

WE WISH YOU A VERY
MERRY
CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR



Dear Beloved First Family



Dr. Darin Wood - Senior Pastor

Grace, peace and mercy in Christ Jesus our Lord! Merry Christmas! Happy New Year!!!

A CHRISTMAS EVE TO REMEMBER

I'm so excited to spend Christmas Eve with you! Our services are identical – 4 PM and 6 PM – and will feature our friends the Cooley sisters on their harps. We'll also welcome our friend Stinky the Shepherd back to the stage! For his time, he will invite any child who wants to join him on the platform to come down for story time!



A DIFFERENT SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 26 AND JANUARY 2

Just a quick reminder that we will have a different schedule the next two Sundays. January 9th will return us to our normal schedule.

- December 26: 10 AM Service only and NO SUNDAY SCHOOL.
- January 2: 10 AM Service with Sunday School made by each department. If your class has Sunday School, it will begin at 8:45.

ROAD WORK ON GARFIELD

As I mentioned Sunday morning, we've been told to expect the Garfield road construction project to begin in January. Once the project begins, the city tells us to expect a 24 month construction schedule. We will do our best to keep you apprised of what to expect.

One key note – understand the company doing the work is not the city nor are they from Midland. Pray with me for opportunities to show them the love of Christ and the kindness of Christ's family as they work right outside our doors.

As we close out this year and begin a new one, I wanted to take a look back at the best things from this year and a look forward to what God will do in 2022.

BEST THINGS OF 2021

1. The launch of our First Family Fellowship North Campus! Without a doubt, launching our North Campus was the pinnacle of the year. Our friend Sheldon Kinnison and our core team are off to a wonderful start! As we begin the new year, let's commit to praying for their work!
2. The blessing of seeing God's hand at work in baptisms! This year, we baptized our first ones from our FBC en Espanol service, our first ones from the North Campus and 39 baptisms here at our Central campus! Our God is at WORK!
3. A "normal" kind of summer with dozens of decisions for Christ at VBS, through our Rec Team and our summer activities!
4. Bringing our friend Rev Moe Bomer here to serve the Lord with us! Moe's presence with us has been a wonderful asset to us and to the Kingdom of Christ!
5. Celebrating the 10th anniversary of our friends Katy Little and John Elliott. Their faithful service has made such a difference in the life of our church.

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022

1. Our new sermon series "Unveiled: A Sermon Series On Revelation" will begin on January 9th. I hope you'll invite your friends to join us for this important series.
2. In partnership with the Revelation series, we'll reintroduce our Sunday evening services on January 9th. We're calling it "5 at 5" – 5 questions at 5PM in our chapel. There's simply not time to tackle all appropriate elements in a study on Revelation on a Sunday morning. To that end, we'll use this time to seek to answer (at least) 5 questions as well as providing time for you to ask your questions.
3. Deacon Elections! Beginning January 9th, you can find deacon ballots in our Welcome Center and Chapel Foyer. You can submit those to the ballot boxes placed around our campus and marked "Deacon Ballots." Please join me in praying for who God is calling to service.
4. A return to mission trips! Pending what the virus continues to interrupt, we've planned to return to our travel trips this summer.

May God bless your special Christmas this year!

Your servant,
Darin

Sunday

10:00 AM Worship Services

Worship Services are live streamed on our website at [Church Online](#) as well as [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), & [Vimeo](#).

Upcoming Schedule*

Services

December 26th

10 AM service only (No Sunday School)

January 2nd

10 AM service only

With extended session for birth-PreK

January 9th

Regular services & Sunday School resume

Sunday night service begins at 5PM (Chapel)

Office Hours

December 24th & 27th

Closed

December 31st

8AM - 1:30 PM (Except Moe will be here till 5 PM to accept year end donations.)

January 3rd

Closed

**Check with your ministry leaders for alternative schedules throughout the upcoming weeks.*

1st Family News

1st Sunday Food Drive

December 5th

The Midland Baptist Crisis Center would like for FBC Midland to partner with them by providing food items that are not provided in their food pantry boxes from the Food Bank.

Please bring your food items and place them in the blue food bins located around the church property.

They are requesting that we focus on the following:

Peanut Butter, Jelly (NO glass jars), Canned Spaghetti Sauce (NO glass jars), Canned Soup, & 13 Gallon Trash Bags



WMU Prayer Luncheon

January 10th (D100/102)

Email Kay Kolb at kkolb351@gmail.com if you have any questions.

BESL and Citizenship Classes

January 13th - May 12th.

