

Christmas Blessings

The Vision

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First Baptist Church

600 North Fort Thomas Avenue

Fort Thomas, KY 41075

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December, 2020

Sunday Morning Worship Services

At this time, due to the pandemic, we have returned to online worship only.

Online Worship Service via Facebook Live at 10:45 a.m.



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FORT THOMAS

Rev. Jeremy Shannon
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Kaitlyn Runion
Children's Minister
Cell phone: 859-279-8924

April Ayers (*Piano*)

Barb Musick (*Keyboard*)

Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Administrative Assistant
Debbie Mershon
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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...

Greetings church family!

As I write this message, it is the day before Thanksgiving and just a few days before the start of Advent. Earlier this week, with the help and direction of several church members, we decorated the church for Christmas 2020. Our church runs like a well oiled machine when it comes to things like decorating for the season. Our sanctuary in particular is beautiful.

The difference this year is that we aren't sure if or when we will all be together in the sanctuary. Our current plan is to regather on Sunday, December 13. My hope is that this can happen, but we will continue to monitor the situation in regards to the pandemic and see whether or not it will be a safe way to gather.

That said, decorating the church was different this year. The sanctuary is decorated more as a production set, with items being placed in ways that will help make our online worship service feel more seasonally appropriate. What that meant was seeing old decorations and using them in new ways and new places. It meant taking stock of what we do in worship and finding out how to adapt it to the new circumstances surrounding us.

Changes to our plans are seldom easy. This year as we look to the season of Advent, I can't help but think of young Mary and Joseph. Full of dreams and expectations of married life, they hear what at first might be terrifying news. Mary is pregnant, the baby is not Joseph's, and nobody knows how others will respond. Instead of a sad ending, their story reminds us that a scary change of plans turned into something beautiful.

I also think of the shepherds in the field and wise men coming from afar. They had plans as well. But, things changed. By being willing to chase something different they found something worth pursuing that was better than anything their own planning could have found.

The season of Advent is about waiting and watching. It is about the hope found in the good news of a coming king. Advent in 2020 might look more different than any we have faced in many years, but I take comfort in knowing that when God changes our plans, the result is better than anything that we can come up with on our own. It will be hard at times, but we know that good things will come.

My family and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. We hope to be able to see you, but even if we are unable please know that we hold you in our hearts. We are thankful for each and every one of you and pray blessings throughout this season.

Shine on. Press on. Go on.

Pastor Jeremy

From Our Children's Minister

Merry Advent!

We are kicking off the season with Advent in a Box kits for our children's families. Everyone has received a calendar of activities to enjoy this special time of year while connecting to the Biblical telling of Christ's coming and birth. We are also planning several virtual lessons for our kids to be able to celebrate Christmas from home while being involved in church life. Those will be posted to our church Facebook page throughout December. We hope to have the kids choir involved in our Christmas service virtually through a Christmas worship video that they will be helping us put together. We are excited for new ways to connect with our young families during the Christmas season and are so grateful that this time of joy is upon us.

