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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Pastor's Message



Dr. Jerry Neal
Senior Pastor

Dr. Dave Earley
Lead Pastor

Bryan Corbett
Associate Pastor

David Berna
Visitation Pastor

Jeff Bane
Outreach Pastor

Mike D'Attoma
Assistant Pastor

Joshua Wright
Children's Pastor

Robert Stroup
Business Administrator

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Our Wednesday night Bible study has been on Joy. James says, *"Count it all joy when you fall into various trials"* (1:2). But how can we do this? I talk to many of our people going into the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday season, and they are facing many trials. Their joy seems to be non-existent. Is James from another planet or is this joy really possible to experience while I am facing great pain?

The key to this verse is to look to Jesus Who is the epitome of joy. The Bible says, *"He who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and hath set down at the right hand of the throne of God."* That's it. We don't focus on our trials, we look forward beyond them and see the joy. The joy of forgiveness if you are broken. The joy of healing if you are sick. The joy of reconciliation if your family is torn apart. Look to this joy with the certainty that God will do for you what He has promised. He has promised to give you life and that more abundantly.

Therefore, if you are going through a trial, look for the joy of the abundant life He promised. He said it. You got it. And that's the way it is.

I like to watch the Buckeyes on DVR—after they have already won the football game and I know the outcome. When my team is down and they are behind in the score, I don't fret. I am sure of the outcome.

Read the promises of God that way. The joy is set before us. Believe it. Confess it. Claim it—especially when you fall into trials.

Have a Merry Christmas,

Pastor Jerry & Sharon Neal



My “tent-making” job involves working with large and heavy packages at UPS.

These packages are affectionately known as “E-regs” in the trade. “E-reg” is short

for “irregular packages,” defined as packages over 70 pounds in weight or ones so exceptionally large and bulky that they cannot be handled in the maze of sorting chutes and conveyors belts used to process smaller packages.

Instead, E-regs are moved about on special rolling carts towed by industrial tugs. The carts are painted bright orange for safety; it’s hard to miss a bright orange cart rolling by. But if the cart has been in service and used for a long time, most of the orange paint is gone, the surfaces are worn down to bare metal, and they aren’t nearly as visible. You can tell when something is well used.

We are now going through a preaching series on Sunday mornings called “This Is My Bible.” I was given an assignment. As I visit with the families of our church, I have them get out their Bibles and see how well-worn they are. Or if they have the Bible on an electronic device, I ask them how often they have to recharge the batteries. Then I give them a letter grade of A to F, and report back to our senior leadership.

No! I am kidding! I wasn’t given that assignment, and I don’t do that.

But seriously, are you reading your Bible?

Does your Bible show the signs of being well-used?

Are you having to continually recharge your phone or iPad because of all your Bible reading?

No read, no grow. It is really that simple.

Pastor Andy Kovalchik,
Assistant Visitation Pastor

AWANA Calendar of Events

December 5th—Double Points for Handbooks Night!

December 12th—Hat Night!

December 19th—Happy Birthday, Jesus!

December 26th—No AWANA—Merry Christmas!

Help Wanted!

- 3rd and 4th Grade Boys.
- 3rd and 4th Grade Girls.
- 5th and 6th Grade Girls.
- Security and Check-ins.



Members’ Ministry

Where is your joy? In things you have or want? In others? In your self? Do you know all these things are temporary, they will go away, and they will all let you down? We sacrifice the eternal for the temporary when we should exchange the temporary for the eternal.

Joy is something that most people never experience. They might feel happy for a moment, or proud for a time, but joy not so much. Joy comes from inside our souls, and it comes with a right relationship with Christ Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit.

We try to fill that emptiness inside us with new, bright shining things or with a spouse or children, or with a promotion and more money. But in our pursuit of joy, we encumber ourselves and get bogged down with things, and these things keep us from seeing what we are missing. Until we put Christ first in our lives, we will not have joy. We might have temporary happiness but at what cost? Joy isn’t found in our circumstances, joy isn’t found in our accomplishments, joy isn’t found in anything or anywhere except in Christ.

