



**EXPERIENCE FAITH**

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

*Encounter God*

MATTHEW 18:20

*Experience God Together*

MATTHEW 22:37-40

*Empty Self*

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8

Vol. 26 No. 12

December 2023

WICHITA FALLS, TX

## **December Schedule**

**Ministry Tree**  
**December 3**

**Christmas Lord's Supper**  
**December 10**

**8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

**Christmas Music Services**  
**December 17**

**8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

**Christmas Eve Service**  
**December 24**

**One service at 10:00 a.m.**  
**(No Sunday School)**

**New Year's Eve Service**  
**December 31**

**Regular Sunday Schedule**

## **From The Pastor**

We completed I Thessalonians in November, with its admonishment to pursue what we know even more as we expectantly anticipate Jesus' promise to rapture every Church Age believer as He takes us with Him to God in Heaven. We learned that the rapture was different from the coming Day of the Lord, a time following the rapture when the Lord is going to judge sin and unbelief (7 year Tribulation) before rescuing a Christ-believing Israel at His Second Coming to earth, where He will rule and unleash His blessings on earth. Without Christ's First Coming there would be no hope of a rapture or Second Coming! Every December Christians celebrate Christ's First Coming (His birth) through Christmas. John 3:16 promises that God sent His only Son, that whoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life. Christmas celebrates that promise as well as the purpose of Christ's first coming, found in verse 17; "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him." December is not a time to proclaim, "Happy Holidays!" It is a time to shout out God's Good News to the world. "Merry Christmas!"

We will begin the book of II Thessalonians the first Sunday in January. I have titled this sermon series, "Tremble Not!" We all need hope and an expectant anticipation of Christ's return and a growing biblical understanding of how evil, the taking out (rapture) of the church, and God's wrath poured out during the Tribulation period are linked. II Thessalonians does this as it builds on the topics of the Rapture and The Day of the Lord in I Thessalonians. We will conclude this sermon series just in time to celebrate Palm and Easter Sundays!

I look forward to our December services! As you know, we have some very gifted teachers on our staff who love the opportunity to preach. Therefore, I have invited Brett Storseth, Caleb Parrish, and Trent Creacy to take a different December Sunday to preach on the theme, "God With Us!" On December 17 David Mace, Adam Turnbo, and all our musicians will lead both services with the Christmas musical, "God with Us." And finally, on December 24 we will have one joint Christmas Eve Service at 10:00 a.m. (no Sunday School).

Thank you so much for your unanimous vote to accept our 2024 budget recommendation and for your generous participation financially in "Trust God Sunday!" I love and thank my Lord daily for you! With next year's budget, a few of us will receive a cost-of-living raise. But others on our staff will receive raises and health insurance that has fallen behind the past 3-5 years. Our staff is exceptionally thankful to you for bringing salaries up closer or at a level they really needed to be. I have been also thankful for a staff that has joyfully ministered and worked without financial expectations as a priority. Many of our hourly employees were making less than they could have made working at a fast-food chain. I celebrate a spiritually mature congregation that gives to the Lord out of faith and love for our Lord Jesus Christ and for believers.

**EXPERIENCE FAITH! ENCOUNTER GOD. . .EXPERIENCE GOD TOGETHER...EMPTY SELF!** As we discovered in our study of I Thessalonians; "...as you have received instruction from us on how you should live and please God – as you are doing – do this even more. For this is God's will, your sanctification." (4:1,3) I look forward to seeing you Sunday and throughout December!

Grace and love to you!

Pastor Craig



## **2024 Annual Budget**

The proposed 2024 annual church budget of \$1,866,155 was adopted by church vote Sunday, November 12. Appreciation goes to our Administrative/Financial Council (Bill Duyck, Cecil Fultz, Richard Haddox, Stephen Larimore, Jeannie Vannucci, and Clay Glasgow, treasurer), our staff, program heads and all who helped compile this 2024 budget.

