

The NEWS LETTER

FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 2022 ❖ VOLUME 16—ISSUE 10

Emmanuel

Tis the season... Here we are with another December upon us. But what are we really focusing on this month?

As life comes at us and we take our individual journeys, we may be focusing on health issues, family issues, spiritual issues, financial issues, and so much more. As I have heard so many times, "the only issue with christianity is that it is daily". Understanding that there are brave faces which hide sore hearts, and secret wounds that ache, in this month's Pastor Pen it is my desire for each and every one of us to think and ponder this verse.

Matthew 1:23 (KJV)

23 "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name **Emmanuel**, which being interpreted is, **God with us.**"

We also see this verse in Isaiah 7:14 (KJV)

14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name **Immanuel.**"

Emmanuel oh what a great and awesome name.

Why... because God **IS** with us.

Emmanuel is a name that makes the devil tremble, is the desire for angels to sing, and gives you and I the comfort and security to press on. To press on through this life in agreement with him. My dearly beloved **GOD IS WITH US**, and that should be the focus this season. I understand that life comes at us daily but God is with us daily, and in this great holiday season we get a whole month of daily focus on **CHRISTmas**.

EMMANUEL, EMMANUEL, EMMANUEL, say it out loud **EMMANUEL GOD IS WITH US!!!!**

So be encouraged today my friend, we are not alone in our struggles, trials, or life. God sent his Son and his name shall be called Emmanuel. What a great time of year to remind us of this comforting Truth.



The truth is there is hope that came to us in a manger as stated in Luke 2:12-14 (KJV)

12 "And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

13 "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*"

Friends, we can shout and praise God as the multitude of angels did *Glory to God in the highest, and peace (God's peace in our lives to them that know him and call him Abba Father) good will toward men (good will because the thoughts He has for us are thoughts of peace, not of evil, to give us an expected end.) Emmanuel, Praise God He is with us!*

Merry Christmas...

Be blessed today, and be a blessing.

Pastor Nick

SPECIAL SERVICES

Christmas Eve

December 24th
6:00-7:00 pm



Join us for our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service which includes special music, carols, and a devotion with snacks to follow. Invite your extended family, neighbors and co-workers to attend with you.

Christmas Day

December 25th
11:00 a.m.



There will be no Sunday School, but we will meet for our weekly morning service which will be a special Christmas celebration. We hope you'll take time out of your festivities to gather with us in celebrating the most important gift mankind has ever been given. Oh Come Let Us Adore Him!!

GUEST MISSIONARIES | december 4th

We will welcome Brennan and Libby Penner. They will share updates on their ministry in Belgium during the Sunday School hour and the regular service. We will enjoy a special time of fellowship with them after. FBC has supported the Penners church planting ministry since 2017. Visit their website to learn more at www.crosslink.church.

LADIES' COOKIE EXCHANGE | december 9th

Join us at the church on Friday, December 9th, at 6:00 p.m., for a fun girls' night out with lots of Christmas cookies and dinner. You can sign up for the exchange *and* dinner, or just dinner, but you need to do so by **Sunday, December 4th**. Bring a white elephant gift to participate in the gift exchange. If you have any questions, please contact Cathy Klass.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING | december 18th

FBC members are encouraged to attend our annual business meeting on Sunday, December 18th, immediately following the morning service. We will be voting on our 2023 operating budget. A 2nd meeting is planned in January to elect officers.

SHOEBOX GIVING

Thank you to all who brought and/or helped to stuff the shoeboxes. The Bunyans are so appreciative of the **47 boxes** FBC donated. Larrie stated that for many of the children, these shoeboxes are the only Christmas gift they receive.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING | december 18th

Join us on Sunday, December 18th, as we Christmas carol around the neighborhood. We'll meet at the church at 4:00 p.m., carol for a couple hours, then return to the church for soup and cider. Even if you think you can't carry a tune in a bucket, bring your bucket and join us! You'll have fun!

AWANA & YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES |

Wednesday December 21st

For Awana we will decorate cookies, make a craft, and have lots of treats & watch a movie. There will be a special Council time for each group, but no games or book time. Contact Leslie if you have any questions.

The youth group will have their party from 6-7:30 pm. The church will provide some treats, but additional goodies are always welcome. Bring something simple from home or buy something (less than \$10) for the white elephant gift exchange. It is sure to be a great time!

YOUTH UPDATE

*A much needed addition—Madison Korthals is helping out on Wednesday nights. This provides the opportunity to do occasional gender specific studies and have someone to mentor our young ladies.

*Damon & Sophia Van Den Top are temporarily filling in for the next six weeks teaching the youth Sunday School class which includes students 6th thru 12th Grade.

"BLACK OUT" DATES

AWANA and the normal Wednesday prayer meeting have been canceled for December 28th, and January 4th, for Christmas and the New Years holiday.

CHARITABLE GIVING NOTICE

Remember—all contributions to the church must be received in the office by December 31st. Post marks cannot be accepted.

PIE AUCTION UPDATE

Thank you to all who brought pies and gift baskets for the auction. Though we missed our favorite auctioneer (just wasn't the same without you Bob!) we raised \$1145 for the Benevolence fund.

CHRISTMAS TRACTS

Please make use of the various Christmas tracts and devotionals available at the Visitor Center. Use them in Christmas cards to friends, family and neighbors, or leave one with a meal tip.

CHRISTMAS CARD MAILBOX

All are welcome to use the mailbox in the foyer to deposit cards for your Friendship family. Please put your name in the return address section in case we are not able to hand deliver one of your cards.

CALENDAR & STATS

NOVEMBER

Average Sunday AM Attendance: 102
General Fund to date:.....\$206,671
 Budgeted:\$190,259
Faith Promise Missions (after 26 weeks)
 To date:\$ 50,755
 Budgeted:\$ 50,422

DECEMBER & JANUARY AT A GLANCE

- Dec. 4 Guest Missionaries—Penners, with a fellowship after service
- Dec. 9 Ladies' Cookie Exchange & Dinner
- Dec. 18 Annual Budget Business Meeting after Services **and:**
 Christmas Caroling, 4:00 pm
- Dec. 21 AWANA & Youth Christmas Party
- Dec. 24 *Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 pm*
- Dec. 25 *Christmas Day Service, 11:00 am*
- Dec. 28 NO AWANA or WED. CLASSES
- Jan. 1 New Year's Day Service
- Jan. 4 Calendar Meeting at 6:00 pm
 NO AWANA or WED. CLASSES
- Jan. 8 Vision Sunday & 2nd Business Meeting after Services to elect officers



DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Richard & Evaleen Starkel (12/6)
Larry & Lana Chambers (12/19)
Tim & Julie Bury (12/28)
Bryan & Rachel Andersen (12/29)
Nick & Janea Korthals (12/30)

HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

- **PRAYER REQUESTS** should be emailed to Diane Liggett at fbc4prayer@gmail.com or call 316-323-4859.
- If you are not getting the Friendship prayer requests, missionary updates & letters, and Pastor David's weekly email, please let Pastor or the church office know.



FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH

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WHO to & HOW to CONTACT

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