduled for the second Sunday of December, December 10<sup>th</sup>, the CBBC has opted to host the Fellowship Breakfast on the third Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, instead. This allows for the Fellowship Hall to be set up in advance for the Fellowship reception after the Cantata and not so much happening on one Sunday.

## *Caroling Sunday, December 17*

We will assemble at 3:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to divide into groups to go out and carol to our church family. We will enjoy dinner back in the Fellowship Hall when we are finished that evening.



### ***Christmas Eve Service December 24 at 6:00 p.m.***

The Candlelight Service will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24. Sunday School and Morning Worship will be held at their normal times that day.

### ***A New Address for Rex & Lois Kirchoff:***

Rex & Lois Kirchoff  
The Wyndmoor  
1465 E. Crossing Blvd.  
Terre Haute, IN 47802

### ***Jan-May Children's program***

We are preparing for our spring Children's program. We'll meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month, and we're using the Twist & Turns curriculum from Lifeway, which is game themed, and takes us through the life of Peter. We need helpers to lead games, music, and lessons, and also volunteers in the kitchen to cook dinner. We'll meet from 4-6pm. Please let Tasha Hudson know if you can help! Jan. 28, Feb. 25, March 24, April 28, May 26

### ***Retired Ministers Missionary Offering December 3***

On December 3, the Deacons will be taking up a special offering at the end of the service to benefit Retired Ministers and Missionaries. The RMMO benefits retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA as well as surviving spouses. A certain portion of the offering is also allocated for direct emergency assistance. The offering originated in the mid-1930s as the Communion Fellowship Offering and since 1977 has been known as RMMO. Good will come to those who are generous and lend freely, who conduct their affairs with justice Psalm 112:5. Thank you for your support of this offering.

## ***YOUTH HAPPENINGS***



### ***Youth Christmas Party Sunday, December 3***

Our middle and high school youth are invited to a Christmas party at Nathan, Liz, and Tiffany's home on Sunday, December 3, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Food will be provided. Our address is 145 Dogwood Lane. Come join us!

### ***Youth New Years Eve Party Sunday, December 31***

Youth Group kids are invited to ring in the New Year with a New Year's Eve party at the CLC from 7pm-Midnight, hosted by the Hudsons. Please bring a dessert or side dish to share and any card games or board games you like to play!



# ECHOES FROM THE BELL TOWER

## O Come All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles), John Francis Wade (1743)

Special Mention: Frederick Oakeley (1845)

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (originally written in Latin as *Adeste Fideles*) is a Christmas carol which has been attributed to various authors. In 1743, John Francis Wade had produced a copy of the now popular *O Come, All Ye Faithful*. After his passing in 1786, English Catholics began returning to Britain, bringing the carol with them. Frederick Oakeley eventually came across this carol and was so moved that he decided to translate it into English for Margaret Street Chapel. After converting to Catholicism in 1845, Oakeley revised the original *Ye Faithful, Approach Ye* to the now famous *O Come, All Ye Faithful, Joyful and Triumphant*.

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL, JOYFUL AND TRIUMPHANT,  
O COME YE, O COME YE TO BETHLEHEM;  
COME AND BEHOLD HIM BORN THE KING OF ANGELS;

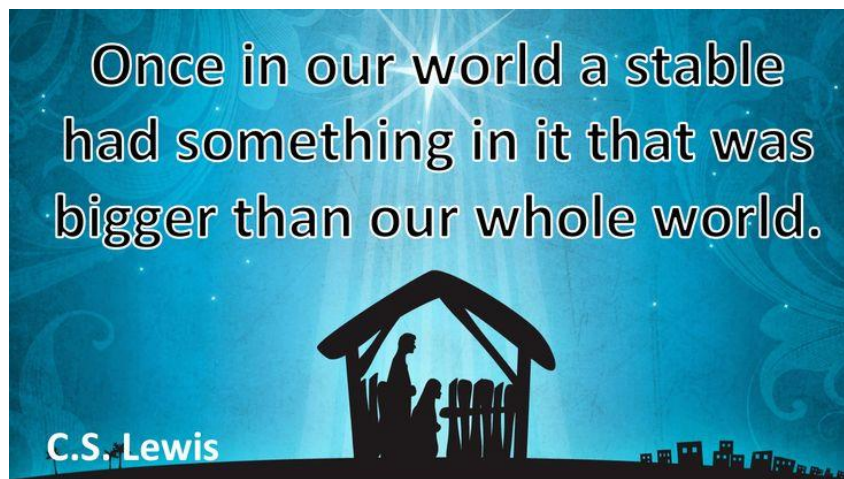
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST, THE LORD.

