

TO OUR GUESTS

Welcome to First Baptist Church! We've compiled a list of a few things you might find helpful, especially if this is your first visit:

What We Do // Everything we do here can be summarized by our vision: To be Light Unleashed. We want to be a church so dedicated to good works that the community would be drawn to God as a result. (Check out Matthew 5:14-16.)

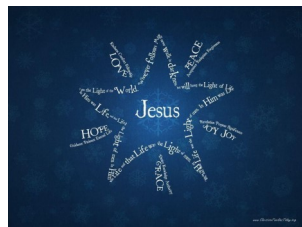
Where to Start // Be sure to check out the Welcome Desk. Our friendly volunteers will connect you to information about the various ministries we offer. While you are there, be sure to fill out a communication card so we can keep in touch - we promise not to call during dinner!

Kids // We love kids. Whether you want to keep them with you in the worship service or send them to be with ones of similar age, we're cool either way. We have childcare during our traditional service, and *The Lighthouse*, a worship experience for little ones from preschool to grade 5 beginning at 9:30 am.

Bible Study // The Bible is pretty awesome. We offer a wide-variety of Bible studies throughout the week (including Sunday morning at 9:45 am) for all ages. You can find a list of these opportunities at the Welcome Desk – the volunteers there can even recommend classes that might best meet your needs.

Offering // Please, don't feel obligated to share with us financially today. You are our guest and we are honored to have an opportunity to worship with you this morning.

Questions // If you have any questions, please stop by the Welcome Desk or find the nearest usher. You can also check out our website at firstfrederick.org or find us on Facebook at [fb.com/firstfrederick](https://www.facebook.com/firstfrederick).



ATTENDANCE

Previous Sunday (incl. children's ministry)

8:30 Service	115
9:45 Sunday School	109
11:15 Service	86

FINANCIAL SNAP-SHOT

	November	YTD thru November
Total Income	\$49,337.92	\$584,549.10
Total Expense	\$50,203.26	\$558,977.63

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Week of December 1st

Sunday	
8:30 am	Traditional Worship Service
10:00 am	Sunday School for All Ages
11:15 am	Unleashed Worship Service
Wednesday	
6:15 - 7 pm	King's Ringers Handbells
6:30 pm	Catalyst Youth Ministry
6:30 pm	Mission Friends
6:30 - 8:30	FBC Worship Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	
11am - 1pm	Chapel Prayer Fellowship (all are welcome)

We will be having a baby dedication ceremony on December 22nd. Please contact the office at 301.732.8283 or office@firstfrederick.org if you would like to participate.
"...that I may walk before God in the light of life"
 Psalm 56:13

Mission Friends

Mission friends will be collecting FULL SIZE hygiene items (haircare, oral care, bathing items, laundry soap) for SHIP from now until Sunday, December 29th. Items may be placed in the decorated box located in the Welcome Center. SHIP (Student Homelessness Initiative Partnership) works with schools, human relief organizations, and government organizations to support Frederick County's homeless youth. THANK YOU!

Giving Envelopes

If you wish to receive giving envelopes for calendar year 2020, please see the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk. The sign-up sheet will be available until Dec 8th.



Poinsettias

If you would like to order poinsettias to decorate the Worship Center, please fill out an order form with payment and place in the box at the Welcome Desk. Each poinsettia is \$10 and orders are due today.



December Birthdays

12/2: Maddie Boothe, Christa Phillips, Hannah Tunnis; **12/3:** Lisa Rubin; **12/4:** Rebecca Winpigler, Angela Young; **12/5:** Gene Burdette, Julie Kunze; **12/9:** Bob Winchester; **12/12:** Renee Jackson, Lorna Starkey; **12/14:** Sandra Carbo, Mary Chapman, Ian Culpepper; **12/15:** Rich Cook, Janel Morrissey, Connie Steinhaus; **12/17:** Marcy Gouge; **12/20:** Lisa Cohagan; **12/22:** Cori Walters; **12/23:** Scott Pringle; **12/24:** Bob Rectanus; **12/28:** Barbara Gurch; **12/30:** Ken Whitmore
"For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life."
 Proverbs 9:11

Ministry Team

Larry Eubanks	Senior Pastor
Burnis Barrett	Pastor Emeritus
Richard Krauss	Student Pastor
Rachel Pyles	Children's Ministries
Jim Dent	8:30 Worship Leader
Rich Cook	11:15 Worship Leader
Janna Cansler	Office Manager
Jim Schrock	Custodial Engineer
Marilyn Buchen	Organist



First Baptist Church of Frederick
 7040 Bowers Road
 Frederick, MD 21702
 301-473-8283
www.firstfrederick.org

ONLINE GIVING

Visit our homepage (www.firstfrederick.org) then click on the tab that says, "Online Giving." A credit card is not needed; funds are sent straight from your bank. You will not be charged extra for contributing online and you have the added choice of making recurrent payments.



