



## December 2020 Messenger



During the Advent and Christmas seasons this year I want to lead you in revisiting a Biblical word of proclamation. The word is “Behold”. We will be using that word as the title of our worship/sermon series for the season.

When I read or hear the word “behold” I anticipate hearing or seeing something to follow that is significant and will make an impact on life. The word literally means “see, observe, look or gaze”. A modern translation might be “look and learn” or “pay attention to this”. According to one source the word appears some 1527 times in the Bible. It would seem God is always trying to get our attention!

It is fitting that we use this word during Advent, as we consider afresh the announcement of Jesus coming into the world at his birth, and we anticipate his return. These are truly events to behold. Maybe we are especially ready in this tumultuous year to reflect on the meaning of these announcements and promises. To that end I invite you to prepare for worship during the coming weeks as we follow these plans:

### Advent/Christmas Worship & Sermon Series: “Behold!”

Sunday, Nov. 22  
Thanksgiving Sunday  
Behold: A Shepherd at Work  
Ezekiel 34:11-16,20-24  
Matthew 25:31-46



Sunday, Nov. 29  
1st Sunday of Advent  
Behold: The Return of the King  
Mark 13:24-37

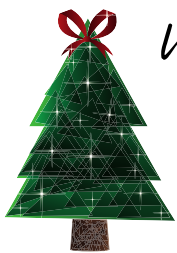
Sunday, Dec 6  
2nd Sunday of Advent  
Behold: A Patient Judge  
2 Peter 3:8-15a

Sunday, Dec. 13  
3rd Sunday of Advent  
Behold: The Plan Announced  
Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Sunday, Dec. 20  
4th Sunday of Advent  
Behold: A Savior is Born  
Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-14

Christmas Eve – Dec. 24  
Virtual Worship Service  
Behold: The Lamb of God  
Luke 2:1-20; John 1:29

Pastor Dan



*We wish you a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season.*

Your First Baptist Church Staff

*Dan Cash*

*Daniel Kane*

*Laura Fredrick*

*Mary Ford*

*Dorthea Anderson*

*Carla Williams*

*Melissa Demond*

*Donna Jull*

*Ashley Laman*

NOV. 26 ---- DEC. 24

# BEHOLD



## *A Time to Wait*

Advent is the first season of the Christian Year. It's the season during which the Church gathers expectantly, looking for the promised Messiah. Each of the four Sundays before Christmas emphasizes a different biblical theme: *Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace*. These are symbolized by the candles lit each week and are highlighted by the Scripture passages read. The fifth candle is the Christ Candle, and it is lit on Christmas Day. Light is a major symbol during Advent because, as the light gets brighter and brighter each week, we know that the Light of the World is nearer. This year, as we look towards Christ's second coming, let's look back to His birth so we can look with hope to the future.

### SYMBOLS

- Light
- Wreath

### THEMES

- Waiting
- Preparation
- Anticipation
- Justice

### COLORS

- Blue (Humility)
- Purple (Royalty)

### SONGS

- *Joy to the World*
- *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*
- *Behold the Lamb of God*
- *Wait for the Lord*

### CHARACTERS

- Isaiah
- John the Baptist
- Zechariah
- Elizabeth
- Mary
- Simeon
- Anna

NOV. 26 ---- DEC. 24

# BEHOLD



It's sobering to think about the patterns of this year and how we're still waiting out this plague.

Once again, I've used "plague" very intentionally here. As you know, I've written about the Israelite's exile quite a bit this year, and we've sang, read, and prayed that imagery as a way of seeing ourselves as the living extension of the Word of God. We see patterns of exile and deliverance all over the Bible, so to hide from it, or to deny it, or to ignore it now does a disservice to what could be a beautiful story playing out before us. Sure, "beautiful" might be an insensitive way to put it, but I mean this in the most hopeful way. As Advent arrives, you can expect that, each time we gather, we will be discussing a new part of what it means to embody this season, but to start, I want to include here that the word "advent" means arrival, and wrapped up in this term is the entire biblical narrative - specifically the promise of the coming Christ - the depths of which offers consolation beyond words. This is why we don't want to just talk about Advent, but rather practice it. So, this year, as you may or may not see friends and family during the holidays and as our programming is once again altered to accommodate new Covid restrictions, I want to offer ways through which we can practice hope, faith, joy, and peace as a method of beholding the coming King. I will be offering daily readings, songs, stories, and devotionals as a way to help you practice waiting from your own homes. These will be posted on Facebook and on our website each day, and I look forward to waiting with you through them. Peace.

- Pastor Daniel



# Around The Church

## Worship Moves to Live Stream Only Until Further Notice

At a special called meeting of the Church Council on Nov. 18, the Council affirmed a recommendation to move our worship back to livestream/online only until further notice. This decision comes in compliance with a request from local leaders, including the Mayor's Office, Columbus Regional Hospital, and the Public Health Officer. They are asking that community organizations join together to try and stem the current spike in Coronavirus cases. Our local health care system is currently being stretched to its limit. We encourage you to pray for our community, including those who are on the front lines in healthcare, and for the reversal of the spread of the virus. We look forward to sharing worship with you online only as we enter the Advent season.

