



The Bell Tower

December 2024



BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

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

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st Dennis & Karen Kutch
- 18th Bruce & Carla Porter
- 20th Walter & Sylvia Pischel
- 26th Allen & 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.

Online giving can be found here:

You can also [click here](#).



Church Office Hours

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

The church office will be closed
December 24-26.

Food Pantry Hours

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00am-11:00am
Wednesday 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 & ACTIVITIES

Holiday Closings/Cancellations

The Food Pantry will be closed Tuesday, December 24 – Wednesday, January 1. It will reopen on Thursday, January 2.

The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 – Thursday, December 26.

There will be no Wednesday morning Bible Study or Community Fellowship on December 25.

Winter Weather Reminder

If inclement weather should require the cancellation of church activities, a decision will be made by the deacon chair, moderator, and pastor, and announced no later than 7 a.m. on any given Sunday. Cancellations will be posted on the church Facebook page, website, and by prayer chain. We encourage everyone to use their discretion when traveling in inclement weather. Links for live worship services are posted weekly at Facebook.com/groups/fbcbloom. Recorded worship services are available to the public at YouTube.com/fbcbloomfield.

Thank you!

2023 White Christmas December 12-14

Thursday, December 12

The Middle and High School youth will be helping to set up in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. Pizza will be provided.

Friday, December 13

We will be packing White Christmas boxes in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 a.m. There will be coffee, milk, and donuts available for volunteers.

Saturday, December 14

Distribution will take place from 9:00-11:00 a.m. The Boy Scouts from Troop 464 will be carrying the boxes out to the cars.

Kingdom Kids Christmas Party, December 14

The Kingdom Kids Christmas Party will be taking place on Saturday, December 14th. The party will start when they get back (approximately 12:45) and last until 2:30 pm, after they perform at Park View (they perform at 11:30). They will be having pizza, games, and a craft.

Open House Invite, December 15

I would like to invite my church family to come check out my new house on Sunday, December 15th from 2-4pm. Thank you all for your prayers and for checking in on me throughout the building process ❤️

Kelsey Moody (4401 North State Road 157 Bloomfield)

Christmas Cantata, December 15

The First Baptist Church Kingdom Kids and Adult Choirs will be celebrating Christmas through music on December 15th at 6:00 pm. The Kingdom Kids, directed by Alecia Henry, will be singing a number of special arrangements. The program also includes Christmas music featuring IU doctoral student Anounshka Divacar and Dr. Andrew Sohn with piano/clarinet duets. The Adult Choir will be presenting the cantata "Welcome to Our World", under the direction of Dr. 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.



Hudson Family Special Music

Soup on Saturday December 21

Our church is responsible for Soup on Saturday December 21. We need soups, sandwiches, and desserts donated. We also need workers. If you would be willing to help, please contact Marilyn Dallaire at 812-384-5362. Thank you! ☺

Christmas Caroling, December 22

We will assemble at 4:00 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.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, December 24

Our Candlelight Service will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24.

You Asked For It 2025 Summer Sermon Series

Fill out a red or green card with a sermon topic/question that you would like Nathan to consider for next summer. Your name is optional. You will be kept anonymous, but Nathan may wish to follow up. Cards are located in the Narthex. Completed cards can be placed in the Narthex stockings by December 22 or email pastor@fbcbloom.org or text 812-381-4189.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS



Youth Christmas Party December 8

Middle and High School Youth are invited to a Youth Christmas Party at Nathan, Liz, and Tiffany's house, 145 Dogwood Ln Sunday, December 8 from 4:30-7 p.m.

5th Quarter Saturday, December 21

Welcoming back: 5th Quarters! High school and Jr. high students are invited to come hang out in the CLC after home HS boys' basketball games. They can play in the youth room and big area, we serve pizza, pop, and chips. They pay \$1.25 to get in (to encourage buy-in that they want to be there and to help them stay so there isn't in-and-out). This event ends at 11pm. We are also seeking adult chaperones to help mingle and talk with the kids. This is a One Night commitment. You aren't volunteered for every one of them just by helping with one 5th Quarter! Upcoming Dates: Dec. 21, Jan. 11, Feb. 15, Feb. 28.

