

JANUARY 2021

# IT TAKES A FAMILY

*Monthly newsletter of Family Bible Church*



## NEW YEAR

*Lead Pastor*

*Kris Tarkiewicz*

Happy New Year! It is 2021!

In 2020 there were days, weeks, and months that did not feel like they were going to end. As I mentioned on Christmas Eve, weary hope defined 2020 for me. Entering a new year, in many ways feels like an accomplishment.

However, you and I know, the date changing on a calendar in itself will not change us nor the circumstances and challenges the world faces and we too face.

I think of what Paul said (2 Corinthians 4:8-10): *"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."*

We do not know what 2021 holds but we know God is good and faithful. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Jesus Christ is still our Savior. The church of Jesus Christ will still be active and alive in 2021. We as followers of Jesus are better together than apart and alone.

As Paul said, we carry both death and life through our body. Our words and actions lift Jesus up when we point to the cross. Jesus drew the world to Himself through the cross, reconciling and restoring brokenness caused by sin in John 12:32 said, *"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself."*

In 2021 at FBC we enter seeking the LORD and expectant for the great things He will do in and through us. Sunday, we looked into Matthew chapter two and learned what the Magi modeled, we should follow in 2021. There are three actions we can walk in as well including 1) Seek Jesus, 2) Respond to Jesus and 3) Go somewhere unexpected.

Jesus called us in Luke 9:23 saying, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." The Magi made a choice each day of their long journey to seek the Messiah. They faced hardship and trials but still pushed on.

As we seek Jesus in 2021 may we also respond to Jesus. The Magi expected to find Jesus and they were ready with their gifts and worship. God is not hiding and has revealed himself through Jesus, the Word, prayer and the church.

We seek, we respond and we must also be ready to go somewhere unexpected. The Magi went a different way and when we meet Jesus, we too go different ways to unexpected places.

We at FBC have no idea what 2021 looks like but we continue to trust. Three words for 2021 we have been praying over include 1) Community, 2) Rootedness, and 3) Sending. We desire to connect in the Biblical community, grow deeper together and be sent to all the places the LORD directs us. We do this in order for us to each reach one more for Jesus.

Peter's core message is found Acts 2:38-39, *"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.'"*

We invite you to join us as we seek, respond, go to unexpected places, grow in community, grow deeper, and be sent with intentionality in 2021.

The LORD continue to bless you this day and week!

Kris



## M.I.A.

*Creative Arts Pastor*

*Jon Gerten*

Our tech crew came together and grew in many ways in order to make everything happen so we could all take part in Sunday morning services. I was also so proud of Elsie, Phoebe and Nick who stepped up to lead worship. It was so cool to see those that had been trained truly step into their own and lead.

It taught me that training others can be just as gratifying as being the one leading. As we head into a new year, my hope is that we see more and more of this occurring. WE are the church. It does not happen in just the hands of a few. It grows by the work of many.

It is amazing to me that one of the first things Jesus did when he began His ministry was to surround himself with others. Jesus could have done it alone. He was the Son of God after all. But He chose to involve others and to create community.

My prayer is that we find new ways of community this year even though we are apart and that we realize the importance of coming together for the common cause of Christ's glory being magnified in this world.

At the end of 2020 I was away from the church for about 3 weeks due to a COVID+ test in my household. Our 6 year old, Evie, somehow contracted it even though we were very careful. Praise be to God, she was fine and the symptoms only lasted about 2 days for her. However, due to quarantine guidelines it took us a long time to be able to leave the house.

During that time, I was missing in action on Sunday mornings. It gave me a perspective I had not had as a viewer from home.

I so desired to be there in person and tried to manage the technical trials as they came from afar. But in the end, it was our volunteers who kept everything up and running in my absence. I must say, i felt a bit like a proud father. They did such a great job!



We were able to celebrate Christmas as a youth group this year with our first (and hopefully only) ever virtual Christmas party! We had 26 students in attendance! It was great to still gather, do a gift exchange, play fun Christmas games, and most importantly, remember the reason we celebrate this Christmas as we look to the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you to all of you who were able to help make that a special night to remember. If nothing else in this Christmas season, I pray that you know that you are loved. Even though it has been a year of loneliness and isolation in many ways, know that you are not alone, that your church staff and youth leaders love you and care about you. We're thinking about you and hope you continue to look to Him as we begin a new year.

