

Published Monthly by:  
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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
**FORT THOMAS**

*The Vision  
Proclaiming  
the good news*

*December 2018*



## Worship and Ministry Schedule

### Sunday

9:30 a.m. ~ Kingdom Kids for  
Children & Bible Study for Adults

10:45 a.m. ~ Worship Service

Third Sunday Brunch  
After Morning Worship

### Wednesday

6:00 p.m. ~ Prayer Meeting  
and Bible Study with Jeremy

### Thursday

6:00 p.m. ~ Choir Practice



*The Vision  
Proclaiming the  
Good News!*

Rev. Jeremy Shannon  
Pastor

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Worship Leader

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April Ayers (*Piano*)

Barb Musick (*Keyboard*)

**Worship and Ministry Schedule**

**Sunday**

9:30 am. Sunday School for  
children &  
Small Group Study for adults

10:45 a.m. Worship Service

**Wednesday**

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

**Thursday**

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

**Church Office Hours**

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

Ministry Assistant  
Debbie Mershon  
office@fbcftthomas.com

**Merry Christmas!**

For at least the last ten years, I have been labeled as a Grinch of sorts. I blame it on working at the mall during Christmas time in high school. Before I got married, my house had zero decorations. Christmas music was mostly reserved for Christmas Eve. This year has already been a little different. For the first time in awhile, we are in our house at Christmastime, Jenni is able to decorate, and most importantly, Crosley is aware of what is happening. All year she has talked about being afraid of Santa, but in the last few weeks she has even come around to the big guy bringing her presents.

This year we watched the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and during the grand finale when Santa arrived, Crosley jumped off the couch and started jumping and waving. "Santa's here! Santa's here! Take a picture." And for the first time in a long time, I'm beginning to see Christmas in a different way.

This morning before heading to work, I found myself reading "The Nutcracker" and blaring Rudolph and other Christmas music while she danced and laughed and twirled. This Christmas feels different. I believe there is something to be said for experiencing with someone who has seen it all for the first time.

Sometimes, I think churches can begin to resemble the Grinch and one of the main reasons is that we forget the joy found in what we do. We have done the same things for so long that we forget what it was like the first time we felt joy in worship. It isn't that we care any less, we've just become bogged down in traditions and commitments. We lose sight of what's important.

This Christmas, I encourage you to help rediscover the joy in your faith by trying to share it with someone who is doing it for the very first time. How can we do this? The simplest way is to invite someone. Share a story. Tell them what the Lord has done. I believe that the enthusiasm we will help turn our hearts as well.

Jenni, Crosley, Asher, Henry, and myself are so thankful to partner with you in ministry and we hope that you and your families have a memorable, joy-filled, wonderful Christmas season! Merry Christmas!

Shine on. Press on. Go On.  
Jeremy

## Dumb Sheep, Good Shepherd

*As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them,  
so will I look after my sheep. (Ezekiel 34:12)*

My friend Chad spent a year as a shepherd in Wyoming. “Sheep are so dumb that they’ll only eat what is right in front of them,” he told me. “Even if they’ve eaten all the grass in front of them, they won’t turn to look for a fresh patch—they’ll just start eating dirt!”

We laughed, and I couldn’t help but think about how often the Bible compares humans to sheep. No wonder we need a shepherd! But since sheep are so dumb, not just any shepherd will do. Sheep need a shepherd who cares about them. When the prophet Ezekiel wrote to God’s people in exile, captives in Babylon, he compared them to sheep led by bad shepherds. Instead of caring for the flock, Israel’s leaders had exploited them, profiting from them (v. 3) and then leaving them for the wild animals to devour (v. 5).

But they were not without hope. God, the Good Shepherd, promised to rescue them from the leaders who exploited them. He promised to bring them home, put them in lush pastures, and give them rest. He would heal the injured and go after the lost (vv. 11-16). He would banish wild animals, so that His flock would be safe (v. 28).

Members of God’s flock are in need of tender care and direction. How blessed we are to have a Shepherd who is always leading us to green pastures! (v.14).

By Amy Peterson

## Message from the NKBA

### Christmas Backpack Collection Results

The NKBA backpack goal for 2018 was 1000. As of November 6, the NKBA has collected 1,125 backpacks and we expect one more church to bring more in. That is 125 + more than our goal.