Those who seek joy first will never find it. To find joy we must first seek Christ for joy is given to us when we are in Him. The areas of our lives we have given Christ are the areas we have the most joy in; the areas we don’t experience joy in are the areas we need to turn over to Him.

Do you have joy in your life no matter what is going on around you? I don’t find it joyous to struggle in my health, but I find joy in sharing Christ with others, I find joy in knowing that God is for me, I find joy in knowing my home is in heaven with Him for eternity and this life is all temporary for my joy is in Christ. He sought me and saved me, and He changed me and continues to change me daily, He has great plans that He works in my life every day, and He holds me and helps through everything.

This I know is what Christ has done for me and continues to do in my life and He will do in yours. If you don’t have joy, you’re missing the greatest part of this life. Today, right now, ask Christ Jesus to show you what joy is and surrender your life to Him. If you’re His already and you’re missing joy, ask Christ to fill your life with His. I wrote my book, *Hope of Glory: Christ in Me*, to share the joy and hope in the Lord with others.

If Christ found joy in the cross so you and I could be with Him for eternity, surely we can always find joy in Him no matter what is going on around us, for we know that this is all temporary and Heaven, where He lives, is eternal.

Surrender it all to Him and have joy everlasting. That is how God created us—to have an eternal relationship with Him. That is what Jesus prayed for us. It is time you stopped being robbed of all God has for you and start living in Him.

“Though you have not seen him, you love him; though not seeing him now, you believe in him, and you rejoice with inexpressible and glorious joy, because you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.” 1 Peter 1:8-9

In Christ,

Pastor Brian Kinnett,
Members’ Minister

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

BERGER, Tiffany	12/01	ARLEDGE, David	12/24
HANKINS, Ted	12/02	BARBER, Ashley	12/24
PENNY, Joe	12/02	BOSWELL, Lance	12/24
BETTES, Abby	12/02	BURCHWELL, Margaret	12/24
WALTERS, Lance	12/02	LAMB, Josh	12/24
SMITH, Lola	12/03	LESHER, Naomi	12/24
BOWER, Chuck	12/03	WITBECK, Makayla	12/25
WILLIAMS, Dan	12/03	BARR, Matthew	12/27
TYLER, Anna	12/04	LOVE, Wes	12/27
WILDS, Becky	12/04	SOSA, Elizabeth	12/27
WEBB, Steve	12/04	MORGAN, Patricia	12/27
COX, Caleb	12/05	CAMPBELL, Diana	12/27
RAQUET, Sarah	12/05	FISHER, Abigail	12/27
MALE, Cody	12/05	EARLEY, Karla	12/27
SEBERT, Faye	12/05	JAMISON, Kaleigh	12/27
SWICEGOOD, Dave	12/06	LEONARD, Joanna	12/28
MARTIN, Patrick	12/06	THOMPSON, Jennifer	12/30
WILLIAMS, Kevin	12/06	HIGGINS, Ilene	12/30
CAVE, Jeff	12/07	HISEY, Amber	12/30
FULTON, Nathan	12/07	FURR, Georgianna	12/31
FISHER, Sandy	12/07	FLUHARTY, Carol	12/31
BOWLING, Sharon	12/08	WOLFE, Jill	12/31
MCGILL, Jack	12/08	TERRY, Buzz	12/31
LEETH, Pamela	12/08		
THOMA, Kara	12/08		
ROUSH, Kris	12/09		
DUNCAN, Tim	12/09		
HICKMAN, Donald	12/10		
STOLL, Nicole	12/10		
STEVENS, Scott	12/10		
SHOEMAKER, Kapri	12/10		
PALMER, Beth	12/10		
LAMB, Jill	12/11		
ANTLE, Kaitlyn	12/11		
CALDWELL, Madeline	12/11		
STONICH, Matthew	12/12		
WATTS, Samantha	12/12		
GOLDSMITH, Nicole	12/14		
FAUGHT, Benny	12/14		
SHOEMAKER, Jason	12/15		
CARMICHAEL, Mya	12/15		
SINSEL, Judy	12/16		
SCOTT, Sharon	12/16		
BRINLEY, Mattie	12/17		
WILSON, Liane	12/17		
JONES, Belinda	12/17		
GABRIEL, Winnie	12/17		
CAVE, Jeremy	12/18		
YOWELL, Carlos	12/18		
BOWMAN, Treva	12/18		
BEBEL, Richard	12/19		
TYLER, David	12/20		
WARNER, Matthew	12/20		
HEIBY, Staley	12/21		
ARMENTROUT, Aaron	12/21		
FULTON, Nicholas	12/22		
MURDOCH, Winnie	12/22		
MAYNARD, Derrick	12/22		
HAMMOND, Zach	12/22		
CLEMENTS, Kim	12/23		
TRAVIS, Tim	12/23		

