

"To Glorify God and Make Jesus Christ Visible"

Nonprofit Organization
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Permit No. 4
Monroe City, MO 63456



Mission Night
We would like to invite children in PreK-K and Grades 1-6 from 6:00-7:00pm on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month, however, we will not be meeting in December. In January we will meet on January 10 and January 24. We are going to learn about missionaries and Bible verses, and have fun! If anyone is interested in helping please contact Alice Porter.



Christmas Open House at the parsonage
Sunday, December 10th
5:00-7:00pm
@ The Chambers
807 Prairie Street
FOOD & FELLOWSHIP
COME & GO



First Baptist Church

The Communicator



Josh Chambers, Senior Pastor

Please join us for our Christmas Services . . .



Interactive Family Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17
@ 5:30pm

Fellowship Meal of Soup/
Sandwiches/Christmas Cookies
to immediately follow

(If you or a family member {no matter the age} would like to participate, please contact Carla Jarman.)

Christmas Eve ~December 24th

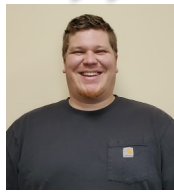
9:00am—Sunday School

10:30am—Morning Worship Service

5:30pm—Candlelight Service

**Christmas Eve
CANDLELIGHT
SERVICE**
DECEMBER 24 · 5:30 P.M.

A Word From Your Pastor



When you think about church, what comes to mind? For many, the church is something they attend. You'll hear people say, "I'm going to church." Or they'll ask, "Are you coming to church Sunday?" What's implied here? Fundamentally, when we use language like this, we suggest that church is something we attend or a place we go. But is that the meaning of church? *What is the church?*

This question may lead one to various answers. According to the Baptist Faith & Message 2000, "A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the two ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth."

The New Hampshire Confession of Faith (1853) states, "We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his

laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word."

Our statement of faith says, "The Lord Jesus is the head of the church, which is composed of all his true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. The regular officers of the church are two: the Pastor and Deacons."

Does this clear up the question? Perhaps not. Maybe this definition will help: "The church is the body of people called by God's grace through faith in Christ to glorify him together by serving him in his world."

Maybe these definitions aren't helpful. They vary in language, but one thing is clear: the church is not a building; it's a *people*. But the church isn't just *any people*. No, the church is a group of Christians. But these aren't just *any* Christians; they're *baptized* believers in Jesus Christ.

What does the Bible say? First, we see that the church is the *people of God*. This means that we are neither independent nor autonomous as God's people. Instead, we belong to God *and* to the people of God. Saving faith is not a private faith. Paul demonstrates this reality in Ephesians 2:11-16. There, Paul illustrates how our salvation as individuals incorporates us into God's one redeemed people. In 1 Peter, Peter says,



A Word From Your Pastor

Continued . . .

"Once you were not a people, now you are God's people (2:10)."

To be the people of God, you must be saved in Christ. Read the New Testament letters. Who are the audiences? Often, we see the audience referred to as *saints*. The church is comprised of believers. You cannot be a member of Christ's church if you are not *in Christ*. Therefore, the church is to be *holy*. We are set apart to God and set apart from the world.

There are multiple implications of this reality. We will revisit this in future articles. For now, let us remember that the church is not a place but a people. It's not just *any* people. The church is the blood-bought people of God. Let the redeemed of the Lord rejoice!



Thank you to all who supported the Shoebox Ministry through your donations of items and monetary gifts for items & shipping and to those who donated their time in many different ways. Thanks also to those who helped pack, stack and carry shoeboxes! You are all greatly appreciated! We sent 150 shoeboxes this year. Thanks for making a difference in the life of a child!

There will not be Evening Worship on Sunday evenings during the months of December (except Christmas Eve) and January. There will not be Mission Night in the month of December.

IMPACTA LA PERDICIÓN A TRAVÉS DE TU GENEROSIDAD



다녀가실때마다 물품과 돈을 후원 기부하여 이만큼 이룩되도록

透過您的慷慨改變失喪

IMPACTING LOSTNESS THROUGH YOUR GENEROSITY

OUR CHURCH GIVING GOAL
LA META DE NUESTRA IGLESIA
우리 교회의 헌금 목표
本教會捐獻目標

\$ 3,000



A Note From Your

Pastor of Worship & Family Ministries



Dear Church Family,

The holiday season is at hand, and with it comes traditions, memories, feasting and a whole plethora of places to visit and people to see.

These are good times, and these are hard times for many. However the holiday season may affect you, it is seldom passed by unacknowledged.

We Christians are particularly thankful for God's abundant mercy poured out on us through the person of Jesus Christ, and as Advent season transitions into the New Year, we all tend to be intent on making changes for the next year. We resolve to walk differently, and this is a noble endeavor.

