



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Methodist Women
December 2

Christmas VBS
December 7

New Member Luncheon
December 14

MYF Great Elf Hunt
December 14

Ping Pong Tournament
December 28

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m.
Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)

9:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship
(Gym)

11:00 a.m.
Traditional Worship
(Sanctuary)

11:00 a.m.
Bilingual English/Spanish
Worship
(Chapel)

CHURCH OFFICE

506 E. 28th St.
Bryan, TX 77803
979-779-1324
979-775-2173 (Fax)

Monday-Thursday
8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Friday
8:30 am to 3:00 pm

www.fmcbyran.org



John and Charles Wesley published Hymns and Sacred Poems in 1739. There we first see Charles' great Christmas hymn we love to sing, "Hymn for Christmas Day," with its opening line, "Hark, how all the Welkin rings." Of course, we know it as "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." "Welkin" is an archaic term referring to the heavens, the highest celestial sphere of the angels. The famous preacher and friend of the Wesleys, George Whitefield, rewrote the opening line so the rest of us would know what Charles was talking about. Knowing that we sing only a few of the original verses, I went back to see all that Charles had penned and he inspired me as he captured the full meaning of Christmas. I want to share that with you:

1. Hark how all the Welkin rings,
"Glory to the King of Kings,
Peace on Earth, and Mercy mild,
GOD and Sinners reconcil'd!"

2. Joyful all ye Nations rise,
Join the Triumph of the Skies;
Universal Nature say,
"Christ the Lord is born to Day!"

3. Christ, by highest Heav'n ador'd,
Christ, the Everlasting Lord,
Late in Time behold him come,
Offspring of a Virgin's Womb.

4. Veil'd in Flesh, the Godhead see,
Hail th' Incarnate Deity!
Pleas'd as Man with Men t'appear,
Jesus, our Immanuel here!

5. Hail the Heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and Life to All he brings,
Ris'n with Healing in his Wings.

6. Mild he lays his Glory by;
Born—that Man no more may die,
Born—to raise the Sons of Earth,
Born—to give them Second Birth.

7. Come, Desire of Nations, come,
Fix in Us thy humble Home,
Rise, the Woman's Conqu'ring Seed,
Bruise in Us the Serpent's Head.

8. Now display thy saving Pow'r,
Ruin'd Nature now restore,
Now in Mystic Union join
Thine to Ours, and Ours to Thine.

9. Adam's likeness, Lord, efface,
Stamp thy Image in its Place,
Second Adam from above,
Reinstate us in thy Love.

10. Let us Thee, tho' lost, regain,
Thee, the Life, the Inner Man:
O! to All Thyself impart,
Form'd in each Believing Heart.

What an amazing testimony! What amazing theology! What amazing truth!

I pray you join with all the Welkin, including the herald angels, in praising our Lord who has come among us as one of us.

And while you are at it, invite someone to come to church with you so they can get in on the good news, too.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bynum

Ministry Calendar

12/2	9:30 AM	TMW: General Meeting	Heritage Room
	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	Chapel
	6:00 PM	Handbell Rehearsal	S101
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Rehearsal Room
12/4	4:00 PM	Confirmation Bell Ringing Challenge	Hobby Lobby
12/5	7:00 AM	Meals of Love	Fellowship Hall Kitchen
12/6	7:00 PM	Unity in Strings Holiday Concert	Sanctuary
12/7	12:00 PM	Hispanic Ministry Communion Lunch	Fellowship Hall
	2:00 PM	Worship - Crestview Retirement Center/Arbor Oaks	
	4:00 PM	Youth Worship Band	C214
	5:00 PM	Christmas VBS	Gym
	7:30 PM	Lighthouse College Ministry	Bass Parsonage
12/8	10:30 AM	Time Like Hannah's Breastfeeding Support Group	C105
12/10	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	Chapel
	6:00 PM	Handbell Rehearsal	S101
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Rehearsal Room
12/11	10:00 AM	Amazing Grace Gathering	E209
12/14	12:00 PM	New Member Luncheon	Heritage Room
	5:30 PM	MYF Great Elf Hunt	C214
	7:30 PM	Lighthouse College Ministry	Bass Parsonage
12/15	6:00 PM	Finance Committee (Tentative)	C105
12/17	12:00 PM	Prayer Meeting	Chapel
	6:00 PM	Handbell Rehearsal	S101
	7:00 PM	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal	Choir Rehearsal Room
12/22	6:00 PM	Church Council	Fellowship Hall
12/24	4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Service	Gym
	6:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Service	Sanctuary
		Campus Closed - Christmas	
12/28	9:30 AM	Discipleship Classes for All	
	10:30 AM	Worship for All	Sanctuary
	1:00 PM	14th Annual Ping Pong Tournament	Gym
12/29		Church Office - Limited Hours 9 AM - 12 PM	
12/30		Church Office - Limited Hours 9 AM - 12 PM	
12/31		Campus Closed - New Year's Holiday	

