



Advent is a season of active waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christmas. It begins with the first of the four Sundays prior to December 25. This year we are focusing on the traditional Advent candle themes: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love. We invite you to join us Each Sunday, as we “unpack” one of these, allowing each to inspire our preparation and celebration.

Advent Artwork: *Holy Night*
 artist: Jorge Cocco, www.jorgecocco.com; used by permission

The **Advent Wreath** is given in loving memory of their friend, Joe Elkins, by Janice Bond, Samuel Bond, Angie Johnson, Kali & Grant Watson, and Alishea, David & Abigail Hixson.

Each five-dollar bill placed in the offering today will be used towards purchasing shoes for children in need at a local elementary school.

If you would like to know more about becoming a member of First Baptist or about making a profession of faith, please see Thomas Quisenberry in the Narthex after the service. A time will be arranged when you can speak together about the next steps to take in finding your place in our church family.



During November, we collected **\$1 bills** as part of our offering each Sunday to help fund items needed by our community that are not covered through our Benevolence Fund. Last Sunday, we received \$208, giving a current total for the month of \$605. Also, we received \$442 for the **Benevolence Fund** to be used for food boxes provided through vouchers to the Chattanooga Area Food Bank as well as grants for rent and utilities each month. Thank you for your generosity!

We will be **decorating for Advent/Christmas** beginning at 10:00AM on Wednesday, December 4 (plus Thursday, December 5, if needed), and would love to have your help! Judy Sullivan will be here to guide all the volunteer elves in decorating trees and setting up displays. Please let her know that you are coming (423.503.9938). Helpers will meet in the lobby outside the church office.

Christmas Brunch, Saturday, December 14, beginning at 9:00AM

- We need servers, table hosts, greeters, drivers, carolers, and more. Sign-up sheets are on the board in the lobby near the office.
- We need toys for children ages birth-10 years old. Each toy should cost around \$10. Gender neutral toys are helpful. Please bring these unwrapped gifts on Sunday, December 8 or Wednesday, December 11.
- Monetary donations are always welcome. Please indicate “Brunch.”
- On Wednesday, December 11, at 6:15PM all ages will be included as we prep for the brunch, pack gifts, and decorate the Fellowship Hall for all the fun!

Poinsettia Sunday: If you wish to place a poinsettia in memory or honor of someone, please complete an order card, available around the church and online, and return it to the church office by **Wednesday, December 4**. The plants are \$13 each and may be paid for online (see QR code), by cash, or by check. Please indicate Christmas Flowers on the memo line. These poinsettias will be enjoyed as part of our worship on December 15, and may be picked up at the end of that service. We also welcome donations towards our **Advent greenery**.



With this QR code, you can donate to our budget, pay for event tickets, give to a mission opportunity, and more. Please contact the church office with any questions.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 1, First Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Sunday School/Bible Study
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time – Lobby
- 10:30 am Library Open
- 10:50 am Songs of Community – Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Worship
- 4:30 pm Youth Choir Rehearsal – FH200
- 5:30 pm Youth Supper – Youth Area
- 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study – Youth Area

Tuesday, December 3

- 10:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry Group
- 5:30 pm Moving Forward CJC – Off Campus Event

Wednesday, December 4

- 10:00 am BetterFi – E210
- 10:00 am Decoration Volunteers – Lobby
- 11:00 am FBC Serves at the CHATT Foundation
- 5:30 pm Fellowship Time (BYOF) – Fellowship Hall
- 6:15 pm Preschool Music/Missions – E107
- 6:15 pm Children’s Choir – E111
- 6:15 pm Youth Gathering – Youth Area
- 6:15 pm Epiphanies (study/discussion/action) – E217
- 6:15 pm Midweek Study (Pastor led) – Fellowship Hall
- 7:00 pm Gym Time (School-Age Kids/Youth)

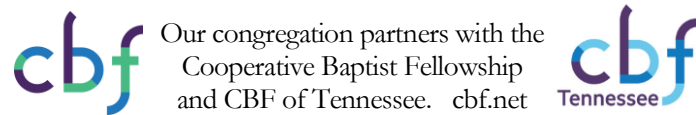
Thursday, December 5

- 10:00 am Decoration Volunteers (if needed) – Lobby
- 2:00 pm Shower Ministry – Rec Center Area

Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

- 9:30 am Sunday School/Bible Study
- 10:30 am Fellowship Time – Lobby
- 10:30 am Library Open
- 10:50 am Songs of Community – Sanctuary
- 11:00 am Worship – Hanging of the Green
- 3:00 pm Moving Forward CJC Graduation
- 4:30 pm Youth Choir Rehearsal – FH200
- 5:30 pm Youth Supper – Youth Area
- 6:00 pm Youth Bible Study – Youth Area
- 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal – Choir Suite

Each Monday during Advent, you will be emailed a devotional for the week based on that week’s theme of Hope, Peace, Joy, or Love. Each devotional will be written by one of our family. A link to further devotionals for the week will also be included. Those of you receiving the Gateway via postal mail will receive a printed copy of the devotional, too.



