



FIRST CHRONICLES

December, 2021

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
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Dear Church family,

Can you believe that we are already entering December? Time appears to be flying by as it seems that just yesterday, the school year started or even that the harvest needed to get done. But here we are on the other side of Thanksgiving with the leaves off the tree and a chill in the air. My family and I truly love it here. Katie and I could not ask for a more amazing church or community in which to serve God or raise our kids. We are thankful for you.

We're coming upon the Christmas season and with it, we'll observe many traditions. I guarantee that I'll drink a small lake's worth of hot chocolate and eat more than a few sugar cookies. I'll wrap presents for my wife and kids and put them under a tree that will be decorated with ornaments that we've had for years. One tradition that Katie and I love to do is to tell the stories surrounding the ornaments we are hanging. The ornament of the moose in the canoe (it's fishing, of course), for example, was purchased on our honeymoon. When that ornament comes out, we tell the story to our children and some stories of that time in our lives. It's a great family bonding time. But Christmas is about more than family time—Christmas is about Christ's birth. It's about God sending Christ to secure our salvation. And so, on the darkest and coldest day of the year, we celebrate that hope has entered the world. This Christmas season, we're going to launch into a sermon series on Sunday morning that looks at worship—specifically the worship that happens in the Bible throughout the Christmas events. Did you know that worship happens at almost every turn of Jesus birth?

We see this with Zechariah. What is he doing when the angel appears? He is worshiping in the temple. What happens when Mary visits Elizabeth a little while later? John, in the womb, leaps for joy and Elizabeth can't help but blurt out a praise... And this causes Mary to worship! Then John is born, Zechariah's tongue is loosed, and he immediately praises God! Then the angels come to the shepherds and, after sharing good news of great joy, they praise God. This leads the shepherds to find Jesus. Then they returned home praising God. A month later, when Jesus was presented in the temple, a man named Simeon, led by the Spirit, took Jesus in his arms and praises God. Then a prophetess named Anna, who did nothing but worship night and day in the temple, came up and began giving thanks to God. Matthew shares in his Gospel how the wise men worshiped when they saw the star and came to find Jesus so that they could worship him. Once they found him, they fell down and worshiped and gave him gifts!

With each event, worship occurred. I've never seen this much worship in the Bible happening over a short period of time or surrounding a single event. And I find that I am convicted by the example of these people in the Bible. The people who participated in the actual events of Christmas didn't care where they were or who they were with—they saw God moving and they stopped to worship him. In the midst of all the events that will happen this Christmas, I must ask myself: how often do I worship when I see God moving?

Because Christmas isn't just about how God moved in the past. It isn't a stand-alone event that we remember for the sake of keeping it alive. No, we celebrate Christmas because it reminds us that not only did God move, but that God is moving today. It reminds us that just as God kept his promises then, He is keeping them now. It reminds us that hope was made physical and that hope is still alive and working now. God is still moving today. And our response to this fact should be one of worship.

I hope that you will join us this season as we look at these Christmas events and learn about worship through them. Let's wonder and marvel at a teenager's unexpected pregnancy, a religious leader's doubt-prophecy-and-praise, the chain reaction sparked by the angels declaring good news to a group of outcasts, and a man patiently waiting for the fulfillment of a promise. Let's celebrate and worship together this Christmas. Come, let us adore Him.

In Christ, Jesse



GREETERS

Sunday, December 5
Jolene Ackerman

Sunday, December 12
Henry & Joan Boneschans

Sunday, December 19
Doug & Donna DeBoer

Sunday, December 26
Greg & Sharon DeBoer

NURSERY WORKERS

Sunday, December 5
Terresa Wagenaar

Sunday, December 12
Cole den Hoed

Sunday, December 19
Kody den Hoed

Sunday, December 26
Donna DeBoer



December	1	Kenny & Mavis Kanengieter Delores Jurrens Michael Kramer Dawn McVey Jacob Stratman
	4	Junior Stubbe
	6	Sweer Arends Ross Kooiker
	11	Jesse DeGroot Gwen Winter
	14	Jozephine Kaufman
	15	Bridget Gravenhof Trista Hackett
	16	Harold & Helen Eben
	18	Dax DeGroot
	22	Dave & Rita Busse Katie DeBoer
	26	Kelly & Stacie DeBoer Raelyn Thompson
	28	Jesse Schrick
	30	Dustin DeBoer Glenda DeBoer
	31	Barry Arends Bob Johnson

Thank You So Much

For all the kindness you have shown,
We thank you very much,
For sympathy in sorrowing days,
For friendship's healing touch
With gratitude our hearts are full,
Though words cannot convey
The tender thoughts and thankfulness
We hold for you today
By the family of Linda DeBoer

Thank you so much for the gift card shower and all your encouragement. We are truly blessed to be here at FBC, and we appreciate your support and encouraging words. We look forward to continuing to serve Christ alongside you!
In Christ, Jesse & Katie Sternke





Dennis and Nancy Palmer are doctors at the Mbingo Baptist Hospital, in Bamenda, Cameroon, Africa. They were supposed to be home on furlough in 2020 but with Covid, travel was not allowed. This spring Nancy was diagnosed with retina melanoma in her right eye. The Palmers then returned to Kansas City to have surgery. Both Nancy and Dennis have been dealing with health issues but feel they are slowly mending and look forward to returning to the Cameroons in January.

Dennis is happy to report that the hydroelectric and oxygen projects are completed. WE are happy to inform you that First Baptist was able to help them with the hydroelectric project. Also, there will be 3 Internal Medicine students graduating. The hospital launched a new undergraduate program in Physical Therapy. Please continue to pray that all these programs at the hospital continue to be a success and that there will be more program opportunities.

The conflict in the Cameroons continues to be a large problem in the English-speaking regions in many ways. The residents are experiencing many hardships so please pray for them and their safety.

Mission Board



Sunday, December 5:

Project Warm Up
Following Morning Service
Soup & Pie Luncheon

Caroling Followed by Food & Fellowship

Holiday Open House at Parsonage from 4:00-7:00 pm

Christmas Program Practice will be:

December 5 & 12 from 9:30-9:45

December 18 from 3:00-5:00

The Christmas Program will be

Sunday, December 19, from 9:00-9:45

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:00 pm

New Year's Eve Service Friday, December 31, at 7:00 pm