## **Sympathy**

Our sincere sympathy to those who have recently lost loved ones:

**PAULA CRESSWELL** – mother

**PAT & MARY JEFFRIES** – son

**LOU WHITMIRE** – niece

**PRAY FOR ISRAEL**



## Senior Adults



### Mondays — 10:15 a.m. Reception Hall

Faith Singers rehearse Mondays at 10:15 a.m. in Reception Hall. All adults 50+ are welcome to sing God's praises with this group. The choir sings Monday, December 11 at 10 a.m. at Rolling Meadows (Atrium), 3006 McNeil and at 11 a.m. at Senior Care Health and Rehab, 910 Midwestern Parkway, and then on Monday, December 18 at 10 a.m. at House of Hope, 5100 Stone Lake Drive and at 11 a.m. at Elison at Lake Wellington, 5100 Kell W. Boulevard. The bus will leave the church at 9:30 on December 11 only.

Senior adult monthly luncheon is Monday, December 4. Menu is soups (provided), so bring a salad or dessert. The program will be presented by the Rider High School guitar ensemble under the direction of our own Dwight Ham. The luncheon begins at 11:30 in Fellowship Hall and everyone is welcome.

**SALT Team** (Senior Adult Leadership Team) meeting is Tuesday, December 12 at 1:00 p.m. in room 501.

Our **Temple Builders** exercise group meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in room 122. The FLIC walking track is open Wednesday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Come join us as we get fit!

## Note This...

- Church offices will be closed Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1 to observe the holidays.
- Minister of Contemporary Worship Adam Turnbo will assume Minister of Evangelism duties January 1, 2024. His title, job description and compensation will reflect the appropriate changes for this fulltime position.
- College ministry is preparing for a mission trip December 17-21 to our Rio Grande ministry in Del Rio. This group is collecting board games. There is a collection box in the Worship Center foyer to receive your donations
- Church Office: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday (closed Fridays).
- Our Sunday School meets from 9:45-10:45 a.m. each Sunday. Online streaming of Pastor Craig's messages is available at 8:00 a.m. each Sunday.
- Our Faith family fellowship suppers are each Wednesday 5:30-6:15 p.m. in the Family Life Center. Tickets are \$5/person (\$20 family maximum for immediate family members; college students \$2.00). Tickets are available each Wednesday starting at 5:15, with serving beginning at 5:30 p.m. The final supper until 2024 is December 13.



## 2023 Ministry Tree

Our annual Ministry Tree event is Sunday, December 3. The tree will be located at the back of the Worship Center. You will be given the opportunity during both services to participate in this missions event. Please select one or more of the following ways to be involved:

- ① Choose one or more cards from the tree. Each card has different supplies needed for Patsy's House Child Advocacy Center. This is a non-profit that provides emergency resources to CPS caseworkers for at-risk children.
- ② Select an envelope from the tree. This will allow you to give a financial gift to support the outreach efforts of the Del Rio/Rio Grande River Ministry at Christmas and throughout the year.
- ③ Choose a gift bag from under the tree. This bag contains a name and a gift from Faith Baptist for a homebound member who would enjoy a visit from you.

All supplies, financial gifts and visit reports need to be returned by Sunday, December 17 to the back of the Worship Center. Tables will be there to put the supplies on and a basket will be available for the financial gifts and visit reports.

## Operation Christmas Child

Many thanks to coordinator Charlotte Gill and each of the volunteers who served to staff the regional Operation Christmas Child shoebox collection center in our Family Life Center in November. We collected 17,541 shoeboxes (375 were from Faith Baptist) which filled 3 semi-trucks.

## Del Rio Mission Trip Report

November 12-15 a team from our church went to Del Rio, TX to work with Shon and Janeene Young, BGCT River Ministry Missionaries. Our team was able help and make an impact as they served and worked alongside Shon and Janeene to share the light of Christ with children, families, and adults. Please be praying for Shon and Janeene and their ministry and for a fruitful continued partnership with them in Del Rio.



## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

Please pray for our international missions work and this offering, 100% of which goes to the mission field. Offering envelopes are available on the missions table in the Worship Center foyer and also by the International Missions wall. Ask God what He would have you give this year.



**Trust God Sunday, November 5** was a great success due to your support and participation as well as God's blessings upon the day. In 2023, we have averaged receiving about 83% of our budget. On Trust God Sunday, the offering was 215% of budget - or a total of \$72,135.36. This is the fourth largest TGS offering received since we began this emphasis in 2011. Thank you for your faith and response, and may all the glory go to God for His blessings upon us.

## Chili Cook-Off

Congratulations to all of our chili cook-off winners. A great time was had by all at the second annual Chili Cook-off and Talent Show. Be sure to sign up next year.

- 1st Place - Christy Hall
- 2nd Place- Russell Hill
- 3rd Place - Jonathan Myers
- Most Creative - Jay Casconi
- Spiciest - Brandon and Kristin O'Dell
- People's Choice - Amy Thomas



## FAITH BAPTIST CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA

3001 SOUTHWEST PARKWAY, WICHITA FALLS, TX

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 8:30 A.M. AND 11:00 A.M.**

FAITH SINGERS SENIOR ADULT CHOIR/FAITH RINGERS HANDBELL ENSEMBLE  
and FAITH KIDS AMPED CHILDREN'S CHOIR

...and they will name Him Immanuel, which is translated  
**"God With Us"**

Cards are available at E<sup>3</sup> CENTRAL Sundays or the pay table Wednesday nights at supper for you to use to invite friends and family to these special services.

For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful

Comedian, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. Is 9:6

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Your Staff

Ben Hill

Justin Green

Micah Haigood

Sheryl Alexander

Dawnette McNair

Don and Gene Wood

Trent and Megan Creacy

Brett and Nicole Storseth

David and Laurie Mace

Pastor Craig and Robin Lile

Jo Ann and Stephen Larimore

Jesse and Stacy Fair and Kolin Cox

Mandy, Russell, Hope and Molly Ratliff

Caleb, Sarah, Benjamin and Eleanor Parrish

Loren, Marcus, Mike, Rhett and Nora Brock

Larry Shields, Nate Haigood

Adam Turnbo

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May your Christmas and New Year  
be full of the joy of Christ.

Financial Report

Budget Receipts as of November 20, 2023

Budget Goal (47 weeks)	\$ 1,534,069	
Budget Receipts (47 weeks)	\$ 1,272,546	82.95%
Budget Expenditures (47 weeks)	\$ 1,309,193	85.34%

**Giving through text** message is available! Text **FBCtxt** and the **amount** you want to give to **73256**. When you make your first contribution you will need to set up your account information, which will be saved, so that future contributions will be quick and easy. This option is available for general budget contributions only.

**Online giving** is available using your debit card. Go to [faithwf.com](http://faithwf.com) and click on the online giving link. You will have the same options that are available on your offering envelope and will receive a receipt for your contribution.

**Did you know** that you can make your tithe and offering by using your bank's online bill pay? You can schedule your contribution check to be sent automatically to the church as a true first fruit of what the Lord has blessed you with. Just set Faith Baptist Church as a payee, enter "general budget" or your envelope number for the account number and 3001 Southwest Pkwy, Wichita Falls, TX 76308 as the address. You can then choose a regular monthly, twice monthly, or weekly schedule.

Craig Lile, Pastor

Larry Shields, Associate Pastor of Administration/Senior Adults

Justin Green, Media and Tech Coordinator

† Caleb Parrish, Minister of Youth and Missions

† Adam Turnbo, Minister of Blended Worship

† Brett Storseth, Minister of Discipleship

† Mandy Ratliff, Director of Preschool/Children

† Trent Creacy - Minister of College