

DECEMBER 2022

IT TAKES A FAMILY

Monthly newsletter of Family Bible Church



Gatherings

This time of year it can be easy to overload our schedules and miss what is really important. Yearly this season is a reminder to be present and expectant.

I love the example of the shepherd in Luke 2. They were living life, doing their job, and the announcement of the newborn king was made to them. The angel said to them:

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

The shepherds were changed when they found Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. In response to this discovery, they spread the word about Jesus and people were amazed.

This Christmas season is very unique in regard to the way the days fall on our calendar. This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday. The last time it happened was in 2016 and the next time it will happen is eleven years in the future in 2033.

Although some churches canceled services, in 2016, Christianity Today reported that 89% of churches had a service on Christmas Day and that 63% had services on both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

This year at FBC we are excited to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We will gather together at 6PM on Christmas Eve and 10AM on Christmas Day. We hope you will join us!

We will gather because we believe Jesus is first. There is much excitement over meals, gifts, and family gatherings. These are all important and we will be together to put worship in our faith community as a priority.

We will gather on Sunday as part of our rhythm to live in step with the Spirit of God. A day like Christmas adds even more emphasis to the importance of why we gather weekly on Sundays.

We will gather to be reminded and affirm our faith is expressed in community. Since COVID, we have often moved away from community gatherings. Yet, a proper ecclesiology reminds us that although devotions and family worship are important to us as we grow they are not to replace the gathering of the body of Christ for worship. This is not just on Christmas day but each and every Sunday. Hebrews tells us: *“Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing.”* Why? Because it’s in community that we “encourage one another” and “spur one another on toward love and good deeds”

We will gather because it is a privilege to worship not only with my family but with my church family as well. I hope you will join us as we worship the newborn king Jesus on Christmas Eve at 6PM and Christmas Day at 10AM.

DECEMBER WORSHIP GATHERINGS:

SUNDAY 4 “He Shall Be Called...” Part Two, Prince of Peace (8:30 & 10AM)

SUNDAY 11 “He Shall Be Called...” Part Three, Light of the World (8:30 & 10AM)

Christmas Apple Sunday at 6PM

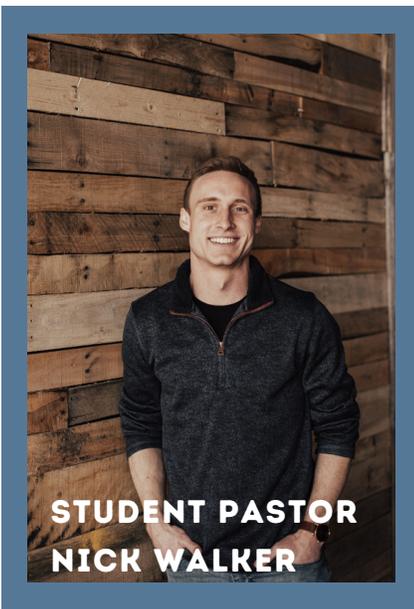
SUNDAY 18 “He Shall Be Called...” Part Four, Immanuel (8:30 & 10AM)

WED. 21 Blue Christmas Service at 6PM hosted by Stephen Ministers

SAT. 24 Christmas Eve Service at 6PM

SUNDAY 25 Christmas Day Service at 10AM (one service together)

SUNDAY 1 New Years Day Service at 10AM (one service together)



Oh to be a child again. Have you ever wanted that? Sure, there are lots of great things about being an adult. But the innocence, the excitement, the wonder, the trust of a child is a beautiful thing. There's a reason Jesus says to "let the little children come to me" and "the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" and "unless you become like the little children, you cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven".

The older we get, the more numb we tend to become to things like Christmas. We can find ourselves getting caught in the rut of a season that keeps reappearing year

after year. Christmas is taking on new excitement for me this year watching my baby daughter experience things for the first time. If you've been a Christian or around the church for a long time, it's easy to lose that sense of wonder surrounding Christmas. Jesus, the son of God, the King of Kings, came as a newborn baby. How crazy and incredible is that?! And He didn't come as some conquering warrior, but in the most humble of ways.