From Our Children's Pastor

Today I did something that I haven't done since last year. I turned on Christmas music, and it was awesome! I immediately found myself getting excited for Christmas. The ideas of sitting around the tree and watching my family have a good time brought a smile to my face. Thoughts of how excited my sons will be while they open their presents made me Joyful.

As Christmas approaches I want to encourage each of you to get out your Bible and remind your family about why we really celebrate Christmas. Take the time to show your kids where the story of Jesus' birth is found in the Bible. Let them read verses about the most wonderful thing that has ever happened. Enjoy Christmas with your family, but make it a priority to keep Jesus at the center of it!

**Pastor Josh Wright,
Children's Pastor**



Join us and our adult worship ministry on Sunday night, December 16th, at 6 PM, for an incredible night of Christmas music called *Sounds of the Season*! Also please join us for our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight services. See times below.



Trustee Ministry Report

The birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the essence of the spirit and heart of Christmas yielding an unending wealth of love and peace. Joy spreads within us as we remember the Christ Child, Mary and Joseph, the Manger, the Star in the East, and the Three Wise Men as we humbly lift our praises and thanks for the incredible Gift so freely given to us.

The Trustees and Volunteers have been busy the last few weeks completing fall projects around the FBC campus before winter sets in:

- The new fifteen passenger van was delivered at the end of October.
- Three gutters have been repaired. Nine exterior doors around the church have been painted.
- The playground area has been power-washed. The deck on the south-side of the FBC building has also been power-washed.
- The sewage sump pumps were serviced, and a back-up sewage sump pump was purchased.
- TruGreen has completed the fall lawn treatment around the FBC campus.
- The renter of the FBC cropland has completed the harvest of the soybean crop.
- The Upward Playing Field has been rolled.
- A team of FBC Trustees moved the KKDC playground fence to align with FBC property lines.
- A team of volunteers set up the shelter for the annual FBC nativity scene in front of the church.
- An automatic external defibrillator, accessible for emergency use, was installed at FBC.
- A television was mounted to the wall in the Youth Center.

December is such a magical time of the year. In our memories are sleigh bells, frosty mornings, starry nights, sugar plums, hot chocolate, candles, the aroma of a burning fireplace, pine trees and holly and maybe a little mistletoe.

Enjoy your time with family and friends this month and rejoice in the true meaning of Christmas; the God-given gift to all of us, a Child named Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

From all the Trustees and Volunteers, have a wonderful Christmas Season and a Happy New Year!

**Phyllis McCloy,
Trustee Ministry Secretary**



Women of FBC



Book Club: We will meet Thursday, December 6th, from 7:00 -8:30 PM, at Panera Bread. We will discuss the book, *Nightingale*, by Susan May Warren. Please contact Kari Jones at 614-589-7557 for more information.

Craft Day: We will not be meeting in the month of December. We will reconvene in January. Please contact KyleAnn Williams at 614-440-5953 for more information.

