

## 2018 December Advent

On December 1, this Saturday, our church family will embark on an advent journey that includes a devotional based on the Psalms and a calendar with scriptures for the kids. These were passed out last Sunday. We have just a few *Psalms for the Season* and one calendar left, all of which are on the table in the foyer.

It will make this Christmas season richer and fuller as we reflect on the first and second advent of our magnificent Savior. We will use the devotional as a guide for additional reflection during our Advent Candle lighting in our worship services.

Through Christ,  
Les

### This Week

Wednesday, Nov. 28

5:15 p.m. - Movin' Up

7:00 p.m. - Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, Dec. 2

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

9:50 a.m. - Coffee

10:05 a.m. - Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. - Worship Service

### Teachers This Sunday

**Nursery**

Alexis Collins / Evalyn Fate

**Kids' Time**

Ruth Ann Monroe / Chris McFarren

**LOL**

Remain in Service

### Stewardship Report

Nov. 25, 2018

Giving Toward:

Current Expense	\$2581.00
Missions	\$166.00
Building/ Maint. Fund	\$85.00
Poinsettias	\$24.00
Thanksgiving	\$20.00

**Total: \$2876.00**

## CAROLING & PIZZA



On December 9, we will first enjoy some pizza in the Fellowship Hall, and then go Christmas caroling. We will sing to our homebound friends and deliver their goody bags. You may still sign up this Sunday on your Welcome Card, so we know how much pizza to order.

## COOKING ITEMS



The kitchen ladies would like you to check to see if you have left any of your items in the church kitchen. There are two cookie sheets, two glass baking dishes, and a pfaltzgraff platter on the counter waiting for their owners.

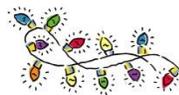


## GOODY BAGS

One of our fun FBC Christmas traditions is to collect items for our homebound members. Seven bags are set along the ledge in The Gathering Place. Please contribute any items you have for them by Sunday, December 9. We will deliver the bags when we Christmas carol that day.

## WINTER COLLECTION

We will collect mittens, gloves, and hats to give to local school children. Please leave your donations on or beneath the mitten tree located, near the office, in The Gathering Place.



## WINTER WONDERLAND OF LIGHTS

We have a display at the Ouabache State Park's Wonderland of Lights. The event will be open every day in December from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

*Thank You!*

Thank you to all who helped decorate the church and to those who set up our display at the state park. Everything looks wonderful!

# Imagine

Mathew Woodley

A few years ago, on the first Sunday of Advent, I played John Lennon's song "Imagine" right before my sermon. It wasn't a universal hit. The lyrics may be controversial; he imagines a live-for-today existence with no heaven and no hell, but he longs for a better place where "the world will be as one." In my defense, I clearly stated that, contra Lennon's lyrics, I believe in heaven, hell, the blood of Jesus, and things worth dying for. But Lennon was right about one thing: This world is broken, and we should yearn for its healing. Our hearts should ache for a better world.

Sadly, our culture often fosters a complacent, blasé, smug approach to Christianity. In the words of C. S. Lewis, "We are far too easily pleased." We're happy to numb and freeze our restless ache for a better world.

Advent is the season of the church year that ignites that longing in our hearts. Before we rush into "Happy Holidays," we pause and let longing rise up within us. Throughout Advent we catch glimpses of a better world. And as we catch glimpses of this Messiah-healed world, we long for its coming now. All of the best Advent hymns capture this spirit of groaning and longing for Messiah's better world. When we sing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," with its dark, unresolved melody, it cracks our hearts open with longing's wound. And yet, we know Messiah has come, even as we wait for him to come again. Advent is a deliciously painful mix of joy and anguish.

This Advent-like longing is at the heart of Christian spirituality. Augustine's Latin phrase *desiderium sinus cordis*—"yearning makes the heart grow deep"—became a central theme in his pilgrimage on earth. Augustine cried out, "Give me one who yearns; . . . give me one far away in this desert, who is thirsty and sighs for the spring of the Eternal country. Give me that sort of man: he knows what I mean." C. S. Lewis claimed that in this life the Advent-like stab of longing serves as a spiritual homing device, placed deep in our heart by God to lead us back to him. Thus, as Psyche realizes in *Till We Have Faces*, "It almost hurt me . . . like a bird in a cage when the other birds of its kind are flying home. . . . The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing . . . to find the place where all the beauty came from. . . . The longing for home."

Advent trains us to ache again. Of all the seasons of the church year, Advent is the time to acknowledge, feel, and even embrace the joyful anguish of longing for Messiah's birth and the world's rebirth. So we sing our aching songs while we light candles and festoon the church with greenery. That is Advent longing, and we couldn't imagine it any other way.

Dear FBC family, I look forward to singing with you those sad-sweet songs of Advent! Walking together we look forward expectantly to that beloved country we've longed for all our lives... perfect and whole. Make it a great week!

Les



## Homebound Members

### Christian Care

Mildred Huss – Room 219B

Clyde Shady – Room 228B

### River Terrace

Eulis West – Room 220

### Home

Ed Goetz

Rose McCormick

### K Casper Life Center

Judy Bierie – Room 268

### Markle Health and Rehabilitation

Larry Gilly – Room 210

As we co-labor with other churches  
in our community,  
this week we pray for:  
St. John Family Worship Center  
Pastor Don Rentschler

### First Baptist Church

260-824-1558

[firstbaptist@adamswells.com](mailto:firstbaptist@adamswells.com)

[fbcbluffton.com](http://fbcbluffton.com)



First Baptist Church - Bluffton, Indiana

Pastor: Les Cantrell

Cell phone: 260-273-9073

Music Director: Julie Cantrell

Secretary: Debbie Cantrell

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School

9:50 a.m. – Coffee/Tea Time

10:05 a.m. – Kids' Time

10:15 a.m. – Worship Service