

December 2019

Join Us for the Christmas Musical

As we enter into this Christmas season, there are many ways to remember that Our God is a promise-keeping God who sent His Son into this world to be the Savior of the world. His love for us is so deep and we often need to remind ourselves of that kind of love. One way we do this at FBC is through special events such as the Christmas Musical. The musical tells the story of a couple who enter into this season dealing with the loss of a sudden loss of job. Melody (Heather Sullivan) is wrestling with her own questions and through a series of encounters, she is reminded that God loves her and her family and is worthy of her trust.

The Musical will start at 6pm on Sunday, December 15th at church. This is a great opportunity to be reminded about God's incredible love for us, but it is also a great opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to hear of God's love expressed toward us through His Son

Jesus. The choir is all tuned up and the actors are gearing up for a wonderful performance. There will be cookies afterwards.



Christmas Eve Service

December 24th at 6pm

[Dis · ci · ple]

“Therefore, be imitators of God, as dearly loved children”

— Ephesians 5:1

We want every person in our church to find strong relational connection in genuine community. This is why we have Life Groups. Our Life Groups are intended to create strong relational connection. A Life Group is a place for a person to belong.

To belong requires two things: that I am loved and that I am valued. First, to be loved means that I am truly known by others. In fact, I am truly known even in my weakness and sin, and yet still loved and accepted. This is what Paul is getting at in many places in the New Testament when he commands his churches to forgive one another and to bear one another's burdens. If I am loved even when others truly know me, then I have found a place where I belong.

But to belong also requires that I am valued. To be valued means that others believe that God has gifted me in order to bless them. If I am valued, I can contribute. This is what the apostle Peter teaches us: God has given each of us a gift that we are expected to use to serve others. When I am valued, others see me as a gift to the community.

This could be said in another way: if I truly belong, it is clear when I'm not there; I am missed. When I am valued, my absence creates a hole. So if I can contribute and if I am missed when I am gone, then I have found a place where I belong.

We cannot be a disciple of Jesus by ourselves. That is why God has saved us into a community, his Church. Our vision for Life Groups is for every person in our church to find strong relational connection in genuine community. This means that they can find a place to belong. This means that every person is loved and valued for who they are in Christ.

Life Groups are a critical part of our Discipleship Pathway because they provide the context in which our love for Jesus is manifested in love for others. We create a place for others to belong because we belong to Jesus. If he has done that for us, we too should go out of our way to seek out others and welcome them into our Life Groups. If you are not in a Life Group or don't join regularly, what is keeping you from being a blessing to others? If you are in a Life Group, how can you take one step to build stronger relationships with those in your group? Who hasn't been there for a while that you could reinvite with a simple phone call? Healthy Life Groups will grow only when we all seek to love and value one another.





I don't know about your family, but my family has several Christmas traditions. Traditions are special because they are unique to your own family and because they are peppered with memories of years past. Often, our traditions happen accidentally and organically. One year, we do something we enjoy and someone says, "Let's do this every year!" Sometimes, though, our traditions are more intentional. This Christmas, consider intentionally adding family traditions that point to Jesus. Here are a few ideas, stop by the Faith @ Home center for additional ideas and resources that you can use at home.

CHRISTMAS DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE: Grab a Family Discipleship Guide to use with your family throughout the weeks leading up to Christmas. The weekly focus goes along with what the kids are learning on Sunday mornings, but can be used by all families. The guide begins with the prophesied Messiah and then looks at how the prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus was born. The Messiah has come! We should need no other reason to celebrate.

READ THE CHRISTMAS STORY: This one may already be part of your Christmas celebration. Read the story of Jesus' birth from Luke 2. If you have small children, consider using a Children's Bible or a story book that tells the story. You could also act out the story, using yourself and your children as actors, or using your nativity set. Another fun interactive way to tell the story would be to have your children make sound effects. Remember to ask questions as you go along so your children will stay engaged and understand the story.

PRAY FOR THE FAMILIES WHO SEND YOU CHRISTMAS CARDS: When you receive a Christmas card in the mail, make a point to gather the family and pray for those who sent it. You might do this each night at dinner, or save up the cards for an allotted time during the week. You might ask each member of your family to pray for a different member of the family on the card.

GIVE AS A FAMILY: Along with opportunities to serve, Christmas also brings in an abundance of opportunities to give. Encourage your children to save up in order to give to others.