As I'm writing this it is Thursday, November 16, 2023. Just this morning, Rhea and I were having a conversation that has given me inspiration for the remainder of this newsletter. If you gain nothing else from this article, remember these words, "Don't be discouraged by the fact that you aren't where you would like to be, take heart in the fact that God is sanctifying you into who He wants you to be."

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." (2 Corinthians 3:18)

If you rushed through that, please go back

and read it again.

We want immediate results. We want to be totally different now. We want to be able to simply walk into the new year, or the new week, or the new day, and be a different person who doesn't carry any of the imperfection that we carried just yesterday. And while I relate to these desires, I believe them to be vain, or at least misdirected.

Is it true that the moment you believe in Jesus you are changed forever? Yes. Is it true that we are called to repent of sin now, obey God now, love God with all that we are now, and love our neighbors as ourselves now? Yes. Are we supposed to, in faith, pursue and long for all this right now? Yes. After all, we are Christians.

Then how can we not be discouraged by the reality of the disparity between God's perfect standard and our current dire imperfection?

This is how...we trust our Father. Track with me here for a second. If 2 Corinthians 3:18 is right, and I'm willing to wager that it is, then our gradual sanctification comes from the Lord. Meaning that God intends our sanctification to be gradual, not instantaneous. We need to trust His process.

You might say, "But sin is offensive to God! How can Him allowing me to still be sinful and imperfect possibly please Him or bring Him glory in any way?" The simple answer is that God is glorified by showing His steadfast love and mercy to those upon whom He has set His love, even when they grieve Him with sin.

December



Emphasis: Week of Prayer for International Mission Study and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. 4.6 billion people are considered unreached. Over 90% of IMB actively engage at least on unreached people or place.

FBC Goal: \$3,000.00

Theme: A Believer For All Seasons

Scripture: Daniel 1-12

Week of Prayer stories:

We Will Reach The Lost :

Day 1: Through obedience

Day 2: Through Innovation

Day 3: Through Research

Day 4: Through Partnerships

Day 5: Through Church Planting

Day 6: Through Relationships

Day 7: Through Discipleships

Day 8: Through Commitment

January

Emphasis: Saint Cloud, MN

Theme: Unwavering & Committed

Scripture: Genesis 37; 39-47, 49-50

Missionaries: Eber & Melissa Argueta

Pray With Endurance-Focused Verses:

Psalms 55:17

Daniel 6:10

Colossians 4:2

Ephesians 6: 18-20

Philippians 4:6-7

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18



Scholarship funds are available, see Marilyn Coupland or Alice Porter.



A partnership of:



Registration opens January 1, 2024

Location: Americinn by Wyndham Hotel and Conference Center, 275 Tanger Blvd, Branson, MO
Register: www.mobaptist.org
Cost: \$45 per person (includes lunch on Saturday)
Hotel Room: 417.334.8404 (The Gathering) (\$89 per room, includes breakfast) (Cutoff for rate is April 15, 2024)
More Information: Contact Wanda Shellenbarger, Women's Ministry Specialist
417.529.0724 or Wanda.Shellenbarger@mbch.org

Greetings to Everyone

I'd like to make everyone aware of the Share Pantry, a ministry within our church. You'll find this pantry downstairs in room 101. There are so many things like: peanut butter, snacks, cereals, soups, canned goods, pasta and sauces, hair products, etc. The selection changes each month.

We welcome anyone to visit the Share Pantry and take whatever you want! If a friend or neighbor is needy, feel free to take items to help them.

If you would like to drop off a few things to share, these items are most needed: peanut butter, canned tuna and chicken, soups, chili beans, seasoning packets, cake and brownie mixes, packaged milks, cereal bars, juices, etc. Anything is great!

If you have any questions reach out to Sheila Gosney.



January 11 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day

Christmas Is Caring

The Christmas Is Caring tree will be in the hallway outside the sanctuary by the church office. Please take the time to look over the needs of the families, select a tag, purchase the gift, **DO NOT WRAP THE GIFT**, place the tag back on the gift, and return it to the church. The deadline for returning purchased gifts is Sunday, **DECEMBER 3rd by 12 Noon!!!!** PLEASE make sure you get your gifts returned by the deadline!! Also, if you take a tag please either bring it back on the gift or if you can't find the gift listed, bring the tag back by December 3!! It is important that they get all tags returned!



Poinsettias in Memory of Loved Ones:

Carl Beaver

Mike Beaver

Jodi & Jack Evans

Jerry Johnson

Les Long

Harold Olson

Vern Pope

Paul Terrill

Wm & Lula Thompson



Options For Women



There is a need for donations for the expectant mothers and their infant babies at Option For Women in Hannibal, MO. The items needed are as follows:

Women in Hannibal, MO. The items needed are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Diapers (all sizes) | Wipes |
| Baby Wash | Desitin |
| Baby Lotion | Teethers |
| Swaddlers | Sleep Sacks |

There will be a drop box outside the church office to place your donated items in.