**Reminder:** Please mail or drop off your commitment cards and ministry team sign-up forms to the church office, if you've not already done so. Thank you.

## Special Called Business Meeting

Stay tuned for the announcement of a Special Called Business meeting in December. The purpose of this meeting will be to approve our 2021 Church Budget and elect Church Council members for 2021. We continue to evaluate how best to share the meeting during a time of online only gathering - but we will share that with you through the Enews in the coming days.

## Wednesday Night Bible Study "Surprised by Hope" Continues via Zoom:

Our Wednesday online Bible Study, led by Pastor Dan, continues with three more sessions in December. This NT Wright, video driven study, is titled, "Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection & the Mission of the Church." The study is open to anyone. A Zoom link may be found on the church website, or through the ENews. Here's an Overview of the remaining sessions:

<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>
Dec. 2	Session Four: The Hope of Jesus' Second Coming
Dec. 9	Session Five: The Hope of Salvation
Dec. 16	Session Six: The Hope of the Church

## Men of Faith moves Online via Zoom

The Men of Faith bible study group will be completing their study on the Beatitudes online via Zoom on Dec 4 & 11. If you need a link to the study email Pastor Dan.

# Around The Church

## Christmas Eve Service to be Shared Virtually

Due to continued restrictions, this year's Christmas Eve service is going to look a little different. We are excited to present a special presentation of music, art, prayer, and Scripture through the music of Andrew Peterson's concept album: *Behold the Lamb*. This is a good chance to discover the sacred spaces within our own homes as we wait for our promised Messiah, so we invite you to join us for this experience as we behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. The service will be shared online only this year.



Thank  
you

Dear First Baptist Family,

I want to thank you for your contribution to making my ordination day such a special occasion. It means a lot to me to be sponsored by the church that first nurtured my faith – my memories of and connections to FBC are very dear to me. Thank you to Dan and Jeff for being part of my ordination service. I so appreciate the beautiful chalice and paten with which the church gifted me. It is a lovely set and will be used to share the love of Christ with others, as you have shared it with me.

With much love and appreciation,  
Rev. Kyrmen Rea

Thank you to all who filled Samaritan's Purse Children's Christmas Boxes. You did a superb job and yes I checked every box. I was impressed with your creativity and thoughtfulness. You have extended the love of Christ to an innocent child and opened their heart to receive God's message. Whether you did it in person or online, I thank you for participating in this special "mission" project.

Liz Lipson for the Mission Team

## Love Chapel Christmas Pantry

Thank you to all who have donated cereal. We have exceeded our pledge of 550 boxes!

In much the same way as we did last year, First Baptist will be fielding a team to help Love Chapel prepare food hampers for the 2020 Love Chapel Christmas Pantry. At this time we are looking for 10-15 church members to be at the Fair Oaks Mall from **9:00-11:00 a.m. on December 1st**. We will be following all appropriate social distancing and covid protection guidelines. Last year we had a great time and many are looking forward to participating once again.

**Please contact Cliff Putterill, (812) 603-5728, or via email at [cliffnsue@mindspring.com](mailto:cliffnsue@mindspring.com) to join the team.**

# This Month's Leadership

## Pastoral Care Team

Dec. 6 - Ron & Peggy Lane  
Dec. 13 - Daryl & Dot McMath  
Dec. 20 - Kerry & Alice Richmond  
Dec. 27 - Bob & Jean Langdon

## Children's Sunday School

**Children's Ministry suspended at this time.**



**The Coffee Bar & Coffee Fellowship are cancelled at this time.**

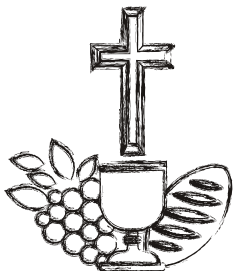
## Emergency Responders:

Dec. 6 - Mike Compton  
Dec. 13 - Kim Hamon  
Dec. 20 - Judy Rhude  
Dec. 27 - Mike Compton

## Serving in the Nursery:

Dec. 6 - Heather Babb  
Dec. 13 - Jennifer Kelley  
Dec. 20 - Lucy Cash  
Dec. 27 - Heidi Jones

# Communion



**Worship Services are Live Stream only.**

We invite those of you who join us for worship at home to have something available the morning of Dec. 6 to use for communion as we come to the Lord's Table together.

# Healthy Living Tips

## How to Select, Wear, and Clean Your Mask

CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings, like on public and mass transportation, at events and gatherings, and anywhere they will be around other people.

