

# SUNDAY

## Worship Service

December 22, 2024

### **THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION:**

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.* -Isaiah 7:14

*God is always among the poor and the downtrodden - the shepherds, Marys, and Josephs of this world, the tax collectors, the sick, and the sinners.* - Marlena Graves

### **GATHERING MUSIC**

Howard Raudenbush

### **WORDS of GREETING and GRACE**

Rev. Linda Pepe

### **\*MEDLEY of PRAISE**

Congregation

*Joyful Joyful we adore You, God of glory, Lord of Love  
Little baby here among us sent to earth from God above  
Shepherds kneel before the Infant, praises sound and anthems raise  
As with joy our hearts are lifted joined in wonder love and praise*

*Mortals join the angel chorus which the Morning Star began  
God's own love, now reigning o'er us, joins creation hand in hand  
Ever singing, moving onward, faithful in the midst of strife  
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life*

*Refrain*

*Ring the bells, ring the bells, Christmastime is here  
Shout the news that Christ is born to all those far and near  
Ring the bells, ring the bells, tell to all the earth,  
God is love, and showed us love, through Jesus' holy birth.*

- 1. Many years ago, in a stable far away,  
Christ the Lord was born, what a happy day!  
Singing filled the air, glory shone around,  
shepherds heard the invitation seated on the ground. (Refrain)*
- 2. On to Bethlehem, in a most excited way,  
the shepherds went to see Christ the Lord that day.  
When they saw him there, they were filled with joy,  
on their knees they worshiped him, God's special baby boy. (Refrain)*

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

Michael Ostrow

**BELL CHOIR**

***Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella***

FBC Bell Choir

Arranged by Larry and Carla Sue

**HAPPENINGS & OFFERINGS**

Rev. Nevin Werron

**CAROL of PRAISE**

***Carol of the Bells***

Sara Bennett, Clarinet

by Mykola Leontovych, arranged by Matthew Riley

**PRAYERS of the COMMUNITY**

Congregation

**SCRIPTURE**

***Micah 5: 2-5a, Isaiah 7: 10-14***

Debbie Chen

**CAROL of PRAISE**

***In the Bleak Mid-Winter***

Congregation

***In the bleak midwinter, icy wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow on snow had fallen, snow on snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long and long ago.***

***Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim rising in the air;  
Oh, but only Mary, in her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the beloved with a mother's kiss.***

***Heaven cannot hold Him, nor can earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall fall away when He comes to reign.***

***What then can I give Him, empty as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would know my part;  
What then I can I give Him: I must give my heart.***

**SERMON**

***Finding Our Voice: Sing Out!***

The voices of FBCM

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

***Joy To the World!***

Congregation

***Joy to the World, the Lord has come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven and nature sing,  
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.***

***Joy to the World, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.***

***Peace to the world, goodwill to all:  
The hosts of angels sing  
Of hope and joy - peace and love  
Let saints and angels sing,  
Let saints and angels sing,  
Let all the saints and angels sing.***

***He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders, of His love.***

***\*BENEDICTION***

Pastor Linda

***\*POSTLUDE***

Howard

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

# TODAY and THE COMING WEEK at FBC MOORESTOWN

<b>TODAY, December 22</b>	10:00 am	<b>Morning Worship Service</b> (Sanctuary/Balcony & Facebook Live)
	11:15 am	<b>Coffee Hour</b> (Fellowship Hall)
<b>MONDAY, December 23</b>	5:30 to 7:00 pm	<b>Food Pantry Hours</b> (Rooms 7, 8, 9 & 10, FH, Lower Level)
<b>TUESDAY, December 24</b>	11:30 to 1:30	<b>Food Pantry Hours</b> (Rooms 7, 8, 9 & 10, FH, Lower Level)
	7:00 pm	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE</b> (Sanctuary)
<b>WEDNESDAY, December 25</b>		<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS!!</b>
<b>THURSDAY, December 26</b>		<b>NO Food Pantry Hours</b>

## PRAYER CONCERNS - December 22, 2024

Please pray for:

