

A celebratory graphic for the 2021 January Manna. The background is dark blue with a pattern of light blue and white streaks radiating outwards, resembling fireworks or confetti. Small dots in red, yellow, and green are scattered throughout. The year '2021' is written in large, bold, white sans-serif font. A white banner with a slight 3D effect is positioned horizontally across the middle of the image, containing the text 'JANUARY MANNA' in a bold, dark blue, sans-serif font.

2021

JANUARY MANNA

21



NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

KEITH INMAN

I was not present at the moment, some 2,000 years ago, when the Father turned to the Son and said, "Now is the time of salvation." I cannot imagine the response of the hosts and angels of heaven. Just how much "in the loop" were they when it came to God's plan of redemption? Surely the thought of Jesus coming to earth to live, to love, and to die was outside the boundary of comprehension!

God is full of surprises: just look at creation! Genesis 1 is filled with "Then God said," followed by miraculous results. And in the middle of it all, "God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." God intended for life to be good, very good.

Christmas is a time which reminds us that the "very good" initiated by God collided with the sin of man. God's ideal yielded to man's insistence to live life his own way. Man's delusion came with a terrible price: separation. Everything "fell apart." Brokenness crushed. Loneliness invaded. Sin corrupted. "The wages of sin is death."

But God committed Himself to the humanity He created and loved. Christmas became a catalyst of grace. God set grace into motion. Isaiah 1:18 states "Come now, and let us reason together, says the Lord. Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool."

Several years ago, a dear friend of mine woke up on Christmas morning to find a six-inch blanket of snow covering the landscape outside his home. This verse (Isaiah 1:18) came to his mind and tears of relief and joy filled his eyes. The year had been "hard." Life had been "tough." Satan had spoken lies to his heart so effectively that at times he actually believed this "father of lies." His spirit was despondent. Joy escaped him. Yet, now, as he looked at the snow, as he looked at his heart, as he looked at Bethlehem, he was gripped by Truth. As Ephesians 2:8-10 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

Jesus came to Bethlehem to go to Jerusalem. He came from the manger to go the cross. "He took our sins and our sorrows and made them his very own." Even today, He invites us to cast all our anxieties upon Him, for He cares for us.

It's true: grace covers. But it also removes. May the sounds of Christmas truly be amazing.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, a decision regarding the cancellation of Sunday morning services will be made by 6:00 am. If services are cancelled, WPSD (Channel 6) and WAAJ-FM (89.7) will be notified by 6:15 am. We will announce via our website, social media, phone system, and church-wide email. A cancellation decision will be made by noon concerning Sunday and Wednesday evening activities and be reported in the same manner.

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE/DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

JASON ELLERBROOK



Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good: His faithful love endures forever. Forty-three verses can be found in Psalm 107 that remind us of our God's unwavering, faithful love. It is that faithful love that carried us through last year and the same love that will carry us through this year. I am thankful to be a part of a church that mirrors the faithful love of our God. The FBC family has continued to faithfully give of their time and resources in an effort to share the love of Christ with each other, our community, and beyond. As we enter into a new semester, a new season, and a new year, we can rest in God's faithful love.

As I write this article, we still find ourselves in the midst of a global pandemic. We are streaming our services in addition to making them available online. We have Sunday School classes and discipleship groups faithfully meeting online. Our church continues to connect and meet one another's needs via email, text, phone calls, and even visits when possible. Things are very different. Please pray for your church staff as we do our very best to seek God and lead the ministry of the church.

There is optimism that by this summer we might see a high level of immunity to COVID-19 due to the vaccine and other effective medical treatments as our medical professionals learn more every day. If I might use a football analogy, we might very well be in the fourth quarter of this pandemic... but the game is not over. We will continue to follow the protocols that keep our church and families safe while doing all we can to advance our mission at FBC Murray. Our desire is to help people experience His faithful love through us (our church family) and through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

NOTES FROM M.A.G.I.C. MINISTRY

BOYD SMITH



As I sat in my office thinking of 2020, the Lord convicted me of focusing on all the things that have occurred this year (or in many cases, didn't occur). He reminded me that I have allowed Satan to plant negative thoughts in my head as if nothing good happened this year. That's a lie straight from Satan.

I have been blessed in 2020. I have a new granddaughter. I had the privilege of ministering to hurting and lonely people. I watched baptisms take place here at First Baptist Church. I witnessed a staff use their creativity to find ways to provide worship services when we couldn't meet in person. I have come to appreciate what our brothers and sisters in other countries deal with every day as they worship in homes after midnight due to persecution. Shame on me for whining about wearing a mask and staying home more than I'd like. God is so good.

