

DECEMBER, 2024
VOL. XXVIII, NO. 12

The MESSENGER

560 E. BROAD ST. WEST POINT, MS 39773 662-494-4213 www.firstbaptistwp.org



Born in a Manger

Sunday, December 8
10:15 a.m.

Presented by the Worship Choir, Hand Bells, and
Instrumentalists of First Baptist Church



**CHRISTMAS EVE
LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE**
December 24 at 5:00 p.m.

Forever Young Christmas Luncheon
Thursday, December 12, at 11:30 a.m.

Please bring a covered dish and a "White
Elephant" gift (something you have
at home you no longer want or need).
Meat and rolls are provided.

MUSIC FOR ALL AGES, FROM ALL AGES!

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 11

FELLOWSHIP HALL

5:00- 6:00 MEAL*

6:00 - 7:00 MUSIC



MERRY CHRISTMAS MEAL & MUSIC

*CALL THE OFFICE TO RESERVE YOUR PLATE BY WEDNESDAY DEC. 4!
662-494-4213 | ADULT PLATES \$4, 12 AND UNDER \$3

Women's ministry:

Starting January 8, 2025 and going for 6 weeks on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:00, we will be offering a Bible study called "Woman of God, Walking by Faith." This study has 5 devotions that go with each woman. We will be studying Sarah, Ruth, Deborah, Mary, and Martha. Each is a woman of God. Each served our Lord in her own generation. Each has much to teach women of God today about God's love, forgiveness, and compassion. Books will be available for \$5.00 that night. We will end the study on February 12, 2025.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR CHURCH STAFF!

Caroline
Dinger
Joseph
Samuel
David
Bethel
Sarah
Grace
Kelli
Bro. Dale

OUR CHURCH GOAL: \$35,850

Every dollar you give goes to the mission field to support gospel transformation among the lost. Thank you for your generosity!



Lottie Moon Christmas Offering



GINGER'S NOTES

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

December is an exciting and busy time for our Worship Ministry! We invite you to join us as we celebrate the birth of our Savior through music and worship this month!

Sunday, December 1 @ 10:15
Christmas Special Music
Worship Choir and Instrumentalists

Sunday, December 8 @ 10:15
BORN IN A MANGER
Hand Bells, Worship Choir and
Instrumentalists

Wednesday, December 11 @ 6:00
MERRY CHRISTMAS MEAL & MUSIC
in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 15 @ 10:15

Youth Choir & Friends with
Instrumentalists

Wednesday, December 18 @ 6:00
"Let's Go to Bethlehem"
Preschool Choir and Child Care
Program

Sunday, December 22 @ 10:15
Christmas Special Music
Praise Team

The **WORSHIP CHOIR** will have a BONUS Christmas rehearsal Sunday night, December 1 at 6:00 in the Sanctuary. Our last rehearsal before we present our Christmas music will be Wednesday, December 4 from 6:00 – 7:15 in the Sanctuary. We will present BORN IN A MANGER Sunday morning December 8 during Morning Worship.

YOUTH CHOIR will meet December 1 & 8 at 5:00 in the Sanctuary. We will

have SNAC at the Fowler's at 6:15 on December 8. We will present our Christmas music Sunday morning December 15 during Morning Worship.

HAND BELLS

Adult hand bells will meet at 5:45 on December 10 in the Fellowship Hall. We will play in Morning Worship on December 8 and for MERRY CHRISTMAS MEAL & MUSIC December 11. Youth hand bells will meet on Sundays when we have Youth Choir at 4:30. We will play for MERRY CHRISTMAS MEAL & MUSIC December 11 and for Morning Worship December 15.

Welcome New Members!!



By Baptism:
Patton McGarity
and
Carter Davis



"We are natural evangelists for our greatest loves. Parents do this by including children in what they themselves love."
-Jason Helopoulos, Let the Children Worship

It is the season of feasting, and we are people of the Eternal Feast. When you read of Old Testament practices, they are shadows of what was to come with the reality being Christ Himself. (Colossians 2:17) While we don't practice these feasts, they do provide examples of inclusion and discipleship of children and worship with children:

The Passover - "when your children ask you" (Ex. 12:26)

The Feast of Unleavened Bread - "On that day, tell your son" (Ex. 13:8)

The Feast of Weeks - "rejoice before the Lord your God, you, your sons, and your daughters" (Deut. 16:11)

The Feast of Booths - "rejoice in your feast, you, your sons, and your daughters" (Deut. 16:14)

Pentecost - "For the promise is for you and your children." (Acts 2:39)

Helopoulos explains, "God works through the institution of the family.