*Student Pastor*

*Nick Walker*

We'll be back for youth group on January 10th! I'm excited to announce our lesson series that will take us through May: "History of the World". We will be walking through Scripture (think mini-Thread series) as we focus on the 4 main parts of the narrative: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Restoration. And ultimately, we will be reminded of who we are in Christ and how to live in hopeful expectation for the Day that Christ returns. I hope your students will join me for some great time of fun growth in community as we move forward into what God has for us next!



We had a blast celebrating Christmas virtually as a youth group, even though it was different than normal. I want to publicly apologize to all of the parents and siblings who had to endure our game of guessing which Christmas carols the students were attempting to play on their recorders. Nevertheless, we had the great opportunity to celebrate with 12 students and be reminded of what Christmas is truly all about. Thank you also to those who served with us at Lighthouse, as we were able to bless more than 60 families with food, coats, gifts, and more. I pray they feel and experience the love of Jesus as we continue to share His light with them.

Youth group will return on January 12th as we enter into a new lesson series. This will be much longer than normal, but I am really excited to share with you about our "Heroes of the Faith" series! We will take time to walk through many heroes of the Old Testament, men and women who did exceptional things as they walked with God. There's lots we can learn from them as we seek to follow their examples (in the good things) and ultimately follow the example of Christ. This will be a great way to improve our knowledge and understanding of characters and stories in the Old Testament. We'll also focus on a "minor hero" each week who will be a lesser known character but no less important an opportunity to learn and grow. I look forward to growing alongside your students as we enter into this new year together!



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

*Children's Ministries  
Associate  
Chelsea Wray*

Happy New Year FBC families! We hope that you had a great time together as a family celebrating the birth of Jesus. In our family, on someone's birthday, we go around the table and say what we love about that person. It is always special and fun to share with them all of our favorite things about them. This year we did it for Jesus. When it got to our five year old, Lucas, he said "He gives us joy!" May we all be reminded daily of the great joy that Jesus gives us! In the midst of everything going on in the world, be reminded of that great joy.

We are excited to announce that small groups are starting back up this Sunday, January 10th for second (10am) and third (11:30am) service. This is for children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. We are inviting 4 year old preschoolers to join their sibling groups if they are potty trained. Children will go to worship with their families and then are dismissed to the back of the sanctuary where their small group leader will be there to greet them and take them to class. We are looking forward to being able to spend time with the kids again!

Caye and I really enjoyed being able to see some of your families when we delivered birthday bags for Jesus in December. We could not believe how fast the kids are growing! It was such a joy to be able to see the kids and talk to them for a few minutes. We really miss them.

Now that the kids are heading back to school, we are taking a pause on the Zoom mid week check in. But, we still want to connect with the kids. Be on the look-out for a video post in a week or two to share with them.

We are praying that the transition back to school and routine goes smoothly these next couple of weeks. If you have any questions about what small groups look like or any other questions about returning to church with your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We know that it can be overwhelming and intimidating not knowing what to expect. We are here to help and want you to feel comfortable and welcome. We miss you!

# **BIRTHDAYS**

January 2021

- 1 - Brian Drenth, Adam Fish, Emmalyn Shearer
- 4 - Kasey Hinkley
- 5 - Scott Paschal
- 6 - Jameson Albrecht, Dee Converse, Andrew Kiessling
- 7 - Heather Coblentz, Erin Olds, Kimber Sweet
- 8 - Connor Fish, Shannon Robinson
- 9 - Brent Williams, Richard Wilson
- 10 - Greg Grimes, Jeriamiah Joseph
- 11 - Jedidiah Myers, Tim Skidmore, Matthew Sowles
- 12 - Kay Bean
- 13 - Daniel Mikesell
- 14 - Phyllis Rutz
- 15 - Susan Dietrich, Myah Sanders, David Sutton
- 16 - Cooper Obermyer, Evan Tarkiewicz, Karter Williams
- 17 - Mark Walker
- 18 - Matthew Walker
- 19 - Cherie McKinley
- 20 - Karen Weck
- 21 - Tobin Marino
- 23 - Ellen Keehn, Ben Lark
- 24 - Cassie Coleman, Karen Saltzman, Annie Smith
- 28 - Dylan Sanford
- 30 - Violet Groeneveld
- 31 - Nicholas Walker