

DECEMBER, 2021

# IT TAKES A FAMILY

*Monthly newsletter of Family Bible Church*



## **Expectations of a Child**

“While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.” -Luke 2:6-7

Monday evening. Marshall, Michigan. Downtown. People filled the streets with anticipation for the parade about to begin. Friendly greetings, warm hugs, and laughter filled the air.

As the snow fell, as each vehicle, band, or group passed, children eagerly awaited the arrival of the very last float. This float held Santa’s sleigh and the jolly man himself, Santa.

There were cheers and waves and smiles all around. Santa had come to town.

The nostalgia and the hope of the Christmas season had arrived.

Christmas is a beautiful time filled with hope, joy, peace, and love. We embrace these realities through traditions, ways we find relief during difficult seasons. Movies, grandma’s special recipe, ornaments and decorations, songs, gatherings with family and friends, and church services.

There is nothing like being a child at Christmas or experiencing Christmas through their eyes. Children have wonder, awe, anticipation, excitement, and expectancy for this season.

As we enter Christmas 2021 I pray we enter it like children. That it be a season of heartfelt expectancy. But not just for Santa. The expectancy in Advent overflows great anticipation, holy waiting and active hope, joy, peace, love remembering the Christ child who came long ago and also the return of Jesus again.

The Christmas story is a story of promises fulfilled, darkness overcome, and Jesus having the final word. Whereas nostalgia draws us back to times past, hope, joy, peace, and love move us forward with childlike expectancy.

During Advent of 2021 we explore the themes of Christmas. What Jesus embodied, lived, and shared. Jesus is the hope of the world and we hold onto him whether in darkness or surrounded by joy because we know our story ends well.

As we enter, is there an area of darkness in your life that needs to be overcome by the light of Jesus? Jesus breaks through in unexpected ways. Our role is to anticipate with hope, joy, peace, and love.

Luke 2:8-14

8And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."



## Joyful Worship

This past Sunday (11/28) we introduced a new song called "With Us Now" by Covenant Worship. It is a fun upbeat Christmas worship song. We followed it up with a really unique version of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" by Life.Church Worship.

In the next coming weeks you should expect more of the same as we begin our services. We want to have a feeling of joy and energy as we begin our services this Christmas season. Ultimately it is a time of celebration and we want our worship to reflect that.

Maybe for you this time is not a time of joy. Maybe it is a reminder of a lost loved one, or of a past hurt. Whatever it may be, know that we don't want to force you into a place where you have to feel celebratory. However, we do want this to be an opportunity to remind ourselves that in the midst of these painful things that happen in life we serve a God who gave us His one and only Son in the form of a baby.

To put it in a greater perspective we remember that there were some pretty wise men who knew that something history-altering was happening and they journeyed years to get to where Jesus was. They knew that this life was worthy of celebration and worship. They endured the pain and hardship of a very long journey and even the risk of their own lives when they met King Herod and had to flee back to their homelands after not revealing where Jesus was.

We all face trials and hardships, but it does not lessen the value or need of our worship. In fact, in those times it should increase because we know that we don't have it together.

Jesus came to set us free and, guess what, He did! We learn to love through His life and death and are given salvation because of His willingness to surrender it all on our behalf.

So, should we be celebrating this season? OF COURSE! I encourage you to come expecting celebration on Sunday mornings and to also be willing and ready to celebrate with the body of believers gathered. If you are still at home, join us as well. Clap your hands, move your feet, have a smile on your face and enter his courts with thanksgiving readily in your hearts and enter his courts with praise. He is worthy of our celebration.

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace



**STUDENT PASTOR  
NICK WALKER**

We had a blast with our Fall Retreat this past month as we addressed that now familiar question: “Who’s Your ONE?”. We took the time to look deeper at what this means for us as teenagers and how we can reach those around us. Coming up this Sunday the 5th, we have a fun game night planned that is a perfect opportunity for our students to invite someone! We’ll have pizza, snacks, board games, video games, and more! We’ll be at FBC from 6:30-8:30pm and I highly encourage each of our high schoolers to not only be there, but to invite someone who maybe wouldn’t come to a normal youth group. Should be a lot of fun and a great way to get them involved. We also have our Christmas party coming up on December 12th from 6:30-8:30 at UN10N, complete with a white elephant gift exchange (limit \$10). Excited to celebrate together this Christmas season as we await the miraculous birth of our Lord!



