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The MESSENGER

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From Your Pastor

What do you believe is the most significant event that has happened in the last 100 years? Only 25 years ago we were contemplating the fear surrounding the Y2K prediction that all information stored in or all operations controlled by computers would be lost and systems would shut down at the stroke of midnight of the new millennium. Now, 25 years later, people are discussing new fears of technological advancement with advanced artificial intelligence or "AI." One hundred years ago, there were no computers, but people were fearful about the future. Most folks received their world news via radio. Television was in the early stages of development. Calvin Coolidge was President. He had just signed the 1924 Indian Citizenship Act, and the project we know as Mt. Rushmore was under construction. One hundred years is a long time. What do you believe is the most significant event that has happened in the last 100 years? Was it computers, or television? Or maybe an influencer? 1925 was the year many social influencers were born, such as B.B. King, Johnny Carson, Angela Lansbury, and Paul Newman. In 1925, F. Scott Fitzgerald published *The Great Gatsby*. Historically, 1925 was one of the

most influential years in changing the American saga because 1925 was the year the Scopes Monkey Trial took place.

In March of 1925, TN state legislatures passed anti-evolution laws, and TN governor Austin Peay signed the Butler Act into law. William Jennings Bryan thanked Peay, stating, "The Christian parents of the state owe you a debt of gratitude for saving their children from the poisonous influence of an unproven hypothesis." Of course, the ACLU financed a test case where Clarence Darrow and William Jennings Bryant debated teaching evolution in Tennessee schools. Within the last 100 years, the "poisonous influence of an unproven hypothesis" of evolution has now been accepted as fact at most institutions of higher learning. The effect of accepting an alternative reality to the truth of Scripture has touched all parts of culture. If there is no design to creation, it means there is no Designer or Creator. If there is no Creator, then everything is random, including absolute truth. If there is no Creator or absolute truth, then we arrive back at Judges 17:6, where "every man did what was right in his own eyes." And when each man justifies his own actions, it is how somebody like Hitler exists. "In his own eyes" makes sense to a school shooter. "In his own eyes" permits every

cheating husband or wife to betray their oath. "In his own eyes" is how children can decide that biology doesn't matter and sex reassignment surgery is the answer. Genesis 3 makes it clear that when Eve "saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and did eat." And remember... Eve was living in the Garden of Eden! Leading up to her actually eating, she saw it as "good," and "pleasant," and "desired," but it ruined her life. What is the answer for a world that is running toward what it sees as "good" and "pleasant" and "desired" but is a "poisonous influence of an unproven hypothesis"? The answer is Romans 5:8, "But God..." Whatever is shouting confusion into your heart, even when it looks so good, pleasant, and desired, remember: "But God ... demonstrated his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Therein lies our hope, not only for the forgiveness of our past sins, nor even the hope for abundance tomorrow, but the truth for all eternity.

Your Pastor and friend,

Bro. Dale

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.



Thank you again to all those who have committed to pray for a student throughout this school year! We had a great turnout for the Pray for Me breakfast, and we have heard many testimonies of how this ministry has been an encouragement to youth and to adults! Remember to start praying through your book again on January 6!

GINGER'S NOTES

I am so very thankful for all of our musicians, hand bell players, soloists, choir members, children and youth choir members and leaders and technical/media teams for making the Christmas musical presentations so special this year! Our church is extremely blessed with talented musicians of all ages! They work very hard rehearsing and preparing to provide beautiful music for us to worship with each Sunday and they do it with a servant heart! "Glory to His name!" "Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory!" Psalm 115:1

WORSHIP CHOIR rehearsals will resume Wednesday night, January 15 at 6:00 in the choir room. This is a great time to join choir or return to choir if you've not been singing with us recently. All are welcome!

Our choir is participating in a **GAITHER STYLE SINGING** on January 26 at 6:00 at Calvary Baptist Church. We will have a special choir rehearsal Sunday night, January 19 at 6:00. Listening CDs and zip drives are available in the choir room. Anyone is welcome to join us for this singing.

STUDENT CHOIR will not meet in January but will resume Sunday afternoon, February 2 at 5:00 in the choir room. ALL youth are invited to be involved! Our Youth Choir Weekend Trip will be March 15 & 16, 2025.