Well done churches! Your generosity will bless many children in our communities.  
Thank you for all you do!



## SEE OUT CITY THE WAY WE DO...

See our city the way we do.” A Detroit, Michigan, urban development group used that slogan to launch its vision for the city’s future. But the project came to a sudden stop when members of the community noticed something missing in the campaign. African Americans make up a large majority of the city’s population and workforce. Yet people of color were absent from the crowd of white faces that showed up on signs, banners, and billboards urging all to see the city as they did.

The countrymen of Jesus also had a blind spot in their vision for the future. As children of Abraham, they were primarily concerned about the future of Jewish people. They couldn’t understand Jesus’ concern for Samaritans, Roman soldiers, or anyone else who didn’t share their family roots, rabbis, or temple worship.

I relate to the blind spots of Detroit and Jerusalem. I too tend to see only people whose life experience I understand. Yet God has a way of bringing about His unity amid our diversity. We’re more alike than we realize.

Our God chose a desert nomad by the name of Abram to bring blessing to all the people of the world (Genesis 12:1-3). Jesus knows and loves everyone we don’t yet know or love. Together we live by the grace and mercy of One who can help us see one another, our cities, and His kingdom—as He does.

By **Mart DeHaan**



### Fort Thomas Christmas Walk, December 2, 2018.

First Baptist Church will be participating in our city Christmas Walk on December 2. We will have our tent set up with our banners flying in front of the Masonic Lodge. We will be handing out some information about our church and we will have a face painter on hand for all the kids in town or anyone else who would like their face painted. The face painting will be done for free, so spread the word to your family and friends. If you would like to be a part of this community event, please talk to Rev. Jeremy and he can let you know what you can do. I know we need friendly church members who are willing to talk to the people when they come to our stand. This will be a lot of fun! Hope you can help.



Join us for this Christmas Worship Musical designed to unite all ages, while rejoicing in the birth of our Savior and King. Filled with heartfelt, passionate songs of worship, The King Is Here takes you on a journey of adoration, celebrating the birth of the King of Kings during this most wonderful time of the year.

The combined choirs of several local churches will join their voices together in this inspirational, praise-filled performance.

An event to put you in the Christmas Spirit. December 9 at 6:00 p.m. Cold Spring Baptist Church.



## THANK YOU NOTE~

Dear Friends,

What a wonderful privilege to belong to the church family of First Baptist Church. Thank you all for the fall floral from the ladies of the Dorcas Class. Also from other folks who gave food for sooo long. No two meals were repeats, but all special!! There were lots of cards and visit from Jeremy. I'm feeling better every day but still get very tired, but better.

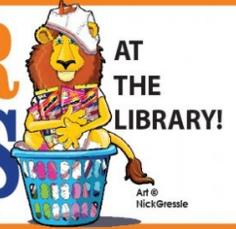
Thank you all so much!

Love you,

Donna Stormer



# DROP YOUR DRAWERS



Our 'Drop Your Drawers' campaign will continue through the month of December. Please bring in as many packs of girls or boys underwear as you possible can to help the schools help as many kids as possible. We are looking for sizes 4-16. Thank you for all you do for missions!



## DECEMBER CALENDAR

**December 2~** Advent begins, the choir has cantata practice, and our church will be a part of the Fort Thomas Christmas Walk.

**December 3~** The Mary Francis Gould Mission Group will be meeting for lunch this month. Contact Jackie Harry for more information.

**December 9 ~** Combined Choirs Christmas Cantata at Cold Spring Baptist Church starting at 6:00 p.m.

**December 10~** The R.O.M.E.O.'s will meet and eat at the Frisch's in Highland Heights at 8:30 a.m.

**December 23~** Kids sing during our Sunday morning Worship Service. Come and support our little ones.

**December 24~** Christmas Eve Service here at the church will start at 5:30 p.m. It will be a beautiful candlelight service. Please plan to attend. The Lord's Supper will also be served.

## Pantry Outreach Ministry!

During the month of November, you donated 217 Cans, jars and packs of gravy, and 4 miscellaneous items.

Way to go FBC Fort Thomas!!!

For the Month of December, the pantry is asking for donations of Canned Spam.



When you donate to the Pantry, you are working in the mission field because you are feeding the hungry!