FMC BRYAN CLERGY & STAFF

Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Bynum
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jonathan@fmcbyan.org

Associate Pastor
Rev. Jeremy Bass
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Organist
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Administrative Assistant
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Custodians
Hosea Morriel
Rocio Hitt
Josh Sweed



To receive a copy of our
newsletter, please e-mail
leeann@fmcbyan.org, and let us
know if you'd like a paper or
digital copy.

Prayer Requests

Rehab/Nursing Care: Bill Pishek, Joy Allega, Ray Anthony, Marilyn Colby, Esther Mancillas

Prayers of Concern and Care: Cailey Cotner, Matthew Arriaga, Ashton

Prayers of Healing: Judy Miller, Ann Marie Vick, Chuck Schroeppel, Lynda Pool, Nancy Reynolds, Sam Tessen, Irv Sabrsula, Jeff French, Michael Smith, Cynthia McBride, Adam Bolline, Cindy Brack, Bobby Vance, Betty Horn, the Ponzio family, Jack Walker, Shirley Vasovski, Danny Robertson, Becky Davis, Judy Nix, Chad Parker, LaVerne Degelia, Mike Harrah, Leonard Urbanovsky

In Need of Prayer?



Fill out our [Prayer Request Form](#) on our website to be added to our weekly Prayer List or contact the church office at (979) 779-1324.

Welcome Our Newest Members to FMC Bryan!



Kimberlin (Kim) and Linda Kane
Joined on November 16th



Connie Surrency
Joined on November 9th



George and Tracy Glenn
Joined on October 26th

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH HOLIDAY HOURS

Wednesday, December 24th-Friday, December 26th

Closed for Christmas

Monday, December 29th and Tuesday, December 30th

Limited Hours, 9 AM—12 PM

Wednesday, December 31—Thursday, January 1st

Closed for New Year's Holiday

Merry Christmas from the FMC Bryan Clergy and Staff!

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14



POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS 2025



Give a donation in memory or honor of a loved one to support the Designated Music Fund.

ORDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN ALL WORSHIP SERVICES AND IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