A *Note* From Your continued

Pastor of Worship & Family Ministries

When you fail, God gives you the proper response in that failure. The proper response isn't to shrink back in shame, to become discouraged, or to become bitter or disheartened. The proper response is to cry out to the Lord in brokenness over your sin, to confess your sin, but then to turn from your brokenness and sin to rejoicing at the thought that God Almighty has chosen to forgive you and give you new life by means of His Son's sacrifice. When you fail, your brokenness leads you to lean more fully on your Father. And in the leaning, you are made more like the Son. And as you become more like the Son, you are more in step with God's commands in scripture and you are keeping in step with the Holy Spirit. Don't despise God's process of sanctification. Instead marvel at His grace, rejoice in His patience, tremble at His word, and pursue His holiness in faith. We work out our salvation with fear and trembling, but it is God who works in us for his good pleasure.

Here is the kicker. You must be able to slow down enough to behold God with unveiled face. You must be able to humble yourself so that you can marvel at your God and what He has done. Beholding, meditating, praying, confessing...these all take time. The overly busy, self-centered, prideful person is unable to do it. But if you do it, you will be transformed. Of this you can be certain. May the Lord bless you!

In Christ,
Pastor Alex



"Do you know that God commands you to share the gospel but don't know how? Or maybe you're afraid. How do you start gospel conversations? How do you answer common objections? If this describes you (and even if it doesn't), please join us on March 16th from 8:30 to 12:00 as we discuss the topic of evangelism. There will be a light breakfast provided as well as lunch."

Lottie Moon Post Office

The Lottie Moon Post Office is located down the hallway towards the church office this year. This is one of the ways that has been chosen to help us toward our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal. What you do is place your Christmas cards for fellow church members and use the corresponding cost for postage to help us reach our goal. So if you give 10 cards at .66 cents a card then you would give \$6.60 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. You will write Lottie Moon on your check or use one of the envelopes provided in the offering plate and then place your offering in the plate as it is passed during Offertory. Please help us this season.

This offering goes entirely to help support our almost 5,000 foreign missionaries. Our church goal is \$3,000.



Prayer Chain

fbcmprayerchain@gmail.com or
rdpenn6@gmail.com
or 573-248-7710

Deacons of the Month

Bill Beaver & Terry Critten

December Birthdays

Ceaton Pennewell – December 2
Rhea Brown—December 4

Michael Jones – December 6
Kathy Ogle—December 6
Connie Krigbaum – December 8
Brittany Johnson—December 10
Jeremy Moss—December 12
Bill Beaver – December 13
Dennis Carson – December 16
Cody Wagner—December 16
Carrie Beaver – December 19
Stephen Hawker – December 19
James Eckman—December 19

Angel Vollrath – December 20
Cullen Hawker—December 21
Phyllis Olson – December 22
Wayne Williams – December 22
Bret Gosney – December 24
Mary House – December 24
Allie Bennett—December 26
Isabelle Russell—December 29
Shelby Powell—December 29
Shanee Brown—
December 30



Date	Nursery	Children's Church	Sound Tech	Media Tech
Dec. 3	Sunday School— Jill Spalding, Courtney Chambers AM— Georgia Rothweiler, Bailee Bock, Hannah Studer	Lisa Russell, Hannah Wilkerson, Isabelle Russell	Colton Cowan	Adrian Mehrer
Dec. 10	Sunday School— Doris Mehrer & Amanda McNeill AM— Jill Spalding, Avery Johnson, Ethan Moss	Abbigail Smith, Barb Smith, Ashley Studer	Greg Cooper	Jane Anne Olson
Dec. 17	Sunday School— Brenda Maloney, Beth Franklin AM— Megan Moss, Lisa Russell, Anna Russell	No Children's Church	Grady Cowan	Brittany Johnson
Dec. 24	Sunday School— Hannah Wilkerson, Adrian Mehrer AM— Kelsey Worcester, Shanee Brown	Angel Vollrath, Ryan Moss, Grady Cowan	Jeremy Worcester	Cathy Harrison
Dec. 31	Sunday School— Doris Mehrer AM— Beth Franklin, Kelley Cowan	Courtney Chambers, Ava Yutzy, Mya Martin	Richard Harrison	Ruthie Critten

First Baptist Church—221 North Main Street, Monroe City, MO—573.735.2635—office@fbcmonroecity.org—www.fbcmonroecity.org