(With the exception of Intercession & Spring Break weeks)

Thursdays from 6:30 - 8:15pm

Blue (North) parking Lot

NW Door - go upstairs as you enter

No cost

Mission Trips for 2022

January 9th at 4pm (E114)

Informational meeting about mission trips planned for 2022

Spring MISD Intercession Church Day Camp

February 7th - 10th (Monday - Thursday)

9:00AM-4:00PM

Do you need childcare during intercession? Sign your student up for INTERCESSION CHURCH DAY CAMP at:

fbcm.info/SpringDayCamp

- Limited spots available.
- Must pre-register - NO day walk-ups
- Bring your lunch.

Acknowledgements

Thank You

Words cannot begin to express our thanks for the many prayers, cards, food and memorials given in memory of our precious daughter/stepdaughter, Vickie Upham Kern. This has been a difficult path to walk, but the many prayers have sustained the Kern/Upham families. A special thank you for the memorial to Buckner Children and Family Services . I served as the Chairman of the Committee responsible for the family residences that were built to serve single mothers and their children.

With love to our First family,
James and Susan Upham

The red poinsettia adds a bright splash of color to my living room. James Ervin, our adult minister, was so kind to deliver the plant and to visit and share a beautiful prayer.

Thank you,
Norma McGrew

Thank you so much for the beautiful poinsettia. I am enjoying it and thinking of our church and Jesus when I see it. Peggy Byrom brought it to me and took time to visit. I appreciated her taking the time.

Carole Headrick

Bereavements

Our deepest sympathy, prayers, and love go out to the family members in the loss of their loved ones.

- Tina Hood in the loss of her father, Fred Bost
- Family and friends of Ruth Reick
- Sheldon Kinnison in the loss of his grandmother, Jesse Kinnison
- Shirley Campbell in the loss of her mother

THE WISE MEN & THE STAR

By Dean Rippetoe

Long before Garmin, there was a spiritual GPS system in place. It is still there and we just have to learn how to use it. We learn in Mathew, Chapter 2 about the Wise Men following a star that led them to Jesus. There has been much speculation about this event and we know only a smattering of the facts. Mathew 2.1 says, "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east of Jerusalem. The Bible does not state how many wise men or their mode of travel nor does it claim that they were kings. It is assumed that there were three because of the three gifts. It is assumed that these men were learned (wise) men and were most likely astrologers because they depended on a star to guide them. The Bible does not mention the names of the men but medieval legend names the three Kings as Melchoir, King of Arabia, who brought gold; Gaspar, King of Tarsus, who brought myrrh; and Balthazar, King of Ethiopia, who brought frankincense. These names did not appear in Christian literature until 500 years after the birth of Jesus.

The wise men came from the east following a star. They dropped by and made a courtesy call on Herod. They asked, "Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews"? This scared the wits out of Herod and he set out to find the new born baby. Herod was evidently a very insecure person because he felt threatened by a newborn baby. Maybe Herod knew more than we first thought. Herod's advisors knew the prophesy and where the Messiah was supposed to be born, but they could not find him. The star was apparently very bright and hovered over Bethlehem but Herod

could not see it. It seems that only those who were looking for the Christ Child for the purpose of worshiping him could see the guiding star.

The wise men were warned in a dream not to report back to Herod after they had found Jesus. Joseph was told by an angel to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt until Herod had died for their safety. Much speculation has been made about the star. Some say it was a comet, some think it was Jupiter but no one knows. If the star was so bright, why didn't everyone see it including Herod and his advisors. Did the Wise men only travel at night or did the guiding star shine during the daytime? I think the star was as bright in the daytime as it was at night and all of this was the handiwork of God. I believe the definition of a miracle is an event that cannot be explained by science. I think this fits that description.

Does it make any sense at all to say that the Light of the World is Jesus and the light that the Wise men followed was the Light of Jesus. Does it make any sense at all to say that only those looking for Jesus, for the purpose of worshiping Him, are the only ones that will see the ever-present, brilliant, guiding light of Jesus.

It is my hope this Christmas that you will find that guiding light, that you will follow it and find the Christ Child, wrapped in Love, as a gift from God.



Giving as Worship

By Kay Kolb

Here we are in the midst of our season of prayer and giving for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions (LMCO), named for missionary Lottie Moon. The practice of giving has certainly taken a turn though the recent time of pandemic. Since my youth I've appreciated passing an offering plate during the service. Yes, in more recent times there has been the option of giving online but I was never ready to sign up for that. I needed the time of plate passing. However, in the past two years, we have learned to put our offering envelopes in a box somewhere in the building.