Our hearts greatest desire for our children is that they would be His children, worshiping Him with their entire lives." Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. (Mark 10:14)

"Obedience to Christ demands a peculiar concern for the children among us."
-Helopoulos

Christmas is a time where we include children more than usual. They accompany us to festivals and feasts and fellowships. That Christmas tradition should last year round. When the children are gathered with us, they get to observe and ask and wonder. This is what we want. We want their questions. We want opportunities to share why we observe this event or that. We especially want to expose them to the things of God. My prayer is that our greatest love is God Himself, and if it is, that love will overflow to our children every single day. That only happens through seeking Him daily in His word, prayer, and regular worship. Let them see you seeking Him as your greatest love.

We will wrap up our midweek activities on Dec. 11 when the kids will be singing, but I want to encourage you to come see our childcare and preschool choir Christmas program on Wednesday night, Dec. 18. This is a great time to

gather with our FBECM families.

PARENTS: In January, I will begin a 6-week Bible Study for YOU on Romans 8. The children will also be in Romans for their Sunday night study. "If God Is For Us" adults and kids will begin on January 12! More info to come.

Preschool Worship

Dec. 1 - Hannah Weston/Shanna Ferrell
Dec. 8 - Wesley and Taylor Frost
Dec. 15 - Katie Oswalt/Casey Berry
Dec. 22 - Brooke and Reese Ketchum
Dec. 29 - Farrah and Madison Honea

1st/2nd Grade Worship

Dec. 1 - Family Worship
Dec. 8 - Jade and Vanessa
Dec. 15 - Jade and Caroline
Dec. 22 - Jade and Joedee
Dec. 29 - Family Worship



CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Brad and Perry Price in the death of his father, James Price, November 9.

First Students

Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering,
since He who promised is faithful.
Hebrews 10:24

Church family,

We have made it to December which means that 2024 is coming to a close, so we might as well finish this year on a high note! We have a little more excitement before this year ends as well as a lot of excitement after we ring in the new year. Our big event for the month of December will be the youth Christmas party. Our **Christmas party** will be on Sunday, December 15th. We will plan to meet at the church late that afternoon to take a quick trip through town where we will stop at some of our senior adults' houses and sing Christmas carols. Then, we will return to the church for food, stingy Santa, and a movie. All gifts should be less than \$15. Everyone can

bring a serious gift, or a funny gift.

After the new year, we will be going on our **winter retreat**. The retreat will be January 18-20, and we will be going back to Lake Forest Ranch. The cost for each student is \$70 for this retreat. That is the weekend of Martin Luther King day, so we will be leaving on that Saturday and returning on that Monday since there will be no school that day. Be on the lookout for a sign-up coming soon for the winter retreat so that you can be sure to reserve your spot.

We have had a great year in our student ministry this year, and I look forward to seeing what God is going to do to close out 2024 and throughout 2025. Thank you church for your continued support of our student ministry. I hope all of you will have a very merry Christmas and that we will all be able to remember the reason that we celebrate Christmas every year as we praise God for sending his son to this

earth to ultimately pay the price for our sins. We have so much to be thankful for and so much to celebrate this Christmas!

In Christ,
Joseph Blount

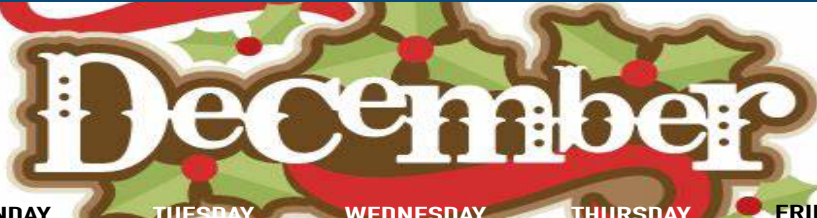
Pray for Me Campaign Breakfast

for all youth and their
prayer warriors

Sunday, December 15
at 8:30
in the fellowship hall

Our Youth Choir and Friends will
present their Christmas music
in Morning Worship, Sunday,
December 15.