SING, CHOIRS OF ANGELS, SING IN EXULTATION  
O SING, ALL YE BRIGHT HOSTS OF HEAV'N ABOVE;  
GLORY TO GOD, ALL GLORY IN THE HIGHEST;

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST, THE LORD.

YEA, LORD, WE GREET THEE, BORN THIS HAPPY MORNING,  
JESUS, TO THEE BE ALL GLORY GIV'N  
WORD OF THE FATHER, NOW IN FLESH APPEARING;

O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST, THE LORD.





# Its time .... for our **FIRST BAPTIST**



For this month, we will do a Guess the Year. What year are the following Cantata pictures taken from?



## **ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S THANKSGIVING CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

### **ACROSS**

1. PIE
6. WASHINGTON
7. LINCOLN
8. TURKEY
9. CONGRESS
10. PLYMOUTH

### **DOWN**

1. POTATOES
2. CRANBERRY
3. THANKS
4. FOOTBALL
5. SWEET
10. PUMPKIN



Congratulations to **BRADEN HUDSON**! Braden was the winner of our November First Baptist Flashback. He correctly identified the most children in our Sunday School pictures. From 2004 we had Andrew Templeton, Cail Brown, Cheyenne Roark, Brennan Hughes, Kelsey Moody, Nick Sanford, Luke Ramsey, and Adam Meyer. Those pictured in the 2009 picture were Kinley Moody, Brady Hudson, Emma Resler, Ethan Dean, and Aiden Malone.

## **Insignificant Poll:**

Should our choir wear these festive robes for the Christmas Cantata?



# COOKS IN THE BELFRY

*(How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Psalm 119:103 NIV)*

The following recipes come from our 125th anniversary cookbook.

**Recipe**

**SUGAR CUT OUT COOKIES** **AMY TITUS**

*Ingredients*

- ¾ c. margarine
- 2 eggs
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 2 ½ c. flour

*Instruction*

Cream together margarine, eggs, sugar, and vanilla.

Add salt, baking powder and flour.

Chill well (overnight is best).

Roll out 1/8-1/4 inch thick.

Bake at 325 deg. until just turning brown at edges. Frost.

**Recipe**

**CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS** **NANCY CUMMINGS**

*Ingredients*

- ¾ c. cinnamon
- 1 Tbsp. nutmeg
- 1 Tbsp. allspice
- 2 Tbsp. ground cloves
- 2/3 c. applesauce plus 2-3 Tbsp. (if needed)

*Instruction*

Mix ingredients together until they form a ball.

Refrigerate overnight. Roll on a surface sprinkled with allspice and cut with a cookie cutter.

Use a straw to make a hole for the hanger.

Let dry 4 to 5 days on a cookie sheet.



# MANNING THE ROPES

*(Committee & Council Updates)*



## FOOD PANTRY NEWS

The food pantry served 73 families during the first of November through the 16th. The pantry was closed the week of Thanksgiving and reopened on Tuesday, November 28th. 100 families were served in the month of October. First Baptist Church hosted the Catholic Charities district meeting in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, November 14th and the pantry was inspected that morning. On the whole, the pantry did relatively well during the inspection. Food donations from the Bloomfield 5th grade will be picked up Friday, December 1st. USDA from Catholic Charities will be picked up on Thursday, November 30th. The pantry received a check from the Classic Cruisers organization in the amount of \$2000 which is very well received and will be spent on different purchased items in the next few weeks.

Thank you to the First Baptist congregation for donating to White Christmas!!! A total of 75 boxes will be assembled. So far 74 families have called in to receive a box with 60 of the total individuals (217) being children. Praise God from whom all blessing flow!!!!!!

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

Children have been studying Columbus, Pilgrims, Indians, leaves, sunflowers, and pumpkins. They got to make butter while talking about the Pilgrims. Pastor Nathan and John Cummings gave the children a model train demonstration and we made trains out of the letters of our names. We made Indian corn out of beads and talked about the Mayflower. We made Thankful Trees and each child said what they are thankful for. Each day before snack, we go around the table, and each child has the opportunity to pray. The children are given time to express themselves verbally as they build their vocabulary and learn to stay on topic. We review the days of the week and months of the year, in addition to numbers and letters, and learning how sounds make words. We are preparing for our Christmas Program, which will be a Nativity Scene on Friday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. You are all welcome to attend!



