

December Newsletter



First Baptist Church - Fairfield Glade

130 Town Centre Way

Crossville | TN | 38571

931-484-6927 ffgfbcc@onhisrock.org

www.onhisrock.org



12/3 Dale Klein
12/4 Tony Meyers
12/7 Wilma Banach
12/7 Barbara Branson
12/9 Jean Cooley
12/13 Ray Prigodich
12/14 Neal Putman
12/20 Milo Macko

12/21 Huc McCall
12/22 Joan Moss
12/26 Sunny Guenther
12/26 Lori Richards
12/28 Marilou Santiago
12/29 Bill Kallas
12/30 Barbara Parsons
12/31 Ted Sakelarakis

**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

12/18 Sam & Kathleen Newell
12/21 Barry & Nancy Bouchillon
12/26 Joel & Linda York

12/29 Bill & Blanche Putnam
12/30 Ronnie & Elizabeth Phillips

THE PASTOR'S TWO BITS

Merry Christmas! I pray that you will have a wonderful Christmas season. May it be filled with all that Jesus wants to bring into your life. This year during the weeks leading up to Christmas, I will be bringing messages about the gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus. As we've done in past years, we will celebrate the season by lighting advent candles each week.

The first is the week of **Hope**. We live in a fallen world. When Adam and Eve committed the first sin, a barrier was formed between us and God. Ever since, God made ways to help us (people) come back to Him. In the Old Testament, it was all the sacrifices in the Temple. But in our New Testament times, God sent Jesus to become our sacrifice. Jesus is the hope of the world. Because of Him, we can have hope of eternal life in Heaven.

The second week is the week of **Peace**. In a world filled with war and violence, peace seems elusive. But the peace that Jesus offers to the soul is far beyond the "world peace" that has become a cliché. In fact, Jesus once said that He did not come to send peace, but a sword. But a short time later, He said, *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* Jesus offers a peace that you can sense even in times of war and world unrest. His peace helps us cope with a troubled world.

Third is the week of **Joy**. Because of the hope and peace that He brings, we can have the full and abundant life He promised. The festivities of Christmas should remind us of the joy of Jesus. Christians should smile more and fuss less. Have you ever been drawn to a person just because they have a happy

personality? Our joy should bring a lot of people to want what we have - Jesus.

Fourth is the week of **Love**. It is because God loves us that He came in the lowly form of a child to become our Savior. Not everyone chooses to love Him back, but those who do experience a depth of love not common to humankind. God is ever faithful and true. His love is an example of what our love should be for one another.

And finally, there is the Christ candle. We will light this candle during our Christmas Eve service on that Sunday evening. May we never forget that Jesus is what it's all about.

- Pastor Doug

P.S. This is it... I encourage you to give toward the retirement of our Building Fund debt by the end of the year. We are ever so close to making our goal to ***Be Debt Free In 2023!***

Christmas Worship

This year, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve are on Sundays. We will not have Sunday School on Christmas Eve, and we will meet in **one combined worship service on both of those Sundays.**

Christmas Eve: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

10:30 a.m. - Combined Worship Service

5:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service

New Year's Eve: ALL SUNDAY SCHOOL

CLASSES MEET AT 9:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m. - Combined Worship Service

Stewardship Moment – One and Done!

We currently have ≈ \$143,000 left on our mortgage with only 1 month to go. We really need prayer and church commitment if we want to get this loan paid off by the end of 2023.

This is the time to talk with your financial consultant to see what you can do before the end of the year. It usually takes a couple of weeks or so to get things cleared and mailed to the church.

We hope to continue to see Qualified Charitable Contributions (QCD) coming in from various IRA's, as well as money left to the church from Wills. Remember, you can donate up to \$100,000 to a qualified charitable organization each year.

It is time to focus on our ERA (Eternal Retirement Account) more than our IRA (Individual Retirement Account)!

God is Great (and you all are wonderful)! Our Team is looking forward to celebrating with the church this accomplishment!