Bring on 2021! While we may not know what that looks like yet, I know God has a plan already laid out for us. Meanwhile, I'll continue making phone calls, praying and visiting (when it's safe again to do so).

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NOTES FROM STUDENT MINISTRY

JON KYLE ALLRED

During these strange and weird times living in a pandemic, I catch myself feeling like I'm not doing "enough." There are a few reasons for this:

One, it has been modeled for me since childhood. I was raised by a hard-working mother and father. My mother would get up every morning at 5:00 am for as long as I can remember. She would read her Bible, get dressed for the day, wake me and my sister for the school day, see us off to school, then go to work herself. My dad was very similar. He would wake at 6:00 am to read his Bible, get dressed for the day, take us to school (until my sister started driving), and go to his place of employment. They both would work all day and wouldn't get home until 6:00 or 7:00 pm. Yet, we would have time for dinner around the table every single night. They also made time for my sister and I to participate in sports and family church activities. We would never sacrifice church activities because of sports. That was a big no no. They worked hard and showed what they valued most – Christ and their family. When I look at how they raised my sister and I sometimes think to myself, "How on earth did they seem to accomplish so much and yet have equal time for Christ and their kids?" Therefore, I look at what's been modeled for me and wonder, "Am I doing enough? My parents 'seemed' to accomplish so much more."

Two, it's my personality. I always work with the sense that someone is looking over my shoulder, and if I don't do enough or do it the right way then they are out to get me! Now, that's not always a bad thing. There are some good reasons to have this quality. I usually can be trusted to get things turned in on time. I can pretty much get things done the right way if given clear instructions. I like to do things with integrity, honesty, and sincere love for others in mind. Call it pride, but I don't want anyone thinking that I have done a 50% job on what should have been 120% (as my high school football coach said).

Three, I feel like my job never stops. This isn't a complaint; I am called to the ministry. I get to work for the Lord and I love it! However, all ministers of the gospel feel the same weight and pressure. We want to be available and ready to serve the body of Christ no matter what time of day or night and no matter the day of the week. We love people. We are ready to counsel, pray, and encourage when others need us. This is not a burden. However, we can feel on edge at times. We don't know when we will get the next phone call, text, or email. This makes the minister of the gospel work even "harder" at doing things the "right way" so others will not be discouraged. Not a bad thing at all – just an honest comment about the day in the life of a minister.

Nonetheless, I come back to the original statement: "During these strange and weird times living in a pandemic, I catch myself feeling like I'm not doing 'enough.' Is this ok?" It's not necessarily healthy, here's why:

One, my parents are also sinners saved by God's grace. They aren't perfect. They weren't perfect parents. I know this now more than ever since I am also a parent. I realize they made mistakes as all people do. Also, from their perspective, they probably at times felt the same as I do now. At the end of the day, my parents will disappoint.

Two, my personality is made up of all sorts of emotions. My emotions can change like the morning news. Much of what makes up a personality has to do with emotions. I'm not making scientific claims, I'm just stating the obvious. If we rely solely on personality traits (which God gave us) and the shallowness of emotions and fears, then we will never feel like we have done "enough." At the end of the day, my personality will disappoint.

Three, the ministry isn't going anywhere. People will always be around. People should be the minister's heart. I love people! I want everyone to receive Christ and to fully live for His glory alone. However, at the end of the day...people are people. That isn't cold, but there has to be something more we

are living for in our occupation and vocation than just for the encouragement of someone else's needs. I've been told this is the main reason most missionaries leave the mission field to come back home: because they haven't seen the 'fruit' of ministry like they thought they would see (namely, people coming to Christ and growing in Him). If ministry becomes primarily about people, ministers will also quickly burn out. At the end of the day, ministry will disappoint.

What then is the solution? Rest in Christ, and in Christ alone. That's it. I don't have to walk around thinking, "Am I doing enough?" Why? Because the Lord of Glory and suffering servant worked on my behalf, I have everything I need in Christ, the better and 2nd Adam. God told Adam to work and tend the garden. He told him to name the animals and, with Eve, to multiply and fill the earth. The goal was to subdue the earth and make "heaven on earth." That didn't happen. Adam failed. Adam sinned. Now, the entire human race is plunged into the work "by the sweat of our brow."

Insert Jesus Christ. He came to earth as our covenantal head, representative, and 2nd Adam. He fulfilled all of the Law's demands. He represented the human race perfectly and accordingly to God's original standard. No one else could do this. No one else could measure up. Everything else and everyone else will disappoint.

