

MANNA

December 2022

*Oh come
let us
adore
Him*



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY



NOTES FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

WILL MCKAY

That time between Thanksgiving and Christmas can be one of the sweetest seasons of the year. Special events, meals with loved ones, and festive gatherings have a tendency to swell the heart (not to mention the waistband!) with gratitude, love, and wonder.

That same time period—for many—might also be quite difficult. Reasons for this might be as varied as people and circumstances. This season seems to intensify regrets, fears, and disappointments among those who have experienced them.

Through the month of December, I'll be preaching through a series entitled "Family Christmas", drawn mostly from Matthew 1. As I read the genealogy of Jesus, I'm reminded that Jesus came from the same people He came for. Our Savior's ancestors—stacked one generation on top of another—collectively tell a sordid tale that spans the entire human experience, from extravagant blessing to extreme brokenness. Their inconsistencies cry out for someone who will finally and accurately represent God among His people. And that's what we have in Jesus!

Out of delight and dysfunction comes One who is not ashamed of His family or their past. . . all that He inherits becomes His to redeem.

And that's what I'm praying for you this Christmas. That the Lord will re-present Jesus to your family, friends, and circumstances through you. That redemption would be served full and warm in broken settings, to the hungry and helpless, through you.

I love you and am so very grateful that the Lord has linked our lives together. When my family prays over these weeks, among the top few blessings that we will thank the Lord for will be that we get to be. . .

Yours in the Lord,
Pastor Will

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event of inclement weather, a decision regarding the cancellation of Sunday morning activities will be made by 6:00 am. If Sunday activities are canceled, WPSD (Channel 6) and WAAJ-FM (89.7) will be notified by 6:15 am. We will announce this via our website, social media, 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.



Christmas SERVICES

DECEMBER 24 | 4:00 PM
DECEMBER 25 | 10:30 AM

Both services will be the same.
There will not be Sunday School on December 25.

NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE/DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR

JASON ELLERBROOK



Church Family,

We are entering into one of my favorite times of the year. I especially love Thanksgiving and Christmas. The holiday season is a great time to celebrate and spend time with family and friends. It can also be a difficult time for individuals and families who are struggling with life or who have experienced loss. That is why it is so important to remember what we are truly celebrating!

Immanuel – God is with us!

Church, He has a great plan for us! We see this already unfolding through the calling of Pastor Will and his family. What an exciting time it is to be a part of FBC Murray! There are many ways to get plugged in and there is no better time than now.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, let's take advantage of every opportunity to do the following things over the next several weeks.

1. Encourage one another.
2. Give testimony to His faithfulness by sharing stories and experiences with each other.
3. Serve each other.
4. Celebrate with one another.
5. Boldly share the gospel together.

Let's make this holiday season the best ever by putting relationships first!

Together in Christ,
Jason



JOIN US FOR

Christmas at FBC

WITH MAIN STREET MERRIMENT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 | 5:30 – 8:00 PM
203 S. 4TH ST. MURRAY, KY

COOKIES • LIVE NATIVITY • COFFEE
LIVE MUSIC • FOOD TRUCKS • PHOTO BOOTH



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
MURRAY, KENTUCKY

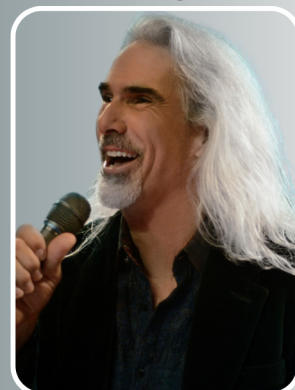


GUY PENROD

Former lead singer of the renowned Gaither Vocal Band, Guy Penrod, is making a pitstop at FBC on Sunday, December 11, at 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

This event is entirely FREE!

Register by scanning the QR code with your phone or by visiting fbcmurray.org/events! An e-ticket is required for entry.





NOTES FROM MATURE ADLTS GROWING IN CHRIST (SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY) BOYD SMITH

M.A.G.I.C. Friends,

I have been back to work for a month now and I'm still trying to catch up after being out for six weeks. Those six weeks, along with your prayers, helped me to get back to where I needed to be in order to continue doing this ministry effectively. It has been a great year, and I have enjoyed the fellowships we have had together! On Thursday, December 15, those of us who had previously registered to go to Patti's 1800's Settlement, will leave from the Family Life Center at 10:30 am sharp! I am looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us in 2023. Continue praying for the next Worship Pastor and Student Pastor. The Lord already knows who they are, and I can't wait to meet them!