### Overview

- Wear masks with two or more layers to stop the spread of COVID-19
- Wear the mask over your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Masks should be worn by people two years and older
- Masks should NOT be worn by children younger than two, people who have trouble breathing, or people who cannot remove the mask without assistance
- Do **NOT** wear masks intended for healthcare workers, for example, N95 respirators
- CDC does not recommend the use of face shields alone. Evaluation of face shields is ongoing, but effectiveness is unknown at this time.
- Evaluation of mask and gaiter materials and structure is ongoing.

### How to Select

When selecting a mask, there are many choices. Here are some do's and don'ts.

DO choose masks that	DO NOT choose masks that
 <p>Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric</p>	 <p>Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breathe, for example, vinyl</p>
 <p>Completely cover your nose and mouth</p>	 <p>Have exhalation valves or vents, which allow virus particles to escape</p>
 <p>Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps</p>	 <p>Are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators or surgical masks</p>

# Healthy Living Tips

## How to Wear

Wear a mask **correctly** and **consistently** for the best protection.

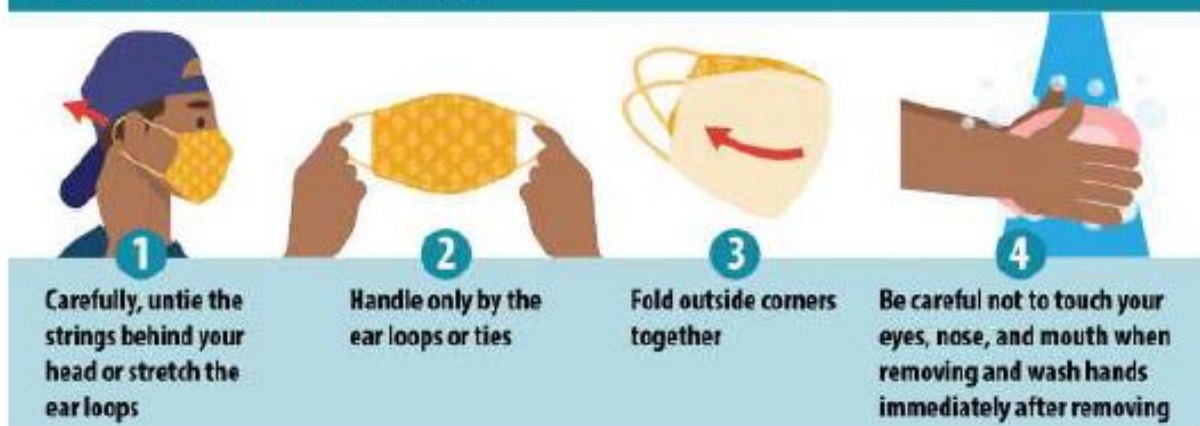
- Be sure to wash your hands before putting on a mask
- Do **NOT** touch the mask when wearing it

Do wear a mask that

- Covers your nose and mouth and secure it under your chin
- Fits snugly against the sides of your face

## How to take off a mask

### How to take off a mask



## How to Clean

Masks should be washed regularly. Always remove masks correctly and wash your hands after handling or touching a used mask.

- Include your mask with your regular laundry
- Use regular laundry detergent and the warmest appropriate water setting for the cloth used to make the mask
- Use the highest heat setting and leave in the dryer until completely dry



# December Birthdays

1. ~ Jackie Martin  
7. ~ Evan Babb  
10. ~ Daniel Kane  
12. ~ Jane Riley  
20. ~ Charlotte Oestreicher  
23. ~ Carla Williams



25. ~ Dortha Anderson, Larry Mayfield  
26. ~ Larry Carter, Phillip Watkins  
28. ~ Roger Glick  
29. ~ Beth Caldwell, John Lipson, Joyce Sutton  
30. ~ Pat Evans, Kelli Fitzgerald, Sam Snider  
31. ~ Mike Compton

## The Body of Christ Prays For...



- Betty Euler, Cecil Workman, Anna DeHaven, Carl & Nancy Williams, Marcia Battle, Marilyn Estell, Heidi Putterill, Nancy Hughes, Randy Wheeler, Rick McClintock and Anita Burton.

## Looking Ahead

Tues., Dec. 1 - 9:00-11:00am - Help Love Chapel prepare food boxes at Fair Oaks  
Wed., Dec. 2, 9, 16 - 7:00pm - Bible Study by Zoom  
Thurs., Dec. 3 - 6:30pm - Property Committee  
Fri., Dec. 4, 11 - 7:00am - Men of Faith Bible Study by Zoom  
TBA - Special Called Business Meeting in December  
Tues., Dec. 15 - 7:00pm - Church Council by Zoom

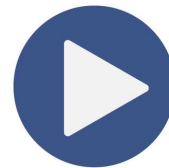
**Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am**

**(Live Stream only - no in-person worship at this time)**

**2nd Hour Learning - suspended at this time**

## Live streaming available for Sunday Services

In addition to watching our streaming service on our website, the service is also streamed to Facebook, Roku and AppleTV. It is also sent internationally.



**Just Press Play**

Live Video Every Sunday at 9:30  
[firstbaptistcolumbus.org](http://firstbaptistcolumbus.org)