Worship Leaders

- Dr. Thomas Quisenberry -----Senior Pastor
- Rev. Jeff Parker-----Minister of Music and Worship
- Ms. Megan Long -----Intern, Youth and Children
- Mr. Vic Oakes -----Music Leader
- Ms. Cheryl McAfee -----Organ
- Ms. Penny Tullock-----Piano

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Hope

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
 Chattanooga, Tennessee
 December 1, 2024

SONGS OF COMMUNITY

Penny Tullock, piano

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE

Dennis

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

GREETING

Thomas Quisenberry

When God Is a Child

MOON BEAMS

When God is a child there's joy in our
 song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be
 strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
 leading us on till the morning is bright.

(repeat refrain)

Text, Brian Wren; Music, Joan Fogg © 1989 Hope Publishing Co; used by permission

PRAYER OF ADORATION

Vic Oakes

*CAROL 77

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

(All children are invited to come forward during the last stanza.)

CHILDREN'S TIME

John Echols

SOLO

JAVIER, arr. Miller

When Hope Is Crushed

Frances Marandi

When hope is crushed and truth denied, when human lives are cast aside,
 when fear takes hold where faith has died, come, Emmanuel.

When fortunes flow where tyrants lead, while crumbs remain for those in need,
 our daily bread consumed by greed, come, Emmanuel.

Use our anger to melt the swords of hate. Use our tears to water thirsty ground.

Give us courage to love all you create.

Come to us and turn the world around, come to us and turn your world around.

When nature groans in deep despair and land entrusted to our care
 is cracked and lifeless, burnt and bare, come, Emmanuel.

We long to see a better day when all that kills is swept away;
 we strive and struggle, and we pray, come, Emmanuel.

GOSPEL READING

Thomas Quisenberry

Luke 21:25-36 (NRSV)

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

MESSAGE

Thomas Quisenberry

Are We There Yet?

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF HOPE

Melissa Mardis

Reading from the Prophets

Jeremiah 33:14-16 (NRSV)

The word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

While fear, anxiety, misinformation and suspicion surround us on every side,
 we choose to watch and wait in hope, preparing our hearts to notice
 and cooperate with God's grace already at work in our midst.

**We light this candle of hope as a sign of our commitment
 to pay attention and prepare for the days that are surely coming –
 the days when God's love, justice and mercy will envelope everyone.**

*HYMN

O PERFECT LOVE

Hope of the World

**Hope of the world, thou Christ of great compassion:
 speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;
 save us, thy people, from consuming passion,
 who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.**

**Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
 bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:
 still let thy Spirit unto us be given
 to heal earth's wounds and end our bitter strife.**

**Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
 showing to wond'ring souls the path of light:
 walk thou beside us lest the tempting byways
 lure us away from thee to endless night.**

Text by Georgia Harkness, © 1954, ren. 1982 *The Hymn Society*; used by permission

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Thomas Quisenberry

PREPARATION FOR GIVING

Melissa Laseter

With thankful hearts for the blessings God has given us
 and the ways God provides,
 may we share these gifts with a joyful heart
 and use them in wise and life-changing ways.
 This Advent, let us open our eyes to see
 where we're needed,
 and open our lives to reflect the love
 shown through the Christ Child.

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

arr. Kim

I Wonder as I Wander

*DEDICATION OF GIFTS

OLD 100TH

**Praise God for gifts of hope and peace;
 praise God for gifts of joy and love.
 Praise God for sending Christ to dwell
 on earth for us – Emmanuel. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Melissa Laseter

*WORK OF THE CHURCH

Thomas Quisenberry

*WORDS OF BLESSING

*BENEDICTION

Thomas Quisenberry

*RESPONSE

ST. LOUIS

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
 cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us, our God, Emmanuel.**

POSTLUDE

arr. Wold

People, Look East!

Following the postlude, please exit at your convenience.

*Please stand, if able.

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