Blessings,
Boyd

NOTES FROM MUSIC MINISTRY MIKE ROSE



Dear Friends:

On December 18, we will be singing our Christmas program in the Sanctuary. This will be a program of carols, readings, and other Christmas songs. We have invited the Kids1st ministry to sing with us and always enjoy hearing from them! Please make plans to be with us at 5:00 pm on this special day.

Christmas is a wonderful season at FBC. I have enjoyed being with you for these past six Christmases. The time I have spent in Murray has been among my very favorite of all of my years in ministry. Thank you for being so kind to me.

Whatever God has in store for each of us, let's be grateful for the time that we have together.

I pray God's blessings upon you this holiday season.

Mike

caroling and cookies

Wednesday, December 7

6:00 pm

Family Life Center

Join us on Wednesday, December 7, as we head out to sing carols to our homebound church members! Eat dinner before you come and grab a cookie when you return from caroling.

All are welcome and encouraged to participate!

NOTES FROM KIDS1ST MINISTRY

RACHEL RIQUELME



The December TAWG (Time Alone With God) and the Best Gift Ever Advent calendar are available for pickup in the Welcome Center.

It is time to begin thinking about Crossings! Kids who have completed 2nd-5th grade are invited to join us at Crossings Kids Camp, July 29-August 2. We are staying in the Hurst Lodge and the cost per camper is \$330. If you are interested, there is a sign up at fbcMurray.org/kids.

Here is what we are learning in December:
Why was Jesus born? **Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.**

Key Passage: Galatians 4:4-5

December 4: Session 1, *Prophets Told About Jesus' Birth* (Isaiah 7; 9; 11; Micah 5).

December 11: Session 2, *Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph* (Matthew 1; Luke 1).

December 18: Session 3, *Jesus Was Born* (Isaiah 9; Luke 2).

December 25: Christmas, *Jesus Was Dedicated & Wise Men Visited Jesus* (Luke 2; Matthew 2).

 **25 Days**
TO THE BEST GIFT EVER!
DISCOVER THE MANY AMAZING GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU.

- 1) PICK UP A CALENDAR AT CHURCH.
- 2) HANG THE CALENDAR SOMEWHERE IN YOUR HOME WHERE YOU NOTICE IT DAILY.
- 3) STARTING DECEMBER 1ST, GATHER YOUR FAMILY AROUND THE CALENDAR AND SCRATCH OFF THE CIRCLE FOR THAT DAY.
- 4) HAVE EVERYONE READ ALOUD THE GIFT YOU JUST "UNWRAPPED" AND THE SCRIPTURE THAT GOES WITH IT.

EXPLORE EACH GIFT BY ASKING:

- WHAT IS THE GIFT ALL ABOUT?
- WHAT WOULD YOUR LIFE LOOK LIKE IF YOU FULLY EMBRACED THIS GIFT?
- HOW COULD YOU ENJOY THIS GIFT TODAY?
- OFFER A SHORT PRAYER THANKING JESUS FOR THIS AMAZING GIFT.
- FINISH BY YELLING OUT, "THANK YOU GOD FOR YOUR GIFT THAT WORDS CAN'T DESCRIBE!" (2 CORINTHIANS 9:15)

Family1st Sundays

There will be No Kids1st Worship, preschool classes, or nursery during the services on Saturday, December 24, Sunday, December 25, and on Sunday, January 1.

Special holiday pew packs will be provided to help your children follow along during the Christmas services and New Year's Day service.

Singing Opportunities

Our Kids1st kids in grades K-5 will have the opportunity to sing several times this Christmas season!

Main Street Merriment

Friday, December 2 | 5:30 pm
Sanctuary steps on 4th St.

Christmas Caroling

Wednesday, December 7 | 6:00 pm

Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, December 18 | 10:30 am

Kids will not need to be picked up from Sunday School; we will take them to the Sanctuary.

Christmas Choir Program

Sunday, December 18 | 5:00 pm

Kids1st Christmas Party

Sunday, December 11, during 10:30 am worship.
Wear your coziest Christmas jammies!

Cookies, cocoa, the Christmas Story, and more!

Kids will stay on the 1st & 2nd floors after Sunday School.

KIDS1ST TALENT SHOW

PRESCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY
JANUARY 11 | 6:00-7:30 PM

NOTES FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR CONCERNING STUDENT MINISTRY

WILL MCKAY

Thank you for the patience you have displayed as we seek the Lord about the future of FBC Murray's ministry to students. We are progressing in unseen ways as we envision what ministry to the next generation might look like, and the kind of staffing that will require. I am immeasurably grateful to our Student Pastor Search Committee for taking the lead with our student ministry during this interim—they have done a remarkable job holding the line!