## BRIGHT BEGINNINGS UPDATE

The Congregation has graciously voted to monetarily support the Preschool for the 2024-2025 school year if necessary. Our enrollment was not large enough this year to sufficiently pay our teacher and assistant and cover supplies. We have the checkbook balance to be able to cover the 2023-2024 school year. Even though there is low enrollment, we need an assistant because we need there to be two adults in case of emergency situations. As a reminder, there were longstanding preschool teachers prior to 2021, so we are just building the program back up with a

new teacher. This is also our first year without the daycare, so preschool attendance is influenced by caregivers' ability to pick up / drop off children during work hours. We so appreciate Michelle Foxworthy stepping up to be the Preschool Teacher and the parents and children seem to really enjoy the preschool experience she is providing. She has been assisted by Ivy Foxworthy, and now Willow Foxworthy. We just concluded the Dillman Farms fundraiser and are pleased to have raised \$335.

### **4<sup>th</sup> THROUGH 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS**

The 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday school class spent the last few weeks dispelling some myths. The memory verse was from 2 Timothy 3:16 which says: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." These lessons provided ways to help them when they are challenged by their peers and others. The myths discussed were: 1) you are number one, 2) there's no such thing as absolute right and wrong, 3) the Bible is a myth, and 4) there are more than one way to get to heaven.

The students heard a skit each week by Tasha Hudson (Jeremy, a Christian kid) and Kathy Ham (the Liar). The Liar found Jeremy reading the Bible at the beginning of each skit and the Liar tried to convince Jeremy to believe the myths. In the end, the Liar gave up and realized there was no fooling Jeremy. And the Liar admitted that God is number one, that there is absolute right and wrong, the Bible is true, and Jesus is the only way to Heaven.

The lessons included an object lesson, a game, scripture, and craft activities which were used to dispel the myths and drive the points home. We discussed:

- that Jesus teaches us that if we want to be great, we will serve others (Mark 9:33-35)
- the Bible teaches us there is absolute truth, as well as right and wrong (2 Timothy 3)
- Biblical and archaeological evidence to back up the Bible, and that the Bible is a book rooted in real history that teaches us who we are and what God has done for us (Matthew 27:11-25)
- Jesus says He is the ONLY way to be saved (John 14:5-6)

Only by believing in Jesus can we get to Heaven. And one of the most loving things we can do is tell others that Jesus is the only Way.

### **FROM THE MODERATOR**

#### ***Congregational Meeting Highlight Results***

Twenty-eight members were present at the 9 November congregational meeting to vote on the agenda items. All items that required a vote were approved. Which included the following:

Slate of officers for 2024. Vacant positions still exist in the Assistant Moderator and Sunday school Superintendent.

A budget line was approved to be added to the 2024 budget of \$3,000 that will enable the Preschool to continue and to meet its fiscal requirements.

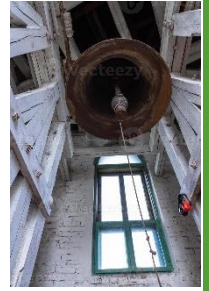
The 2024 budget, totaling \$280,180.89, that included the \$3K preschool budget line, a three percent raise for the Pastor and 2% raise for the bookkeeper, custodian, and the secretary. The secretary's 2% raise was approved in the form of a four-day paid annual vacation.

A special called congregational meeting will be scheduled during the first quarter of 2024 to request approval of proposed changes to the FBC Constitution and Personnel, Policies and Procedures Handbook once the council has completed their review.





# A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN



*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*

John 1:14

*Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

Hebrews 4:16

Several years ago, we spent Advent Sundays unpacking the theology of the hymn, *What Child Is This?* The hymn writer envisions the nativity scene and asks what King Jesus is doing in such harsh and humble conditions. The answer he discovers is profound: *"Good Christian, fear, for sinners here the silent Word is pleading."*

Intercessory prayer works like this: somebody loves God and loves you, so that person talks to God about you, in your favor. Intercession is why Jesus came. His life and death are a plea before God on our behalf. On the cross, He made intercession for the transgressors (Isa. 53:12). He continues to intercede on our behalf at the right hand of God (Rom. 8:34). He always lives to intercede for us (Heb. 7:25). Christmas was the beginning of Christ's continual prayer for us.

Jesus' intercession on our behalf is authentic because He walked a life on earth much like ours. He pitched His tent in our neighborhood (John 1:14) as "God with us" (Matt. 1:23). He faced all of the trials and temptations we encounter, yet without sin (Heb. 4:14-15). He is the perfect combination of relatability and victory. He *knows* our struggles *and* He has overcome. Christmas launched the journey of Christ becoming our perfectly qualified and fully effective high priest (Heb. 2:17-18). There is such hope in this! The One who has overcome death itself is decidedly and actively *for* us in prayer.