Any groups (deacons, women's ministry, men's ministry, missions, small groups, committees, choirs, ensembles, children, youth, and adults) who are planning events or meetings in January must email or call Kelli with dates, times, and details by December 19. (fbcwpkelli@gmail.com)



| | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---------------------------|---|---------------|--|---|--|--------|----------|
| Worship - 10:15 a.m. | 1 Budget available to pickup Youth Hand Bells - 4:30 Youth Choir - 5:00 Worship Choir Rehearsal - 6:00 | 2 | 3 | 4 5:00 - Meal and 5:30 - Children's Choirs 6:00 - Children's Missions, Youth Worship, Worship Choir Rehearsal, Budget Discussion and Ladies' Small Group | 5 Music Coterie Calvary Baptist Church 7:00 p.m. | 6 | 7 |
| | WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS - GOAL: \$35,850 | | | | | | |
| Sunday School - 9:00 a.m. | 8 Poinsettia Sunday Born in a Manger - 10:15am Youth Hand Bells - 4:30 Youth Choir/SNAC - 5:00 | 9 | 10 Handbells - 5:45 p.m. | 11 Merry Christmas Meal and Music 5:00 - First Kids' Market and Meal 6:00 - Music | 12 Forever Young Covered Dish Luncheon - 11:30 | 13 | 14 |
| | 15 Pray for Me Breakfast - 8:30 am Youth Choir & Friends - 10:15am Budget Vote Youth Christmas Party - 5:00 pm | 16 | 17 Joy Seitz WMU 10:00 am | 18 6:00 - Preschool Choir and Childcare Christmas Program | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| | 22 | 23 ECM Closed | 24 Church Office & ECM Closed Lord's Supper Service 5:00 p.m. | 25 Church Office & ECM Closed | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| | 29 | 30 | 31 New Year's Eve | | | | |



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

December 4

Hamburger Steak
Cream Potatoes
Lima Beans
Biscuit
Brownie/Ice Cream

December 11

Ham
Broccoli/Rice Casserole
Black Eye Peas
Cranberry Salad
Roll/Cakes

December 18

No Meal

December 25

No Activities

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

| | 10/27 | 11/3 | 11/10 | 11/17 |
|-----------------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| Sunday School | 207 | 241 | 200 | 215 |
| Morning Worship | 309 | 367 | 318 | 313 |

BUDGET NEEDS

| | |
|---|-------------|
| <u>Average Weekly Budget Receipts for October</u> | |
| | \$16,388.36 |
| <u>Weekly Budget Needs</u> | |
| | \$21,945.92 |

**DECEMBER 1
Nursery**
Heather B.
McKenzie B.
Kimberly Allen
Ushers
Kenny Hudson
Bill Lantz
Robby Pierce
Shaun Taylor
Jimmy Clark
Wayne Ray
Mark Jessop

**DECEMBER 8
Nursery**
Mary Ann Briggs
Mary Combs
Rasheda Burnett
Ushers
Victor Suggs
Roger Burton
Heath Brand
Jerry Ishee
Barry Bryan
Dave Ketchum
David Ketchum

**DECEMBER 15
Nursery**
Steve Tribble
Thea Kay Tribble
Farrah Honea
Ushers
John Freeman
John Ingram
Jamey Ballard
Chris Chambless
Sherman Berry
Ben Lawley

**DECEMBER 22
Nursery**
Rachel Ray
Faith Smith
Kelli Mowry
Ushers
William Allen
Will Ketchum
Brad Cox
Kent Watson
Steve Tribble
Jonas Robinson

**DECEMBER 29
Nursery**
Wes Williamson
Michelle W.
Regina Towery
Ushers
Calvin Boyd
Jon Oswald
Jason Reed
Steve White
Scott Ross
Gregg Kaiser

TITHES & OFFERINGS

October Online Giving

\$9,713.05

October Online ECM Deposits

\$17,025.91

October 27, 2024

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Undesignated | \$12,462.84 |
| Reimbursements | \$497.00 |
| Child Care | \$8,550.50 |
| Total Operating | \$21,510.34 |
| Designated | \$1,887.00 |
| Total Deposit | \$23,397.34 |

November 3, 2024

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Undesignated | \$18,137.06 |
| Reimbursements | \$206.25 |
| Child Care | \$1,954.00 |
| Total Operating | \$20,297.31 |
| Designated | \$410.56 |
| Total Deposit | \$20,707.87 |