Please talk to Tasha or Braden Hudson or Kylee Moody if you are interested in helping. It's about 8:30pm-11:30pm time frame.

Youth New Years Eve Hangout

Come hang out and play games on New Years Eve in the CLC from 7 pm to midnight. More to come.

We Need You!

We are continually seeking sponsors for youth activities. If you would be willing to lead an activity, please sign up in the Narthex and let Pastor Nathan know. Thank you!

A promotional graphic for the 5th Quarter event. It features a white volleyball, a basketball, and a stack of coins. A red speech bubble contains the text "Dec. 21" and a green speech bubble contains "5th Quarter:". A white speech bubble contains the text "The fun continues after the game! Hang out until 11pm Play your own game, talk with friends, pizza & pop". At the bottom, it says "1st Baptist Church by the Pool" and "500 Lincoln Drive".

Dec. 21 **5th Quarter:**

The fun continues after the game!
Hang out until 11pm
Play your own game,
talk with friends,
pizza & pop

\$1.25

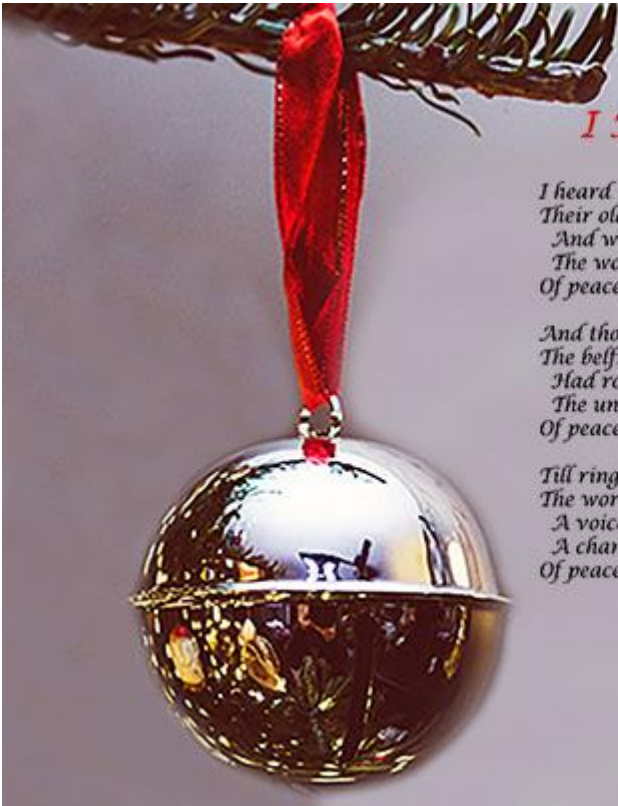
**1st Baptist Church
by the Pool**

500 Lincoln Drive



ECHOES FROM THE BELL TOWER

*Give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and His wonderful
deeds. Psalm 107:8*



I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had come,
The befriended of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of Peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men"*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The text for this hymn is based off of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's 1863 poem, "Christmas Bells." The poem itself was inspired by several painful events in Longfellow's life. For one, his son, Charles, joined the Union army without telling Henry before he left. Eventually, Charles was severely wounded in battle. Around the same time, Longfellow's wife, Frances, tragically died from an accidental fire, which left Henry badly burned as well. Longfellow wrote his poem on Christmas Day, telling of the despair in his heart as he heard the Christmas bells play. Fortunately, this poem ends on an encouraging note, emphasizing hope and peace among men, despite the troubles of the world.