Church Office Hours

573.735.2635

Monday through Thursdays—
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00am—Sunday School 10:30am—Morning Worship NO Evening Worship	4 7:00am—Ground in Grace for the women 7:00pm—Deacons Mtg.	5	6 7:15am—Ground in Grace for the men 4:30pm—Youth	7	8	9 10:00-4:00pm— Winsome Room/Carrie Cooper
10 9:00am—Sunday School 10:30am—Morning Worship 5:00-7:00pm—Open House @ parsonage NO Evening Worship	11 7:00am—Ground in Grace for the women	12	13 7:15am—Ground in Grace for the men 4:30pm—Youth	14	15	16 All Day—Fellowship Hall/Daphne Pennewell
17 9:00am—Sunday School 10:30am—Morning Worship 5:30pm—Family Christmas Program Soup/Sandwich/Christmas Cookies Fellowship Meal to follow	18 7:00am—Ground in Grace for the women 9:30am—WMU @ church, Hostess ? Program Alice Porter	19	20 7:15am—Ground in Grace for the men 4:30pm—Youth	21	22 	23
24 9:00am—Sunday School 10:30am—Morning Worship 5:30pm—Candlelight Christ- mas Eve Service	25 Office Closed 	26 Office Closed	27 7:15am—Ground in Grace for the men 4:30pm—Youth	28	29	30
31 9:00am—Sunday School 10:30am—Morning Worship NO Evening Worship	YEARS OF LOVE 10:30am—Morning Worship NO Evening Worship					

Email addresses for the church
office and pastors:
Church office—office@fbcmonroecity.org
Senior Pastor—pastor@fbcmonroecity.org
Pastor of Worship & Family Ministries—
alexpbrown75@gmail.com

First Baptist Church—221 North Main Street, Monroe City, MO—573.735.2635—office@fbcmonroecity.org—www.fbcmonroecity.org

Prayer Chain

fbcmcprayerchain@gmail.com or
rdpenn6@gmail.com
or 573-248-7710

Deacons of the Month

Dennis Carson & Jim Dorsey

January Birthdays

Terry Critten – January 2
Ruth Russell—January 2
Phillip Potterfield – January 7
Paula Coleman – January 9
Tom Bock – January 11
Cassandra Richard—January 17

Alan Coupland—January 18
Hannah Studer—January 21
Jana Alcorn—January 22
Creighton Shuck—January 24
Lori Shuck—January 27



Date	Nursery	Children's Church	Sound Tech	Media Tech
Jan. 7	Sunday School— Jill Spalding, Courtney Chambers AM— Georgia Rothweiler, Bailee Bock, Hannah Studer	Lisa Russell, Hannah Wilkerson, Isabelle Russell	Allen Mehrer	Adrian Mehrer
Jan. 14	Sunday School— Doris Mehrer & Amanda McNeill AM— Jill Spalding, Avery Johnson, Ethan Moss	Abbigail Smith, Barb Smith, Ashley Studer	Colton Cowan	Brittany Johnson
Jan. 21	Sunday School— Brenda Maloney, Beth Franklin AM— Megan Moss, Lisa Russell, Anna Russell	No Children's Church	Greg Cooper	Ruthie Critten
Jan. 28	Sunday School— Hannah Wilkerson, Adrian Mehrer AM— Kelsey Worcester, Shanee Brown	Angel Vollrath, Ryan Moss, Grady Cowan	Grady Cowan	Jane Anne Olson

Church Office Hours
573.735.2635
Monday through Thursdays—
8:00 am to 12:00 pm

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office closed 	2 Office Closed	3 7:15am—Ground in Grace for the men 4:30pm—Youth	4	5	6
7 9:00am—Sunday School 10:30am—Morning Worship 12:00-2:30pm— Membership Class NO Evening Worship	8 7:00am—Ground in Grace for the women 7:00pm—Deacons	9	10 7:15am—Ground in Grace for the men 4:30pm—Youth 6:00pm—Mission	11	12	13
14 9:00am—Sunday School 10:30am—Morning Worship NO Evening Worship	15 7:00am—Ground in Grace for the women 	16	17 7:15am—Ground in Grace for the men NO Youth 6:30pm—Quarterly Members Meeting	18	19	20
21 9:00am—Sunday School 10:30am—Morning Worship Lord's Supper NO Evening Worship	22 7:00am—Ground in Grace for the women	23	24 7:15am—Ground in Grace for the men 4:30pm—Youth 6:00pm—Mission	25	26	27
28 9:00am—Sunday School 10:30am—Morning Worship Noly Offering—Mission Trip NO Evening Worship	29 7:00am—Ground in Grace for the women	30	31 7:15am—Ground in Grace for the men 4:30pm—Youth			

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Pastor of Worship & Family Ministries—alexpbrown75@gmail.com