Blessings,

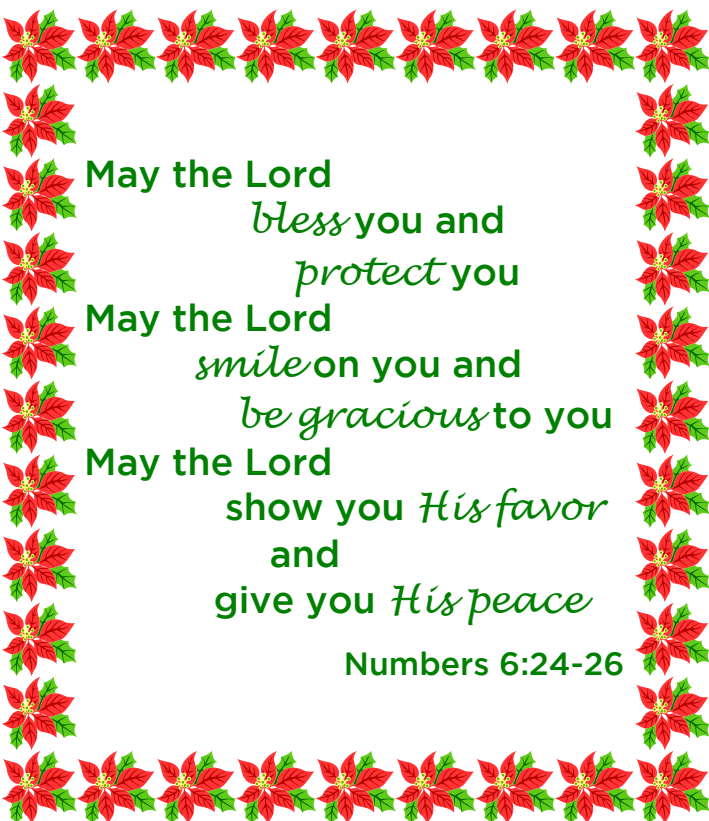
Kaitlyn Runion



THE NUMBER 1 CHRISTMAS SONG OF ALL TIME...ACCORDING TO TIME MAGAZINE

The names Joseph Mohr and Franz Xaver Gruber have largely vanished into the annals of Christmas tormentors, but their greatest triumph lives on. "Silent Night," which Mohr wrote the lyrics for (in German) in 1816 and Gruber put to music two years later, is the most recorded Christmas song in the modern era.

To determine this fact, TIME crawled the records at the U.S. Copyright Office, which offers digitized registrations going back to 1978, and collected data on every Christmas album recorded since that time. "Silent Night," it turns out, is not merely the most popular carol; with 733 copyrighted recordings since 1978, it is nearly twice as dominant as "Joy to the World," a distant second with 391 records to its name.



May the Lord

*bless you and
protect you*

May the Lord

*smile on you and
be gracious to you*

May the Lord

*show you His favor
and
give you His peace*

Numbers 6:24-26



WINTER MISSION GIVING... GRENADA 24-7



Our Women's Mary Francis Gould Mission Group, will be asking for donations for the 24-7 Mission in Grenada. What do they do and who are they? Let's meet them.



Rev. Justin and Erica Zauflik started Grenada 24-7 in 2012. They are the resident directors overseeing all the missions that take place on the island. Before God called them to Grenada they had been in collegiate ministry for over a decade. What started out as a small Bible study grew into an international ministry reaching nations in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Caribbean.

Now, let's meet some of their newest Team Members!



Rev. Jason & Kari Grigler oversee the youth ministry. Before joining the team, they planted a church in Louisville Kentucky where Jason served as pastor and Kari a deacon. Their heart and calling has led them to serve in East Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. For over 10 years, Jason worked with refugees from all over the globe and was the director of a residential recovery program for homeless men. FUN FACT: Jason actually lived in Grenada as an intern (with another ministry) when he was 17.

UNDERSTANDING GRENADA...A Broken Paradise

- Ranked #1 for the most alcohol consumption in the Caribbean
- Ranked #1 for most cases of extreme poverty in the Eastern Caribbean
- Ranked #4 for the most alcohol consumption in the whole world
- Ranked #10 for the most cases of rape crime in the world
- Ranked #57 for the percentage of those in poverty on our side of the island
- 66% of the poor population are youth
- 77% of heads of households have only a primary education
- 85% of post secondary educated live off the island

As you can see, the need is great on this small island. They are yearning for a way to make a living and to get out of poverty. They need help with education and they are also seeking God. They need someone to lead them to Jesus.

This is why our Mission group wants our winter mission giving to go to Grenada 24-7

Their goal this year is \$500.00. Maybe we can give more. We ask that you please give whatever you have available to you for this mission. THANK YOU!



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FORT THOMAS KIDS

Look at the Candy Cane

What do you see?

Stripes that are red

Like blood shed for me



White is for my Savior

Who's sinless and pure!

"J" is for Jesus My Lord, that's for sure!



Turn it around

And a staff you will see

Jesus my shepherd

Was born for Me!



The greatest gift of all...

God gave us the gift of a life that will never end.



