

SUNDAY

Worship Service

December 15, 2024

THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION:

We must use time wisely and forever realize that the time is always ripe to do right

— Nelson Mandela

“One light feeds another. One strong family lends strength to more. One engaged community can ignite those around it. This is the power of the light we carry.”

— Michelle Obama. “

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it for anyone else”

— Charles Dickens

GATHERING MUSIC

Howard Raudenbush

WORDS of GREETING and GRACE

Rev. Linda Pepe

***HYMN of PRAISE**

Angels We Have Heard On High

Congregation

- 1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**
- 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**
- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**
- 4. See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise
Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria! Gloria!**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Margaret Smith

HAPPENINGS & OFFERINGS

Judie Ladd

PRAYERS of the COMMUNITY

Liz Everette

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 5:14-16

Danielle Dreier

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Only A Baby Came

by Natalie Sleeth

FBC Choir

SERMON

Finding Our Voice: Be The Gift You've Been Given

Denise Benson

***CLOSING HYMN**

For Such A Time As This

Congregation

Refrain

**For such a time as this - for such a time as this
We've been summoned here by God - for such a time as this
We will not be silent - we will not hold back
By God's grace we will rise up - for such a time as this**

- 1. Through the moving of the Spirit
Through the mercy we do not deserve
We've been rescued from apathy
To live the legacy of Christ in this world**
- 2. To make a difference in our generation
Advance God's kin-dom on every hand
To write history through our intercession
To share the love of Jesus throughout all the land**

CCLI Song # 2335517 Holland Davis | Malcolm du Plessis | Phil Kristianson | Randy Alward

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***BENEDICTION**

Pastor Linda

***POSTLUDE**

Howard

**Please stand if you are able.*

TODAY and THE COMING WEEK at FBC MOORESTOWN

TODAY, December 15	10:00 am	Morning Worship Service (Sanctuary/Balcony & Facebook Live)
	11:15 am	Coffee Hour (Fellowship Hall)
	11:30 am	Restorative Living Discussion (Room 6, 1 st Floor)
TUESDAY, December 17	11:30 to 1:30 pm	Food Pantry Hours (Rooms 7, 8, 9 & 10, FH, Lower Level)
	5:30 to 7:00 pm	Small Group with Pastor Linda (Lounge)
	7:00 pm	Small Group with Pastor Jen (Zoom)
WEDNESDAY, December 18	7:00 pm	Small Group with Pastor Jen (Zoom)
THURSDAY, December 19	11:30 to 1:30 pm	Food Pantry Hours (Rooms 7, 8, 9 & 10, FH, Lower Level)
	6:45 pm	Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

PRAAYER CONCERNS - December 15, 2024

Please pray for:

***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.***

CHURCH STAFF

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www.fbcmoorestown.org & <https://www.facebook.com/groups/firstbaptistmoorestown/>

12/15/2024

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 **Norma and Bill Wright**.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - To Charles "Chaz" Krebs on Monday, December 16th, Natalie Conti and Natalie Ratcliffe on Wednesday, December 18th, Cyndee Solomon on Thursday, December 19th and Sarah Hopwood on Saturday, December 21st. 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.

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 255 people, including 85 children and 60 seniors.

TODAY

RESTORATIVE LIVING GROUP, EVERYONE IS INVITED AND

WELCOMED - TODAY - Do you find it helpful to talk with others about how our Christian beliefs speak to us in our interactions with others? Do you struggle with knowing what to do when relationships are harmed? **Please join us for our Restorative Living discussions at 11:30 TODAY, in Room 6 (last room on the left, first floor).**

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY FOR DONATIONS TO KOPILA VALLEY

SCHOOL/BLINK NOW - The beautiful "Angels in Nepal" Trees, adorned with angels are still in the Lounge and Fellowship Hall. The name of a child who calls Kopila Valley School their home and school are on each angel. Kopila Valley School was founded by Maggie Doyne, our Margaret Smith's cousin. Maggie also founded the BlinkNow Foundation to change the world by empowering Nepal's youth. Please consider supporting Kopila Valley's youth by taking one or more angels from the tree to support this Christmas Season. You can support in any of the following ways:

1. **Prayer** through the season and the coming year.

2. **Donate new or gently used items** that Margaret can take to Nepal in December. Suggested items include: Jewelry, Combs, Hair Ties, Chargers, Headphones/Earbuds, Small speakers with USB cables, Matchbox or Hotwheels Cars, Card Games, Fidget Toys, Rubix Cubes, Etc.
3. **Financial support** by writing a check to First Baptist Church with the note "Nepal". Margaret will use any monetary donations to purchase items in Nepal, supporting the local economy.

Margaret leaves for Nepal on December 17th, so gifts of checks should be given by TODAY, December 15th. Let's plan to show our support by emptying the trees of their Angels!! Thank you! Any questions, contact Margaret Smith (609) 556-7016 or Norma Wright (609) 932-3428.

NEXT WEEK

DECEMBER 17th – SMALL GROUP STUDY WITH PASTOR LINDA – Join us as we read and study Paul's letter to the Romans. This week this study led by Pastor Linda will meet in church lounge on **TUESDAY, at 7pm**. This is a one-time change. All are welcome, even if you have not attended our Small Group Study before now. To sign up please call the church office at 856-235-1180 or email Carol Murray at fbcmoores town@gmail.com.

DECEMBER 18th – SMALL GROUP STUDY WITH PASTOR JEN - This is a time of connecting with others, sharing our hopes for the Advent season, praying for one another, and being intentional about where we are and where we'd like to be as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus and move into a new year. Please reach out to Pastor Jen if you would like to be a part of the group or have any questions. The group will meet on Wednesdays via Zoom from 7-8:30 pm. Please call or email Pastor Jen if you have any questions - jbradley12@gmail.com 609-744-3359

DECEMBER 22nd - QMUNITY (LGBTQIA+ Ministry Circle) SAVE THE DATE! Mark your calendars for Qmunity's Christmas Gathering/Meeting on Sunday, Dec 22nd, after church, at the home of Elizabeth Endres. 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. We really hope you can make it on the 22nd. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sandy or Pastor Jen at FBCMq munity@gmail.com.



DECEMBER 24th – 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

SAVE THE DATE - JANUARY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 2025 - ROSZEK OPEN HOUSE – Another New Year, Another Open House! - **Join Neva and Judie Marie Roszek for an open house on New Year's Day from 1:00 to 4 pm.** Meet new friends and visit with the old. Come share another year's good luck and eat black-eyed peas with us. Come for a few minutes and stay a while. **Just be here - 52 Westbrook Dr, Moorestown.** We would love to see you and wish you health and wealth for 2025.

JANUARY 12th – 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 12th 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

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.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MINISTRY

This Ministry Team is a newly formed team focusing on Restorative Justice which is an opportunity to restore broken relationships, to stop destructive behaviors early and to repair as much of the harm done to other people as possible. **The team has embraced five important principles – which will be shared with you over the next five weeks.**

The fifth principle is:

STRENGTHEN THE COMMUNITY

Monthly Giving Report

	<u>November</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Donations & Other Revenue	\$ 22,728	\$ 341,626
Less Expenses	\$ 22,858	\$ 316,010
Net	\$ (130)	+ \$ 25,616

Includes November gifts to the Food Pantry (\$2,691), Congregational Care (\$438), Q-munity (\$250), and the Community Garden (\$734).

Thank You!