



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH FAIRDALE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER / 2022



It's that time of year when we start hearing the comments again - "Christmas decorations already? It's not even Thanksgiving yet!" It certainly does feel like summer just ended and most of us are probably still enjoying leftover Halloween candy. There is value in enjoying each season and stage of life in the moment, but there are also times to prepare and look forward to what is coming soon.

Advent is one of those seasons. Advent is a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus as well as the return of Christ at the Second Coming. Advent has been celebrated in the church for hundreds of years and always begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day. So even as we are eating

leftover turkey from Thanksgiving and scoping out Cyber Monday deals, it will already be time to start preparing our hearts and minds for the coming celebration on December 25.

Our church wants to help equip you to do this. On November 20, we will have

available Promise Kept, an Advent devotional written by our own church leaders and members. This will be an excellent tool for anyone looking to direct their Advent celebration or a great addition to your current family traditions. November 27 will kick off our church Advent season

with the sermon series Promise Kept, focusing on the four main themes in the devotional: Promise Needed, Promise Made, Promise Anticipated, and Promise Kept. Please look for the devotional and make every effort to attend Sunday morning services during Advent. May God work mightily in our church as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus and anticipate his future return and reign!

**Devotional Available
November 20**
**Sermon Series
Beginning November 27**

Behold, He is Coming Soon!

Josh Wamble
Pastor

In just a couple weeks, the advent season will be here. I look forward to this time each year for lots of reasons, but there are at least two specifically Christian reasons to look forward to Advent.

“Advent” simply means “coming—especially the coming of a notable person or event.” During advent, we look back to the time in history when God sent Jesus to take on humanity. We put ourselves in the place of those in the first century waiting and longing for God to keep his promise. We mark this time with special devotions and advent calendars. We sing songs with lines like “Come thou long expected Jesus” and “Joy to the world, the Lord is come” and “With angelic hosts proclaim, ‘Christ is born in Bethlehem!’”

We take this time to think about and marvel at the unbelievable truth that Jesus left his throne in heaven, took on the form of a servant, was born in the likeness of men, and humbled himself even to the point of dying a criminal’s death on a cross (Phil. 2:5-8)! Let me encourage you to make some time during the coming busyness to reflect on these things and really think about what an incredible event this was.

But, there is a second reason for Christians to look forward to this season. During Advent, we look back to the real moment in history when God took on human flesh to fulfill the promises he had been making for thousands of years. However, there is another advent or coming that we are looking/ waiting/longing for.

In John 14, Jesus promises his followers that he is going to prepare a place for them and that he will come back for them (us). We have been

preaching through the book of Revelation over the last several months, and, of course, this is one of the main themes there—Jesus will come back. When he does, he will set all things right, restore the (New) Heavens and Earth, take his seat on his throne, and establish his kingdom forever!

The advent season helps us to remember, reflect on, and celebrate Jesus’ birth, but that is just the beginning (or middle) of the story. This story also has an ending. Let me encourage you to make time during this season to reflect on Jesus’ future advent as well. When singing Christmas hymns and reading Christmas passages from the bible, be looking for and dwelling on this theme as well and let your heart be moved to longing for when we will see him face to face and all will be made well—when sin, evil, injustice, and death will be done away with completely and forever.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessing flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found

Joy to the world, the Lord [will] come!



BEING A CHURCH THAT PRAYS



Earlier this year we introduced the Church Prayer Team. This is the large whiteboard in the basement with names filled in for each hour of the week. If you have not yet signed up, there are still time slots available.

As a reminder, we are NOT expecting you to be praying for the entire hour that you are signed up for. We ARE expecting you to be prayerful during that hour. At some point during that hour, pause and spend some time in prayer for our church, for your pastors, for the staff, for the community, for the various ministries at our church. There may also be times when we reach out to you about specific things happening that you can be praying about. We anticipate you being able and willing to pray for those things when those opportunities arise.

It will strengthen us as a church to know we have people praying around the clock. It will also strengthen your own faith to be continually committed to praying, and continually being prayed for.

Let’s be a people who are constantly and consistently committing ourselves to crying out to the Lord.

Students and Families Growing in Godliness Together.

Garth Farmer
Youth Minister

This should come as no surprise, but I love Student Ministry. That may seem redundant or comical coming from the Youth Minister, but it's incredibly true. Some of the greatest joys and encouragement I get as a youth minister are found in unprompted and casual conversations with a student. One form of encouragement I often get in these conversations is when a student decides to share with myself or a volunteer something they have done recently with their family. What a blessing it is to hear from the perspective of our youth the fun times they share with their family. We have some amazing families in our church!

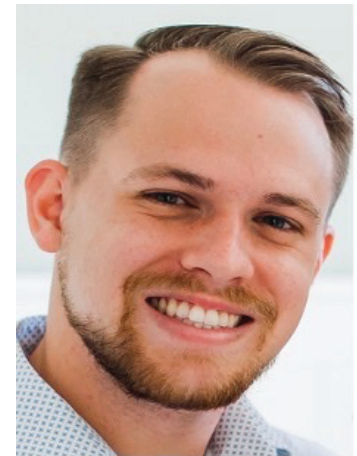
In August we our first "Youth Family Night In." This event gave our youth families time to fellowship with one another and other families. During this event, students and their families ate dinner together, prayed for the upcoming school year with student ministry volunteers, and had fun playing and competing in games. This was such an encouraging event! It was an incredible blessing for myself and other student ministry volunteers to hear and participate with our youth families while they prayed and fellowshiped together.

On November 18th, we will be having another "Youth Family Night In" that I've titled "Youthsgiving." We will be enjoying a Thanksgiving meal (turkey and all!), hearing from the Word of God, praying together and having fun. These events are fun, but they are uniquely powerful. God is really working in the life of our church and in the lives of our students and their families. It can be so clearly seen in these kinds of events.

Many of you have probably heard the phrase "Discipleship begins in the home" and that's a true phrase.

The primary way that our students are pointed to Jesus is by their parents. It's a privilege as a Youth Minister to come alongside the parents of students in our church and encourage their children in the gospel and point them to Jesus. That is what I think is so great about "Youth Family Night In" - it's a partnership where student ministry meets family ministry. Our students get the opportunity to have a good time with their family and other families while recognizing and clearly communicating that our mutual love for Jesus is what unifies us.

So please pray for us church. Pray for a fun night for our students and their families. Pray that we would all be encouraged through the study of God's Word, prayer, and the fellowship that we have with one another. I'm reminded of one of the ways Paul describes the church in 2 Thess. 1:3, "We ought to always give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing." May our students and their families be growing in their faith, in Christ, and in love for one another!



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

We talk about serving a lot here at our church. The reason we serve is relatively simple; Jesus serves us, and teaches us to serve others. Serving often looks different from one person to another. God gifts us all uniquely, so for each of us to serve will look different.

Along the topic of serving, there are always opportunities to serve here at our church. Two areas that could always use servant hearted people are our Food Pantry and kitchen team.

Our Food Pantry has been working very hard to get food to those in need, and is always in need of people willing to

help unload food and package it into boxes for distribution, as well as a variety of other things.

The kitchen team works incredibly hard to feed not only our church family on Wednesday nights, but they also feed local sports teams from the high school throughout the week.

These are two areas we could always use more volunteers. If you are looking for a place to serve, these two may be great opportunities for you to explore how you can be used.

