



1 Thessalonians 5:18 – “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we come into the last month of 2020, most of us would agree that it has been difficult. The recent resurgence of COVID-19 in the Midwest is disconcerting. It seemed that Chautauqua County might escape the pandemic, but we are now being affected by the virus.

To complicate matters further, our children and grandchildren are in the middle of the turmoil since school is not what it has always been. Students, parents, teachers, and staff feel like pawns in a game that someone else is playing, where the rules keep changing and all the visible moves seem bad.

This Christmas may be different from any Christmas in our memories. “Different” may be good. It may be that staying home, and quarantining will help us to focus on what is most important this Advent and Christmas: Jesus.

Slowing down may be just what is in order for December 2020. Advent begins on November 29, then continues for the following Sundays until Christmas. During the Advent season, most people struggle to hold onto Christmas because we are so eager for Christmas Day to arrive. But Advent has a beauty and power and meaning all its own, and which is particularly well-suited to where we find ourselves right now.

How things will change in December is all in God’s hands. 2020 was full of change. So, because we should not meet in person, here is a tentative plan. We WILL have Advent sermons via FB Live on the following dates: November 29 – Hope; December 6 – Faith; December 13 – Love; December 20 – Joy; and December 27 – New Years message. Plans are underway for a live outdoor service on Christmas Eve at 6 PM. Watch our FB page for updates on that!

Also, keep your eye on 1st Baptist’s FB page for Advent devotions beginning on November 29, and continuing through Christmas. I am so thankful for each one of you. May the Lord keep us all safe and healthy as He works in our lives this Christmas Season. Amen!

Pastor Mark Davis



General: Bri Barnett; Linda Caswell; Bertha Dean; Dale Fadely; Donna Glover; John Floyd; Mitchell Foster; Patty Hart; Lezlee Jones; Charity Kossin; George and Carmaleta Lorenz; John and Kathy McMillan; Michele Menke; Amy Miller; Maci Miller; Jason Pelkey; Rob Powell; John Powers; Erica Roeder; John and Barbara Taylor; James Tolbert; Earl Tresner; Usry Family; Gordon Willhite

Cancer Patients: Raymond Brown; Naida Carpenter; Lee Coate; Steve Cummings; Melinda Enich, Jon Faler; Larry Fueller; Clayalee Glover; Marsha Hale; Randy Hewitt; Lou Kennedy; Belinda Landeros; Ruth Ann Lovelady; Jeanie McGinnis; Lisa Nettrouer; George Thomas; Kenny Tyler; Judy Tolbert

Our Senior Saints: Marlene Bailey; Naida Carpenter; Betty Ditmore, Bob Emery, Dale Fadely; Sue House; Diane Watts

Ministries & Missionaries: FBC-spiritual and numerical growth; our missionaries; lost to be saved; persecuted Christians around the world; the Nation of Israel; Pastor and family

Others: President Trump and Vice President Pence; world, national, state, local government leaders; law enforcement officers; emergency responders; military servicemen and servicewomen; students/teachers, school board/school administrators

Missionary: Ariel Tatum – lionofgod2003@gmail.com



Let’s Hold Strong in December!

COVID-19 Guidelines for FBC Sedan

- Choir No
- Congregational Singing Yes
- Hand Sanitizer Yes
- Masks Optional
- Social Distancing Yes
- Sunday School No
- Sunday Night No



**Happy anniversary, Jon and Deanna
December 23**

Happy Birthday

- 12/01 Melissa Usry
- 12/16 Justin Davis
- 12/19 Naida Carpenter
- 12/19 Kathy McMillan
- 12/20 Christel Roeder
- 12/27 Riley Haver
- 12/31 Deanna Faler

Insights from the Prayers of a Woman



Over the past few months, in the “Insights from the Prayers of a Woman” section, we have examined powerful prayers from women of faith. In Luke 1:46-55, we will find the written account of Mary’s prayer. She is praising the God who has chosen her to be the mother of His only son. Her words are powerful and hold lessons we can learn today.

Here we get a glimpse into the heart of our Savior’s mother. The angel of God had just told Mary that she would be giving birth to a Son: Christ Jesus, Immanuel, the Messiah. Mary’s song is simple a song of praise, yet its words give a powerful message. Mary’s song, also known as the Magnificat, is an inspiring segment of Scripture.

Mary’s response to the angel’s news was not, “I’m so happy for me;” rather, it was a perfectly direct prayer of praise to the Lord God of heaven. Notice how Mary described God as Savior, mighty, holy, merciful, and strong. When we focus on God’s character in our prayers, we will find peace and joy. Dissatisfaction, discontentment, and disagreements steal our joy, but Mary offered a solution. She said when we look to God our Savior, and see all He is, then we can rejoice.

During this special time of year, as we celebrate Advent, we find joy in reading the words penned by Luke as he tells the Christmas story. The birth of Christ marks a time when hope is renewed, and love is shared with everyone. The message for us is that we are to have faith. We are to trust in our God. No matter the situation or circumstance, God has it all in His hands. We should strive to imitate the heart and mind of Mary in every situation. Her words are not just for the Advent season, they are for all seasons and for all the people of the world!

Secretary’s Corner

The Magic of Christmas

By Tom Krause

"Joy to the World," the carolers sang out
As last minute shoppers scurried about,
Desperately seeking that one special gift
That would give Christmas morning a magical lift.

As an old man stood standing, listening to the song,
Midst all the madness of the bustling throng,
In a shaky, hoarse voice he began to join in
Singing the words of the famous old hymn.

One by one people stopped with their madness
To join with the old man for a moment of gladness.
By the time the carolers finished with singing the song,
The whole throng was united as they all sang along.

As if by magic from out of the sky
Church bells rang out from a chapel nearby.
And when it was over the people greeted each other
With messages of goodwill, they shared with one another.

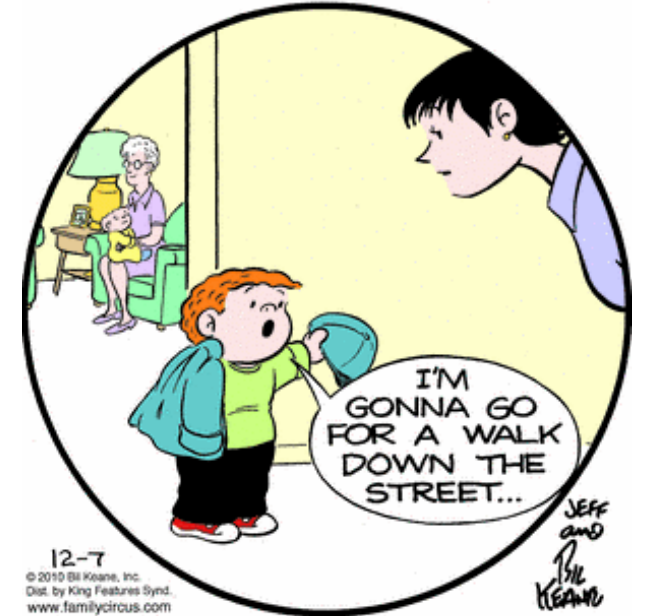
You see, that magical gift the shoppers sought for so long,
Was not in the buying or scurrying along.
That magical gift so desperately sought
Was the Spirit of Christmas—which could never be bought.



12-9
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Bill
and
JEFF
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“Bend down here, Grandma. I’m gonna give you an early Christmas present.”



12-7
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JEFF
and
Bill
KEANE

“... Grandma said Christmas is just around the corner.”