God Bless!

Stewardship/Finance Team



Bill & Brenda Foley - Teachers

26 Weeks - Bible Study

The ABC's of Discipleship

Wednesday Night @ 5:15pm

***Starting January 3, 2024**

Conference Room



JOY (part 1) - The Joy of Christmas

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Isaiah 9:6-7 [ESV]

There are three aspects of joy that we would like to consider this most excellent holiday season: the joy of Christmas, the joy of Christ, and the joy of Christians. First, we are introduced to the joy of Christmas by Dr. Luke's description of what happened that first Christmas night: "And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:8-11). The joy of Christmas must begin with the birth of Jesus Christ. However, the "joy" the angel referred to all those years ago in his announcement encompassed not just the birth of Jesus, but also His life, His death, and the overall results of Jesus' coming, that is, humankind's reconciliation with the Holy God. You see, Jesus had come unannounced to earth many times before, though not as a man, but as the pre-incarnate Christ, full of all deity and authority. Jesus spoke with Abraham, Jacob, Gideon, and many others. His visits then were for a specific purpose; in a specific time; and for a specific person. This time, however, was different. This time, Jesus chose to not employ any of His Godly authority, but chose to be born of a virgin and chose to submit to His Heavenly Father for every aspect of life in His mortal body. For the first time in all eternity Jesus would get hungry, require sleep to maintain good health, and be affected by the heat of the sun and the cool of the night. For the first time, Jesus Christ would experience death and the turning away of His Father's attention. But, for the moment, an innocent baby boy was born to a virgin girl, a supernatural miracle, and the hope of all those who had waited for this blessed day was finally realized. Hope came and was given a name: Jesus. And the arrival of the Christ child was exactly as the angel announced: good news of great joy!

Let's remember the real reason for the season, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! -Pastor Elliot

Commit your works to the LORD, And your plans will be established. Proverbs 16:3



GOODIES !!!!!

**We're wanting to be more inviting to
our guests and visitors as well as our
members.**

The Goodie Ministry needs you !!!!

***Please sign up to bring Goodies on Sunday
mornings to share.***



We Need Your Help!!!

Our Nursery/Toddler ministry is in critical need of your help! Could you spare just 1 hour a month to serve in our Nursery/Toddler ministry? How about every other? If we are to be a growing church, we must be a serving church. We need caregivers during our Sunday 9:00AM

and 10:30AM Worship hours. We will fit your volunteering to your schedule! Who can say "NO" to these little ones? This is a plea to both men and women (couples also welcome). Please say "YES"! Contact Cass Lowery (edandcasslowery@gmail.com or 609-364-8016) or the church office to get more information or to volunteer! Just 1 hour every other



Christmas Open House

Saturday, December 2nd, 4-6 pm

FG First Baptist Church

(behind Food City) 130 Towne Centre Drive

**FOOD
DOOR
PRIZES**

CAROLERS

**ALL WELCOME!
BRING YOUR
CHILDREN & GRAND-
CHILDREN**

RSVP 931.210.4339



Intercessors Prayer Group

You are invited to attend

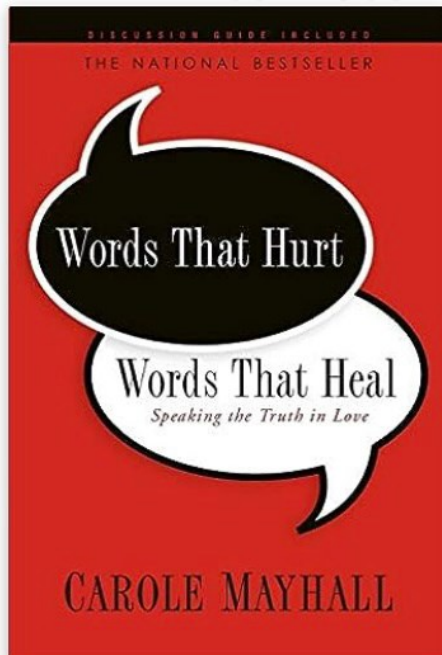
In Room 120

Wednesday's at 9:00am

Mrs. Janice Botbyl has answered the call to facilitate the

Intercessors Prayer Group

There is a Prayer Box available on the credenza at the main entrance of the church where you may place your prayer request.