Getz, Luke. "Christmas Bells." Hymnary.org.

https://hymnary.org/text/i_heard_the_bells_on_christmas_day



Its time for our

FIRST BAPTIST



Be the first to correctly guess these Bible Bowl participants from 1989:



ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S THANKSGIVING CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

- 4. FOREVER
- 8. PRAYED
- 9. THANKSGIVING
- 10. JESUS

DOWN

- 1. LOVE
- 2. THANKS
- 3. LOAVES
- 5. VICTORY
- 6. PRAISE
- 7. KINGDOM



Jeff Coffin was our First Baptist Flashback winner from the month of November. He was the first to correctly identify the year of these Love Feast pictures from 2008.

Congratulations Jeff!



COOKS IN THE BELFRY

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

This month's recipes are from none other than the late Charlotte Humerickhouse (1930-2020) submitted by Virginia Hendrix. If you would like to share recipes in an upcoming newsletter, please send to Heather at secretary@fbcbloom.org. Thank you!

Macaroni & Cheese

1 pound elbow macaroni
4 oz (or more) cubed Velveeta Cheese
Milk

Directions: Cook macaroni until the water is all gone. Add cheese cubes, stir until melted. Add milk if it needs more liquid. Bake in oven at 350° until brown on top. If you are in a hurry, you can skip baking in the oven.



Chocolate Chip Banana Bread

Mix together: ½ c. margarine, softened
¾ c. sugar
2 eggs

Add: 2 ripe bananas, mashed

Gradually add: 2 c. flour

1 tsp. salt

½ tsp. baking soda

Stir in: ¾ c. semi-sweet chocolate chips

½ c. walnuts (optional)

Pour into greased 9x5x3 loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 60 to 70 minutes (reduce time for smaller pans or about 18 minutes for muffins)

Rocky Road

Melt together in microwave safe bowl.

Stir occasionally, until melted:

2 Tbs. butter

12 oz semi-sweet chocolate chips

14 oz can sweetened condensed milk

Stir into chocolate mixture:

10 oz mini marshmallows

2 ½ c. salted dry roasted peanuts

Spread into 9x13 pan lined with wax paper. Chill until firm. Cut into squares. Freezes well.



MANNING THE ROPES

(Committee & Council Updates)



RETIRED MINISTERS & MISSIONARIES OFFERING

Each year our church family participates in an offering for our Retired Ministers and Missionaries. This year's theme is "Together, we remember", based on 1 Chronicles 16:12. RMMO celebrates and expresses thanks to our servant leaders. Recipients include retired ordained ministers and commissioned missionaries who have devoted 15 years or more to ABCUSA, as well as surviving spouses. A certain portion of funds is allocated for direct emergency assistance. We will be receiving this year's offering on December 29th at the end of our service.

OPERATION SHOE BOX SUCCESS

Thank you to our First Baptist Church family for helping make the 2024 Operation Christmas Child shoebox ministry a huge success. Tammy Hart, coordinator from Linton First Baptist Church, reported their drop off site collected a grand total of 2,295 shoeboxes. Your faithfulness will help to spread God's love to children who haven't heard the "Good News"!

Open Arms Amazon Wishlist



BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER ORDERS DUE DECEMBER 3

The Bright Beginnings Board is holding a fundraiser to support the preschool. We are offering gift boxes of Dillman Farm jellies and sauces. There are two deals for the fundraiser. You can buy any 2 jars for \$16 or any 3 jars for \$22. Each will be delivered in a gift box. They make wonderful Christmas gifts, or they can add a nice touch to holiday gatherings. The order forms are in the narthex. Contact Bob Templeton (812-227-0766) with any questions. The final day to order is December 3 with delivery on December 15.