SERVE OTHERS: There are countless ways to serve others during the Christmas season. Head to a nursing home, a hospital waiting room, or a local homeless shelter. Bring gifts, sing carols, offer to pray for families, or serve food. Be sure to check with the management before you go to see what is most needed and most enjoyed.

LISTEN TO CHRISTMAS MUSIC: Christmas songs and carols are rich in theology. Your children may not realize it at the time, but they are learning lyrics that point to Jesus as the Hope of the world. Sing the songs as a family and as your children get older, consider going to a Christmas concert.

ATTEND CHURCH SERVICE: Church services during the Christmas season are a great time for children to learn the story of Jesus' birth and the hope of His second coming. Familiar Christmas carols are often sung and there's an opportunity to explain Christmas to curious little ones. The candlelight service, while nerve-racking for parents, can point children to the Light of the world.

FAITH @ HOME CENTER: If your family would like more ideas or resources to help your family focus on Jesus birth -please stop by the Faith at Home Center. At the Faith at Home Center there are many resources to help your family focus your Christmas celebrations on the coming of the Messiah.

FBC Youth

Ignited by Change - Fueled by Faith - Led by Passion

Hello church,

November has been a very exciting month for FBC's Student Ministry! First of all, we had a great time at the Rake 'n Run on November 9th. We were able to rake 10 houses, and 25 people came out to serve people in our church and in our community. It was a great day, and it was a joy to see our students excited about serving others. We also talked about sexuality during the month of November. This is a very important topic in our culture today, and so we believe it is incredibly important to teach about the Christian view on sexuality and provide opportunity for the students to ask any questions they had. Many students were very eager to talk about this topic, and I was impressed by the seriousness of their questions and thinking about this topic.

Remember our Christmas Party is on December 14th from 6:30-9:00pm!

-Pastor Andrew



MISSIONARY CORNER



Many of you may recognize Seth and Rebecca Mallay and their family. They were with us for our missions conference this last year and shared from their experience working in Togo. As the missions team discussed the conference and the 2020 budget for this year, we have recommended to the elders that we support the Mallay family as a partner church. We will be voting on this at the annual meeting on January 12th, 2020.

The Mallay family are in the pre-field stage as medical missionaries to West Africa through ABWE. Their mission is to know Christ and to make him known by multiplying leaders, churches, and missions movements through compassion and medical ministry in Togo.

Halfway through their two-year commitment to a hospital in Togo with Samaritan's Purse, they were forced to return to the United States after finding a tumor in the abdomen of their oldest daughter, Arwen. In January of 2018, Arwen was diagnosed with stage four neuroblastoma. While they continue to seek treatment for their daughter, they have begun their pre-field ministry with ABWE and hope to return to Togo again in a couple years.

2019 Officer Elections

Elections for FBC Officers will be held on Dec. 22nd, 2020. Absentee ballots will be available on Dec. 15th. Here is this year's ballot.

<p>Elders (3 Yr. Term)</p> <p>Tim Kalee Phil VanLaan</p>	<p>Administrative Deacons (2 Yr. Term)</p> <p>Mike Burnham JJ Swain</p> <p>Mercy Deacons (2 Yr. Term)</p> <p>Joe Runstrom Mark Smoes</p>	<p>Nominating Committee (1 Yr. Term)</p> <p>Dave Mersman Karol Burnham Angie Ingram Diane Gerard Terre Ritchie Cheryl Haines Donna Tyler</p>
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Building and Grounds

Greetings from Building and Grounds!

I believe that the cold weather is here for the winter whether we like it or not! The salt and shovels are by the doors and the parking lot is marked for plowing. It is always my goal to provide safe sidewalks and parking lots; however, there may be an area that I miss. Please feel free to politely bring areas of safety hazards to my attention.

The weather also brings a busier schedule for facilities use. Please do not forget to fill out a building use request form if you are planning a Lifegroup event, baby shower, cookie exchange, etc.... The forms can be found outside the Family Room door in the file holder. Simply fill it out, drop it off at the office for approval, and make sure you receive a confirmation that the space you desire has been reserved. As you utilize the facilities for fellowship, please remember to bring home any food sources that you may have brought with you. This will prevent unwanted pests, messes, and smells.



You may notice a new decal on the doors at every entrance. This notice is a reminder that we are a latex free facility. We have multiple people who have latex allergies, some with extreme consequences when exposed to any source. Your assistance with preventing any issues is greatly appreciated! Mylar balloons are still permissible.