I've had the blessing lately of watching a number of students find Jesus, grow deeper in their faith, and in their relationship with God and with others. Their thirst and excitement for Jesus is an incredible thing! There is a beauty, an awe to Christmas, to the miracle of Jesus. Don't miss it! Ask God to give you the wonder and the faith of a child this season to see and experience Jesus like never before.

And don't just keep it to yourself. The shepherds went and told others what they had seen. The wise men traveled from faraway lands and then told others. This wonderful Jesus is too great for us to keep to ourselves. Let's share Him with others, let's invite others into His presence so that they too can see and experience this newborn King, this Savior for themselves! Who is ONE person you can invite to meet Jesus this Christmas season?

I'm excited for our youth to host events this month whose sole purpose is inviting someone who maybe wouldn't normally attend church or youth group. High School ONE Invite Event is December 4th at 6:30pm and Middle School's is December 6th at 6:00pm. Then we'll have our Christmas parties on the 11th and 13th respectively as we celebrate Jesus and have some fun together!

Jesus is coming. How will you welcome and worship Him this Christmas season? Who are you inviting to be a part of this eternity-altering relationship and experience Jesus like never before?



Awana:

**We will start again on January 10th
(no theme this night).**

Christmas Events @ FBC: Family Friendly

Christmas Eve: 6 pm Candle Light Service
A little more formal. Kids PreK-5th Sing their song.

Christmas Morning: 10 am Family service in sanctuary
all together. No kids or nursery programming. Casual
service. Special things planned for the kids during this
service. Kids PreK-5th Sing their song.

New Years Morning: 10 am Service. Pajama Party Sunday!! Kids can wear their
jammies since everyone will be exhausted. We will have a full service planned for
kids this day in the kids wing. It may feel a little different but Nursery-5th will be
back in action.



Apple Sunday:

All church talent show

**December 18th Sunday at 6pm. Sign up in lobby or contact
kayandfredbean1@wowway.com to sign up. Apples and dessert to follow.**

T&T Hangout:

December 30th 6-7:30

Pizza, Games and a devotional time together.

Caye is looking for policy approved parents or leaders to helpers to assist with this night.



Thank you Norma Darling! She has bundled socks that have been given away for Lighthouse for more than five years. This year alone we estimate she has bundled over 400 pair of socks. Thanks Norma!!

New 2023 Giving Envelopes will be available in the coffee bar area beginning Sunday Dec 4. Please contact the office if you don't see your box or need assistance.

BIRTHDAYS

12.1 Jacob Smith, Ralph Fitch

12.2 Matthew Waito

12.4 Brooke Waito, Drew Sanford

12.5 Caryn Drenth, Tammy Zebolsky

12.8 Mason Popovits

12.9 Steve Weck

12.10 Mary Rio

12.11 Ellery Walker, Janelle Haynes, Wendy Gensch

12.12 Addison Groeneveld, Annie Monaweck

12.13 Jonah Kue

12.15 Emily Wagler

12.19 Robin Weitting

12.21 Sarah Fedders, Savanna Surber

12.22 Ben Robinson, David Darling

12.23 Adrienne Dysinger, Kate Fedders, Kobe Williams, Lynnzi Eddy

12.25 Aubrey Dysinger, Linda Smith

12.26 Erik Myers, Kenzie Kersjes

12.28 Rocky Wray

12.31 Stacey Avery

COMMUNICATION FROM FBC, Stay Up to Date

- **Monthly Newsletter**-This emailed and can also be sent to you in the mail by requesting a copy from Mary at 269-781-8400 or mary@familybible.church.
- **The Weekly**-The Weekly is an email published midweek, every week with updated information about groups, events, services, and more. Please contact mary@familybible.church to receive the Weekly.
- **Social Media**-If you are on social media make sure to “like” us on Facebook and/or “follow” us on Instagram. Search “Family Bible Church”.

You can also find other information at: www.familybible.church and our church app (download Church Center)