***Neva Roszek having physical therapy after a fall,  
Byrom Price, Lois and John Dinsmore's son-in-law as he recovers from  
major surgery,  
Mary Collins, the mother of a friend of Stacey Williams, who was just placed  
on hospice, and  
Christine Benson, Denise Benson's sister who was  
recently diagnosed with breast cancer.***

**Please pray for these church family members:**

***Jan Applegate, Lorene Moore, Leila Morgan and Ruth Reigens***

***\*If you have prayer requests or you would like to be removed from this list,  
please contact the church office at [fbcmoorestown@gmail.com](mailto:fbcmoorestown@gmail.com).***

### CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Linda A. Pepe, Senior Pastor	<a href="mailto:Lindapepepastor@gmail.com">Lindapepepastor@gmail.com</a>
Rev. Jennifer Bradley, Associate Pastor	<a href="mailto:jbradley12@gmail.com">jbradley12@gmail.com</a>
Tammy Werron, Pastor of Visitation	<a href="mailto:Twerron@gmail.com">Twerron@gmail.com</a>
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Carol Murray, Church Office Administrator	<a href="mailto:fbcmoorestown@gmail.com">fbcmoorestown@gmail.com</a>

**Church Office Hours: MON. to FRI. – 8:00 am to Noon // (856) 235-1180**

[www.fbcmoorestown.org](http://www.fbcmoorestown.org) & <https://www.facebook.com/groups/firstbaptistmoorestown/>

12/22/2024

## Welcome

We extend a warm welcome to all who have joined us for worship today. Please visit with us during coffee and refreshments which will be served in Fellowship Hall (basement level) following worship.

## Thank You

Today's **Greeters** were **Norma and Bill Wright**.

Next week's **Greeters** are **Myrna Rodriguez and Trish Walker**.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - To **Quinlan Kulik** on Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, **Alissa Thiede** on Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, and **Tammy Werron** on Saturday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. If we do not have your birthday, or you would like to add a family member's birthday, please contact the church office at **856-235-1180** or at [fbcmoorestown@gmail.com](mailto:fbcmoorestown@gmail.com).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FOOD PANTRY NEWS

**Please remember the Food Pantry this week.**

**Financial donations are always welcome. A check or cash can be put into a giving envelope and then into the offering boxes.** Non-perishable food items may be brought to church on Sundays and placed in the Food Pantry Cart or they may be left in the black bin next to the side ramp door or beside the pantry room door on the lower level any day of the week.

**This week we fed 301 people, including 95 children and 49 seniors.**

## TODAY

**QMUNITY (LGBTQIA+ Ministry Circle) GATHERING, TODAY after church, at the home of Elizabeth Endres, 130 Bridgeboro Road in Moorestown.** Thank you, Elizabeth for hosting! Along with amazing fellowship and food (and possibly some Christmas carols), Elizabeth has planned a festive and fun gift exchange game. If you are able, please bring a SECOND-hand wrapped gift - nothing new - no money spent. If this is not doable, no worries at all, just bring yourself! In addition, Jen and I will have our annual Qmunity Christmas gifts from us to give to everyone. Hope to see you there.

**SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS FROM MARGARET SMITH** – Margaret Smith has now travelled over 7,500 miles to Nepal to the Kopila Valley Home and School, and has arrived safely. Margaret shared the following:

*"I'm am beyond grateful for the prayers, monetary donations, and gifts to the children of Kopila Valley Home and School. Because of your generosity, this year we raised over \$3,000 to spend in Nepal and I also was able to take three suitcases full of gifts, and all of the Angels have been taken from the trees. Thank you! I can't wait to share my trip with you when I return.*

## THIS WEEK

**DECEMBER 24<sup>th</sup> – CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE at FBC, 7:00 p.m.** - Join us for an inviting and engaging candlelight Christmas Eve Service that is full of wonderful music, a meaningful Advent message, and the warm fellowship always found at FBCM. Join us for Christmas refreshments in the Lounge following the Service.

## 2025

**JANUARY 12<sup>th</sup> – A NEW MEMBERS CLASS** – Have you been attending FBCM for a while and want to know more about becoming a member? An informational session will be held on January 12<sup>th</sup> in Classroom 6 (first floor, last room on the left) directly following worship. Please let Pastor Linda know if you are interested in attending.

