

## From The Shepherd's Shop...

Thank you for your kind comments as I am seeking to deliver God's Word to the people of God at FBC Columbus through preaching. I appreciate your laughing alongside me when I seek to tell a joke, or when you also find humor with me in an illustration. Your engagement with the Scripture offers God's Spirit the opportunity to minister to our souls and to assist us in our journey of faith, hope, peace, and love throughout the Advent season. I especially appreciated the post-sermon comment of one who shared: "you weren't boring...today." You see, I find wonderful encouragement there! 😊 Come back next week, and perhaps it may happen again! It is wonderful to laugh, isn't it? It brings us JOY!

In my early days with you, I have been impressed by your strong commitment to missions and your desire to reach others with the Gospel. Churches of the twenty-first century must always remember that the power of God is available to assist His people with the message of salvation. Delivering the Gospel through our lives is where the proverbial "water hits the wheel" must occur. Sometimes we have to figure out HOW to reach people differently than we have understood in our past.

In our recent Town Hall meeting, many of you shared your thoughts about your hopes for the future. The comments you shared are very important as the Research Team evaluates the current conditions of the church and its people. I have always believed that "baby steps" are necessary before one can "run," so let me encourage you to be patient as we all continue to pray and remain committed to carry all God's people forward TOGETHER into the future. Every generation is important, and I will be focused on multi-generational participation in our efforts to serve Christ TOGETHER during this interim period. Additionally, I will not be afraid to address what I perceive to be "the challenges ahead" as we work TOGETHER to create the best environment possible for your new Senior Pastor's arrival.

As a history major in college, I have always appreciated the past. I also treasure the present, and know that God desires the future to be marked by His people working TOGETHER and PRAYING : "THY WILL BE DONE." John 3:28-30 records John saying: "I am not the Messiah, but I have been sent ahead of him. He who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. For this reason my joy has been fulfilled. HE must increase, but I must decrease." Certainly, these words from John about "HE must increase...and I must decrease" should speak to all of us in these days of Advent.

I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in Worship with you. Please encourage your extended family members to join you on December 24th and 25th at FBC Columbus. I will be looking forward to meeting your loved ones, and know...it will be "my JOY!" And..."not boring either."

Merry Christmas to each you of you who are my "new friends in 2022 at FBC Columbus!"

-David



# SEASON OF THE CHURCH: CHRISTMAS

## DECEMBER 25TH - JANUARY 6TH

### THE SEARCH

When I was at Indiana Wesleyan University I took an astronomy class. I've always felt there's something captivating about the stars, space, and particularly the moon. I actually had a dream about orbiting the moon recently. It was terrifying! But such is often the case with dreams. Even the happy ones seem to have an element of risk in them - something that gets your adrenaline going for whatever reason. It doesn't have to be from conflict either. Just the prospect of something *new* is enough to pique our interest. Do you see where I'm going with this?

Over the last few weeks we've been hearing a lot about what might be *new*. Sure we've been hearing the story of Christmas each week, and that is certainly not a new story for us but we *have* experienced it in a new way this year. Sure, we've done a lot of normal things but the circumstances are still different, and sometimes that's enough to highlight the things that are new. Maybe I'm speaking in circles here, but I want to recognize that, even now, before much in our lives has in actuality changed, we are experiencing the new which is to come.

Maybe that thought is accompanied by a sinking feeling in your stomach. Maybe it's accompanied by a lifting of your spirits. Regardless, I want you to pay attention to that feeling and ask yourself, "Why am I feeling this way?"

We did that a few weeks ago when we hosted our first town hall meeting. Yes, I said "first" because there are sure to be more. And that's a good thing! Because it's January! It's a new year! It's a time to dream! And as you read this, it will also still (technically) be Christmas. So, I want you to think about the Magi for a minute.

When I took that astronomy class, we did a lab where we traced the movement of the stars back to around the time Jesus was born. I don't remember the name of the software we used for this experiment, but we were tracing constellation movements which paralleled the imagery in the book of Isaiah. It was one of the wildest experiments I've done, but what we realized is that the Magi had probably done this exact experiment in real time and saw in the sky that which prophesied the coming Christ. Skeptical? I was, too. But as we saw constellations of dragons and a virgin giving birth emerge in the ancient sky, it became clear that these Magi were dreamers and listeners - people who looked to the sky and wondered what God might be telling them.