The Worship of God

December 8, 2019

8:30 AM

Prelude		Ms. Marilyn Buchen
* Hymn # 79	<i>BLESSED BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL</i> <i>(verses 1, 2, 3)</i>	Congregation
* Hymn # 34	<i>THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE</i>	Congregation
Special Music	<i>"REDEEMING LOVE"</i>	Faye Brevard & Lisa Foster
Opening Prayer		Dr. Larry Eubanks
Welcome and Greeting of Guests		
Greet One Another in the Love of Christ		
* Hymn # 193	<i>ONE DAY</i>	Congregation
Offertory Prayer		Rev. Richard Krauss
Offertory	Organ	Ms. Marilyn Buchen
* Doxology		Congregation
Anthem	<i>"ANGELS CAME TO EARTH"</i>	FBC Worship Choir
Sermon	<i>"CHRISTMAS TO-DO'S"</i> <i>Luke 1:57-80</i>	Dr. Larry Eubanks
Invitation to Christian Commitment		
Response of Faith # 546	<i>LOVE LIFTED ME</i>	Congregation
Response of Fellowship	<i>TO GOD BE THE GLORY</i>	Congregation

Go Forth to Serve

* Those who are able to stand, please stand



The Needs of Our Church; Our Ministers and Their Families; Military Personnel and Families; Little Lights Child Development Center; Church Deacons; Finance Committee; Personnel Committee; Nominating Committee; Church Council; The Lighthouse Children's Ministry; Catalyst Youth Group; Small Group Leaders; Jim Schrock; Coy Horner; Bob Graybill; Larry Proudfoot; W.R. Bryant; Roger Boothe, Sr; Connie (Laurie's step-sister); Mary; Beth Carey and family; Mr. & Mrs. May (Sandy's parents); Makayla (Rose Mary's granddaughter); George Seweryniak; Marcell Howell; Darryl Horner; Karen Reyes; Mrs. Eubanks; Janelle Roylo; Mrs. Roth; John Carmack; Mrs. Park; Frances Starkey; Connie Steinhaus; Sue Searcy's Mom; Tommy Carlin (Sandy and Jim's brother-in-law); Bryan Lloyd; Nancy (Liz Brady's sister); Jocelyn Wetzel; Charles & Janeen Travis; Brian Wetzel; Betty & Bob Winchester; Carrie Wetzel; Mary Alberti; Joyce Hunt; our community; our country; our world; and we pray that we listen and take action as God directs us to carry out the mission of FBC unleashed. Please contact the prayer coordinator, Sandy Schrock at 301.271.4372 or email jls7007@comcast.net to add or remove names.

Christmas Activities

The musical ensembles of FBC are presenting "Whispers of Emmanuel" a Christmas pageant, December 14th at 4 pm. All are welcome and there will be child-care for ages 3 and under. The church bus will transport residents between Homewood and the pageant. Other stops may be added as requested.

The Christmas Light Trail is returning! Donations are still needed:

- ◆ Outdoor power strips and extension cords;
- ◆ Hot chocolate, toppings, candy canes;
- ◆ Loose popcorn kernels;
- ◆ Hot beverage disposable cups, napkins, and paper lunchbags.

A sign up is in the Welcome Center or contact Diana Edgar at 240.457.0328 or by email at dianamichelleedgar@gmail.com.

We need volunteers for the light trail event to serve refreshments, guide guests on the trail, collect donations, etc. The light trail will be open December 13th, 14th, 20th, and 21st from 6—9 pm. Santa and Mrs. Claus will make an appearance on December 14th.

Christmas Eve services begin at 6:30 pm this year. We hope to see you there! Please remember to email your favorite Christmas family photo (it doesn't have to be recent) to office@firstfrederick.org so that we can create a slideshow to be shown at the beginning of the Christmas Eve service entitled "The First Family Photo".

Just a reminder: Pastor Larry's bible study is cancelled for 12/11 and 12/18. ALL Wednesday evening activities are cancelled 12/25 and 1/1.

The FBC Youth would like to extend an invitation to ALL ... Come join us for our annual Catalyst Christmas Celebration.

Sunday's		Wednesday's 7-8 pm
Dec. 8	A tale of intrigue, murder, and deception. We call it Christmas!	Dec. 11 Play rehearsal
Dec. 15	Extreme Gingerbread Make-over	Dec. 18 Annual Christmas gift exchange
Dec. 22	Youth Christmas Breakfast	
		THURSDAY
		Dec. 19 Operation Christmas Child, 5—10 pm



Upcoming Children's Christmas Events

December 15th: Christmas Shopping with the kids after church

*Please register for this event at the sign in table Sunday mornings. We will eat lunch at the church right after the 11:15 service. Then we will go to the dollar store. ONLY 12 children will be allowed on this trip so sign up as soon as possible. Children need to be picked up by 3:30pm.

