



125 Sedgefield Street
BRISTOL, VIRGINIA 24201

THE FIRST WORD

December 2022



1st Sunday of Advent
Sunday, November 27, 2022

2nd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 4, 2022

Christmas Cantata
"A Promise of Hope"
11:00 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 11, 2022

Annual Business Meeting
12:00 p.m.

Kidz Christmas Program
"A Christmas Yarn"
5:30 p.m.

Christmas Meal
6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14, 2022
Christmas Caroling
6:15 p.m.

4th Sunday of Advent
Sunday, December 18, 2022

Wednesday, December 21, 2022
Christmas Drop-In Reception At Kris and Clary's
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service
Saturday, December 24, 2022
5:00 p.m.
Worship and Communion

Christmas Day Service
Sunday, December 25, 2022
11:00 a.m.

The children are encouraged to wear their
Christmas Pajamas and bring a small toy!

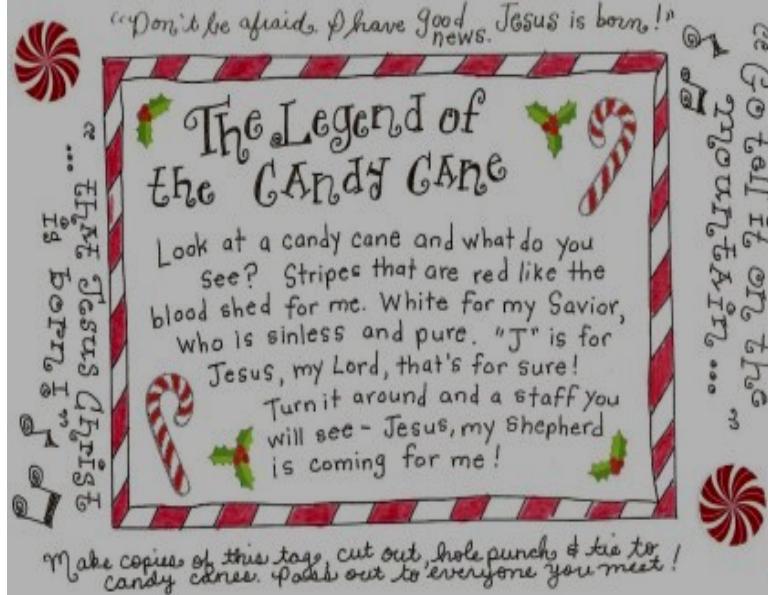
First Baptist Family,

Advent has begun and Christmas is nearly here! As usual, we're going to have a lot going on here at the church, so I hope you'll make use of our calendar of events. While most of the events listed like our Christmas cantata, Kidz Christmas play, and Annual Business Meeting need little explanation, there are a couple of events that can use a little more elaboration. First, on Wednesday, December 21 from 5:30-7:30 PM, Clary and I are hosting a drop-in reception at our house. It's for the entire church, so all of you are invited. We'll have finger foods and Christmas goodies. I hope you can make it. And if you need directions, please let me know. Then, since Christmas is on a Sunday this year, we're going to mix things up a little bit. We're cancelling Sunday School for that morning, and we're going to have a slightly shorter than normal worship service. We're inviting children to wear their Christmas pajamas and to bring a small toy. And we're inviting adults to bring a gift for our Blessings Box, too. We hope that it will be a meaningful service for all who attend.

I also want to share with you a quote from one of my favorite authors, Frederick Buechner. I know that I've shared it with you before, but it's so good that I think it bears repeating. Describing Advent, Buechner writes, "In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deeps of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of silence itself. You hold your breath to listen. You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart. The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment." As Christmas approaches and your calendar fills up, I want to encourage you to pause and hold your breath. Pay attention to what is peaceful and holy about this season. Listen for the groan of bleak midwinter and hear it turn into joyous celebration as Christmas comes. And take advantage of the events that have been scheduled. If you can, bring others with you. It might be the only time they and you have to stop and experience the divine. Merry Christmas!

Grace and Peace,

Kris



Kidz Christmas Program

"A Christmas Yarn"

Sunday, December 11, 2022

5:30 p.m.

MEAL TO FOLLOW!

Be sure you make your reservations with the church office.