## PHILANTHROPIC & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS** – We are inviting **volunteers to provide refreshments for Sunday Coffee Hour**. Coffee Hour provides a welcoming place following our morning service to talk to leadership, to meet new people, or to relax with friends. Our Coffee Hour Hosts provide light refreshments, juice and/or water, and handle clean-up. **Nothing elaborate is needed and store-bought goodies are totally fine. Coffee and tea are provided by FBC. There are many Sundays available during January, February, and March, of 2025.** If you would like to participate, please sign up at the Coffee Hour volunteer board in Fellowship Hall.

**WINTER OUTERWEAR DRIVE** - The Food Pantry will be hosting a **Winter Outerwear drive again this year**. Our pantry guests really appreciated what we had to offer last year. **We are asking for winter outerwear ONLY- coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and new socks, etc.** All sizes. Items should be new or gently used and CLEAN! Items may be placed in the cart just inside the lounge entry marked “Coat Drive”.

**NEW YOUTH GROUP ROOM – A REQUEST** - **Our newly formed youth group is in need of a smart tv for their youth group room**. Any donations toward this goal would be appreciated. You can put cash or check into a regular giving envelope earmarked “Youth Group”, and then drop it into one of the giving boxes near the stairs.

## NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

### **FROM THE TREASURER: A WORD ABOUT GIVING ONLINE** –

- 1.) For those who donate to the Church online through the FBC website, be advised that your donations may take 2-4 days to appear in the Church bank account, depending on your method of payment. Online donations are recorded to your Giving Statement according to the deposit date received at our bank, not when you actually made the online donation. If you'd like to be sure any end-of-year gifts are recorded on your 2024 statement, be sure to make your donations at least several days before the end of the year.
- 2.) Beginning January 1st, the church will migrate to a new payment processor for online donations. The new company charges lower transaction fees and simplifies our record keeping. When you press the Donate button for the first time in 2025, you will be asked to provide new account and payment information to get started.

Many thanks to all for your generous support of First Baptist Church Moorestown!

## STAFF NEWS

### STAFF VACATION -

**Carol Murray** will be on **vacation Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, returning Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>**. If anyone is able to volunteer any time to answer phones **or the doorbell, especially on Food Pantry Days (Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> or Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 11:30 to 1:30)**, please reach out to Carol at [fbcmoorestown@gmail.com](mailto:fbcmoorestown@gmail.com) or at 856-235-1180.



*FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH*  
*Christmas Poinsettias*

**2024**

**Poinsettias were Given by**

Beverly Bennett  
Carole Boutwell  
Jen Bradley and Sandy Lehr  
Debbie and Dan Chen  
Janet and John Khanlian  
Steve Lynch  
Grace Madison  
  
Carol Murray

**In Honor of**

Family  
Steve & Dean Eson  
Jen's parents Cindy & Wilson Bradley  
  
Our Grandchildren, Stanely & Bruce  
  
LGBTQIA+  
All of you who have blessed my life  
Our Children, Grandchildren & Parents

**Poinsettias were Given by**

Beverly Bennett  
  
Jen Bradley and Sandy Lehr  
Joy Faxon and Michelle Foley  
  
Amy Hawthorne  
Janet and John Khanlian  
  
Grace Madison  
  
Carol Murray  
Cyndee Solomon  
Norma & Bill Wright

**In Loving Memory of**

Her parents Flonnie & Walter Dunlap,  
Her brother Wayne Dunlap  
Ross Bennett & Bob Murray  
Sandy's parents, Sue and Don Lehr  
W. Thomas & Regina McGann  
Rose McBride & William & Ann Foley  
George Hawthorne  
Our Parents  
John's Brother Richard  
Her parents, Ruth O'Dell Jones &  
Benjamin Jones  
Her dad, Bob Murray  
Her parents, Audrey and Ken Graham  
Their son, Eric William Wright

**Poinsettias may be taken home Christmas Eve or left until after New Year's.**  
**Each plant is labelled with the name of the contributor.**  
**Please only take the plant (s) that have your name on the side of the pot.**