Surviving Grief with Hope: Come and be supported on your journey through grief in dealing with the loss of a loved one, one's health, a marriage, a job, and more. There will be a meeting on December 2nd at 4:00 PM to discuss coping with the Christmas season. We will begin a new group on January 6th at 4 PM. Please contact Barb Lovingshimer with any questions or to arrange a meeting at 614-875-4613 or 614-551-9781.

Women's Fellowship Breakfast: Saturday, December 8th, at 9 AM, in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Pam Leeth at 614-879-7646 with any questions.

Bible Studies:

- Mondays, bi-weekly, at 1:00 PM, in Room C-154. We will reconvene this group in the spring of 2019. Please contact Mindi Stith at 614-871-4812 for more details.
- Tuesday, at 7:30 PM, in Room C-156. We will meet for the final time this year on December 11th. We will reconvene on January 8th. Please contact Debbie Watts at 614-875-4201 for more information.
- Wednesday, at 6:45 PM, in Room K-117. We are in the midst of the study, *Knowing God by Name*, by Mary Kassian. Please contact Ronda Kinnett at 614-313-7871 for more information.
- Wednesday, at 6:45 PM, in Room K-121. We will be concluding our Bible study focusing on the book and video on *Jonah, Navigating Life Uninterrupted*, by Priscilla Shirer on December 12th. We will reconvene on January 9th. Please contact DeeAnn Brown at 614-314-7847 for more information.
- Thursday, at 9:30 AM, in Room K-117. We are finishing *I Never Thought I'd See the Day*, by David Jeremiah. In January, we will begin a new study on Job by Lisa Harper. Childcare will be provided. Please contact Kay Hardman at 614-323-6891 or kayhardman@gmail.com for more information.

From Our New Women's Ministry Director

My name is Ronda Kinnett and I am happy to introduce myself as the Women's Ministry Director. Many of you may know me as Brian's wife, whom I've been married to for 31 years. Together, we have four children and two granddaughters. We've also been homeschooling for 18 years.

The Lord led me into women's ministry 20 years ago when a sweet lady named Mary invited me to the last session of their Bible study. As I joined the group that morning, I felt welcome and included. The session ended with individual prayers written on strips of paper that were dropped into a tin in the center of the table which the leader said would be prayed over. My prayer was that I could one day join a group like this and experience the fellowship they shared. One year later, God gave me the desire of my heart and I have served in ministry to women ever since.

Over the past few years, there has been a shift in our culture as more people are walking away from God and organized religion because it's no longer considered relevant. Women in the church have a special role in reaching others for Christ. We have been designed to build relationships, show empathy, and be an authentic encourager. Women leaders are an important part of FBC's Vision to Embrace, Engage, Empower, and Encourage. Let's unite as a body of equipped believers to meet the needs of our growing congregation. What we do together can impact our community in God-sized ways.

Please stop by the *Next Steps* kiosk on Sunday morning and introduce yourself. I would love to meet you. I'm looking forward to serving alongside you and being a part of all God has purposed for Women's Ministry.

Blessings!

**Ronda Kinnett,
Women's Ministry Director**

Secret Sisters Update

Secret Sisters is an encouragement and prayer ministry. All those who would like to participate in 2019, please look for information sheets on the Secret Sister table to the left of the Preschool Wing doors in the month of December.

Our annual party is scheduled for Friday, January 11th at 7 PM for both 2018 and 2019 participants. Attendance is not necessary for participation, however. If you have further questions, please contact Karen Campbell at 614-208-6355 or kjb1978@live.com

My View From The Back Of The Pew Continued from Page 6

I can't wait to see what new ministry opportunities and friends await. Also, Josh assured me that he can always use volunteers in the Nursery. Maybe I will see you there, too!

**Cindy Matlock,
Preschool Coordinator**

Men's Corner

The next Men's Fellowship Breakfast will be December 1st at 7:30 AM. Dan Smoot will be sharing his testimony. Below is the testimony of Tim Crane shared at the November breakfast.

My name is Tim Crane. I was born and raised in southeast Kansas to church-loving parents. My father was the song leader at church, so growing up, if there was a service, Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night, revival, etc., my three sisters and I were there. My mother was Sunday school director, and my grandfather was the board chairman of the church. I accepted Christ when I was 12 and still remember the warm feeling afterwards. My mother told me it was the Holy Spirit coming into my life.