Jesus came at Christmas to pray. Christmas, therefore, invites *us* to pray. We respond to and participate in the work of Christ by praying. We come near to Him in prayer.

Christmas paints a beautiful picture of God's desire to come near to us, to help us. At their core, our nativity displays get it right: here is the Lord himself, coming to be near to the very people and creation He came to save. The manger reveals Jesus' humility, gentleness, love, and readiness to help. Isn't this exactly the Savior we need to meet with in prayer?

You may have a nativity display in your home or see one at church or as you drive around the community. I invite you to allow those displays serve as tangible reminders to pray. Here is Jesus, come to be near to us. Let us draw near to Him!

*In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.* Eph. 3:12

*Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings.* Heb. 10:22

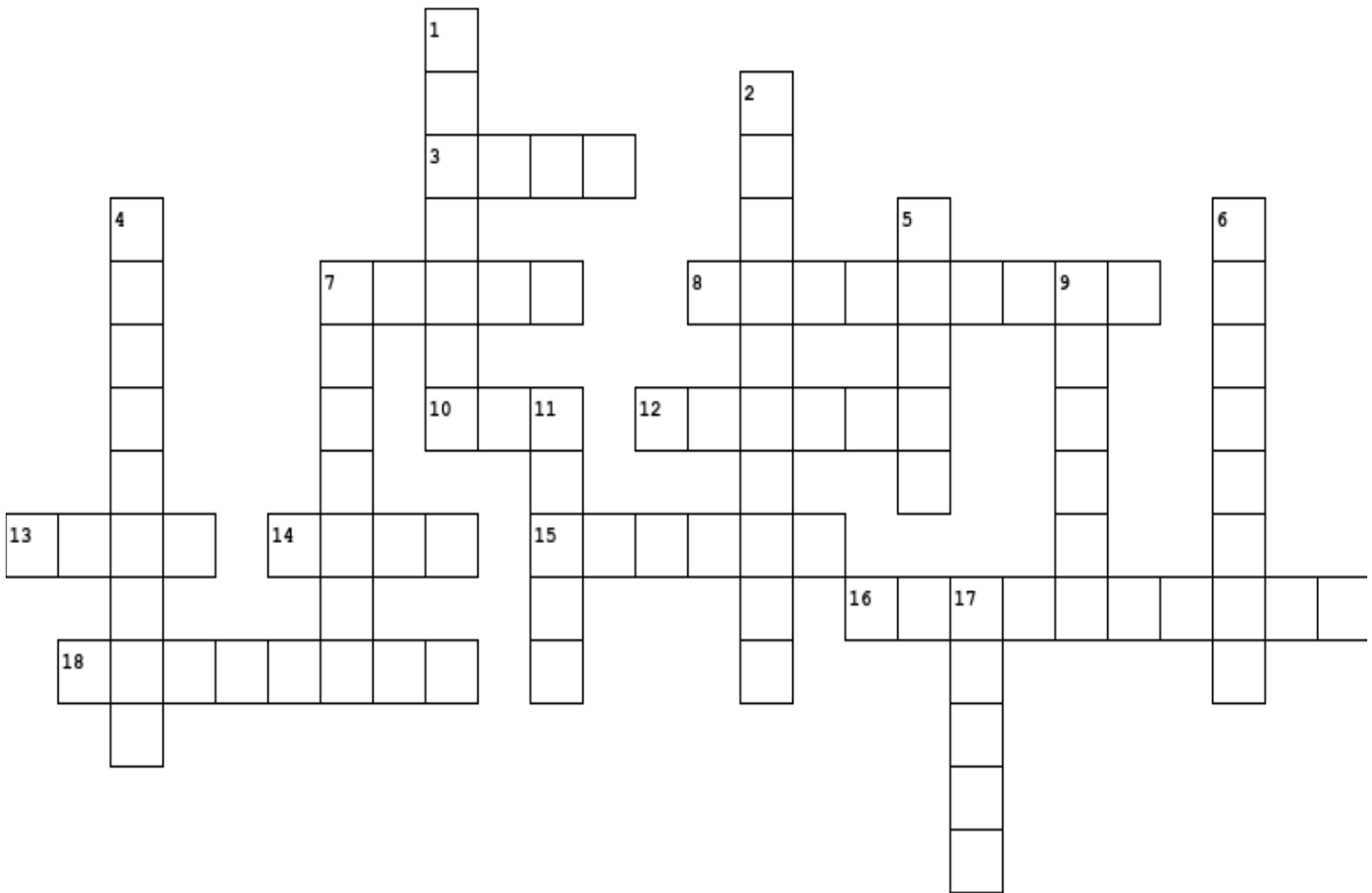
*You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.* Jer. 29:13