Ladies,

We invite you to join us for a ladies Bible study, fellowship, and prayer group on **Fridays** at **10:00-11:30am**, meeting in the church conference room.

We will walk through the book **Words that Hurt, Words that Heal: Speaking the Truth in Love**. This book contains numerous scriptures and words of encouragement for our daily lives.

This will be a 10-week study, beginning September 15.

Books are available at the class, cost \$10. For those who requested a study on the Holy Spirit, we will begin the preparation for that study, seeking materials and a teacher.

Blessings and Love in Christ,
Marcia Ardis (931-260-9903)



LADIES, PLEASE
JOIN US FOR A

CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

9

DECEMBER

1pm

BRING 3 DOZEN OF YOUR
FAVORITE HOMEMADE COOKIE
TO SHARE AND JOIN US FOR AN
AFTERNOON OF FUN AND
FELLOWSHIP.

SIGN UP IN THE LOBBY

If you would like to share your cookie recipe
please send it to Kelly @
kellykearney013@gmail.com

Are You Ready for Fun Times in 2024 with Your Church Family???

Your Adult Leadership Team has been hard at work selecting some fun activities for you, our church family in 2024.

Here's what's planned for 2024:

Hymn Sing (for non-Snowbirds) – January 26, 6-7:30, cookies and coffee following

Tea for Sure in '24 - Saturday, March 9 (date change). Music by Dany Funderburk.

Lavender Farm & Sgt York's Homestead – end of June to mid-July

Minor League Baseball – during the summer months – either Tennessee Smokies or Chattanooga Lookouts

Biblical Time Dinner Theater – in the Fall in Pigeon Forge

And now some photos from, 2023:





Sunday, December 3, 2023 | 4:00 pm

Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church

130 Towne Center Way, Fairfield Glade, TN 38571

(Behind Food City on Peavine Road in Crossville)

www.onhisrock.org

— Crossville —
Southern
Gospel
Concerts

Information: 931.484.6927 Church • 619.322.6573 Ruth Ann

— A love offering will be received —



Piece Corp - Quilters
Tuesday's @ 9:00am



***Soothing
Souls***

***Every 4th Tuesday
@ 1:00 pm***

First Baptist Church - Golf League



11/30/23 @ Druid Hills- Back 9
Tee Times - 1:00pm & 1:09 pm

12/7/23 @ Dorchester - Front 9
Tee Time - 1:30 pm

12/14/23 @ Druid Hills - Front 9
Tee Time - 1:30 pm

12/21/23 @ Dorchester- Front 9
Tee Time - 1:30 pm

12/28/23 @ Druid Hills - Back 9
Tee Time - 1:30pm



NEEDED: Your smile and a helping hand to greet all persons and hand out bulletins as they enter on Sunday mornings.

Also direct anyone needing to know where a specific Sunday School class or the Nursery is.

If you'd like to join the First Impressions Team please contact Deb Carlson 931.210.9998 or email: tenndlc@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

December - Monday's - Men's Bible Study @ 9:00am

December - Tuesday's - Women's Bible Study @ 1:00pm

December - Friday's - Women's Bible Study @ 10:00am

December - Wednesday's - Intercessor's Prayer @ 9:00am

December 2 - Christmas Open House @ 4pm-6pm

December 3 - The Cragun Family Christmas Concert @ 4:00pm

December 9 - Cookie Exchange @ 1:00pm

December 12 - Soothing Souls @ 11:30am

December 14 - Memory Loss Support Group @ 11:00am

December 16 - Men's Breakfast @ 8:00am

December 21 - M&M Luncheon @ 11:00am
