

First Baptist Church
 PO Box 366
 Calvert City, KY 42029-0366
 270-395-4600



Our Mission: Encounter . Grow . Serve . Share

December 2023

Our Vision: Becoming fully committed followers of Jesus Christ ...
 Making a Kingdom impact on Calvert City

www.calvertfbc.org • Facebook: First Baptist Calvert City • jim.ewing@calvertfbc.org • 270-395-4600

- Pastor Dr. Jim Ewing
- Music Stacey Cayton
- Children's Ministry Director Crystal Smith
- Youth Leaders Lance & Trena Gregory
- Ministry Assistant Edna Pierce
- Audio/Visual Technician Aaron Smith
- Building Supervisor Ray Tucker
- Church Organist/Pianist Vicki Madison
- Custodians Marshall (Eddie) & Gail Agent



Return service requested

To:

Thoughts for the Weeks Ahead

A couple years ago I preached a message entitled: Lord, Thank You for this Stuff. As I thought about the turmoil we're seeing in our nation, and in the world today, I thought perhaps it would be good to draw from that message as we come to the end of 2023.

The focus text was **Ps 118:1** - *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting."* As translated from the Hebrew, the word *"lovingkindness"* contains a sense of affection ... but its primary sense is that God is forever faithful. We can trust that God will always do what He said He would do. Despite the challenges we're facing, we can say with a sincere heart: "Lord, Thank You for This Stuff!"

So how do we do that? It's not so easy to be thankful when we're up to our eyeballs in alligators, is it? We need to learn to think a little more about what God is up to in our lives. As **Ps 118** reminds us, God is working for our ultimate blessing we can say ... **Lord, Thank You for the Difficult Stuff.** God does not expect us to ignore our sense of pain, regret, sorrow or fear. These are normal human emotions ... and if we look carefully at our Bible ... we see that even Jesus experienced these kinds of emotions. God isn't asking us not to miss our loved ones ... or be to happy about our crises. They're the ugly and gut-wrenching consequences of life in a fallen world. But it's through the hard times of life that God crafts men and women whose lives bear not only the scars of suffering, but who have also allowed God's words of hope to guide them ... to heal and comfort them. It's often through the difficult stuff that the Gospel message rings true to those who are looking for answers to life's challenges. There really is good in the difficult stuff of life ... if we'll look for it.

But we also need to remember that we did experience some great stuff this year ... so we can say ... **Lord, Thank You for the Wonderful Stuff.** That stuff is much easier to say "Thank You" because those are the fun things ... the things that make us happy and that we really enjoy. God delights in showering our lives with many little blessings that give us daily peace, a sense of security and safety, and even joy. As 2023 draws to a close ... think for a moment about the wonderful blessings of this past year. What comes to mind? Get hold of the fact that those wonderful things are the very things your loving God delights in giving you. Why? He just loves you!

That brings us to one perhaps the most important reason we ought to be thankful. We have the privilege of saying ... **Lord, Thank You for the Eternal Stuff.** Notice the word *"everlasting"* at the end of **Ps 118:1** That word would make no sense if life was just about the stuff we experience in our short time in this world, would it? It should remind us that the difficult stuff of this life ... and even the best of the wonderful stuff ... is nothing compared to eternity with God. The apostle Paul described it this way in **Phil 3:7-8** - *"But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord,"* He understood the best stuff was the eternal stuff! We need to remember that!

We really do have so much to be thankful for. Take some time this month to say "Thank You" to God.

Let me close with a prayer for us: *Gracious Lord and eternal King of the Universe ... Creator of all that is, that ever was, and ever will be. We thank you for the difficult stuff. The things that You allow into our lives to strengthen our faith and confidence. We thank you for the wonderful stuff ... that lets us experience the joy and peace and pleasure that foreshadows the indescribable joys that await us in our eternal home in Heaven. And Lord, we thank You for the eternal stuff that give us a reason to have hope, not in the temporary and fallible things of this world ... but in You and our forever home with You. We love you Lord ... thank You for all of this stuff.*

Together in Him,
 Pastor Jim

The LORD is for me; I will not fear; what can man do to me? Psalm 118:6

Church Family Bible Reading Plan — December 2023

December 1: 2nd Chronicles 25-27	December 2: 2nd Chronicles 28-30	December 3: 2nd Chronicles 31-32	December 4: 2nd Chronicles 33-34
December 5: 2nd Chronicles 35-36	December 6: Ezra 1-3	December 7: Ezra 4-6	December 8: Ezra 7-10
December 9: Nehemiah 1-4	December 10: Nehemiah 5-7	December 11: Nehemiah 8-10	December 12: Nehemiah 11-13
December 13: Esther 1-3	December 14: Esther 4-7	December 15: Esther 8-10	December 16: Job 1-3
December 17: Job 4-5	December 18: Job 6-7	December 19: Job 8-10	December 20: Job 11-12
December 21: Job 13-14	December 22: Job 15-17	December 23: Job 18-19	December 24: Job 20-21
December 25: Job 22-24	December 26: Job 25-28	December 27: Job 29-31	December 28: Job 32-34
December 29: Job 35-37	December 30: Job 38-39	December 31: Job 40-42	