Knowing this, why am I always trying to earn His approval? Why am I always left with the nagging feeling that what I'm doing and what I'm not doing isn't enough for Christ and His Church? Has the ministry become my Lord? Maybe the pandemic has exposed some flaws in how I minister to the Lord's Church and my own family? Maybe some of the work I was doing, pre-pandemic, was work for the wrong reasons? Have I forgotten about the Lord in the process? Has my doing and working replaced the One to whom we are to minister? Yes. I have put my faith more in things that will disappoint.

Anytime we have "what we're doing/what we're not doing" as the primary reason and motivator in life – we have lost our focus. However, the focus is Christ. The ministry is Christ. We live for Christ. I teach and preach for Christ. I lead worship for Christ. I do Zoom meetings for Christ. I send out Remind text messages for Christ. Everything I do, including my living, breathing, and being – is all found in Christ! (Acts 17, 1 Cor. 10:31, Gal. 2:20). Now, with that attitude, it makes me want to work harder. Not for worldly results or to satisfy the Lord – but because the Lord first loved me! If I won't be happy until I get pre-pandemic youth attendance numbers, then I will never be happy again. That's not my objective. That's not my goal and purpose in life. Numbers will disappoint. Ministry will sometimes get stale. The Church won't always be booming and the offering won't always meet the projected budget. Disappointment is a fact of life. Christ, however, is the never-shifting, never-changing, omniscient, omnipotent, sovereign Lord that deserves our praise and worship – no matter the circumstance! He never disappoints!

Let's rest in Christ this holiday season. He paid it all, all to Him I owe; sin left a crimson stain – Jesus washed it white as snow. That is enough!



DNOW at Jonathan Creek April 17-18, 2021

Cost: \$75 (\$50 deposit due March 1)

Cash/checks accepted in the church office beginning in January. Contact Jon Kyle (jallred@fbcmurray.org) if financial assistance is needed.



Church Camp at Jonathan Creek June 25-29, 2021

Cost: \$300 (\$100 deposit due February 1)

Cash/checks accepted in the church office beginning in January. Contact Jon Kyle (jallred@fbcmurray.org) if scholarship funds are needed.



NOTES FROM KIDS1ST MINISTRY

RACHEL RIQUELME

Kids1st Worship

In preschool and Kids1st Worship, our January unit is called “The Mission Begins.” We will learn about the early church and how the Holy Spirit empowers.

- January 3: Living Like Jesus (2 Peter 1)
- January 10: Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 4–5)
- January 17: Stephen’s Sermon (Acts 6–7)
- January 24: The Good News (Romans 5–6)

Preschool MidWeek

In January, our MidWeek preschoolers and MDO students will learn that Jesus is amazing through our theme “Out of This World!” Our preschoolers will be memorizing Luke 2:47, “Everyone who heard him was amazed.” They will also get a really neat space-themed verse vinyl cling to take home and help them remember the verse.

- January 6: Jesus does the amazing and teaches people about God in the Temple when He is only twelve years old (Luke 2:41-50).
- January 13: Jesus does the amazing and heals a man who couldn’t walk after his four friends carry him to see Jesus (Mark 2:1-12).
- January 20: Jesus does the amazing and tells the wind and waves to stop, and they obey Him (Matthew 8:23-27).
- January 27: Jesus does the amazing and helps Peter catch so many fish that they fill and almost sink two boats (Luke 5:1-10).

Elementary MidWeek

In January, our elementary school students will learn about responsibility through our theme “Rules for Life.” We are defining responsibility as “showing you can be trusted with what is expected of you.” Each child will get their own responsibility scratch off card. With the scratch-off card on your fridge, your family can have some fun while you learn to live with responsibility! Each week, you can take turns scratching with a coin to discover the Rules for Life—followed by reading the weekly scripture passage and discussing how you can live out the rule as a family. At the end of the month, after you have talked over the last rule, you can treat yourselves to a family dessert party!

- January 6: Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:36-40)
- January 13: Bigger Barns (Luke 12:13-21)
- January 20: Ant and Sluggard (Proverbs 6:6-8)
- January 27: Parable of the Bags of Gold (Matthew 25:14-30)



Crossings 2021

It is time to sign up for kids camp at Crossings! This year our kids who have finished 2nd grade-5th grade are going to camp on July 25-28, 2021. We will be staying in Hurst Lodge. The cost is \$320. The deposit is \$75 and is due February 1. Scholarships are available, so let me know if cost is a concern by emailing me at rriquelme@fbc-murray.org. Cash or checks can be turned in to the church office beginning in January.

NOTES FROM MUSIC MINISTRY

MIKE ROSE



It has been so good watching the replays of our past two Christmas musicals this month! If you haven't seen them, they are available on our church Facebook and YouTube pages. I cannot wait until we can meet again as a group and work on another big event. We have several planned; we just need to wait to see what is going to happen with this virus situation. Hang on, we will get there!

