

## THE MESSENGER

# DECEMBER 2025

The days are growing shorter, the nights longer. Temperatures are falling. Feelings are intensifying. Through this bleak and blustery season, the church through the ages has responded with a wreath of five candles, one for hope, one for peace, one for joy, one for love, and at the center, one for Christ.



These small lights and simple words may not seem like much of a retort to the gathering darkness, but they are not words alone, and they do not stand alone (well, for the first week, hope does.) Each week throughout the season of Advent, the wreath burns a little brighter, adding another light, helping us to hold on until on Christmas Eve we light the Christ candle.

Like the candles in the wreath grow in the light they cast as they add another, our community is strengthened when we gather together – when we share one another’s light, bear one another’s burdens, find ways to be present with one another through this season that can grow unwieldy if we do not push back against it.

So let’s remember one another as we prepare to gather. Let’s find ways to hold the light of each person in our community, trusting that together we burn brighter, together we are the Body of Christ, together we are able to hold fast to the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ in a world that so desperately needs them.



# HYMN HIGHLIGHT

By Nenetta Measels, Minister of Music and Worship

The biblical Christmas story clearly tells us that the one we worship as Lord came into the world in very humble surroundings. Luke 2:24 shows that Jesus' parents were poor. Jesus' mother could only offer the sacrifice of a poor woman after Jesus was born. Matthew's account describes how Jesus' parents fled with him into Egypt some time after his birth. May we, the church, continually be concerned for all who are hungry, poor, and oppressed.

## *In a Feedbox, in a Stable*

In a feedbox, in a stable,  
Jesus slept upon the hay;  
So, our God, you came among us,  
Bringing peace on earth that day.  
Beautiful upon the mountain!  
Christ, you bring us God's shalom;  
May we share your love and justice  
In each land and town and home.

In a shelter, poor and homeless,  
Sleeps a child upon her bed;  
In a basement hides a family,  
Bombs exploding overhead.  
Jesus, you knew want and hunger;  
Your own family fled the sword.  
May we see you, may we hear you,  
In each one oppressed or poor.

In the church, we seek your presence;  
Prince of Peace, you meet us here:  
See! A person seeking shelter.  
See! Another filled with fear.  
See! A world where lives are broken;  
Give us strength and help us care,  
Till our love for every neighbor  
Fills each thought and act and prayer.\*

\*Reprinted with permission from  
*Gifts of Love: New Hymns for Today's Worship*,  
Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, Geneva Press, 2000.



# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## Summary of Operational Budget Income & Expense through November 2025

### Items of Interest

- **Online Giving** is simple and convenient, and you do not have to set up a Realm account to give online. Visit: <https://onrealm.org/fbcjeff/give/now> to initiate an online gift today!
- **Designated Benevolence Fund total** (as of 11/30/2025) = \$11,451.53

	August	September	October	November
<b>Income</b>	\$31,611.78	\$23,162.03	\$42,232.87	\$52,496.78
<b>Expenses</b>	\$29,197.57	\$25,745.53	\$32,709.54	\$24,481.16
<b>Net</b>	\$2,414.21	(\$2,583.50)	\$9,523.33	\$28,015.62
<b>YTD</b>	\$2,671.15	\$87.65	\$9,610.98	\$37,626.50

## ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY	BIBLE STUDY	IN-PERSON WORSHIP
November 2	49	107
November 9	35	76
November 16	39	85
November 23	36	100
November 30	36	110

## DEACONS & MINISTER OF THE WEEK

**December 7:** Susan Garber/Peggy Dalton/Major Treadway  
**December 14:** Carolyn Bevins/Betty Watkins/Chad Hartsock  
**December 21:** Leon Shoemaker/Jim Wilson/Nenette Measels  
**December 28:** Peggy Dalton/Betty Watkins/Major Treadway

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

By Bethany Davenport, Chair, Children and Youth Committee



Join First Jeff Kids as we Celebrate...

## Advent

- November 30**  
Hanging of the Green  
10:45 am  
Sanctuary
- November 30**  
Advent Wreath  
Make & Take  
12:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall
- December 5**  
White Elephant Party  
6:00 pm  
Home of the  
Treadways
- December 14**  
Family Christmas  
Service  
6:00 pm  
Sanctuary
- December 17**  
Carol Sing  
6:00 pm  
Music Suite

Join us for a...