Grace and peace,

Nathan

*All Scripture quotations are from the New International Version.*

# ADVENT CROSSWORD



## Across

3. He will be like a launderer's \_\_\_\_ (Mal 3:2).
7. To us a \_\_\_\_ is born (Isa. 9:6).
8. Little town from which Israel's ruler comes (Micah 5:2).
10. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no \_\_\_\_ (Isa. 9:7).
12. Mary wrapped the child and laid him in a \_\_\_\_ (Lk. 2:7).
13. He will be like a refiner's \_\_\_\_ (Mal 3:2).
14. The \_\_\_\_ you seek will come to his temple (Malachi 3:1).
15. Every \_\_\_\_ shall be raised up (Isa. 40:4).
16. Make straight in the \_\_\_\_ a highway for our God (Isa. 40:3).
18. This Caesar ordered a census (Luke 2:1).

## Down

1. He will establish and uphold his throne with \_\_\_\_ and righteousness (Isa. 9:7).
2. This will be upon his shoulders (Isa. 9:6).
4. He will be this kind of counselor (Isa. 9:6).
5. The \_\_\_\_ of the Lord will be revealed and everybody will see it (Isa. 40:5).
6. The virgin will be will child and will call him \_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 7:14).
7. \_\_\_\_ my people, says your God (Isa. 40:1).
9. But who can \_\_\_\_ the day of his coming (Mal. 3:2)?
11. Joseph was from the house and line of \_\_\_\_ (Lk. 2:4).
17. The people walking in darkness have seen a great \_\_\_\_ (Isa. 9:2).

Answers will be printed in next month's *Bell Tower*.

First Baptist Church  
500 Lincoln Drive  
Bloomfield, IN 47424

## December 2023

Church Office: 812-384-8459  
FAX No: 812-384-8982  
Bright Beginnings Preschool: 812-384-2647

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 10:00 FH res.. 6:00 CLC res
3 Communion RMMO Offering 12:00 FH res. 4:30 Youth Christmas Party 5:00 Young Adults	4 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	5 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res 6:30 Trustee Mtg	6 9:00 Bible Study	7 4:00 CLC res. 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Deacon Mtg	8	9 6:00 CLC res
10 9:00 Kingdom Kids 5:00 Young Adults 6:00 Cantata	11 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	12 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res	13 9:00 Bible Study	14 10:00 Pres. Pract. 6:00 Youth W.C. 6:30 Boy Scouts	15 White Christmas 9:00 pack W.C. 12:00 CLC res. 6:30 Preschool Christmas Program	16 9:00 W.C. Distro. 12:30 Children's Christmas Party 6:00 CLC res
17 8:30 Fellowship Bfst 3:30 Caroling 1:00 CLC res 5:00 Young Adults	18 6:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Choir	19 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res	20 9:00 Bible Study	21 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Gideons	22	23 6:00 CLC res
24 9:00 Kingdom Kids 4:00 CLC res. 6:00 Christ. Eve Svc.	25 Christmas Day 1:00 FH res	26 9:30 Cottage Prayer Gr 6:00 CLC res	27 No Bible Study	28	29	30 6:00 CLC res
31 7:00 Youth NYE Party			Food Pantry Closed			

**Deacon of the Month**  
Dennis Kutch

**Trustee of the Month**  
Eric Moody

**Usher of the Month**  
Charles Porter

### Prayers

3<sup>rd</sup> Junior Barker  
10<sup>th</sup> Georgia Flinn  
17<sup>th</sup>  
24<sup>th</sup>  
31<sup>st</sup>

### Snacks in the Narthex

3<sup>rd</sup> The Barkers  
10<sup>th</sup>  
17<sup>th</sup> Fellowship Brkfst  
24<sup>th</sup>  
31<sup>st</sup>

### Greeter

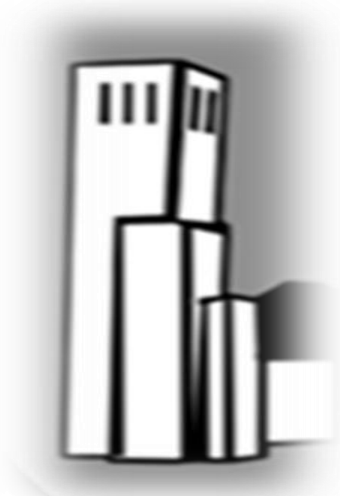
Cheri & Steve Graf

### Nursery Care

3<sup>rd</sup> Oliver Foxworthy &



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