

FBC SEYMOUR



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Gathering Music

Robyn Myers & Amy Greenawalt

Announcements

Pastor Tim Stair

Lighting the Advent Wreath

The FBC House Band Littles

Praise & Worship

Angels We Have Heard on High

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

Worship Through Giving

What Child is This?

Message

Creating Christmas: The Incarnation

John 1:1-18

Rev. Dr. Jeremy S. Myers

Responding to God

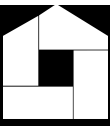
O Come All You Unfaithful

Benediction

Rev. Nathan Parker



***Scan the QR code
to give online!***



Hark How the Bells (Tis ALWAYS the Season...)

By Dr. J

*Hark how the bells, sweet silver bells,
All seem to say, "Throw cares away;"
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer,
To young and old, meek and the bold;
Ding-dong, ding-dong, that is their song,
One seems to hear, words of good cheer;
From ev'rywhere, filling the air,
Ding, dong, ding, ding, dong!*

You've likely heard these lyrics before. They form the first verse of the classic Christmas song *Carol of the Bells*. I love this song, but find it somewhat paradoxical. The flow of the music and the feelings it stirs up stand in contrast with what the lyrics encourage. The lyrics tell us that the ringing of the bells calls us to "*throw cares away*," but the tenor and drive of the music is intense, creating a sense of anxious anticipation. The song announces a positive outcome that doesn't necessarily come about until after the song is over. Perhaps that was the intent of the author as he composed the song. Perhaps rather than serving as a declaration of how things are, the song is an attempt to drive us forward towards a time and a place where the desired outcome is revealed. Rather than declaring the arrival of the ideal, the song compels us to pursue it.

The ringing of bells is a common feature of the Christmas season. Their song fills the air at the entrances of various retailers across the country. Good-hearted men, women, and children don those stylish red smocks and stand 'round red kettles ringing their bells. Rather than serving to throw our own cares away, the ringing of these bells calls our attention to the cares of the *meek* among us. As we celebrate with the purchase of numerous gifts and numerous parties and feasts, they remind us that there are many among us who are in need of a hand up... Those hoping and praying for the means to keep the water flowing and the lights on. Those who are forced to make the difficult decision between putting fuel in their car or food in their mouths. Those who are struggling to find and maintain a safe and warm place to sleep at night.

I'm grateful for the bell ringers who give their time and energy during this very busy time of year. The work they do, as simple as it may be, raises money to care for those who experience need in our community. I'm also grateful for the many people and organizations that make special efforts at Christmas time to serve through food drives, to deliver hot meals, or even to throw a few dollars in the kettle as they pass. But, the cares that we attempt to alleviate during the Christmas season will resurface in the weeks and months to come. They will most certainly carry into the new year. We must take care that when the ringing and singing of the bells stops, our attempts to extend kindness and compassionate care do not.

The truth is cares aren't something we can throw away. I don't know that cares can completely be eliminated this side of eternity. But we can limit their effect on the lived experience of our neighbors in need through continued acts of Christ-like love and service. Hope, joy, peace, and love are not intended to be seasonal. They are to be defining features of the coming of the Savior we celebrate at Christmas, Jesus Christ, and the outworking of those who wear His name. Part of the intent of the Christmas season is to provide us with a moment of peace in the chaos of this world, but it is also meant to create a sense of anxious anticipation of what God desires to do through us long after the season ends. The bells will stop ringing, but tis always the season for compassion, caring, serving and sharing.

EXPERIENCE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SEYMOUR

THIS WEEK'S Activities

Sunday, December 21

- 9:15AM** Sunday School classes for all ages
10:30AM Sunday Morning Worship (In-Person and online)
7:00PM ***The Word Became Flesh*** Choir & Orchestra
Christmas Cantata

Monday, December 22

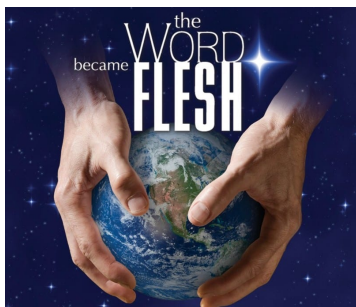
- 5:30PM** Men's Bible Study

Wednesday, December 24

- 7:00PM** Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25 & Friday, December 26

FBC Offices Closed - Merry Christmas!



Come join the Voice of Praise Choir and FBC Orchestra for **this year's Christmas cantata, *The Word Became Flesh*** on the evening of **Sunday, December 21 at 7:00 PM**. It will be a glorious celebration of the birth of the Savior, Jesus, the Word Incarnate!