I am working with Christy Mattingly and our Student Ministry interns to plan for a strong and exciting spring semester. Please pray for us as we work through details related to Wednesday programming and special events.

Thank you for your faithful support and prayer—we are in this together!
Pastor Will



NOTES FROM THE LIBRARIAN

TINA MYERS

Sign your child up for Parent's Night Out on Friday, December 9, from 6:00 - 9:00 pm in the church library! We will have pizza, play games, make a craft, and watch a Christmas movie! Children ages 3 (potty trained) – grade 5 are invited to participate. Go to the church website to sign up; this activity is limited to 30 participants.

If you would like step by step instructions for signing up for the eBook/audio book system, stop by the library and pick up a handout, or ask a library worker to help you sign up. Go online to see the new titles we have added to our collection.

This month we will focus on Christmas books. Stop by to see our display of books for adults and children. We have several Advent books available for use as you and your family prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9 | 6:00-9:00 PM
CHURCH LIBRARY
AGES 3 (POTTY TRAINED) - GRADE 5

We will provide FREE childcare, pizza, a craft, games, and a movie for your child while you enjoy a date night or some last-minute Christmas shopping!
Sign up at fbcmurray.org/events!



First Baptist Church, Murray

2023 Operating Budget

	2022	2023
INCOME	Budget	Budget
Budget Receipts (weekly need-\$29,207)	\$1,433,246	\$1,518,757
Mother's Day Out	\$151,432	\$154,965
Total Income	\$1,584,678	\$1,673,722
EXPENSES		
Cooperative Program	\$81,432	\$86,017
Pastoral Ministry	\$4,850	\$9,100
Music/Worship Ministry	\$10,164	\$18,516
Student Ministry	\$18,215	\$23,275
International Ministry	\$7,465	\$8,995
College Ministry	\$11,045	\$11,145
Kids First Ministry	\$28,922	\$32,140
Mother's Day Out	\$146,044	\$154,085
Family Life Center	\$3,900	\$4,300
Prayer & Care Ministry	\$1,827	\$1,521
Communications & Outreach	\$9,255	\$10,730
Adult Discipleship	\$17,055	\$16,896
Church Programs	\$23,746	\$26,771
Staff Salaries, Benefits, Expenses	\$861,417	\$898,630
Office Support	\$52,003	\$56,886
Facilities, Utilities, & Insurance	\$307,338	\$314,715
Total Expense	\$1,584,678	\$1,673,722
World Mission Offering Goal	\$161,702	\$165,000

Detailed copies of the 2023 budget will be available in the church office, in the Welcome Center, and at the December 4 Business Meeting. The budget will be voted on at the December 11 morning service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CHURCH INFORMATION

END-OF-YEAR GIVING

We need your help to reach our 2022 General Budget and World Mission Offering goal! To count toward your 2022 tax return, all contributions must be either brought to the church office by Thursday, December 22 (note office information below), put in the offering during December services (January 1 offerings will be counted toward 2023 for tax purposes), postmarked by December 31, or placed in the secure, black box under the awning at the 3rd St. Student Education Building doors by December 31.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed December 26-December 29 and January 2 in observance of the holidays. The church office will resume normal office hours on Tuesday, January 3. The last day that the church office will be open in 2022 is Thursday, December 22.

FINANCES (AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2022)

\$ 1,212,772.00	Budgeted as of 10/31/2022
\$ 1,102,872.61	Budget Receipts as of 10/31/2022
\$ 1,172,950.77	Budget Expenditures as of 10/31/2022
\$ 161,702.00	WMO 2022 Goal
\$ 81,477.91	WMO Receipts as of 10/31/2022

RADIO/TV

Our 10:30 am worship service is aired at 10:30 am on WAAJ-FM 89.7. Our service is also broadcast on Thursday at 8:00 pm on Murray Electric System's channel 15.

BLESSING BOX

This month's items are canned tuna and chicken! Items can be dropped off in the basket by the banner in the Welcome Center. Sunday School classes and families are invited to sign up to adopt the blessing box in Riviera Courts for a week at a time. Sign up at fbcmurray.org.serve.

MEMORIALS

Library Memorials

A monetary donation has been made to the FBC library to purchase books in memory of Duane Bolin.

VAN DRIVER

The van driver for the month of December is Ken Ashlock. If you would like a ride to Sunday School (9:15 am) or the worship service (10:30 am), contact Ken at 270-227-1835.

ATTENDANCE

October 31	363	203 S. 4th St., Murray, KY 42071 fbcmurray.org 270-753-1854
November 6	374	
November 13	391	
November 20	395	