On Saturday, June 11 at 6:00 we are hosting **THE GIVING COLLECTIVE**, a student-led ministry that provides churches with worship opportunities across the state. It will be a night of praising the Lord and sharing His Gospel. Samuel Hollis and Riley

Turnipseed are members of this group.

HAND BELLS

Adult hand bells will not meet in January but will resume rehearsals February 4 at 5:45. We will be preparing for our Hand Bell Clinic to be held February 28 and March 1.

Youth hand bells will resume February 2 at 4:30.

Thank you so much for the cards, gifts and acts of kindness shown to Tim and I during the Christmas season. It is such an honor and a blessing to serve this loving church. I am looking forward to 2025 and what God has in store for us at FBC!

He keeps me singing!

CONGRATULATIONS to Stephen Ross and Annsie Moore on the birth of their son, Harrison James, December 17. His proud grandparents are Scott and Donna Ross.



The songs *The Little Drummer Boy* and *Gratitude* express a desire to give something to the King even when it doesn't seem adequate.

But how do you give to the King that died for your sins giving you resurrection and life? He being sinless and you being terminal in your sin, incapable of doing a single thing about it? How do you thank the One who said, "I got this. I'll take the mocking and the beating and torture and gruesome, agonizing death - completely undeserved - because I love you."

Neither gift is sufficient, pa rum pa pum pum or hallelujah, but that doesn't mean we don't offer it.

If all we have is a hallelujah, which may not seem like much and sometimes is all we can muster, a heart that worships and praises God is exactly what He's looking for. This is what Jesus wants in return for what He's given us. He wants our hearts singing hallelujah, our lips praising His name, and He doesn't want us to be shy about it!

What do you do with what you are given, all of which comes from God? What you have isn't yours. It is the Lord's. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." Psalm 24:1 What little you give in faith, he will take it and increase it. He will bless you through your service and sacrifices. He will increase your faith, your confidence, and your abilities.

As you enter a new year, consider what you can give to the King. Be resilient and determined like a little boy with a drum. Open your mouth in praise of the King. If the Spirit of the living God resides in you, you absolutely have a lion inside. You are power with hands and feet and a voice. Your family, your church, your community, and this world needs you to have a heart set on giving to the King. And let His smile upon you be enough.

We will kick off 2025 with **Pancakes and PJs breakfast on the 5th at 8:20.** Kiddos wear PJs to church that day! **"If God is For Us" Bible Study on Romans 8 for parents and kids begins January 12 at 5 p.m.** These are separate Bible studies - one for adults and one for children - but both groups will be in Romans 8 for 6 weeks. Let me know if you will be participating. Books are \$10. Sign up form: <https://bit.ly/ifGodisforus>

Children's Worship:

5 - preschool: Heather and Abby. 1/2

grade: Family Worship

12 - preschool: Michelle and Ann. 1/2
grade: Jade and Kaitlyn

19 - preschool: Joedee and Caroline. 1/2
grade: Jade and Casey

26 - preschool: Shanna and Hannah. 1/2
grade: Jade and Farrah

Calendar dates:

January 5 - pancakes and PJs 8:20 FH

January 8 - midweek back

January 12 - Bible Drill 4:15 (note time change!), If God is For Us kids and adults 5:00

January 19 - Bible Drill, IGIFU

January 26 - IGIFU will not meet

January 29 - Centrikid interest meeting 7:00 FH

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to Lonnie and Marilyn Peeples in the death of his step-mother, Jo Peeples, November 21; and to Glenda Taggart in the death of Joe Taggart, December 1; also to Kale and Maegan Pierce in the death of her mother, Tina Ivy, December 3; and to Brock and Erica Turnipseed and family and Kale and Maegan Pierce and family in the death of their uncle, Steve Pumphrey, December 6; also to Steve and Thea Kay Tribble in the death of his mother, Dot Tribble, December 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,

As we enter into a new year, we can be eager and excited about what God has in store for us in 2025. We had a good year for our student ministry in 2024, and we hope to continue to see God work in the lives of our students and all of those that volunteer to help lead our students in various areas. We are going to hit the ground running in the new year with some exciting things planned for January and February.