High school was a hard time for my Christian life, between working and having a social life in a small town (where there wasn't much to do, and I found out I liked beer), church kind of got put on the back burner. College life was better as I was just wanting to get my degree and not so much interested in the partying part of it.

I graduated from college and went to work at an insurance company in my hometown. A year later, the company was bought by a company in Indianapolis, and I was offered a position in Indy, which I took. My grandmother would send me cards, for no apparent reason, and would include a reference to a Bible verse. I told her one time that she could save me time by putting the verse in the card as well, and she said that wasn't her goal. Her goal was to get me to open my Bible and read the verse, which worked.

I met my wife, Linda, on a blind date setup through a friend at work. We had a great deal of fun, went to the race track, and lots of alcohol was involved. Without my family to keep me accountable to God, my Christian life was pretty much nonexistent. When we decided to get married, we both wanted a church wedding as she was brought up in the church as well. We tried several churches, but no one would let us use their church as we weren't members.

Finally, my wife called the Plainfield Christian Church, where there was a young pastor named Steve White. Our wedding was 12 weeks away and he said that if we attended church for the next 12 weeks, we could use the church for our wedding. We ended up staying for another 17 years.

Linda became pregnant two months after our wedding. Because we both were raised in the church and knew what it was like growing up in the church, we wanted our children to experience the same thing. Having children became the life changing event in my life, bringing me back to the church, back to Christ. We now have three sons, and they have all accepted Christ.

We have always tried to be involved in our church, teaching Sunday school, helping with dinners, and any other way we could contribute.

In 2004, my job brought us to Ohio and we have continued volunteering at church however we can. Two of our three sons are married, each with a daughter and one with another child on the way. Two of our sons are still active in church, as they were raised. We continue to pray for the third. My wife (my grand-

mother would be proud) has him say the prayer whenever we are together for a meal.

We have seen God active in our lives several times. My wife (she was previously married) had previously gone through infertility treatments with no luck. Yet, she was pregnant within two months of our wedding. We did do the infertility treatments again, and we had twin boys three years later. He has provided for us, with me going through nine months of unemployment in 2002 and another five months in 2004. He provided the means for me to still provide for our family.

I am a good example of Proverbs 22:6.

**God Bless,
Pastor David Berna**

My View From The Back Of The Pew

*"Train a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old, he will not turn from it."*
Proverbs 22:6

When I awoke on January 1, 2018, I had no idea how wonderful this year would be. I am now remarried with four kids, three dogs, a geriatric cat, and three birds. My life has definitely been changed, improved, and blessed.

The same can be said for our church. Children's pastor, Josh Wright, joined us in June. He arrived with a love for Jesus and an unrivaled energy level. Honestly, toddlers on a sugar high admire his stamina. Truthfully, though, my favorite thing about Josh is his wife, Lindsay. She works tirelessly while joyfully making the rest of us look good. The Preschool is in great hands, and I will be stepping down as Preschool minister in January.

I am excited to spend more time with my new blended family. Yet, this ministry has been my heart and my "place" for 18 years. Those brightly painted rooms (and the crowded ones on Kingston) have given me much comfort and refuge. I've met my best girlfriends there. As a new mom, I found encouragement in those rooms; and healing when I went through a divorce, some laughs when my youngest started Kindergarten, and some hand-holding when my oldest left for college.

If you have ever read this section of our newsletter, you know of my shortcomings. Yet, in the Preschool wing I have skills. I cook beautiful fake food in the tiny kitchens. I become absolutely stylish playing dress-up with the pre-K girls. Though my singing can best be described as "attracts cats," the toddlers enjoy my enthusiastic motions to their praise songs.

Thank you for allowing me to play with your kids every week. It has been an honor getting to know both children and parents. Rest assured that you are leaving your children in a safe, happy, Christ-filled environment while you attend church.



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