It is my hope that you have a blessed Christmas season! Invest in people and relationships this December while you celebrate. What a tremendous gift of God the Father in sending his son Jesus Christ to be our Redeemer!!

Sincerely,

Russ Race – Building and Grounds.

December Memory Verse

20 And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. **21** Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. **22** Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you and revile you and spurn your name as evil on account of the Son of man! **23** Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven, for so their fathers did to the prophets.

Luke 6:20-23 (ESV)

December Reading Plan				
Week 1 Starting on Dec. 2	Week 2 Starting on Dec. 9	Week 3 Starting on Dec. 16	Week 4 Starting on Dec. 23	Week 5 Starting on Dec. 30
Day 1: Luke 6	Day 1: Luke 11	Day 1: Luke 16	Day 1: Luke 21	Day 1: Acts 2
Day 2: Luke 7	Day 2: Luke 12	Day 2: Luke 17	Day 2: Luke 22	Day 2: Acts 3
Day 3: Luke 8	Day 3: Luke 13	Day 3: Luke 18	Day 3: Luke 23	Day 3: Acts 4
Day 4: Luke 9	Day 4: Luke 14	Day 4: Luke 19	Day 4: Luke 24	Day 4: Acts 5
Day 5: Luke 10	Day 5: Luke 15	Day 5: Luke 20	Day 5: Acts 1	Day 5: Acts 6

Birthdays and Anniversaries December 2019

Birthdays		Birthdays		Birthdays	
Eliana Kiser	12/01	*Shirley Hossack	12/15	Anniversaries	
Amber Ritchie	12/02	Cindy Thayer	12/15		
*Jasson Farmer	12/03	*Wayne Postema (M.K.)	12/16	Dave & Anne Pasquale	12/16
*Sue Green	12/04	Bryan & Shay Burnham	12/18	*Steve & Sue Mayo	12/18
Elizabeth Tarchala	12/04	Shirley Carroll	12/18	Rick & Lori Raimer	12/30
Joshua Zalis	12/05	Michael Laukaitis	12/18	* Missionary	
Giséle Mix	12/06	Steve Bennett	12/19		
Breyden Race	12/06	Naomi Kalee	12/19		
James Fleenor	12/07	Rosalie Berrington	12/20		
Josiah Tenney	12/07	Myrtis Thut	12/21		
Paisley Haner	12/08	Cynthia Smoes	12/22		
Breanna VanLaan	12/08	Daniel Harrison	12/23		
Chelsea Kastanek	12/09	Shay Burnham	12/26		
Noah VanLaan	12/09	Lisa Hooker	12/26		
Steve Kiser	12/10	Sue Ingraham	12/26		
Jacob Kooi	12/13	David Milley	12/27		
Lisa Timmerman	12/13	Colton Ritchie	12/28		
Hinano Narita	12/14	Wyatt Yantz	12/30		
Cody Burnham	12/14	Bryan Burnham	12/31		
		Alayna Kastanek	12/31		

FBC Calendar: December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30am: Morning Service 4:00pm: Christmas Musical Choir Practice	6:15pm Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 6pm: Tae Kwon Do	4:00pm: Missions Team Meeting 6:15pm: Awana	7:00am: Basketball 5:30pm Family Matters Team	10:00am Ladies Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00am: Basketball
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:30am: Morning Service 5:00pm: Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 6pm Tae Kwon Do	9:00am Men's Bible Study 10:30 Playdate 6:15pm: Awana	7:00am: Basketball 9:00am MOPS 7:00pm: Admin. Deacon Meeting 7:00pm: Mercy Deacon Meeting		7:00am: Basketball 6:00pm Student Ministry Christmas Party
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30am: Morning Service 6:00pm: Christmas Musical	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am Basketball 6pm Tae Kwon Do 6:30pm: Elder's Mt	9:00am: Men's Bible Study 10:30am Playdate 6:15 pm Awana	7:00am: Basketball 11:00am Prime Time 6:30pm: Coffee Break	10:00am Ladies Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00am: Basketball 10:30 am Domino Promise Sewing
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30am: Morning Service	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)	7:00am: Basketball 6:00pm: Christmas Eve Service		7:00am: Basketball		7:00am: Basketball
29	30	31				
9:30am: Morning Service 2:45 Green Acres Worship Service	6:15pm: Youth Group (Grade 6-12)					