


FBC MACOMB

Monthly Newsletter

2019 December



Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship
Tuesday, December 24, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Sermon Title: *1914*
Scripture: Titus 2:11-14

First Baptist Church of Macomb
1515 S. Candy Lane
309-833-2479

Words from Pastor Jon

Well, we have made it to the last month of the Gregorian calendar year again. December in our culture is associated with the height/bedlam of the holiday season. Yet, in universal Christian tradition, the church year starts with the first Sunday of Advent, which is December 1st this year.

This tradition of Advent may have started as early as the 4th century AD but it really did not take the standard form it takes today until the Medieval period. Advent season is built on the ideas of remembering the Messiah's first coming and anticipating the Messiah's second coming. These are balanced during the Advent weeks leading up to the celebration of the miracle of the incarnation celebrated on Christmas Eve and/or Christmas Day.

So easily in our 21st century culture, we can find ourselves overwhelmed by the seeming pandemonium of the holiday season. Advent worship services can be wonderful times of reflection, remembrance, and anticipation of God's Kingdom being ultimately fulfilled in our world. As one Christian curriculum describes Advent spirituality beautifully by saying something like: "When the Church celebrates the ritual of Advent each year, we make present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Savior's first coming, the faithful renew their fervent desire for the Savior's second coming. By celebrating the forerunner's birth and martyrdom, followers of Jesus unite themselves with John the Baptist's desire: 'He must increase, but I must decrease.'"

May we all take this valuable time of year to remember the power of waiting and watching as we strive to grow closer to Jesus.

Grace and Peace,
Jon Self (@pastorjonself)



December Sermons

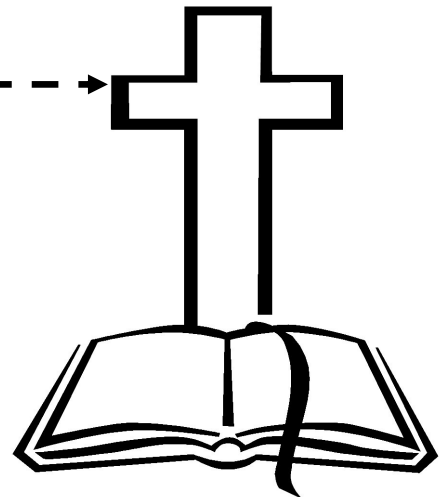
Surprising Advent Words from Matthew

December 1 — <i>Hope & Mystery</i>	Matthew 24:36-44
December 8 — <i>Walk on the Wild Side</i>	Matthew 3:1-12
December 15 — <i>No One Greater</i>	Matthew 11:2-11
December 22 — <i>The Man at the Manger</i>	Matthew 1:18-25
December 24 — <i>Christmas Eve Service</i>	
December 29 — <i>Who Put Herod in My Nativity?</i>	Matthew 2:13-23



December Candle Lighters & Opening Prayer Leaders

December 1 —Deena Mangalaraj & Richard Hurt
December 8 —Mykel Glaue & Lora Wallace
December 15 —Malaki Richardson & Rob Wallace
December 22 —Celena Mangalaraj & Jim Richardson
December 29 —Abigail Wallace & Jane Coplan



Church Board Update

The Board met on November 12 at 6:30 pm. The meeting was opened with devotion and group prayer. After the prayer the following business was conducted...

- Normal financial and church business.
- Reports were presented.
- The board worked on the 2020 budget. The budget will be reviewed and will be presented in December.
- The board will be working to update the committees and teams on the nomination list. If you are on a committee or team, a member of the board will be asking you if you will continue to serve.

The Board thanks each of you for your prayers as we conduct the business of the church.

Rich Sample
FBC Board Chairperson



As we begin the 2nd year of our Vision 4 Tomorrow campaign, good progress is being made toward meeting our campaign commitment total of \$307,275.00. As of November 30, 2019, \$140,801.87 has been giving toward reducing our debt. Every dollar given to the building fund goes to our monthly loan payment of \$6,366.88 or to completion of Phase I. And as the year draws to a close, remember that your gifts are tax deductible.

To contribute to the reduction of the church loan simply write your amount on the "Building Fund" line of a giving envelope or in the memo line of your check. You can also make an official commitment to the campaign by contacting Leann in the office. All commitments are confidential.

If you would like to help with the completion of Phase 1, see Rich Sample for suggestions. Volunteers have saved the church thousands of dollars in construction costs and new volunteers are always welcome to help with this work.