**THANK YOU!!**

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. Matthew 25:35*

# Kingdom Kids

## SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

### BABY NURSERY

Lori Maines  
Dakota Guilkey

### TODDLERS- PRE-SCHOOL

Debbie Mershon

### Children's Worship Hour

#### Toddlers

12/2

Carol Steffen  
Barb Scott

12/9

Dakota Guilkey  
Jerod Guilkey

12/16

Jackie Harry  
Bev Rath

12/23

Debbie Mershon  
Miriam Fuller

12/30

April Ayers  
Dale Ayers

### Elementary Teacher

Lori Orne



North American  
Mission Board

Prayer calendar for North  
American missionaries  
2018

Trent & Elizabeth DeLoach 12/2-12/8	Clarkston, GA
<i>Send Relief Missionary</i>	
James & Abi Copeland 12/9-12/15	Montreal Canada
<i>Church Planter</i>	
Ronald & Michelle Ramirez 12/16-12/22	Woodside, NY
<i>Church Planter</i>	
Levi & Leah Hart 12/23-12/29	Breese, IL
<i>Church Planter</i>	

# Kingdom Kids

## Baby Nursery

PLEASE CHECK THE BULLETIN BOARD THIS MONTH TO SEE WHEN YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO WORK. THANK YOU!

THANK YOU  
TO ALL OUR  
KINGDOM KIDS  
VOLUNTEERS FOR  
LEADING OUR KIDS  
TO KNOW  
JESUS!

He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

*Matthew 10:14*



**THE BRIGHT SPOT!**  
 I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.  
 Luke 2:10



**USHER SCHEDULE**



**DEACON MINISTRY**

12/2  
 Jeanette Dittoe  
 Debbie Mershon  
 Kathleen Webber  
 Walter Mershon

12/1  
 Walter Mershon



12/2  
 Lori Orne

12/9  
 Dakota Guilkey  
 Patty Adams  
 Jackie Harry  
 Mary Strange

12/3  
 Tom Rankin

12/7  
 Harry Weitkamp

12/16  
 Bob Peelman  
 Bill Eckerle  
 Carol Steffen  
 Cindy Stricker

12/5  
 Gladys Rankin

12/16  
 Walter Mershon

11/23  
 Lori Maines  
 Jerod Guilkey  
 Debbie Mershon  
 Kathleen Webber

12/10  
 Isoetta Steely



12/23  
 Bill Klopp

12/30  
 Walter Mershon  
 Mary Strange  
 Jackie Harry  
 Bill Eckerle

12/20  
 Carol Steffen

12/30  
 Lori Orne

12/29  
 Vi Knock

12/31  
 Jeff Smith



"A joyful HEART is  
GOOD MEDICINE"



## Christmas Jokes

**1. How did the ornament get addicted to Christmas?**

He was hooked on trees his whole life.

**2. Why was Santa's little helper depressed?**

Because he had very low elf esteem.

**3. What does the Grinch do with a baseball bat?**

Hits a gnome and runs.

**4. What do you call a broke Santa Claus?**

Saint-nickel-less.

**5. What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa?**

A rebel without a Claus.

**6. Why did Frosty ask for a divorce?**

His wife was a total flake.

**7. Why does Scrooge love reindeer so much?**

Because every single buck is dear to him!

**8. What do you get when you cross a duck with Santa?**

A Christmas quacker.

**9. What's Santa's favorite snack food?**

Crisp Pringles.

When you're relying on your  
own works for salvation.



**The following joke was once voted the funniest God joke of all times. What do you think? Is it that funny?**

Once I saw this guy on a bridge about to jump. I said, "Don't do it!" He said, "Nobody loves me." I said, "God loves you. Do you believe in God?"

He said, "Yes." I said, "Are you a Christian or a Jew?" He said, "A Christian." I said, "Me, too! Protestant or Catholic?" He said, "Protestant." I said, "Me, too! What franchise?" He said, "Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Baptist or Southern Baptist?" He said, "Northern Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist or Northern Liberal Baptist?"

He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist." I said, "Me, too! Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region, or Northern Conservative Baptist Eastern Region?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region." I said, "Me, too!"

Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1879, or Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912?" He said, "Northern Conservative Baptist Great Lakes Region Council of 1912." I said, "Die, heretic!" And I pushed him over.

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**WOW! I am sure happy people aren't that petty today...or are we?**