As Christmas comes to a close, we're invited to do the same kind of dreaming. In the coming days and weeks, we will begin the transition from Research to Search. Or to put it in terms the Magi embodied, we will transition from looking to the sky, to wandering to Bethlehem, and you are critical in that process. You'll hear more about what's to come soon, but, in the meantime, keep sending us what you're dreaming about, even if it's scary. Even if you feel your stomach drop or your adrenaline rush, it might not be because of conflict but because of the prospect of something *new*.

So what is God telling you? What are you seeing? What are you hearing in Scripture, prayer, and the world which is encouraging us to go somewhere we've never been before? I'm looking forward to following that star with you.

Peace.  
- Pastor Daniel



## Waldron Project Update



The Waldron Project is a special mission project that began in 2021. The Waldron Baptist Church serves hundreds of hospitality meals each month throughout the community with a very limited kitchen area. Much work has been put into organizing their needs through drawings and discussions with Frank Eldridge as the project manager. The photos show the stages of completion with still more work needed. Jim Reid recently stated in a presentation before the church, "Our mission is to support their mission." We will continue to receive donations until the project's completion, for those who feel led to give. Thank you all for your support of this much needed project!

***"Our mission is to support their mission."***



# Around The Church

## Many Thanks...

I want to thank my church family for all the cards, calls, thoughts and prayers before and after Rick's passing. Thank you to Pastor Daniel for the wonderful service, Donna for her music, tech team for their help and the kitchen committee for the meal they provided for my family. You all have made this difficult time a little easier. Love & Care, Paulette McClintock

Dear Church Family.

Thanks to all members who have prayed for me and sent cards and notes. I now have a doctor who helps with pain management, so I'm not suffering as much.

God bless, Ramona Harlow

## Men of Faith Bible Study

Men of Faith will begin a new six week Study on Friday January 6, 2023. Our topic will be: Genesis "The Beginnings: The Prologue to the Story of God"

We will examine Genesis, as a prologue to the Story of God. A prologue at the beginning of any book is an introduction to the theme of that book. It will be our intent to develop that theme through our 3M format, What it Meant; What it Means" and Why it Matters? The stories chosen for this study provide us with themes and material that are woven throughout all the scriptures in the telling of The Story of God. Men of Faith meet Friday mornings at 7:00 am. Men are encouraged to invite a friend to attend with them.

## LIGHT (Living In God's Holy Truth)

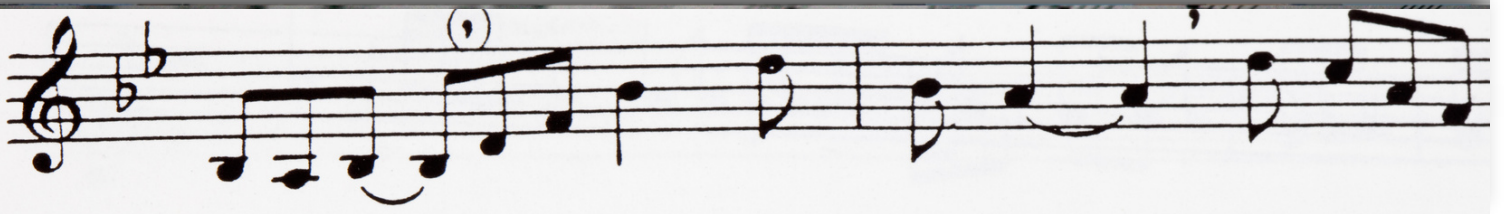
Women's Bible Study will begin a new Bible study on Thursday, January 5th titled "Questions Jesus Asked." Pastor Bill tells us Jesus asked over 200 questions during his three year ministry. We will study 6 of those questions. After writing the study, Pastors Bill and Dan published a book about Jesus' questions. If you have the book, it will give you additional insight, but the book is not essential to do the study. All ladies of the church are invited to enjoy this time of learning and fellowship. We will meet in Fellowship Hall each Thursday at 9:30 am. Study guides are available on the table in the Gathering Place.