More than once, I've asked Dr. D, "When will we begin passing the plate as part of the worship service again." He understands both sides of the issue and I am thankful he makes decisions about such things carefully. There's no easy answer in these times of COVID, but I've missed our offertory time with the beautiful music designed to prepare our hearts for the upcoming message. It was meaningful.

For now, that time has had to be omitted.

I think of Lu Ingram. She was teaching a women's Sunday School Class a few years ago and we spent time together in Teachers Meeting on Wednesday nights. On this particular night she announced that she would be moving to live closer to her son which is not unusual in our aging group. With tears in her

beautiful brown eyes, she told me that she was not going to be able to tithe in her new place because it was going to take all she had to pay the cost of the assisted living. I wasn't sure what to say, but she told me that Dr. D had reassured her that God understands those things and she shouldn't feel bad about it.

"But when I sit down and write out my check each week, it is such a beautiful time of sweet worship between me and my Heavenly Father," she said.

Wow! Those words made a major change in me. As it turned out, Lu ended up in a home of her own and now rejoices because she is able to continue giving. "As I have always told my children do the right thing and God will bless," Lu added. "We serve a loving God and you can't out give Him".

Taking time to worship as I write a check was a completely new idea to me. Our methods of giving may have changed but our response to God's Word hasn't.

Reviewing the example Lottie Moon gave helps us to draw closer to God and his Great Commission. She gave sacrificially for the people of China to know the story of Jesus. As you prayerfully consider your offering for LMCO, may it be a time of worship of our amazing, loving God.

LOTTIE MOON
Christmas Offering
FBC GOAL
\$135,000.

Generations Christmas Celebration with



The McNeills



Our Generations Christmas Dinner was held on December 9, featuring entertainment by The McNeills and a delicious dinner. A large crowd gathered to eat and celebrate as they listened to the family band play Christmas songs with a bluegrass flair.





"Thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed upon my family during our most difficult time"

- Gift Family Member

"God is so good! Thank you for all you do! Merry Christmas!"

- Gift Family Member



I am humbled to say we were able to pray with every person who came to our table. We prayed with one woman who is fearful her children will be taken away from her. We prayed with another woman who has one week to find child care for her young daughter who got kicked out of her current facility because of behavior issues. The daughter also has multiple health issues as the mom struggles to keep her job after being unemployed for 7 months. A third woman is dealing with complications of COVID in her family. Each family for whom we prayed is in need of the peace that only comes from the Prince of Peace. I praise God that I am a part of a church that blesses our community, and that allows me to be a part of sharing those blessings.

- Volunteer



NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. Postage

PAID

First Baptist
Church Midland



2104 W. LOUISIANA

MIDLAND, TEXAS 79701-5972

Address Service Requested



CHRISTMAS TV BROADCASTS

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DEC 24 - 10:35 PM on Newswest 9 (KWES)

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

DEC 25 - 6:00 AM on The CW (KCWO)

DEC 25 - 11:00 AM on CBS7 (KOSA)



END OF YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

2021 CONTRIBUTIONS MUST BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 5 PM ON DEC 31. MAILED GIFTS MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2021.

DETAILS AT:

BUSINESS OFFICE (432)683-0615

FBC DIRECTORY

www.fbc-midland.org

Main Phone - 432.683.0600 Main Fax - 432.683.0660

Prayer Line - 432.683.0683

Pastoral Ministry	683.0604
Missions Ministry	683.0623
Music & Worship Ministry	683.0618
Administrative Office	683.0604
Activities Ministry	683.0647
Business Office	683.0615
Children's Ministry	683.0611
Preschool Ministry	683.0611
Child Development Center	683.0638
Children's Day Out	683.0632
Student Ministry	683.0606
Family Ministry	683.0612
55+ Ministry	683.0612
Media Ministry	683.0696
Membership	683.0612
Duplication Services	683.0626
Library	683.0625

Sunday

Worship Services at 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM • Sunday School at 9:45 AM

Worship Services Online

fbc-midland.org • facebook.com/fbcmidland
youtube.com/fbcmidland • vimeo.com/fbcmidland

Sunday Service Televised at

7:00 a.m. on KOSA CBS 7

10:00 a.m. on CW Channel

Televised services are on a one-week tape delay

Stewardship Reports

December 19, 2021

Offering	Weekly	Year to Date
FBC Offering	\$ 159,127	\$ 1,783,037
Budget Requirement	\$ 246,717	\$ 1,838,150
Over/Under Budget	\$ -87,590	\$ -55,113
Hope 1:8	\$ 30	\$ 79,510
Lottie Moon	\$ 6,437	\$ 37,116

How to Give Online

Click the round button link located on the bottom right side of the website and follow the steps for online giving.

GIVE