MENU:

- Crostini Appetizer
- Sweet Potato Casserole
- Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
- Sliced Roast Beef
- Green Beans Almondine
- Rolls & Dessert

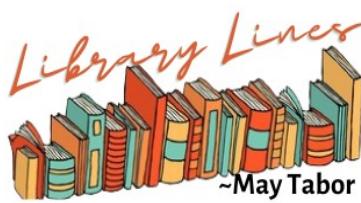
PRICE:

\$10-Adult

\$5-Kids 6-12

Free-Kids 5 and Under

\$20-Max Family Amount



The Christmas season is here and your Library has many helpful, enjoyable books for all age groups. Following is a sampling of Christmas books in our adult section: **101 Ideas for the Best-Ever Christmas** has plans for family activities, crafts, recipes, stories, and Bible readings. **The Christmas List** by "The King of Christmas Fiction," Richard Paul Evans tells of a real estate mogul whose obituary was published while he was still alive through which he was able to see what the world really thought of him. It is a holiday story to warm your hearts and home. **A Simple Christmas Wish** is an emotional Amish tale by Melody Carlson. Rachel takes her niece, Holly, from Chicago to Ohio's Amish Country where family secrets emerge and old wounds are healed ensuring that Holly will have the loving family she needs. Debbie Macomber's, **The Christmas Basket**, calls for a family miracle to mend an old family feud that is keeping two friends apart. Could the spirit of Christmas reunite them?

For children, there are engagingly-illustrated picture books, some with rhyming texts that help them feel the excitement and wonder of the Christ Child's birth. Among these are **Room for a Little One, When Jesus was Born, and No Tree for Christmas**. Two delightful DVD's are **The Gift of Christmas** and **Red Boots for Christmas**.



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Luke 14:12-14

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Has it been another year already? Seems like we were just preparing our hearts for Advent...where does the time go?

I am so thankful that God's time is different than my time. My time seems rushed and stressed – like there's never enough even though I have the same amount every day. Often, I find myself in a position to have to choose one task over the other because I'm out of time. I may be out of time for a very good reason. More likely, though, I'm out of time because "other things" (i.e. social media, a nap, etc.) interrupted my plan. Can you relate?

But, in God's time, things happen as they are supposed to with God's careful and thoughtful plan. Just like His plan to send Jesus into the world – through earthly parents, announced by angels, visited by shepherds and Magi – all so He could suffer, die, and be resurrected for me and for you.

Let us all pause this Advent to remember His plan, His goodness, His love. Then let us use our time to praise and please our Lord and Savior. Let us share the Hope and Promise of Christmas by using our time as a gift to others and to ourselves.

There will be many opportunities for worship during Advent. I hope you will join us as often as possible. And I hope you will bring someone with you!

Blessings,
Leigh

"The Promise of Hope"

*Sanctuary Choir
Christmas
Cantata*

*Sunday, December 4
11:00 a.m.*

Christmas Eve SERVICE

DEC 24 | 5:00 PM

The church office will be closed on
December 23 and 26
In observance of the Christmas holiday.
We will also be closed on
Friday, December 31

Decorate the Tree with Caps and Gloves

KIND DEEDS CAN CHANGE LIVES.
COLD WEATHER IS HERE.

The caps, gloves, and socks are very much appreciated by the ones in our area trying to keep warm. Please bring warm items to church office. Gently used or new -which ever you have to donate. Thank you for your thoughtfulness to our community.



ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The church's
Annual Business Meeting
will be held on
Sunday, December 11, 2022
Immediately
Following Worship

The agenda for that meeting as required in our Church's By-Laws is to adopt the 2023 Budget, to elect church officers for 2023, and to receive a report from the Ministry Team relative to Team membership, etc.

Welcome to FBC!
Peggy and Jim joined on
November 20, 2022

Peggy & Jim Bond



First Baptist Church of Bristol Staff

Dr. Kris Aaron.....Senior Pastor
Rev. Ben Ondrak.....Associate Pastor
Rev. Leigh Clark.....Minister of Music
Mrs. Jackie Burnette.....Pianist
Mrs. Andrea PenningtonOrganist

Mrs. Marcine Robinette.....Parish Nurse
Ms. Terri ThomasChurch Administrator
and Financial Secretary
Ms. Niki Judy.....Administrative Assistant



Contact Information:
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Hours: info@fbcbristol.org
Website: www.fbcbristol.org
You can also find us on
Facebook.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
125 Sedgefield Street
Bristol, VA 24201

Deacon of the Week for December

December 04, 2022	Nancy Hyde
December 11, 2022	Michael Warren
December 18, 2022	Linda Pruner
December 25, 2022	Gene Eller



FBC Minister On-Call Schedule

December 04 & 05	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
December 10 & 11	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795
December 17 & 18	Rev. Ben Ondrak	(423) 217-8934
December 24 & 25	Dr. Kris Aaron	(803) 225-0795