Deadline to Return Form: Sunday, December 14

Missions

BRAZOS VALLEY GIVES

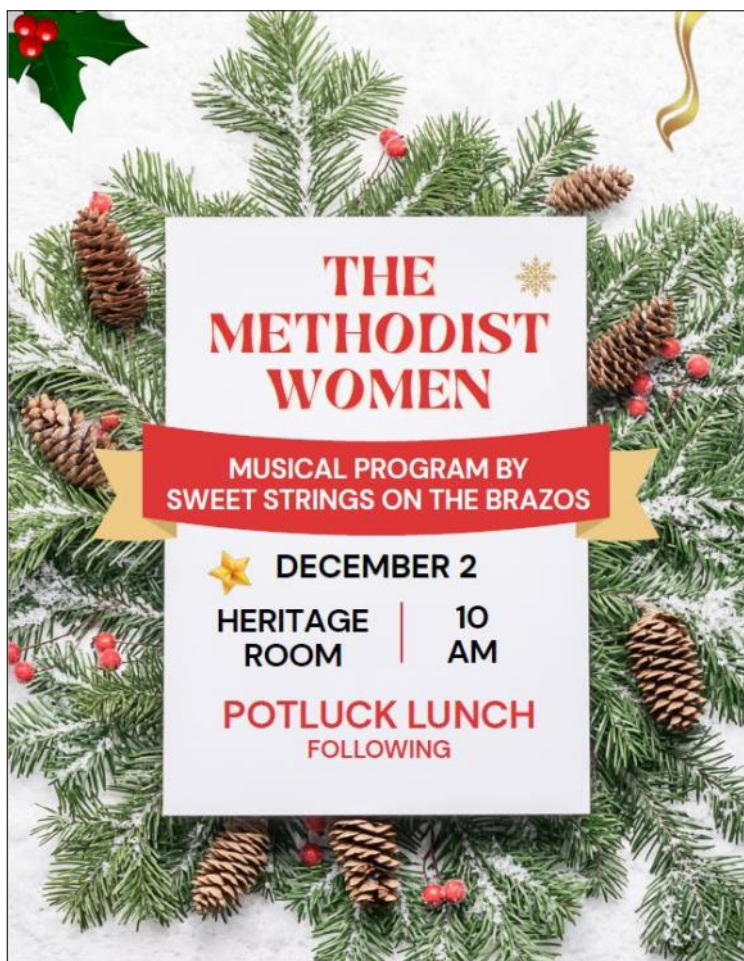
A Day of Giving Championed by
Community Foundation of the Brazos Valley

Lyn Boriski, Stephanie Waters, Marjorie Lea Bynum and Candy Rust represented the Methodist Women and Steve May, Claude Cash and Marjorie Lea representing the Service/Mission Team made donations during Brazos Valley Gives Day of Giving at the Brookshire Brothers store on George Bush Dr. Claude Cash is our Liaison to Mobility Worldwide and serves on the board of directors.

Thank you church for your servants hearts allowing these donations to be made to Honor and Glorify God.



Please give a HUGE THANK YOU to the Methodist Men, who provided a fish fry for our Church Picnic at Sue Haswell Park in October!



ENDOWMENT SPOTLIGHT

The Liz Rock Youth Ministry Endowment



The Youth Endowment was established on February 23, 1998, with an initial gift of \$15,317 from the Peggy Gillam family in loving memory of their son and brother, Van Gillam. What began as an expression of one family's deep gratitude and hope has grown into a lasting ministry that blesses generations of young people.

In 2016, the endowment was renamed the Liz Rock Youth Ministry Endowment in honor of Elizabeth "Liz" Rock—long-time choir member, tireless volunteer, and beloved pillar of First Methodist Church, Bryan. Born in Pago Pago, American Samoa. Liz lived across the world—New York, Ohio, Texas, and West Germany—but wherever she went, she poured out love through service. She served faithfully with Kairos Prison Ministry at the Eastham Unit in Lovelady, Texas, and with the Meals of Love mission based here at FMC.

Even as she battled pancreatic cancer, Liz never stopped caring for others. When asked how she kept going, she offered a simple, steady truth: "You just keep doing what you can, until you can't." Her life encouraged all to boldly live their faith in Jesus Christ. Her motto continues to inspire: "Live. Love. Laugh. Sing. Serve. Smile."