It was nice to meet together with about 20 other singers to sing carols for the live nativity on December 9. This was a great event for our church and our community. We sang for a solid hour. It was just good to be with our friends, singing and pointing others to the birth of Christ. Thank you to all who participated in this event, as well as Rachel and her interns for putting the event together!

Christmas Joy 2020 is this Sunday! It will be a different kind of Christmas program, but it will still be a joyous time of hearing instrumental and vocal music. We will also be singing carols and listening to the reading of Scripture. You don't want to miss this special time of worship!

A group of people who need recognition is our tech and media teams. They have worked so hard to make our services and events available to our online attendees. We can often forget about these faithful members as they work behind the scenes week after week. However, they make a significant impact in the life of our church. They are always willing to do what needs to be done to proclaim Christ. If you see one of these faithful servants, be sure to express your appreciation.

Thank you again for the opportunity to work with you here at First Baptist. I don't know how I would have gotten through all of this without you!

NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN

TINA MYERS



Congratulations to Megan Downey who was the winner of the *Holy Land Illustrated Bible*. We have two copies of this new Bible available for checkout in the library.

It is a great time to learn to use the online e-book system, as many are trying to stay home and stay safe. To set up an account, go to the church website, scroll over "Ministries" and click on the library tab. You will log in with your library card ID number. Put fbc in front of the number and add enough zeroes to make it eight digits. For example: If your number is 534, your login would be fbc00000534. You will then add your name and e-mail address. Then, click register.

After your account is set up, you will be able to enjoy our e-books and audio books. The system allows check out for two weeks and then automatically checks the book back in. If you are not finished, feel free to check out the book for an additional two weeks. If you don't know your library card number or don't have a library card, call the library and we will help you get started. The app for the online system, Axis 360, is available on Apple and Android.

If you would like to volunteer in the library for 2-4 hours during the week or on Sunday mornings, please call 270-753-1282 or e-mail library@fbc-murray.org.



Programming FAQ

Q: Will the Christmas Eve service be live-streamed?

A: Yes! If you're out of town or staying at home, you can watch the Christmas Eve service live-stream at 4:30 pm on Facebook or YouTube. If you're busy during this time, you can always view it later on both of these platforms. We hope this service will be an encouragement to you this Christmas season!

Q: Why are Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 online-only services?

A: As extended families gather for the Christmas holiday, we can expect increased spread of the virus in our community. To help us fully launch our in-person ministry programming for all ages on January 10, we will suspend on-campus activities from Dec. 25-Jan. 2. We're so excited to gather again in a safe and responsible manner!

Q: When can small groups begin meeting on campus again?

A: Sunday School classes and discipleship groups can resume meeting on campus beginning January 10. If you are a group leader, please email Belinda Stevens (bstevens@fbcmurray.org) to reserve your meeting time and space.

Q: When will Kids1st Worship and preschool childcare resume?

A: Kids1st Worship and preschool childcare will resume on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 11:00 am. Please note there will be no childcare or Kids1st Worship during the 8:30 am services at this time.

Q: My adult Sunday School class is meeting on-campus during the Sunday School hour beginning in January. Where can my kids go?

A: If you are attending an on-campus adult Sunday School class, we will provide Sunday School for your children. While it may look a little different, you can expect your kids to be experiencing trusted Bible teaching.

Q: What are the plans for MidWeek this spring?

A: We plan to resume MidWeek studies in February. We are exploring both in-person and online studies. There will be no fellowship suppers in the foreseeable future.

Q: I'm still not ready to come back to church. How can I stay connected?

A: Be sure to tune in to our online worship services! They are live-streamed on Sundays on our church Facebook and YouTube pages. If you are unable to watch our online services on Facebook and YouTube, you can tune in to WAAJ-FM 89.7 on Sundays at 11:00 am. Our services are also broadcast on Thursdays at 8:00 pm on Murray Electric System's channel 15.

Worship Schedule

December 20: Combined service at 11:00 am
December 27: Online-only service at 11:00 am
January 3: Online-only service at 11:00 am
January 10: Combined service at 11:00 am
January 17: 8:30 am and 11:00 am services

**Note all services will be live-streamed on the
FBC Facebook and YouTube pages*



Christmas Joy

Sunday, December 20 | 11:00 am
In-Person & Live-Streamed

Join us for worship as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Christmas Joy will feature special music (solos, duets, and instrumentals) as well as beloved hymns and carols to sing along together. Invite your family and friends to this incredible service!

Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 24
4:30 pm

In-Person & Live-Streamed

RSVP at fbcmurray.org/christmas-eve

YEAR-END GIVING

Please make sure all 2020 contributions are placed in the offering box by December 27 or postmarked by December 31 to count towards your 2020 tax return.

Current Receipts

\$1,318,412.00 Budgeted as of 12/13/20

\$1,197,007.65 Budget Receipts as of 12/13/20

\$2,911,175.22 Family Life Center Receipts as of 12/13/20

\$ 939,096.56 Family Life Center Borrowed as of 12/13/20

Help us reach our 2020 budget by placing cash or checks in the offering plate, mail checks to the church, or give online at fbcmurray.org/give. Thank you so much for your sacrificial giving that helps our ministries reach others for Christ! To God be the glory!

STEP UP
to
missions

Current total
(as of 12/13)

\$139,003.82

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us? And I said,

"Here am I. Send me!"

Isaiah 6:8

At First Baptist Church, the **World Mission Offering (WMO)** supports local, national, and international missions. We need your help to reach our \$140,000 WMO goal.

Ways to Give

1. Place cash or checks in the offering box (designate WMO)
2. Mail checks to the church (203 S. 4th St)
3. Give online at fbcmurray.org/wmo

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OFFICE AND LIBRARY HOLIDAY HOURS

The church office will be closed December 23-29 for the Christmas holiday. The church office will have regular office hours on Wednesday, December 30 (8:00 am-4:30 pm). The church office will close at noon on Thursday, December 31. Regular office hours resume Monday, January 4.

The church library will be open December 22 from 9:00 am-noon, December 30 from 9:00 am-2:00 pm, and December 31 from 9:00 am-noon.

Our church office is open during normal hours; however we ask that all matters that can be handled via e-mail, phone, or text be done that way rather than in-person. There is a black metal drop box under the 3rd street canopy by the children's entrance as well as a wood box just outside the office door for offerings and other mail-type items. If you need to come for an in-person visit, please schedule an appointment and plan to utilize the hand sanitizing station, take your temperature, and wear a mask. Thanks for doing your part to keep the FBC family safe!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Attention all students! If you are affiliated with FBC and pursuing a degree (especially as an international student or with an emphasis in Christian or music ministry), you are welcome to apply for a scholarship through FBC. You can download the scholarship application at fbcmurray.org/scholarship. The deadline is Wednesday, April 14, 2021. Email Lori Morgan (lmorgan@fbcmurray.org) or call the church office (270-753-1854) for more information.

STAY CONNECTED

Keith Inman - Senior Pastor

kinman@fbcmurray.org

Jason Ellerbrook - Executive/Discipleship Pastor

jellerbrook@fbcmurray.org

Boyd Smith - Pastor of Prayer and Care

bsmith@fbcmurray.org

Jon Kyle Allred - Student Pastor

jallred@fbcmurray.org

Rachel Riquelme - Children's Ministry Director

rriquelme@fbcmurray.org

Mike Rose - Traditional Worship Leader

mrose@fbcmurray.org

Facebook and Instagram

[@fbcmurray](#)

[@fbcmurraykids1st](#)

[@fbcmurraystudents](#)

[@fbcmurraycollege](#)

YouTube

First Baptist Church of Murray

Email

info@fbcmurray.org

Website

fbcmurray.org

Phone

270-753-1854

CHURCH INFORMATION

NEW MEMBERS

Jason, Leslie, Rebecca, and Jack Ellerbrook joined by statement on Sunday, August 2, 2020.

Abigail Ridley joined by baptism on Sunday, November 22, 2020.

FINANCES (AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2020)

\$1,265,675.00 Budgeted as of 11/30/2020
\$1,149,399.41 Budget Receipts as of 11/30/2020
\$1,163,496.92 Budget Expenditures as of 11/30/2020

\$ 140,000.00 WMO 2020 Goal
\$ 95,507.50 WMO Receipts as of 11/30/2020

\$2,899,970.07 Family Life Center Receipts as of 11/30/2020
\$ 949,111.15 Family Life Center Borrowed as of 11/30/2020

MEMORIALS

FINANCIAL

Contributions to the World Mission Offering and Family Life Center have been received in memory of Richard Jones and in honor of Don and Linda Cherry.

A contribution to the World Mission Offering has been received in memory of Ann Carr.

LIBRARY

The book, *A Prophet with Honor: The Billy Graham Story*, has been given to the First Baptist Church library in memory of Ray P. Moore, by his daughter, Bettie Moore Whitworth.

ATTENDANCE

	8:30 am Service	11:00 am Service	The NET
December 12	N/A	152	N/A



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

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