

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).

Wednesday Night Youth

Middle and High School Youth join us for an evening for fun, friendship, and fellowship. Thank you to the youth for decorating for Christmas!



Guidine Tunis will lead the youth weekly at 6:30 pm. The theme will be *Joy* and the youth will be looking at Bible verses Romans 12:12 and Romans 15:13. We hope you can join us and bring a friend! There will be no Youth Group on December 28th.



The Worship of God

December 4, 2022

8:30 AM

Prelude	Organ	Marilyn Buchen
* Hymn #79	<i>Blessed Be the God of Israel</i>	Congregation
* Hymn #111	<i>Sing We Now of Christmas</i>	Congregation
Opening Prayer		Dr. Larry Eubanks
Welcome and Greeting of Guests		Dr. Larry Eubanks
Greet One Another in the Love of Christ		
* Hymn #80	<i>Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	Congregation
Offertory Prayer		Mr. Doug Dawson
Offertory	Organ	Marilyn Buchen
* Doxology		Congregation
Anthem		Seasonal
Sermon		Dr. Larry Eubanks
Communion		Dr. Larry Eubanks
Invitation to Christian Commitment		Dr. Larry Eubanks
* Hymn #76	<i>O Come, O Come Emmanuel</i>	Congregation
* Response of Fellowship	<i>Come All Ye Faithful (chorus)</i>	Congregation



Rehearsals for the Christmas program will be December 7th at 5:30 and December 10th at 2:30pm.

You are invited to One God, One Voice a Christmas Concert. It will be held at Church of Transfiguration 6909 Maryland Ave, Braddock Heights on today at 3 pm.



ATTENDANCE

Previous Sunday

8:30 am Service	43
Sunday School	48
11:15 Service & Lighthouse	37



FINANCIALS

	November	YTD thru November
Total Income	\$33,826.50	\$535,738.13
Total Expense	\$44,473.48	\$583,460.65
Total Building Income	\$995.00	\$39,300
Total Building Expense	\$2505	\$39,175

Ministry Team

Larry Eubanks	Senior Pastor
Richard Krauss	Student Pastor
Rachel Pyles	Children's Ministries
Moira O'Brien	8:30 Worship Leader
Rich Cook	11:15 Worship Leader
Janna Cansler	Office Manager
Amanda Aliperti	Custodial Engineers
Diana Edgar	
Marilyn Buchen	Organist



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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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
Week of December 4th

Sunday	
8:30 am	Worship Service
9:45 am	Sunday School for all ages
11:15 am	Unleashed Worship Service
11:15 am	Lighthouse for kids up to 5th Grade
Tuesday	
8:30 am	Circle Fellowship @ Denny's
Wednesday	
5:30 pm	Worship Choir Rehearsal
6:30 pm	Youth Group
Saturday	
2:30 pm	Worship Choir Rehearsal

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; Nancy Burdette and family; Bob Pendergraft; Kevin Miller; Kitty Young; Richard and Becky Krauss; Linda and W.R. Bryant; Janet Noffsinger; Sharon Rectanus' brother; Bob Graybill's brother; Vickie Pressel's mother; Marsha Schoneka's sister; Barbara Wetzel; Mike Harrington; Mikayla Stockman; Scott Gordon's granddaughter, Callan Marquardt; Ron & Sonia; Paula Pendergraft; Roger Boothe, Sr; Janelle Roylo; Bryan Lloyd; Jocelyn Wetzel; Mary Alberti; Joyce Hunt; Laurie Van Bibber; Eleanor Holly; Kathleen Milander; Bonnie Devilbiss; Pat and Dan Johns; Chris Morales and children; Vicky's mother; 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 text at 301-514-7175 to add or remove names.



White Poinsettias are placed In Memory of First Baptist Church members who have passed away. Alex Alexander, Burnis Barrett, Gene Burdette, Jane Shoemaker, and Connie Stalnaker

In Appreciation of the people dedicated to being light unleashed and always helping the least of them by Amanda Aliperti and Diana Edgar

In Honor of Brantley Hathaway by Sandy Haller

In Memory of our parents by Gary and Ellen Bennett

In Memory of our parents

In Honor of our children and grandchildren by Lloyd and Bev Berry

In Memory of our dear parents Dorothy and Isaac Jones and Mary and James Brady by Liz and Tom Brady