Today, earnings from the Liz Rock Youth Ministry Endowment provide meaningful support for youth of First Methodist Church by:

- Offering annual scholarships for summer programs such as the Choir Camp at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center
- Providing scholarships for Worship & Arts Camp

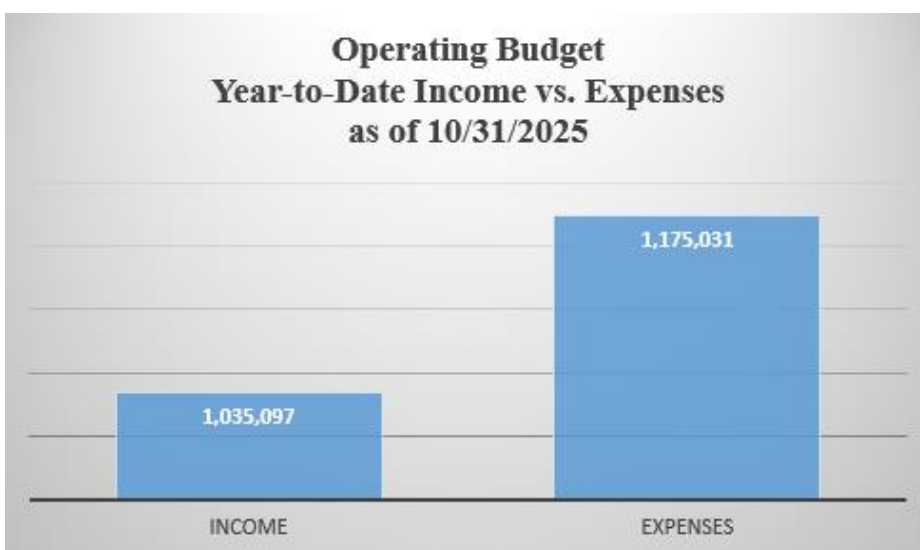
To honor Liz's legacy of joy and service, gifts may be made to the endowment in her memory or in honor of someone who loved music and believed in nurturing young disciples. Your generosity ensures her spirit continues to shape and encourage our youth for years to come.

FMC BRYAN 2025 FINANCIAL AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2025

End-of-Year Giving Reminder:

To be credited for 2025, all gifts must be postmarked by **December 31, 2025**. Please plan ahead, as the church office will have limited hours after Christmas. Giving options include: placing your gift in the offering plate, using your bank's bill-pay service, giving online through the church website, or making gifts of stock or IRA charitable distributions. If you have any questions, please contact the Business & Facilities Manager, eileen@fmcbrayan.org

	Oct 31, 2025
Income	1,035,097
Expenses	1,175,031
Deficit	(139,934)

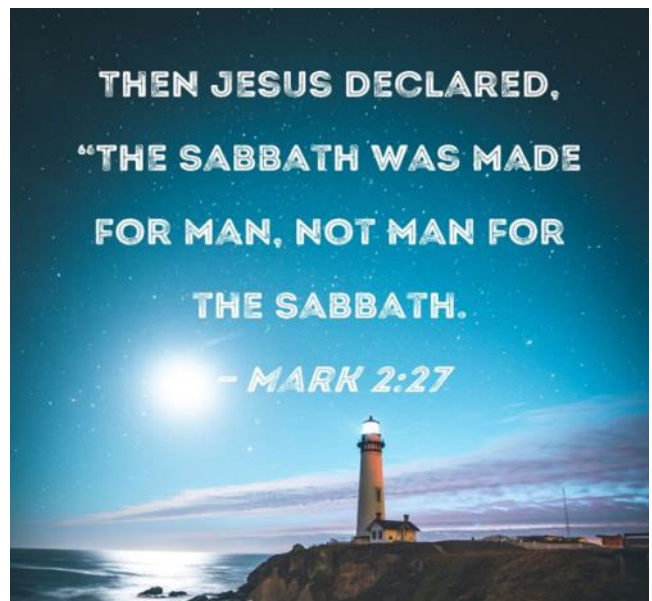


What is Sabbath?

It comes from the Hebrew word Shabbat which means “to stop” The sabbath is a simply a day to stop working, stop wanting, stop worrying, just stop. It is a holy day. Take a day from our week to slow down, breath.

Sabbath is more than just a day; it is a way of being in the world. It is a spirit of restfulness that comes from abiding, from living in the Father’s loving presence all week-long, Sabbath is a spiritual discipline or practice by which we cultivate the spirit of restfulness in our lives.