God so loved
the world
that he gave
his only
son.
John 3:16

December newsletter

Contact info Camryn Deschamp- camcynhuffman@gmail.com (812) 384-0400 x 28 or class dojo	Language Arts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• K, J, Review• Beginning, middle, and ending sounds
Math <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Calendar procedures- month, days of the week, number, date• Counting to 20• Shapes & colors	Themes <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thanksgiving- Review• Winter- The Grinch• Winter- Christmas
Reminders <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christmas Program- December 12 @ 6 PM• Christmas Party- December 19 (More details to come)• Christmas Break- 12/23-1/3 (Return on 1/7)• We are enrolling for the Winter/Spring semester beginning in January... please tell your friends!	

© THE LITTLE ADBUG SHOP



Sun. Jan. 12
4pm-6pm
Games, Crafts, Bible
Teaching & Dinner
 1st Baptist Church,
 Bloomfield 812-384-8459

Children's Program: Backyard Kids Club
 Our once-a-month children's program will be on Sunday afternoons beginning in January from 4-6pm. Dates include: Jan. 12, Feb. 2, March 2, April 6, and May 4. We are seeking teen and adult helpers to lead games, kitchen crew, a craft Leader (craft and instructions provided), and to mingle with a PreK-1st grade group or 2nd-6th grade group. Please let Tasha Hudson know if you can help.

(As of 10-31-2024)

Actual YTD Gen. Fund Income: \$204,317.75
 Miscellaneous Income: \$7,918.71
 Total YTD Expenses: \$210,499.34
 Actual YTD Church *Surplus*: \$1,737.12



Please pray for First Baptist Church in 2024...

For abounding love and discernment,
 Philippians 1:9-11

That God would renew our minds,
 Romans 12:2

For purity and that we would faithfully minister to those in need,
 James 1:27

That we would encourage one another,
 Hebrews 10:24-25

For continual awareness of God's goodness,
 Psalm 34:8

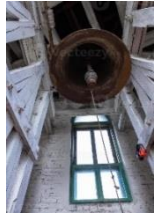
For continual experience of Christ's peace and joy,
 Philippians 4:4-9

For confident, faithful perseverance,
 1 Peter 5:10

Thank you for keeping our church and community in prayer!

The First Sunday of Advent: Hope	Isaiah 42:1-4
The Second Sunday of Advent: Peace	Isaiah 11:1-9
The Third Sunday of Advent: Joy	Isaiah 55:10-13
The Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love	Isaiah 16:5
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

A NOTE FROM PASTOR NATHAN



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.
John 1:14 (NIV)

One of the most meaningful ministry opportunities I have is to lead funerals. It is a blessing to serve families who are going through difficult times and to share good news about God with those who are hurting.

At any given funeral, people are present who do not have a relationship with Jesus. I have no idea how many people or which ones, but while we're gathered at a gravesite I often think: *Some of these people don't know Jesus.*

There are also people at every funeral whom I do not know personally. We might never cross paths anywhere else. Many people fit in both categories – they don't know Jesus and I don't know them.

What about the people who don't know Jesus and might *never* develop a significant relationship with *anyone* who knows and loves Jesus?

There are people in Greene County who have no meaningful relationship with Jesus or with any followers of Jesus. If people who know Jesus aren't interacting with people who don't know Jesus, how will anyone come to know Jesus?

This calls for intentionality. We must prayerfully discern ways to personally and graciously enter into the lives of people we might not otherwise connect with, in order to love them with the love of God.

This is Christmas. God intentionally – and at great cost – enters into our lives graciously and personally, to demonstrate His love for us. *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.*

More literally, “he pitched his tent” among us. Where are we pitching our tents? How might we deliberately initiate relationships with people who do not know Jesus?

Are we willing to do this even if it is inconvenient or uncomfortable? The manger and the cross were uncomfortable.

I encourage you this Christmas season and in the year ahead to pray about this. Where do you and I have opportunities to deliberately collide with people who might not be Christians? How can we build relationships in these spaces?