Shortly after the start of the new year we will be headed to Lake Forest Ranch for our **Winter Retreat**. This trip will be January 18-20. This is a Saturday-Mon-

day as that Monday will be Martin Luther King Day, so the schools will be closed. The cost for the trip is \$70 per student, and that money will be due by January 12th. All students that are attending this trip will need to have an updated medical release form filled out and notarized. This form can be found on the bulletin board outside of the fellowship hall. If anyone would like a copy of this form emailed to them, please let me know!

Only about a month after Winter Retreat, we'll be hosting **DNOW!** DNOW will be February 21-23, and we will be joined by several churches in our area this year, so we are hoping for a great turnout. There will be more information in the coming weeks about signing up for DNOW as well as ways to help serve during that weekend. If you are interested in being a host home for DNOW, please let me know! Our speaker this year will be Gary Permenter

and our band will be Broken Vessels.

I know 2025 has a lot of excitement in store, and we are looking forward to all that God is going to do. Please join me in praying for our student ministry as we enter this new year. Pray for our students that some would come to know the Lord, some would grow in their walk with the Lord, and some would answer the call that God has placed on their life! Pray also for all of our youth Sunday school teachers, small group leaders, and every adult that has a part within the lives of our students that they would be blessed as they pour into our students and that their relationships would foster discipleship!

In Christ,
Joseph Blount

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 February must email or call Kelli with dates, times, and details by January 23. (fbcwpkelli@gmail.com)

								
		SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Sunday School - 9:00 a.m. Worship - 10:15 a.m.					1  No Activities	2	3	4
		5 Pancakes & PJs 8:20 a.m.	6	7	8 Meal - 5:00 p.m. Children's Choirs and Ladies' Bible Study - 5:30 p.m. Children's Missions, Student Worship, Prayer Meeting, Ladies' Small Group, & Worship Choir 6:00 p.m. Annual Business Mtg. 6:00 p.m.	9	10	11
		12 Children's Bible Drill (4:15) and STAND (5:00) Resume Parent and Children's Bible Studies start - 5:00	13	14 JOY SEITZ 10:00 a.m.	15 Annual Business Mtg. 6:00 p.m.	16	17	18 Student Winter Retreat
		19 Student Winter Retreat Parent and Children's Bible Studies start - 5:00 Worship Choir Rehearsal - 6:00	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26 All-State Youth Choir Soup Fundraiser Lunch CentriKid Meeting - after Morning Worship Worship Choir sings at Calvary B.C. - 6 p.m.	27	28	29	30 Host Keyboard Festival	31		



WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS

January 8

Chicken Strips
Scalloped Potatoes
Lima Beans
Biscuit
Cookies

January 22

Hamburgers
Fries
Banana Pudding

January 15

Chicken Spaghetti
English Peas
Salad
Roll
Cookies/Cakes

January 29

Chili
Grilled Cheese/PB&J
Crackers
Lemon Pie

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

	11/24	12/1	12/8	12/15
Sunday School	195	215	215	210
Morning Worship	291	331	413	351

BUDGET NEEDS

Average Weekly Budget Receipts for November
\$17,424.66
Weekly Budget Needs
\$21,945.92

JANUARY 5 Nursery
Steve Tribble
Thea Kay Tribble
Kimberly Allen
Ushers
William Allen
Will Ketchum
Brad Cox
Steve Tribble
Jonas Robinson
Bill Lantz

JANUARY 12 Nursery
Ned Miller
Candice Miller
Regina Towery
Ushers
Calvin Boyd
Jon Oswalt
Jason Reed
Steve White
Scott Ross
Gregg Kaiser
Wayne Ray

JANUARY 19 Nursery
Justin Davis
Kelly Davis
Farrah Honea
Ushers
Victor Suggs
Roger Burton
Heath Brand
Jerry Ishee
Barry Bryan
Dave Ketchum

JANUARY 26 Nursery
Will Ketchum
Brooke Ketchum
Kelli Mowry
Ushers
John Freeman
John Ingram
Jamey Ballard
Chris Chambless
Sherman Berry
Ben Lawley
Mark Jessop

