

PETERSBURG FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

103 W. Sangamon Ave., Petersburg, IL 62675

Phone: 217.632.2488

Pastor Rob Gallion 217-801-8350

December 22, 2020

Amy Gallion 217-361-4798

Website: www.fbcpetersburgil.org

E-mail: fbcpetersburgil@gmail.com

Facebook: [Petersburg First Baptist Church](https://www.facebook.com/PetersburgFirstBaptistChurch)

YouTube: [Petersburg IL First Baptist Church](https://www.youtube.com/PetersburgILFirstBaptistChurch)

—†— *The Mission in Motion*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all! We pray that you enjoyed our special Family Christmas Worship service with the Martin family this past Sunday. If you were unable to be with us in-person you may still view our services online. If you received a blessing from the Martins but were unable to give to the Love Offering for them this past Sunday, it is not too late. You may send your love offering directly to our church office or drop it by during the week and indicate on the envelope that it is for the Martin family.



Here are a couple links to some short devotions you may use to help guide you and your family through the Advent season. [Advent devotion week 4](#) & [Advent Devotional week 5](#)

We look forward to seeing you all this coming Sunday, December 27 at 10:45am for in-person worship and also hope you will be able to attend our Christmas Eve services this Thursday!

As usual, **we will be having the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday, January 3** and hope you can participate with us then too. Both of the Sunday services will still be recorded for live-streaming on Facebook and will be posted to our YouTube channel and church website later in the day as well as both Christmas Eve services on Thursday for those who are unable to join us in-person.



CHRISTMAS EVE AFTERNOON WORSHIP – December 24 at 2:00pm

So maybe you are not a late night person or don't like to be out after dark. This year we are offering something new! We will not be lighting candles at this service since it will not be dark yet, but it is the perfect chance to worship the Savior in the "Light of His Fullness"! Join us!

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT - December 24 at 9:00pm. Come worship with us for a special evening of song and scripture to celebrate Jesus' birth! We will be lighting candles at the end of this service, so please make sure to pick up a candle and wax guard on your way in.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

CHURCH GOAL \$2021

So far our church has collected **\$1,413.42** for the **Lottie Moon Christmas offering**. That is just \$607.58 away from achieving our church goal. Thank you for your support of international missions. If you have not yet given to this offering and would like to help us reach our goal you can do so by making a check out to the church and putting in the memo "Lottie Moon Christmas Offering." (We have special offering envelopes for this purpose.) You may also give directly to the offering online at: <https://www.imb.org/lottie-moon-christmas-offering/>.



Worship through Giving

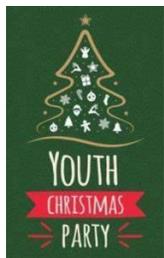
Thank you for remaining faithful and generous in your giving! Here are some ways you can give:
Send a check by mail. First Baptist Church 103 W. Sangamon Ave., Petersburg, IL 62675
Drop off during office hours. 9am-1pm, Mon-Thurs
Drop off in designated area before or after Sunday church services.
Generosity by LifeWay – Visit our website at <http://fbcpetersburgil.org/online-giving> to give via credit or debit card. You can also download the Generosity app on your smart phone!
PayPal. You are welcome to give using our PayPal account!

Weekly Bible Study and Prayer Groups



ZOOM PRAYER MEETINGS – We will **NOT** be having the evening prayer meeting on **Wednesday, December 23** but will still have the morning prayer time at **10 am** that day. The week following Christmas we will return to our regular schedule which is: **Wednesdays at 10:00 am & 7:00 pm**. See e-mail link to join.

LIFE GROUPS – All of our **Sunday** life groups will still be meeting on **December 27** and **January 3**. The Stacy/Cox Life Group will also be meeting on **Wednesday, December 23** as usual. The First Place for Health group will start up their new session on January 12.



YOUTH GROUP – Don't miss out! We will be having our **extended youth group this Sunday, December 27 from 6-9pm**. We will celebrate Christmas/New Years with a meal, Bible study, slides, games and fellowship.

First Place 4 Health - New session starts Tuesday, Jan 12 – March 16, 2021.

Join us for the winter bible study "Count it all Joy: Wellness and Faith, A Study in James" by Joyce Ainsworth & June Chapko. Session times are: 12:30 pm – 1:45pm on Zoom or 6:00 – 7:00pm in-person. All are welcome for this new session!

Office News



Please note that the church offices will be closed on December 24 & 25 and also December 31 & January 1st so that Pastor Rob and Amy can take some time to be with their family.

Also, due to the shortened week **we will not be sending a newsletter out on December 29 next week.** We will however still send the weekly prayer requests and list of events happening for that week to everyone who receives this newsletter via e-mail. If you are currently receiving the newsletter through the regular mail and would like to start receiving it via e-mail please call the church office to give us your e-mail.

Special thanks to the entire church for the Christmas bonus checks to the church staff (Pastor Rob & Amy Gallion) and Tonia Morrell our cleaning lady. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for continuing to support us during this crazy pandemic year. We pray that the Lord will continue to keep you and your loved ones safe during this holiday season and that He will provide for your every need.



Prayers and Praises



Praises: 99 people baptized on Dec. 20 at Long Hollow Baptist Church, TN (after murder of church member Jessie Jacob and her son).

D'Anna Shotts is back home in her Nigerian mission field!

Karen Cathey recovering from her Dec 9 car accident!

Ron King's voice box is working again!

8 people participated in caroling to 10 shut-ins Saturday.

Recent Prayer Requests:

Clarice Passmore – grief/loss of husband Harry

Terry Impson family – grief

Bill Hodges – hospitalized with pancreatitis

Sally Helton's granddaughter, Tonya – intercranial pressure on optic nerve

Amy's Aunt Helena – rehab from cracked hip/surgery

Sinda Venegas – foot injury



Thank you for continuing to send out your weekly prayer requests through our prayer chain leader, Bonnie Heyen. If you have a need you would like us to pray for you may call the church office, Pastor Rob or Amy directly or text or call Bonnie at 217-691-1594.

Pastor's Study

Following the Star

So this year's "Christmas Star" was cool, but not quite as awesome as the hype, and surely not as glorious as the star the magi followed to Bethlehem.

"After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh." – Matthew 2:9-11

God had given these wise men a sign from heaven – a brilliant star – to guide their journey. He had given them a desire in their heart to come and worship the King. And when they put feet to their faith in pursuit of the One worthy of their treasures, the Lord richly rewarded their quest.

Do you know, friend, that when you seek the Lord with all your heart, you will find Him? He will not lead you astray. He will not leave you with regret. He will not disappoint.

But He will reward your faith. He delights to reveal Himself to those who earnestly seek Him. To those who cry out to Him in brokenness, in despair, in trouble, He is never far away. To those who refuse to be satisfied with a superficial knowledge of the Savior and are willing to pursue Him wholeheartedly, the Lord is pleased to grant greater revelations of His glory than most men will ever know.

Need a star to help guide your way to Jesus? Seek Him through the Bible and it will glow for you. Seek Him in the church and the light will shine. Seek Him in prayer through the power of the Holy Spirit and you will discover His glory radiating in brilliant display.

Follow Jesus, the "bright morning star," and like the wise men you will soon be rejoicing exceedingly with great joy as you worship the King of kings.

– *Pastor Rob*