In Memory of John and Joan Carmack

In Memory of my grandparents Newman, Esther, Calvin, and Sarah by Joyce Carmack

In Memory of Roger and Velma Dawson by Doug Dawson

In Memory of Sharon Lee Gossard by Amy Gossard

In Memory of Patches

In Memory of Paul E. & Miriam C. Himes by Robert and Paula Pendergraft

In Memory of JoAnna Proudfoot

In Memory of Lawrence and Helen Proudfoot by Joetta Phillips

In Memory of Connie & Johnson Steinhaus

In Memory of Baerbel Cooper & Lee Sharpe

In Memory of Jackie Steinhaus, Mike Tyeryar, & Paul Derry by Stacey Steinhaus

In Memory of my parents, Mae and Lee Falwell by Carol Wetmore



Children's Ministry Christmas Activities

Kids' Christmas Shopping

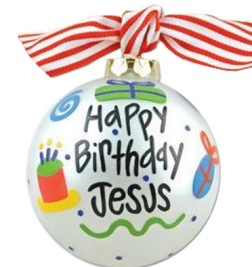
When: December 11th

Time: 11am the church bus will leave. Please have your child here by 10:45am

What to bring? We will be shopping at the Dollar Tree on Route 40. Please have your child bring a list of people they are buying presents for and enough money to complete their shopping. Items at the Dollar Tree are now \$1.25 plus tax. Make sure your child's money is in bag that is labeled with your child's name. *YOU MUST REGISTER YOUR CHILD FOR THIS EVENT AT THE CHILDREN'S SIGN IN DESK*

Birthday Party for Jesus

On December 18th beginning at 10am we will be celebrating Jesus' birth. We will have a birthday cake and other treats. We will watch Christmas movies, play Christmas games, and make a Christmas craft. A list of the treats will be on the children's registration desk. Please look these over and let us know if your child can NOT have any of the treats.



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Update

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day we will have a Cry Room ONLY. The downstairs nursery will be available during these services to parents/gardians of young children who need a break from the service. This room will not be staffed and you must stay with your child while in this room. We ask that you please clean up after your child and if you change any diapers please bag them up and take them with you.

Christmas Notes

The Worship Choir under the direction of Moira O'Brien will present their Christmas Musical Program next Sunday, December 11th during the 8:30 service. We hope you can join us!

A candle-light Christmas Eve service will begin at 6 pm. We invite you to join us as we pause to hear what God has offered all of us through the birth of Jesus. A cry room will be available for parents and their little ones.



Christmas Day we will have one service at 10 am. There will be no Sunday School hour and a cry room will be available if needed.

FROM THE DESK OF PASTOR LARRY

When there's a fuss over what to name a baby, something is going on.

In Matthew 1, while Zechariah was serving his priestly rotation at the Temple, the angel Gabriel appears and announces that, in spite of their advanced years, they will have a baby boy, and Gabriel is very clear about his name—"You will name him John."

Zechariah questions how this can happen since many years of childlessness have made it clear that his wife Elizabeth is incapable of getting pregnant. That may seem natural to us, but Gabriel takes offense and strikes Zechariah with muteness until which time the baby is named.

That occurs, not at birth as is our custom, but at circumcision eight days after birth. At that time Zechariah and Elizabeth bring the baby to the Temple. This is not a private ceremony but something that the whole community takes part in. Family and friends are there, and when it comes time to name the baby they all assume that he will be named after his father.

But Elizabeth speaks up and says, "No, his name is John."

Nobody understands this. No one in the family is named John, and it is customary and expected to keep it in the family. This old woman obviously doesn't know what she's doing, so they ask Zechariah, who grabs a tablet and writes, "His name is John." This amazes everyone, I guess because the old woman was right, but then they are completely blown away when Zechariah starts talking and prophesying.

I want to focus on the name-debate. If Luke had written it in such a way that everyone was just questioning the appropriateness of the name John it would have read a certain way, but that's not how he presents it. There's a debate. Everyone insists the baby should be named Zechariah, but Gabriel and therefore Zechariah and Elizabeth insist it must be John.

The debate, therefore, is not between naming him John and any other family name. The debate is Zechariah vs. John, which means that Gabriel is saying not just that his name is John but also that his name *must not be* Zechariah. What's wrong with the name Zechariah, and why is John favored over it?

Zechariah means, "Yahweh remembers," which might, in some cases, be a good thing, but for Israel in the 1st century, it most definitely is not.

In the first century the conditions of the Exile are still in force. Though Israel had returned to the land in the early 400's B.C.E., they did so under the authority of Cyrus of Persia, and Israel had been pretty much under foreign rule ever since.

The reason they had gone into Exile, as the prophets made clear, is because of their idolatry and injustice. They had pushed Yahweh past the limits of his patience, and his wrath fell upon them.

And the Exile would not end until his anger abated, which, apparently it had not for over four hundred years. Ancient Israel understood that the Exile would not end, Yahweh would not return to Zion, and the Messiah would not come, until God forgot about their sin and in his mercy and grace forgave Israel for their idolatry and injustice.

What they needed was *not* for Yahweh to remember. What they needed was for Yahweh to be gracious.

Which is what the name John—*Yochanan* in Hebrew—means: Yahweh is gracious.

The name debate is not just a dispute over what to name a child; it is an announcement. Yahweh no longer remembers. Yahweh is gracious.

The time for Exile is over; the time for the Messiah and his kingdom is at hand.

The time of remembering sin is over; the time of grace has arrived.

There are some in Christianity who seem to believe that it's important to remember sin—particularly other people's sin. They are mistaken, and tragically so.

It is still the time of grace. Yahweh has forgiven. Yahweh is gracious.

That's the message. Happy Holidays indeed.