December 22nd: Birthday Party for Jesus

*From 11:15am to the end of service. We will have games, crafts, birthday cake, face painting, and Christmas movies. Come join the fun and invite a friend!



December 24th: Christmas Eve Service at 6:30 pm

*Children are needed at the beginning of the Christmas Eve service to follow the three kings during the opening anthem "Call of the Magi". Children can gather in the Welcome Center prior to the service and then join their parents for the remainder of the service.

Advent Sermon Series

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

December 8th: **Christmas To-Do's**, Luke 1: 57-80

December 15th: **Embrace the Wait**, Luke 2: 1-7

December 22nd: **Great (and Not-So-Great) Expectations**, Luke 2: 21-38

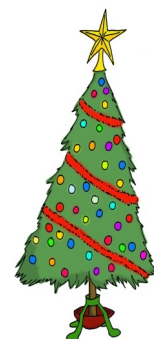
December 24th, 6:30 pm: **The First Family Photo**, John 1: 1-5; 9-14



Mitten Tree is Back

This year instead of buying actual gifts for the children and parents, we are asking for gift cards. Most of the gift cards are for stores within walking distance of the school. All gift cards need to be returned upstairs in the children's department by **Dec. 11th**. Kindly attach the receipt to the gift card with tape and, if you choose, a Christmas note with a message of love.

Buying gift cards gives more people an opportunity to participate and is a great way to meet the needs of families this Christmas season. Please stop by the Mitten Tree in the Welcome Center to get a gift card suggestion. Thank You!



FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LARRY

Last week before the first service as I was walking from my office to the Worship Center I stopped to plug in the Christmas tree opposite the elevator on the second floor. Blocking my access to the plug and outlet was a new decoration that hadn't been there previous years—a small sleigh filled with Christmas presents.

A sleigh? That's not part of the biblical story of Christmas, unless the magi traveled from Persia to Jerusalem in one. Pretty sure not. No, that's part of the Santa story, which decidedly *isn't* in the Bible. So maybe a sleigh, while fine for homes and businesses, isn't an appropriate decoration in a church.

But what is? Christmas trees, for instance, certainly aren't in the Bible. They seem to originate from ancient Druid nature worship and were incorporated by Christians seeking to convert Druids to Christianity. Martin Luther is credited with introducing Christmas trees in Germany, and it wasn't until the 1800's that they became a popular part of American Christmas celebrations. So...are Christmas trees Druid or Christian?

If we eliminated every kind of decoration that has pagan roots then we would have to eliminate all forms of greenery like Christmas wreaths, holly and ivy, yule logs—who does those anyway?—and fruitcake.

Okay, not fruitcake, but if anything ought to have pagan roots, it should be fruitcake, know what I mean?

What about the Advent Wreath—surely it has Christian origins? Nope, it too predates Christianity, going back to Scandinavian customs before missionaries reached the region.

It seems that many of our decorations have their roots outside of Christianity. If we were to decorate our churches using only purely Christian decorations, we'd only have manger scenes—except we get those wrong, too.

First, we'd have to get rid of any Wise Men bowing before the baby Jesus. Didn't happen. Also gone would be any scenes in a stable or an inn with a "No Vacancy" sign. Translators unfamiliarity with ancient near eastern customs place Jesus in a barn because there was no room in the Bethlehem Motel 6, but middle eastern hospitality would have meant that Joseph and Mary would have been welcomed into a house, particularly if Joseph had relatives in Bethlehem. Each house had a guest room, and this is apparently what had no room for a mother in childbirth. So Jesus was born in the main living area of the house.

As for the manger? Only the rich could afford separate quarters for their animals, but peasants brought their animals—the family cow, a donkey, and some sheep—into their homes to protect them from thieves as well as the cold. The family living area was elevated a few feet higher than the entrance room where the animals were kept, and mangers were cut into the floor of the living area so that the cow could feed while standing on the lower level. Mangers for the sheep were made of wood and placed on the lower level, but if Jesus was born in the family room then it's likely he was placed into one of the cow's mangers.

So our manger scenes are all wrong. Jesus would have been surrounded not only by Mary and Joseph but also by the other members of the household in whose house they were staying, not to mention the guests in the aforementioned guestroom. And the shepherds. And some animals. Just no Magi.

Besides our historically and culturally incorrect manger scenes, are there any other decorations that don't come from pagan roots?

Well, yes. Santa Claus. You know—St. Nicholas, the fourth-century Greek bishop known for his gift-giving. The Dutch celebrated his name-feast on December 6, and his name in Dutch is *Sint-Nicolaas*, which became *Sinterklaas*.

Sure, a lot of other stuff became associated with him—flying reindeer, the North Pole, elves—but Santa Claus is still a Christian, and the things he stands for—selflessly, joyously giving gifts to friends and loved ones, encouraging good behavior of children, and faith to believe what can't be seen—these are Christian values.

So the upstairs sleigh stays. On the other hand, the Christmas tree...