TITHES & OFFERINGS

November Online Giving

\$11,056.62

November Online ECM Deposits

\$14,621.00

November 24, 2024

Undesignated \$8,657.00
Reimbursements \$132.00
Child Care \$4,285.00
Total Operating \$13,074.00
Designated \$317.00
Total Deposit \$13,391.00

December 1, 2024

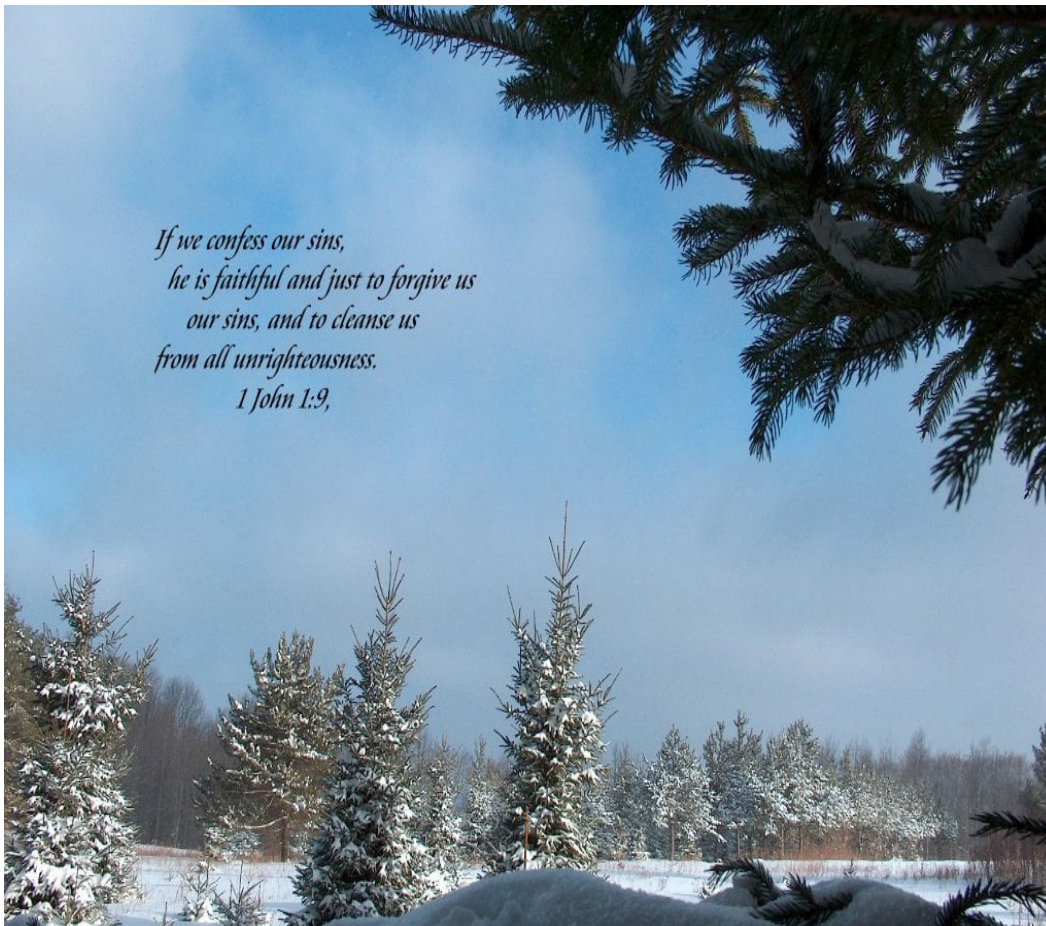
Undesignated \$17,347.86
Reimbursements \$1,651.00
Child Care \$2,648.00
Total Operating \$21,646.86
Designated \$2,877.00
Total Deposit \$24,523.86

December 8, 2024

Undesignated \$20,055.00
Reimbursements \$644.00
Child Care \$6,328.00
Total Operating \$27,027.00
Designated \$6,496.00
Total Deposit \$33,523.00

December 15, 2024

Undesignated \$15,306.25
Reimbursements \$559.03
Child Care \$16,051.33
Total Operating \$31,916.61
Designated \$6,572.00
Total Deposit \$38,488.61



*If we confess our sins,
he is faithful and just to forgive us
our sins, and to cleanse us
from all unrighteousness.
1 John 1:9,*

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