- God rested – Genesis 2:2-3
- Sabbath became a commandment – Exodus 20:9-12
- Jesus says Sabbath was created for you - Mark 2:27
- The busier we are the more we need Sabbath.
- Sabbath is a time of rest & worship - Exodus 20:8-11



What if we are missing what God has for us in Sabbath?

***We miss a part of the week that God has promised to fill us
with restoration and healing.***

-Natalie Patterson, Director of Adult Ministries & Member Involvement

THE LIGHTHOUSE COLLEGE MINISTRY AT FMC BRYAN

CHRISTIAN MENTORSHIP

The hope of this mentorship is to pair 2-3 college students with spiritually mature Christians within our church. This ministry focuses on a homecooked meal, prayer, and Christian conversation.



Mentor Application

ARE YOU INTERESTED? VISIT
WWW.FMCBRYAN.ORG/MINISTRIES/COLLEGE TO SIGN UP!



Student Registration

Young Adult Ministries

At FMC Bryan, we believe young adults thrive when rooted in authentic Christian community. That's why The Vine exists — a Sunday School class designed for ages 18–25 who are seeking connection, spiritual growth, and space to explore big questions with Jesus at the center.

Jesus said: **“I am the vine; you are the branches...” — John 15:5**

When we remain connected to Him, our lives bear fruit that lasts.

What to Expect

Weekly Bible Study & Discussion


This Advent, join us for Lee Strobel's **The Case for Christmas** — a four-week study exploring the historical and biblical evidence behind the birth of Jesus.

Community & Fellowship


Monthly meals, authentic conversations, and group activities to build relationships that matter.

Spiritual Growth

Learn how to bear fruit in your faith, friendships, work, and everyday life.

 **Sundays | 10–10:50 AM | Room C211**

Upcoming Vine Events

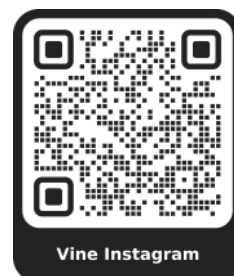
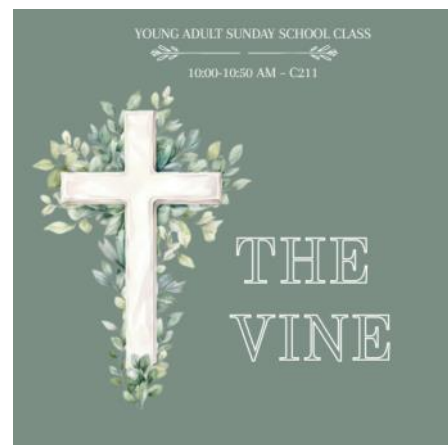
 **Lunch Out – Dec 7 | 12-2 PM | Location TBD**

 **The Vine Christmas Party | 6-9PM | Pennington Home**

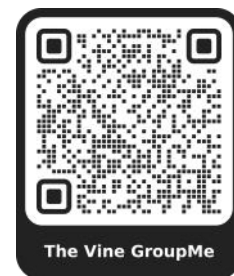
Follow along on Instagram • Join our GroupMe • Visit

- For more information, visit our website: www.fmcbyran.org/ministries/youngadults
- Follow along on Instagram
- Get the latest communications for the group through the groupme app.