## Family Christmas Service

A participatory service for children, their families,  
and for all who love the season of Advent



**Wednesday, December 10th**  
**6:00 pm in the sanctuary**



## Advent at First Baptist



November 30—First Sunday of Advent  
Theme: Sensing Advent—Smelling HOPE  
Hanging of the Green Service, 10:45am  
Isaiah 2:1-5

December 7—Second Sunday of Advent  
Theme: Sensing Advent—Tasting PEACE  
Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13

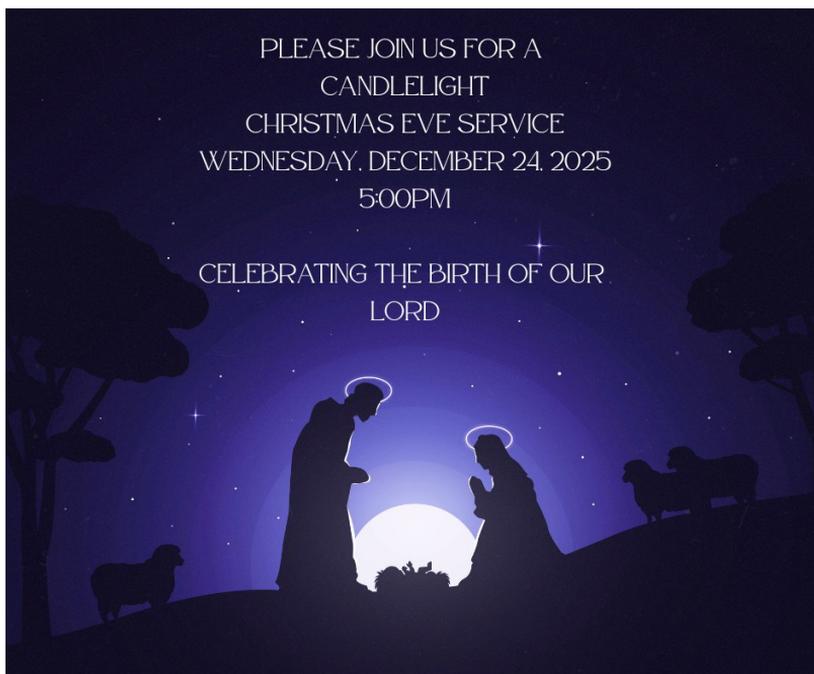
December 14—Third Sunday of Advent  
Theme: Sensing Advent—Hearing JOY  
Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:2-11

December 21—Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Theme: Sensing Advent—Seeing LOVE  
Isaiah 7:10-16; Matthew 1:19-25

December 24—Christmas Eve Service  
5:00pm

December 28—First Sunday after Christmas  
Theme: Sensing Advent—Touching Jesus  
John 1:1-14

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# Advent Missions Offering

Use my Advent gift to support all of the listed ministries.

Please designate my Advent gift to:

\_\_\_\_\_ Benevolence Fund @ FBC

\_\_\_\_\_ AMOS

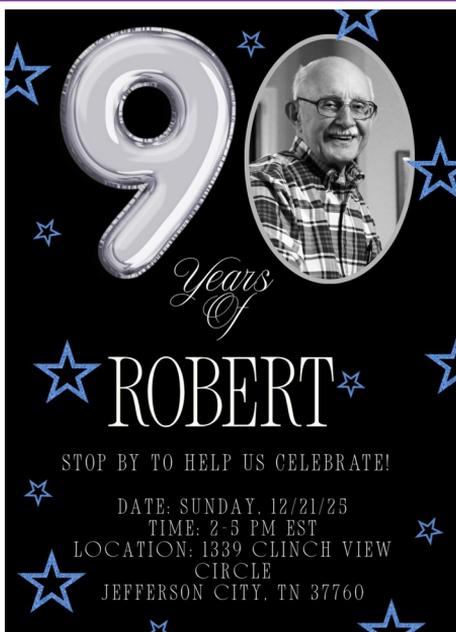
\_\_\_\_\_ Together For Hope

\_\_\_\_\_ CBF Global Missions



**First Baptist Church**  
JEFFERSON CITY TENNESSEE

**Our  
Advent  
Missions  
Offering goal  
this year is  
\$15,000.00**



## SUNDAY WORSHIP TIMES

9:30am Sunday Bible Studies

10:45am Worship Service

## CONTACT INFO

(865) 475-3826; (865) 262-9026 (Fax)

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday-Thursday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Find us at [www.fbcjeff.org](http://www.fbcjeff.org) or follow us online on *Facebook* and *YouTube*

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