We too have finished our “Who’s Your ONE?” series by planning out an event to invite our friends to! Coming up on Tuesday, December 7th, we’re having a game/movie night here at the church! This will give each student an opportunity to invite someone new who wouldn’t normally come to youth group. Trusting that we have a great turnout! Then we’ll finish off the year with our Christmas party on December 14th from 6-7:45pm at UN10N (with a white elephant gift exchange with \$10 limit), and serving together at our Lighthouse Food Pantry on Saturday, December 18th from 9:30-12. So glad we can serve together in this Christmas season, knowing that Jesus served us first. Have a blessed Christmas!

## *A Letter of Gratitude*

Gratitude. This one simple word holds so much meaning for the Children's Ministry Staff this month. Our hearts are overwhelmed with gratitude, thankfulness and praises!

**We are grateful** for the “grown-ups” of all the amazing kids that walk our halls each week. It's because of you – *moms, dads, grandmas, caregivers, neighbors, friends, aunts, siblings* – that these children are able to come and find a place to belong here at FBC. As parents ourselves, we know the work it takes to show up to events, services and programs. It isn't easy, but it's worth it. We are so thankful for your sacrifice and commitment to the children in your lives.



**We are grateful** for the Leaders/Volunteers who give of their time and talent in a million ways to serve our kids. Every single role and responsibility work together to make the ministry possible. We adore you all – *nursery volunteers, Sunday small group leaders, Awana leaders, check-in volunteers, snack prep crew, youth helpers, safety team, collaborators, prayer partners, encouragers* – we could not function without you! It's likely we don't tell you enough, so let us pause now to say just how thankful we are for each and every one of you.

**We are grateful** for KIDS! Let's all just take a moment to fully appreciate how amazing our children are! With so much change happening all around them, they continue to shine so bright. They keep joy and hope and happiness present on days that can be long and difficult. Our cups are filled to the point of overflowing each time the kids gather at FBC and share their smiles, laughter and ENERGY! Thank you, kids – we are honored and blessed to serve you!

There are truly thousands of reasons to be grateful, and the things mentioned above are just a small sample. But most importantly, **we are grateful** to God. For His faithfulness. For His goodness. For His protection, His love, His kindness. All we do, we do for His glory and His purpose. We thank God for allowing us to be a part of the FBC Family, and to have a place in the lives of the children and families in this community.

**We are so grateful.**

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

- Nov. 28th – LIT meeting after 2nd Service. Pizza provided. Pick up at 12:45pm
- Dec. 19th – Kids will sing a Christmas song in 2nd Service
- Dec. 26th – Christmas Party offered in 1st and 2nd Services

## **JOIN THE KID MIN CREW!**

We are working to build a strong and vibrant team of leaders/volunteers. There are countless ways to get involved.

Would you consider:

- Prepping snacks and crafts for special days like Christmas and other parties
- Working the check-in desk and/or tech support
- Serving as a Sunday Small Group Leader during the school year (monthly rotation).  
Training and all teaching materials provided. Adding to our team will allow us to re-open Kid's Church for the 8:30 Service

Contact Caye [caye@familybible.church](mailto:caye@familybible.church) to start the conversation about serving in Kid Min!

# BIRTHDAYS

**December 2021**

- 1 - Ralph Fitch, Jacob Smith
- 2 - Matthew Waito
- 4 - Zander Olds, Drew Sanford, Brooke Waito
- 5 - Caryn Drenth, Lochlan Sanford, Tammy Zebolsky
- 8 - Mason Popovits
- 9 - Steve Weck
- 10 - Mary Rio, Adalyn Sanford, Lori Wade
- 11 - Wendy Gensch
- 12 - Addyson Groeneveld, Annie Monaweck
- 13 - Jonah Kue
- 21 - Sarah Fedders, Savanna Surber
- 22 - David Darling, Ben Robinson
- 23 - Adrienne Dysinger, Katherine Fedders, Kobe Williams
- 25 - Aubrey Dysinger, Linda Smith
- 26 - Kenzie Kersjes, Erik Myers
- 28 - Rocky Wray
- 29 - Sadie Monaweck
- 31 - Stacey Avery