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16 (NIV)

Merry Christmas to all of our FBC Fort Thomas Kids!

Thank you...

Dear First Baptist Church Ft Thomas Family,

Thank you so much for the calls, cards, and love sent our way during this time of loss of our Mom, Edith Lorraine Tullos. The love of Jesus and this church family carry us through this time of sorrow. Thank you so much.

Susan and Ray Bacher and Family



Sympathy...

Edith Lorraine Tullos was 91 when she left this world on October 27, 2020. She is the mother of Susan Bacher and mother-in-law to Ray. She was also had many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Our First Baptist Church family would like to extend our warmest love and sympathy to her daughter, Susan and the rest of her family as they find their way through this difficult time.

With Christian Love, Your FBC Church Family

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all. [2 Thessalonians 3:16](#)



THE BRIGHT SPOT
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.
2 Corinthians 9:15



THANK YOU...

Dear Church Family,

There are no words to express our thanks for the beautiful planter, love and prayers for the loss of our youngest son, Jason and the cards and messages we have received. You have become wonderful & dear friends.

Much Love,

Peggy & Don Spradlin and family

First Baptist Church of Fort Thomas extends their heart felt sympathy to the Spradlin family as they continue to grieve the loss of their son, Jason on October 23. Please continue to pray for Peggy and the rest of the family as they are having to continue to face all the emotions that comes with such a loss. "Lord, please give them the peace that surpasses all understanding that only You are able to give".

Amen



DEACON MINISTRY

- 12/6 Harry Weitkamp
- 12/13 Walter Mershon
- 12/20 Bill Klopp
- 12/27 Lori Orne



- 12/1 Walter Mershon
- 12/3 Tom Rankin
- 12/5 Gladys Rankin
- 12/10 Iosetta Steely
- 12/12 Marty Draper
- 12/19 Martin Runion
- 12/20 Carol Steffen
- 12/29 Viola Knock
- 12/31 Jeff Smith



"A joyful heart is good medicine"



12-28

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Bil
and
JEFF
KEANE

"We're gonna go outside and play with the boxes. Okay, Mommy?"



GASPIRTZ

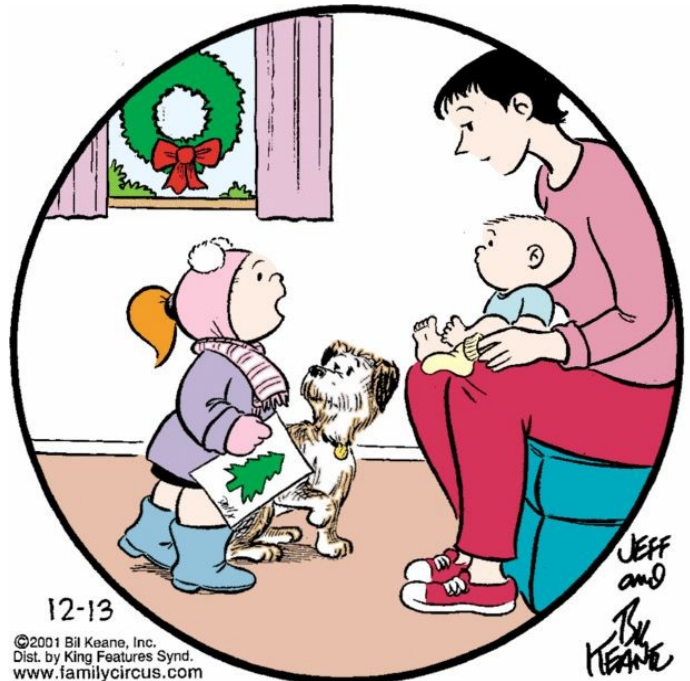
If you know someone wishing for a little brother, you can have him!

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12-19-1997

I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN



12-13

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JEFF
and
Bil
KEANE

"Mrs. Clarke says we'll exchange names for Christmas. Won't I be Dolly anymore?"

LOVE IS IN THE AIR.



BUT SO IS THE FLU & COVID,
SO WASH YOUR HANDS AND
WEAR YOUR MASKS!

