

This Week At FCC

Sunday	9:00 am	Worship Service (Masks required)
	10:30 am	Worship Service (Masks optional)
	5:30 pm	Little Lights Glow Night
	6:00 pm	Youth Group
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Youth Group
Thursday	OFFICE CLOSED	
Friday	7:00 pm	Candlelight & Communion Service
	OFFICE CLOSED	

- ◆ Our next **Little Lights Glow Night** will be **tonight** in the gym from 5:30-7:00 pm. Come join us for a night of fun, worship, teaching and games as we talk about Christmas! This is for students in Preschool-6th grade.
- ◆ The last day to vote for the 2021 Budget and candidates up for election as Elders will be **this Wednesday, December 23**. If your ballot is postmarked by December 23 and received in the office by December 30, your vote will be counted. If you have any questions, please contact the church office or one of the current Elders.
- ◆ Come join us as we gather as a church family to celebrate the birth of our Savior with a very special **Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service** on Thursday, December 24 at 7:00 pm. We hope this time of worship will be a meaningful part of your family's Christmas celebration.
- ◆ The **church office will be closed** Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25 for Christmas. Voice messages and email will be checked daily.

Small Groups are meeting at various times during the week. We have groups for families, couples, men's only, women's only, and groups for young adults. If you are interested in connecting with a Small Group, contact the Group Leader or church office for information.

Our Vision at First Christian Church December 20, 2020

Making Disciples in Cookeville, Putnam County, and to the ends of the earth.



Current Sermon Series: *It's Christmas 2020!*



As we approach the end of 2020, we all need a season to remember and celebrate God's amazing love and His gifts of joy and hope that are ours because of Jesus! Christmas 2020 is the time to do just that! Join us for our "It's Christmas 2020" sermon series as we reflect upon and praise God for the gift of our Savior!

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Message Notes 12/20/2020
It's Christmas 2020 04 Lessons from a carpenter!
Brad Windlan First Christian Church
Learn more: fcc-cookeville.org

Luke 2:47-50 (NIV) “Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers. When His parents saw Him, they were astonished. His mother said to Him, ‘Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.’ ‘Why were you searching for me?’ He asked. ‘Didn’t you know I had to be in My Father’s house?’ But they did not understand what He was saying to them.”

Don Stewart, *BlueLetterBible.Org*, “It is interesting to note that Joseph is not mentioned by name in this account neither is there any record of him saying anything to Jesus. The account speaks of Jesus' parents. Mary calls Joseph "Jesus' father" however Jesus corrects her when He emphasizes who His real Father is. This is the last we hear of Joseph.”

Matthew 1:18-25 (NIV) “This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.”

Joseph teaches us two important lessons:

LESSON ONE: Having a soft heart toward God helps us _____
_____.

Mathew 1:19 “Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.”

Matthew 9:13 (Hosea 6:6) “But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’”

TheVersesProject.Com (In Mt. 9:13) “Jesus quotes Hosea 6:6, which says, ‘For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.’ The main point made in Hosea and by Jesus was a simple one: you can conduct all the sacrifices and religious rituals you want, but if that doesn’t result in a genuine relationship with the God and a life of steadfast love and mercy, you have missed the point entirely.”

Romans 13:8 “Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law.”

LESSON TWO: Having a soft heart toward God helps us to _____.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV) “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”

Matthew 1:20 & 24 (NIV) “But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit....When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife.”

TALK IT OVER

1. Try to put yourself in Joseph’s place. What do you imagine were some of his biggest challenges as he stepped into his role as Mary’s Husband and Jesus’ earthly father?
2. According to the Law, Joseph could have had Mary stoned for adultery. How does Joseph demonstrate a kind, soft heart in Matthew 1:19?
3. How do Joseph’s thoughts in Matthew 1:19 harmonize with Hosea 6:6?
4. The Hebrew word for “hear” (*shema*) means to “listen intently and respond with obedience.” How does having a soft heart toward God help us to “HEAR” Him?
5. How does Joseph demonstrate what it means to “hear” (*shema*) God in Matthew 1:20 & 24 (above)?