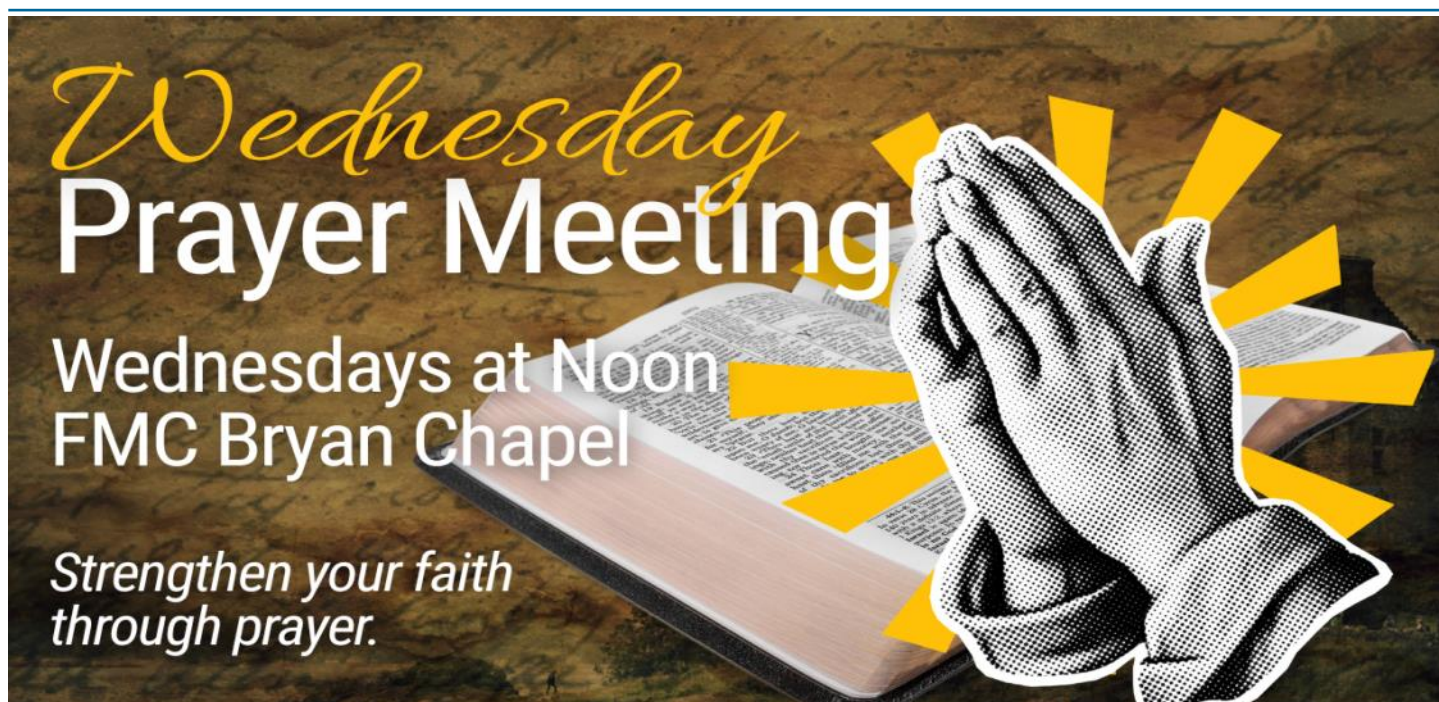
Let us treat you to coffee & a great conversation.



Vine Instagram



The Vine GroupMe



Youth Ministries

Hey friends! The Advent season is here — a time of anticipation, hope, and preparing room in our hearts for the coming King. As we enter the final weeks of the year, I'm reminded of how important it is to slow down, savor Jesus, and stay grounded in the relationships that matter most: our families, our church community, and our walk with Christ. Let's finish this year deeply rooted in Him together.

Upcoming News & Events

MYF (Methodist Youth Fellowship)

📅 Sundays | ⌚ 5:30–7:30 PM | 📍 Heritage Room

Join us weekly for fellowship, worship, games, and Bible teaching.

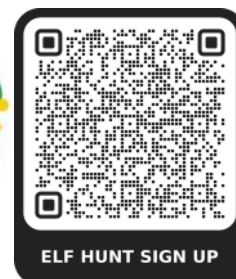
December Schedule:

❄️ **12/07 – NO MYF**

If you'd like to help with our *One Night Family VBS*, please email Jeff Hobbs at Jeff@FMCBryan.org. We will meet afterward at Farmhouse Frozen Yogurt for fellowship!

