

# SUNDAY

## Worship Service

December 1, 2024

**THOUGHTS FOR MEDITATION:** *Clear the way for the LORD . . . remove the obstacles . . . and the glory and majesty and splendor of the LORD will be revealed, and all humanity shall see it together.*  
–The prophet Isaiah (Amplified Bible)

*And since you are that light, you can no longer remain hidden, even if you want to. It is the property of light to shine.*  
– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

**GATHERING MUSIC**

Howard Raudenbush

**WORDS of GREETING and GRACE**

Rev. Linda Pepe

**\*MEDLEY of PRAISE**

Congregation

*I was glad when they said unto me - I was glad when they said unto me  
I was glad when they said unto me - Come, let us go into the house of the Lord*

*I will enter Your gates with thanksgiving in my heart  
I will enter Your courts with praise  
I will say this is the day that our God has made  
I will rejoice for You have made me glad*

*You have made me glad, You have made me glad  
I will rejoice for You have made me glad  
You have made me glad, You have made me glad  
I will rejoice for You have made me glad  
I will rejoice for You have made me glad*

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above  
"Glory to God, Glory in the highest!"  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*

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## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **HAPPENINGS & OFFERINGS**

Michael Manall

### **SCRIPTURE**

***Luke 2:1-7***

Michael

### **PRAYERS of the COMMUNITY**

Jo D'Antonio

### **SCRIPTURE**

***John 1:1-9***

Tammy Werron

### **MINISTRY OF MUSIC**

***Prepare the Way, O Zion***  
by Mary Kay Beall & John Carter

FBC Choir

### **SERMON**

***Finding Our Voice: "Walk in the Light"***

Jill Lee

### **COMMUNION**

A grape and bread are shared

Pastor Linda

### **\*CLOSING HYMN**

***Come, O Long Expected Jesus***

Congregation

- 1. Come, O long expected Jesus, born to set your people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, Christ, in whom our rest shall be.  
You, our strength and consolation, come salvation to impart;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.***
- 2. Come to earth to taste our sadness, You whose glories knew no end.  
By your life you bring us gladness; our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.  
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;  
You, our everlasting wonder, Christ is born the Lord of all.***
- 3. Born your people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
born to reign in us forever, born your gracious realm to bring.  
By your own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
by your all sufficient merit, raise us to your glorious throne.***

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### **\*BENEDICTION**

Pastor Linda

### **\*POSTLUDE**

Howard

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

# TODAY and THE COMING WEEK at FBC MOORESTOWN

<b>TODAY, December 1</b>	10:00 am	<b>Morning Worship Service</b> (Sanctuary/Balcony & Facebook Live)
	11:15 am	<b>Coffee Hour</b> (Fellowship Hall)
<b>TUESDAY, December 3</b>	11:30 to 1:30 pm	<b>Food Pantry Hours</b> (Rooms 7, 8, 9 & 10, FH, Lower Level)
	5:30 to 7:00 pm	<b>Small Group with Pastor Linda</b> (Lounge)
<b>WEDNESDAY, December 4</b>	7:00 pm	<b>Small Group with Pastor Jen</b> (Zoom)
	7:00 pm	<b>Food Pantry Hours</b> (Rooms 7, 8, 9 & 10, FH, Lower Level)
<b>THURSDAY, December 5</b>	11:30 to 1:30 pm	<b>Choir Practice</b> (Sanctuary)
	6:45 pm	<b>"Bible Basics" Study Group</b> (1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room)
<b>FRIDAY, December 6</b>	10:00 am	<b>Women's Breakfast</b> (Fellowship Hall)
<b>SATURDAY, December 7</b>	9:30 am	

## PRAYER CONCERNS - December 1, 2024

Please pray for:

**Christine Benson, Denise Benson's sister who was just diagnosed with breast cancer, and Emily Neff with health concerns,**

**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>
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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/>

12/01/2024

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 **Coffee Hour Refreshments** were provided by **Debbie and Dan Chen**.

Today's **Greeters** were **Myrna Rodriguez and Trish Walker**.

Next week's **Greeters** are **Eufemio Pagan and Tom Tamburello**.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - To Bill Wright, Today, Carter Nolan on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lois Dinsmore and Yetziel Cruz Hopwood on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, and Janet Khanlian on Thursday, December 5<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 156 people, including 52 children and 38 seniors.**

**We also gave 110 families a full Turkey dinner with all the fixings and dessert!**

### SAVE THE DATE - DECEMBER

**DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> - SMALL GROUP STUDY WITH PASTOR LINDA** - Join us as we read and study Paul's letter to the Romans. This study led by Pastor Linda meets in the church lounge each Wednesday at 7pm. 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 [fbcmoorestown@gmail.com](mailto:fbcmoorestown@gmail.com).

**DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> - SMALL GROUP STUDY WITH PASTOR JEN** - This Advent season are you looking to connect with others as you prepare for all the wonders and joys, and the unexpected bumps in the road this Christmas season. Would you welcome a discussion of scripture, poetry, and art as you move through December? Then this small group is for you. **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 this Advent season 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 beginning December 4<sup>th</sup> via Zoom from 7-8:30 pm. Please call or email Pastor Jen if you have any questions - [jbradley12@gmail.com](mailto:jbradley12@gmail.com) 609-744-3359

**DECEMBER 6<sup>th</sup> – NEW “BIBLE BASICS” STUDY GROUP CONTINUES** – This study will meet one more time – Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> – and then break until January. It is a perfect study for folks with no Bible background . . . and also those who know the Bible but would like more historical context. **We meet in the Conference room at 10 am on Fridays. For more information, email Jill Lee at [j.huntington\\_lee@icloud.com](mailto:j.huntington_lee@icloud.com).**

**DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> – WOMEN’S BREAKFAST** – The next Women’s Breakfast will be held on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Join us as we share stories about our Christmas traditions and have fun making a pretty tree decoration. Hope to see you there! Join hosts, Jill Lee, Joanie Perry and Judie Marie Roszek for fellowship and bring a dish to share if you are able.

**DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup> - 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! More details to follow, but we can guarantee it will be a time of celebration, love, hope, joy, and peace that only the Christmas Season can bring! If you have any questions, please reach out to Sandy or Pastor Jen at [FBCMqcommunity@gmail.com](mailto:FBCMqcommunity@gmail.com).

**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**

**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.

**PHILANTHROPIC & VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

**ANGEL TREES FOR NEPAL** – The “Angels in Nepal” trees are here! The beautiful trees, adorned with angels are now in the Lounge and Fellowship Hall. The names of children who call 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 17<sup>th</sup>, so gifts of checks should be given by Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**FOOD PANTRY REQUEST – HELP WANTED** – The Food Pantry has a guest who is in need of a used auto (automatic transmission). Her spouse is ill and undergoing cancer treatments, and her car has given out, and the free transportation available is frequently late causing missed doctor or treatment appointments. Her funds are extremely limited! If you have any thoughts or information, please contact Jane Pipes (609) 828-1994 or Norma Wright (609) 932-3428.

**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 third principle is:**

***SEEK FULL AND DIRECT ACCOUNTABILITY***