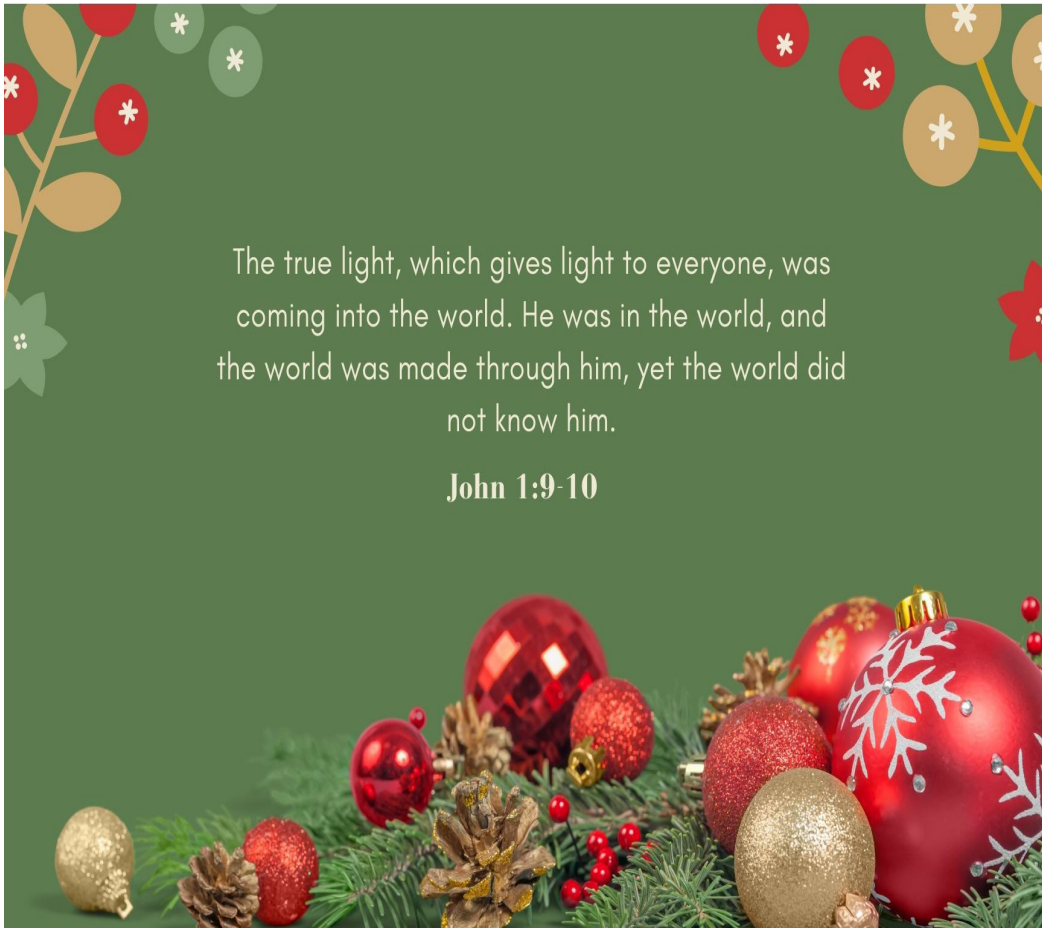
November 10, 2024

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Undesignated | \$11,835.57 |
| Reimbursements | \$376.00 |
| Child Care | \$5,227.00 |
| Total Operating | \$17,438.57 |
| Designated | \$1,824.00 |
| Total Deposit | \$19,062.57 |

November 17, 2024

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Undesignated | \$20,328.00 |
| Reimbursements | \$391.07 |
| Child Care | \$15,290.98 |
| Total Operating | \$36,010.05 |
| Designated | \$408.00 |
| Total Deposit | \$36,418.05 |

Offering envelopes for 2025 will be available starting December 12 outside the fellowship hall.



The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

John 1:9-10

First Baptist Church

Rev. Dale Funderburg
Pastor

Ginger Fowler
Minister of Music

Joseph Blount
Minister of Students

Joedee Robinson
Minister of Children
and Family Ministry

Sarah Burton
ECM Director

Caroline Warrington
Children's Ministry Intern

Samuel Hollis
Music Ministry Intern