I give an example, not to brag but to get the creativity flowing. For several years, I have tutored one student per semester, one hour per week, at Bloomfield High School. This has not resulted in radical academic transformation (although my math skills have been somewhat resurrected). My most recent student dropped out. I'm not sure that *any* of them graduated. I've only had post-high-school contact with one of these students. But each one has been deliberately loved and prayed for by someone who loves Jesus. I believe God produces fruit that I cannot yet see.

Among our church family, I am aware of tutors, substitute teachers, cafeteria workers, scout leaders, athletic coaches, CASA advocates, jail visitors, volunteers at community service organizations, and more. Additionally, any of us who have work responsibilities which put us in contact with others find ourselves, simply in the course of work, with opportunities to build relationships with people who might not have relationships with Jesus. How might we take advantage of this?

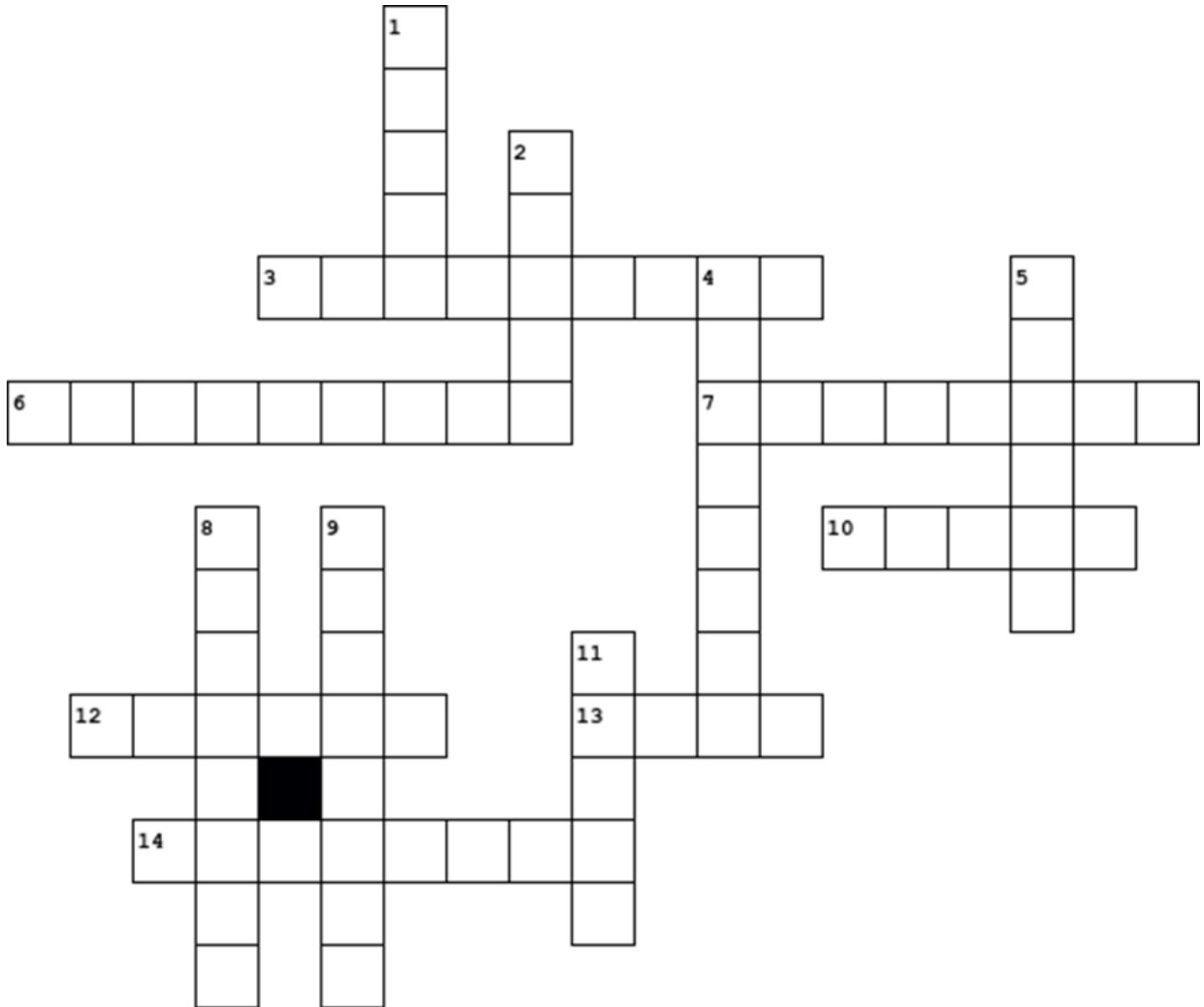
We need to pray as a congregation, too. We have many activities in our building to which the whole world is welcome, from Sunday morning services to Hoops for Him to White Christmas box distributions. We host other community groups for various events. But how are we, as a congregation, *going* into all the world?