Sunday and Weekday Schedule of Activities

Sunday	9:00 am	Sunday School	Wednesday	6:00 pm	Prayer Meeting/Member Meeting 3 rd Wednesday
	10:15 am	Worship Service		5:00 pm	Adult Choir Practice
	5:30 pm	Youth Meeting		5:30 pm	Youth Ministry (Ignite!)
				6:00 pm	JUMP for Kids K - 5th Grade

THE GREAT CHALLENGE

Announcements, Missions and Outreach

December 3, 2023 to January 28, 2024

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Providing financial support to missionaries as they share the gospel overseas.
FBC Goal: \$7,000



THE CHRISTMAS STORY

From the Beginning

Christmas Sermon Series begins Sunday, December 3, 2023



Sunday School Breakfast

December 17, 2023
 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall
 No Sunday School
 Worship Service 10:00 am



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT and LORD'S SUPPER SERVICE

First Baptist Calvert City

Sunday, December 24, 2023—5:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events



Renewing our promises

First Baptist Church
 Covenant Renewal Service
 Sunday, January 7, 2024



Singing at Calvert City Convalescent Center

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

December 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						Birthdays: Kourtney Gregory
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Birthdays: Geno Shelton 9:00 am – Sunday School 10:15 am –Worship Service 5:30 pm –Youth	Birthdays: Aaron Smith		6:00 pm – Prayer Meeting 5:00 pm –Choir Practice 5:30 pm –Youth 6:00 pm –Jump		Birthdays: Marvin Travis	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:00 am – Sunday School 10:15 am –Worship Service 5:30 pm –Youth	Birthdays: Jill Pagel		Anniversaries: Sam and Jo Beth Jones Birthdays: Austin Smith 5:00 pm –Choir Practice 5:30 pm –Youth 6:00 pm –Prayer Meeting 6:00 pm –Jump	Birthdays: Kaylee Risher 10:30 am –WMU (Women on Mission) Fellowship Hall		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00 am – Sunday School Breakfast Bunch, Fellowship Hall 10:15 am –Worship Service 5:30 pm –Youth		Birthdays: Janet Dietsch	5:00 pm –Choir Practice 5:30 pm –Youth 6:00 pm –Prayer Meeting 6:00 pm –Prayer Meeting/ Membership Meeting (Vote on 2024 Budget)	Birthdays: Karen Howard		
24	CHRISTMAS 25	26	27	28	29	30
No Sunday School 10:15 am –Worship Service No Youth 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight and Lord Super Service	OFFICES CLOSED  Merry Christmas		5:00 pm –Choir Practice 6:00 pm – Prayer Meeting No Youth or JUMP	Birthdays: Brandon Cayton		Anniversary: Shirley and Steve Harrington Birthdays: Tolor Armstrong
31						
9:00 am –Sunday School 10:15 am –Worship Service No Evening Activities						

Volunteer Schedules

Tellers	Dale and Jean Smith	COUNTER	Nigel Broyles		
NURSERY ASSISTANTS		LEAD USHERS		SECURITY TEAM	
December 3	Trena Gregory	December 3	Clint Poague	December 3	Marvin Travis
December 10	Crystal Smith	December 10	Gerry Poague	December 10	Clint Poague
December 17	Jill Pagel	December 17	Marvin Travis	December 17	Eric Littrell
December 24	Jason Young	December 24	Eric Littrell	December 24	Gerry Poague
December 31	Kathy Poague	December 31	Adam Morton	December 31	Jason Young
DEACON OF THE WEEK		PRAYER WARRIORS		ALTERNATES	
December 3	Aaron Smith—615-579-3609	December 3	Ron Lappin and Clint Poague	Wayman Duncan and Andy Pagel	
December 10	Ray Tucker—270-556-5115	December 10	Danny Sewell and Billy Hodge	Jason Young and Phil Broyles	
December 17	Brandon Cayton—270-994-8878	December 17	Donna Cayton and Shirley Harrington	Karen Howard and Heather Littrell	
December 24	Andy Pagel—270-210-7589	December 24	Christmas Eve (No Prayer Warriors)		
December 31	Dale Smith—270-564-8457	December 31	Trena Gregory and Anna Hodge	Sandra Wiles and Heather Risher	
MARCELLA'S KITCHEN DELIVERY SCHEDULE (Deliveries are on Tuesday of every month)					
December 5	Dale and Jean Smith, Jerry Devine		December 19	Jerry Devine, Donna Cayton and Billy Hodge	
December 12	Cheryl Ewing and Gene Low		December 26	No Marcella's Deliveries	