<Ushers Needed!>

We are in need of adults to serve as ushers to pass the plates for the offering during services. Students are welcome to serve as well, but we need at least 2 adults for each service.

Please contact Jason Senn (812 498 4300) to get plugged in!

SECURITY TEAM

We are in need of a few more adults to help with the security during church services.

The basic responsibility will be staying in the foyer with the computer and letting anyone in who may show up late. You can still listen to the sermon from the foyer while you serve in this capacity.

Please contact Jason Senn (812 498 4300) to get plugged in!

Spring 2026 Small Group Sign-Up

Groups begin meeting in January.

Name(s): _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

I want to join a group! (choose group below)

- ☐ **Hebrews – women’s group**
Fridays at 10:30 a.m. – beginning January 9
Led by Joellen Martin

Hebrews reminds us to continue walking toward Jesus regardless of our culture or our circumstances. The study helps women make the connection between God the Father and God the Son and reminds us that Jesus is supreme, but He is also compassionate, empathetic, and loving to no end.

- ☐ **God Never Gives Up on You – all adults**
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. – beginning January 14
Led by Pastor Tim

In this study, bestselling author Max Lucado reveals how God’s grace came after Jacob. Grace found him in the desert. Grace protected him in exile. Grace wrestled him to the ground and blessed him. Grace led him home to Canaan. Jacob's story invites us to believe in a God who sticks with us until we are safely at home.

- **Financial Peace University – all adults**
(\$79 fee/family – scholarships available)
Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. – beginning January 14
Led by Deryk & Jill Baurle

According to a recent study, 40% of Americans say their financial situation has caused them to lose sleep in the past month. If that's you, it's time to make a change. Take the first step and take control of your finances by signing up for Financial Peace University. The course fee includes a workbook and a one-year membership to Ramsey+, full of financial tools and resources.

- **Who Are They? Little Known Characters of the Bible**
– all adults
Mondays at 6:30 p.m. – beginning January 19
Led by Tom Franke

Get a glimpse of 8 different characters that are mentioned ever-so-briefly in the Bible and see what we can learn from these “one-hit wonders”. If you’ve never heard of characters such as Gomer, Gamaliel, Jabez, or Ehud, then this might be the study for you!

- **The Bible in a Year – women’s group**
Sundays at 9:15 a.m. – beginning January 14
Led by Kelly Woods

Journey through a year of intentional spiritual growth with this uniquely crafted Bible study that weaves together the major themes of Scripture. Unlike traditional chronological or book-by-book approaches, this study illuminates 52 essential themes of the Christian faith, from Creation to Praise, helping you build a comprehensive biblical worldview while developing practical faith.



Visitation Team: If you would like a visit from our visitation team or to be added to the shut-in list, please call or email the church office (812-522-1909/office@fbchome.org).

Pray for Our Known Sick: Glen Brock, Bill Bracker, Wayne Waggoner, Greg Hatton, Jerry Turner, Doug Ewing

SS Nursery Dec 21: Rachel Parker **SS Nursery Dec 28:** Katie Yee
Children’s Church Dec 21: Joellen Martin **CC Dec 28:** Joellen Martin

Nursery Dec 21: Joellen Martin, Miranda Hollaway, Rachel Parker

Nursery Dec 28: Amanda Doyle, Avah Kriete, Kaitlyn Ude

Shut-in for December: Bill Bracker - Lutheran Comm. Home 1503 S. Walnut St.
Room 533, Seymour, IN. 47274

College Students for December:

- Riley Pumphrey (Dec. 9) - 1820 S. St. Rd. 235, Medora, IN. 47260.

Our Christian Love and Sympathy is extended to Will Howell and his family on the death of his mother.

Current Opportunities to Serve

- **Serve as an usher or on the Security Team** (contact Jason Senn at 812 498 4300)
- **Serve as a Sunday School Leader or Co-Leader, or Children’s Church leader**
- **Serve on the Welcome Team**

Contact the FBC Office (812-522-1909 or office@fbchome.org) if you would be open to serve in any of these ways!

Last Sunday, December 14, 2025

Offering	Attendance
Total Receipts.....\$5,029.94	Sunday School..... n/a
	Sunday Morning Worship.....Online Only

OUR PASTORAL TEAM

Dr. Jeremy Myers, Senior Pastor - jeremy@fbchome.org
Rev. Nathan Parker, Pastor of Worship and Media - nathan@fbchome.org
Tim Stair, Director of Children and Family Ministries - tim@fbchome.org
Caleb Maris, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries - caleb@fbchome.org