Judy Hurt
Capital Campaign Follow-up Director

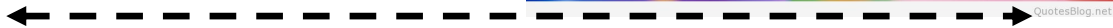
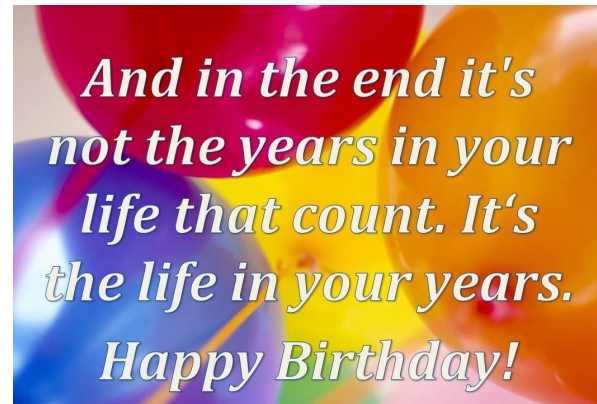
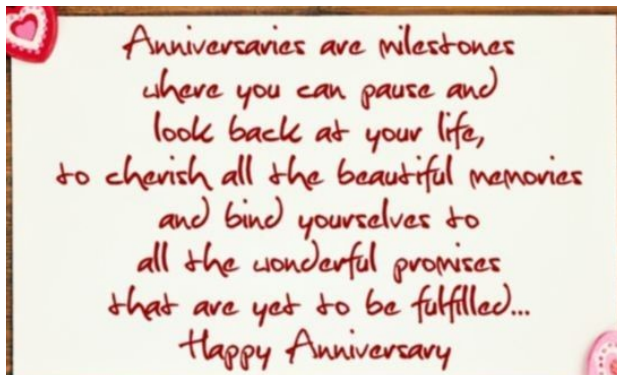
Birthdays & Anniversaries

December

2—Susan Rose
3—Ramona Barr
6—Damaris Hanson
12—Mary Hainline
14—Paula Black
16—Allen & Leann Walters (a)
19—Jim Richardson
22—Lou Melvin
25—Brooks Wallace
29—George & Johnsy Mangalaraj (a)
31—Maggie Self

January

2—Jim Harman
3—Emily Jordan
10—Richard Sample
14—Christina Harman
15—Tyler Green
16—Kyler Glaue
17—Kathleen Barry
George Sewell
22—Steve Smart
23—Rob Wallace
24—Tammy Carson
Evelyn Hagan
26—Margaret Ellis



Deacon Meal Boxes

The Deacons are collecting non-perishable food items for needy families this Christmas season. Please bring in food donations for our collection, by **Wednesday, December 11**, tables are in the front of the Multi-Purpose Room.



Thank You

Thank you for each of my lovely birthday cards and notes. It's true that you can take Ginny Doxstader out of the building of First Baptist Church but you can't take away her love for the First Baptist Church family out of her heart. I miss you every day!

In Christian Love,

Ginny Doxstader



Volunteer to Ring the Salvation Army Bell

Saturday, December 7, 2019

9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. at Hy-Vee (indoor location)

Sign up on the sheet by the front entrance to ring the Salvation Army Bell at Hy-Vee, 1600 E. Jackson St. Sing Christmas carols or play a musical instrument. Have fun while helping a worthy cause in our community.



Genesis Gardens Open House

Friday, December 6, 2019 at 4:30—6:00 p.m. at 307 E. Carroll, Macomb

4:30 p.m.—Ribbon Cutting

5:30 p.m.—Comments

Guided tours led by board members throughout the event.

www.genesisgarden.org



Upcoming Events at a Glance

- * **Saturday, December 7, 9:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.—FBC Ringing the Salvation Army Bell at Hy-Vee**
- * **Tuesday, December 11—Last day to bring food for the Deacon Meal Boxes**
- * **Sunday, December 15**
 - 10:45 a.m.—Last day of Sunday School for 2019, resumes January 5**
 - 11:45 a.m.—1:00 p.m.—Children/Youth Christmas Party with lunch**
- * **Wednesday, December 18, 11:30 .m.—Lunch at Gelsosomo's**
- * **Tuesday, December 24, 6:00 p.m.—Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship**
- * **Church Office will be closed Wednesday, December 25—Wednesday, January 1. Office will reopen on Thursday, January 2. Leann will return to the office on Monday, January 6.**



**First Baptist Church
1515 S. Candy Lane
Macomb, IL 61455**

309-833-2479

Calendar of Events: <http://fbcmacomb.com/Calendar/index.html>

Please Join Us!
Worship is Sunday Mornings at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Bible Studies
8:00 a.m.—Early Bird Adult
10:45 a.m.—For All Ages

Find us on the web at www.fbcmacomb.com

Podcasts of the weekly message can be heard or downloaded by clicking on the Podcast link on the home page.

Senior Pastor
Jon Self

Director of Christian Education
Gee Min Glaue

Administrative Assistant
Leann Walters

Custodian
Lisa Barker

