

The Encourager

December

“Making Jesus First in Our Lives”

2018

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE: by Robert Shelton

“Joy to the World, the Lord is come” is the opening line of a world famous Christmas carol. The song declares an amazing truth about Christmas: Jesus brings JOY to our lives whenever we let Him in. The angel told the shepherds, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2:10). What is the Good News that promises Great Joy? “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). Have you truly experienced the joy that Jesus came to bring? Have you confessed your sins, admitted your need for forgiveness and trusted Jesus to save you? It is easy to allow the activities of Christmas to crowd out the joy of the Savior during December so I encourage all of us to slow down, to worship and adore Christ the Lord! Merry Christmas!

MUSIC: by Sandy Shelton, worship leader

Merry Christmas! This is the time of year we get to celebrate the birth of our Savior. We have so many different ways to celebrate Him. There are so many songs written we only sing at Christmas. I know you have your favorites! I hope you will make time to come each Sunday this month to sing and worship the Lord and to spend time growing closer to the Jesus and to others. Dec. 2 at 6:30 pm the Children's choir, Joyful Noise will present their program Christmas in Reverse. Please come and support them. On Dec. 9 at 8:00 and 10:30 am the adult and youth choir will be singing, He Shall Be Called, we hope to see you there! We will have regular services on Dec. 16th & 23rd with Christmas eve services at 5:00 and 9:00. Let's make Christ the most important part of CHRISTmas.

YOUTH: by Aaron Gudde, youth pastor

Once again the youth will be ramping up their winter activities for December. We will be going ice-skating at Crown Center on December 9th leaving at 5 pm. The next Wednesday, December 12th, we will be going to the Christmas Concerts at the High school. December 16th is our Annual Christmas Party that will be hosted at our house (1529 Hord Road, Gower, MO). Finally, we will once again be having a New Year's Eve Lock-in. Coming off of Thanksgiving holiday into December, I can't express how grateful I am for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ. With all of our activities and events, we cannot forget God's mercy and grace in sending his Son.

PRESCHOOL NEWS: by Debbie Smith, director

Merry Christmas! December is such an exciting month filled with bright colors and many different things for the children to learn about and enjoy. We will be learning the Christmas story about the birth of Jesus and acting it out. Our Christmas Programs are Sunday, Dec. 16. The 3 year old class will have their program at 3:00 PM and the 4 yr old class program will be at 5:00 PM. Refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the programs.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM COOKIES: We will be asking 23 people to bake 3 dozen home- made cookies for the programs on Dec. 16 at 3:00 and 5:00 PM. We will hand out reminders next week. Thank you for your help with this very important ministry.

WMU: by Margaret Stevens

During our Lottie Moon Missions emphasis we will learn about missionaries working in Africa, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Brazil, Ukraine and how some local US churches have been helping.

The FBC Plattsburg goal to help with this mission work is \$8,800 this year. We will be able to have a chance to hear directly from some of our missionaries during this month. Last year the Lottie Moon offering resulted in 45,256 new believers baptized and 4,550 new churches planted. One hundred percent of this offering goes to support our missionaries in countries around the world.

Thank you to all who brought a Samaritan's Purse box! We sent 75 boxes to children somewhere in the world.

Have a Blessed season remembering the birth of our Savior and what it means,

AWANA:

- Dec. 19th – Happy Birthday Jesus Party – cake and ice cream for all AWANA Clubbers, leaders and helpers
- NO AWANA Dec. 26 (Merry Christmas) or Jan. 2 (Happy New Year)
- AWANA will resume Jan. 9th

CHRISTMAS CARDS: You are invited to bring your Christmas cards for those who attend FBC regularly and leave card in the mail slots in the Main Entrance. Estimate the amount you would have spent on postage and donate that money to Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY PROJECT: Our church is once again adopting several families this Christmas. Gift suggestions are located in the Main Entrance. Please take a label and sign your name to the sheet. Gifts should be wrapped with the label attached and returned to the church by Mon., December 17.

SINGLE SENIORS (Women 55 & Up): Deacons invite you to a Christmas lunch here at church today at noon.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES:

- Dec. 2 - 6:30 PM Joyful Noise will perform **Christmas in Reverse**
- Dec. 8 - Tour of Churches
 - 1:00 PM Bread of Life Church assisted by Davis Temple #2
 - 1:30 PM St. Ann's Catholic Church
 - 2:00 PM Second Baptist Church
 - 2:30 PM First Presbyterian Church
 - 3:00 PM First Baptist Church
 - 3:30 PM First Christian Church
 - 4:00 PM Broadway United Methodist Church

- Dec. 9 - 8:00 and 10:30 AM Adult Choir will perform **He Shall Be Called**
- Dec. 16 - 3:00 and 5:00 PM - Preschool Programs
- Dec. 17 – Christmas Family Project gifts due back to church
- Dec. 24 – 5:00 and 9:00 PM Candlelight Lord’s Supper Observance

ONLINE CHURCH CALENDAR: We have updated our www.fbcplattsburg.com and click on calendar to see



website’s online calendar to a Google calendar. Go our events.

OUR PURPOSE - MAKING JESUS FIRST IN OUR LIVES leads us to bring others to experience His love and to build relationships within His family, develop them to become Christ-like and enable them to serve, to witness and to worship.



Happy Birthday to Members and their families: 1-Tony Verdi 4-Kent Davis, Ruth Logan & Linda Walls 5-Tim Hake & Brett Riche 6-Benton Gudde & John Trayler 8-Tenley Wade, Amy Sagaser & Gipson Gudde 9-Bob Rudolph, Chase Florence, Lillian & Natalie Burress 13-Phil Burnett 14-Jessica Fish 17-Daniel Fitzpatrick & Colby Roberts 18-Jason Potter & Laurie Kilgore 19-Ashton Lile 23-Kevin Norris, Lorna Pierson, Ben DeFord & Shane Florence 25-Margaret Stevens & Tom Kuhn 27-Chrissy McMurtrey 29-Autumn Bowman 30-Nikki Wade

DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:30AM Christian Men's Brkfst-Second Baptist
2 12:00 PM Single Senior Ladies 55 & Older Luncheon 6:30 PM JOYFUL NOISE Presentation				6 2:00 PM WMU	7	8 1:00-5:00 PM Tour of Churches (3:00 PM FBC) 5:30 PM Clinton County Sheriff's Dept. Christmas Party-FBC
Dec. 2- 9 Week of Prayer for International Missions (Lottie Moon Christmas Offering)						
9 8:00 & 10:30 AM Christmas Cantata 5:30 PM Ch. Council 6:00 PM Business	10	11	12	13 7:00 Night WMU	14	15
16 8:45 SS Brkfst-Youth Host 3:00 & 5:00 PM Pre-school Christmas Programs	17	18	19	20 Preschool Christmas Party	21 Preschool Christmas Party	22
23 1:15 PM Oakridge—Deacons (J.P. Cradic)	24 5:00 & 9:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Services	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26 NO Wednesday Activities	27	28	29
30	31 New Year's Eve	Sunday Schedule 8:00-9:00 AM Worship 9:15-10:15 AM Bible Study 10:30-11:35 AM Worship 6:00 PM Youth		Wednesday Schedule 6:00 PM Prayer & Bible Study 6:30-8:15 PM Youth 6:30-8:15 PM AWANA 8:15 PM Ensemble		