🌲 **12/14 – The Great Elf Hunt & Elf**

Dinner, a photo scavenger hunt to find a real live Buddy the Elf, and a night packed with elf inspired fun! **Please RSVP by 12/07/2025 to be included in the Secret Santa Exchange**



❄️ **12/21 – NO MYF (Christmas Week)**

🎉 **12/28 – NO MYF (New Year's Week)**

Diving Deeper

📅 **Has Ended for 2025 – We will resume on 1/14/2026**

We look forward to seeing your students again in January as we begin our journey through the New Testament. Each week includes a fun activity, teaching, and small group time. If you have any questions, please email me at Meredith@FMCBryan.org.

I love attending the students' activities throughout the year. The link below allows you to give me all the details about your student's upcoming events.

★ [Youth Activity Calendar Request](#)

Family Advent Scripture Challenge — Read the Gospel of Luke Together

If your family reads one chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day beginning 11/30, you will:

- ✨ Walk through the entire life, miracles, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus
- ✨ Engage in meaningful family conversations
- ✨ Finish the full book on December 23 — just in time to celebrate His birth with fresh eyes

This is a simple but powerful way to prepare your hearts as a family this Advent season.



Stay connected with us on social media:



Follow us on [Facebook](#)



Follow us on [Instagram](#)

Family Advent Devotional for Parents

“Prepare Him Room”

Scripture:

“Prepare the way for the Lord... Every valley shall be filled, every mountain and hill made low.”

— Luke 3:4–5

Advent invites us to slow down long enough to recognize the places in our lives where Jesus is gently calling, “Let Me in.” Long before angels sang in Bethlehem, God was already preparing hearts. John the Baptist was sent to make straight the paths—removing obstacles, softening hearts, and readying people for the Messiah.

And parents, that’s your calling too.

As you prepare your home this season—decorating, wrapping, cooking, planning—God gently invites you to prepare something far more important: **your heart**.

Not a perfect heart. Not an overflowing schedule. Just space.

Because when you make space for Jesus, you create a home where your children can see Him clearly.

A Simple Advent Practice for Parents

1. Pause Daily (just 2 minutes):

Ask, “Lord, what needs clearing in my heart today?”

2. Speak One Blessing Over Your Child:

Even a sentence like “Jesus loves you and is with you today” plants seeds.

3. Invite Jesus Into Your Ordinary Moments:

Preparing dinner
Driving to school
Watching a game
Folding laundry

Advent happens in the ordinary. And as you prepare Him room in your heart, you overflow that grace into your children—teaching them not just the *story* of Christmas, but the *Savior* who stepped into their world.



Children & Family Ministries

A One-Night Christmas Vacation Bible School

Sunday, December 7th
5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

IMMANUEL
GOD WITH US

For Families with Children
6th Grade & Under

Join other families rotating through the Bible,
Crafts, Snacks, and Recreation Stations.

Dinner is provided.
Register at
<https://fmc-bryan.org/contact-us/christmas-vbs-registration>

REGISTER BY
DECEMBER 2ND



12TH ANNUAL SALVATION ARMY BELL RINGING CHALLENGE

FMC BRYAN **A&M UMC**

HOBBY LOBBY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4TH
4:00 – 7:00 P.M.

AT HOBBY LOBBY



14TH ANNUAL FMC BRYAN, JEFF HOBBS, BENEFIT, PING PONG TOURNAMENT

THE MOUNT EISHMORE OF FMC PING PONG.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH AT 1:00 P.M. IN THE GYM. \$10 TO ENTER. ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE BRAZOS CHURCH PANTRY.



FMC CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY PARENTS' MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4TH
10:00 A.M.

IN THE HERITAGE ROOM

START CHILDREN OFF ON THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO,
AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT.
-PROVERBS 22:6



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services

4:00 PM
Family Worship in the Gym

6:00 PM
Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary





BRYAN, TEXAS

506 East 28th Street
Bryan, TX 77803

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST FAMILY DINNER

Wednesday Evenings
January 14th - May 6th

HERITAGE ROOM

New Menu Each Week!
Bible Studies for All
Following Dinner!

Fellowship & Food!