I have no perfect answers. But the Holy Spirit is nudging us. Where can we go and pitch our tents? With whom can we build new relationships? How can we “be Christmas?” Let's pray about it! Let's talk about it! *Holy Spirit, help us!*

Merry Christmas!

Nathan

CHRISTMAS HYMN TITLES



Across

3. O Little Town of _____.
6. While ___ Watched Their Flocks.
7. It Came upon the ___ Clear.
10. Joy to the _____.
12. Away in a _____.
13. O ___ Night! (The stars are brightly shining.)
14. O Come, All Ye _____.

Down

1. Silent ____, Holy _____.
2. I Heard the ___ on Christmas Day.
4. O Come, O Come, _____.
5. Hark! The Herald ___ Sing.
8. Go, Tell It on the _____.
9. Come, Thou Long-_____ Jesus.
11. What ___ Is This?

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

First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424

December
2024

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Advent: Hope Communion 12:00 CLC res 2:00 Leaf raking 5:00 KK Practice	2 6:00 GC Com. Mtg 7:00 Choir Practice	3 9:00 Young People Care Pkgs 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group	4 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Community Fellowship & Tech Workshop	5 1:00 FH res 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Boy Scouts 6:30 Deacons	6 CLC res 4:00 FH res	7 6:00 GGW
8 Advent: Peace 8:30 Fellowship Bkfst 9:00 KK Practice 4:30 Youth Christmas Party 5:00 KK Practice	9 7:00 Choir Practice	10 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group	11 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Community Fellowship	12 6:00 Youth WC Set up 6:00 Presch. Prog. 6:30 Boy Scouts	13 9:00 Packing WC	14 9:00 Distribute WC 11:30 KK Parkview 12:45 KK Christmas Party 6:00 res 6:00 GGW
15 Advent: Joy 12:00 CLC res 6:00 Cantata	16 7:00 Choir Practice	17 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group	18 9:00 Bible Study 10:30 Community Fellowship	19 4:45 Girl Scouts 6:30 Gideons 6:30 Boy Scouts	20	21 Soup on Saturday 6:00 GGW 8:00 5 th Quarter
22 Advent: Love 4:00 Caroling	23 7:00 Choir Practice	24 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group 4:00 CLC res 6:30 Eve Service	25 Christmas Day FH res	26	27	28 6:00 GGW
29	30 7:00 Choir Practice	31 9:30 Cottage Prayer Group				



Deacon of the Month
Kathy/Dennis/Bob

Trustee of the Month
Eric Moody

Usher of the Month
Charles Porter

Prayers

1st Karen Kutch
8th Randy Flanagin
15th Tammy Young
22nd
29th

Snacks in the Narthex

1st Adrienne Hughes
8th Fellowship Breakfast
15th Mary Bailey
22nd Kimberly Porter
29th Ashley & Wesley T.

Greeters

Jennifer & Kelsey Moody

Nursery Care

1st Cheri Campbell-Graf

First Baptist Church
500 Lincoln Drive
Bloomfield, IN 47424



December 2024