## Caroling at Keepsake Village



**A special thank you to those who went caroling at Keepsake on Monday, December 12th.  
It was appreciated by all!**





## *Concert & Dinner a Success!*



**An excellent dinner was enjoyed by all, following the Columbus Philharmonic Concert on December 10th. Thank you to all who helped in organizing and serving for this event!**

# Around The Church

## January Birthdays

- 6. ~ Marcia Cheek
- 7. ~ Jesse Langdon
- 8. ~ David Akers, Bobbie Walker
- 9. ~ Linda Rea
- 11. ~ Nick Porter
- 12. ~ Jerald Hatton, Stillman Whittington
- 13. ~ Connie Baldwin

- 15. ~ Frank Eldridge
- 16. ~ Elliott Adams
- 17. ~ Wayne Lovelace
- 22. ~ Emily Nelson
- 24. ~ Cara Chitwood, Scott Crowder
- 26. ~ Ken Greenlee, Ryan Jones
- 28. ~ Daniel Greene
- 30. ~ Marian Miller

Note: Iris Huysentruyt (23rd) and Kelli Fitzgerald (30th) were inadvertently left off the December birthday list. My apologies ladies!

## The Body of Christ Prays For...

Grace Marshall, Dick & Beth Miller, Joyce Roney, Ramona Harlow, Lance Alexander & all persons who are homebound & in nursing care centers.

Please be in prayer for the Church during this time of pastoral transition, including our Church Council and FBC Staff.

## Looking Ahead

- January 1 - Communion Worship (9:30 am)
- January 8 - Congregational Meeting
- January 8 - Usher Meeting
- January 15 - Newsletter Deadline
- January 17 - Church Council (7:00 pm)
- January 29 - Coffee Fellowship (10:30 am)

## Weekly:

- Prayer Shawl Group:* Tuesdays at 11:15 am
- Prayer Group:* Tuesdays at 12:30 pm in Prayer Room
- FBC L.I.G.H.T. Women's Bible Study:* Thursdays at 9:30 am in the Chapel
- Men of Faith Bible Study:* Fridays at 7 am in Fellowship Hall

**Service: Sunday Morning - Worship 9:30 am**  
**(in-person worship & Live Stream)**

**2nd Hour Learning - following worship at 10:45 am**

## 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)





# Leadership

## Pastoral Care Team

Jan 1 - Carolyn Baker & Sue Hoffman  
Jan 8 - Susan Carter & Charlotte Oestreicher  
Jan 15 - Ron & Peggy lane  
Jan 22 - Daryl & Dot McMath  
Jan 29 - Tim & Paula Pickup

*Pastor on Call for January: Jon Carlstrom  
(812-372-7374)*

## Serving in the Nursery:

First Sunday: Susan Hoffman  
Second Sunday: Adams  
Third Sunday: Fee  
Fourth Sunday: *Open*  
Fifth Sunday: *Open*

## Usher Meeting

All ushers are requested to meet together after worship on Sunday, January 8th to review emergency medical protocol and to be aware of location of equipment needed in an emergency. Please make attendance a priority. For questions, see Judy Rhude or members of the Health & Safety Team.

## Children's Sunday School

### 2-4 Year Olds -

#### Teachers:

First Sunday: Ben Slaton  
Second Sunday: Susan Carter  
Third Sunday: Carol Poe/Beth Slaton  
Fourth Sunday: Heidi Jones  
Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

#### Helpers:

First Sunday: Open  
Second Sunday: *Open*  
Third Sunday: Jennifer Kelley  
Fourth Sunday: *Open*  
Fifth Sunday: Carolyn Pool

#### Kids Connection:

First Sunday: Marcia Cheek  
Second Sunday: Linda Reid  
Third Sunday: Open  
Fourth Sunday: Deanna Glick

No Kids Connection on fifth Sundays.

## Coffee Fellowship

There will be a Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, January 29th. Last names A-H are invited to bring treats to share.

# Communion



**We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, January 1st.** For those of you who join us for worship via live stream, we invite you to have something available to use for communion as we come to the Lord's Table together.