

Weekly Summary	11-29-20	12-06-20
AWANA	—	—
Worship Attendance:		
8:30 AM	59	68
11:00 AM	66	53
Service Totals	125	121
Offering	\$5,455.00	\$15,761.00
E-Giving (11/24 - 11/30)	\$6,078.00	

Sympathy
Our love through Christian sympathy is extended to ...**Donna (Dave) Potts** on the passing of her mother, **Norma Morrison**, on November 29.
... **Aizhen Hood** on the passing of her husband, **Joe Dean Hood**, on December 1.
... **Family and friends of Mildred Pedroley**, on her passing on December 2.
... **Family and friends of Laura Jo Jones**, on her passing on December 6.

Featured Article
Larry Condra, Prayer Warrior
A Prayer for this Christmas Season
People have problems and the problems they have may cloud their judgement. They may question God or seek solutions in the wrong places.

*Have you not known?
Have you not heard?
The everlasting God, the LORD,
The Creator of the ends of the earth,
Neither faints nor is weary.
His understanding is unsearchable.*
(Isaiah 40: 28)

The prophet Isaiah's response to those who question God is "Have you not known?" He does this because we surely do know. "Have you not heard?" We have, of course, heard about God. We are the very people of God. We have heard about God and the wonders He has performed. We know that it is foolish to fall into the trap of resentment. After all, we know that God is the solution to our problems.

Maybe things aren't going the way you would like or you know someone who is questioning things going on. Maybe things aren't being resolved according to your timetable, or theirs. What God has allowed to happen may not make sense. Isaiah's explanation for this is that God's understanding is unsearchable. It's not always possible to figure it out. Indeed, we don't really have to figure it out.

Our job is not to figure God out, but to trust Him. We must trust that He will deliver us at the right time.

*'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His word;
Just to rest upon His promise, Just to know "Thus saith the Lord."
I'm so glad I learned to trust Thee, Precious Jesus, Saviour, Friend;
And I know that Thou art with me, Wilt be with me to the end.
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him, How I've proved Him o'er and o'er!
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more!*

As we celebrate Christmas during this unusual year, pray that we will trust in Jesus. Pray that our families, our church, our neighbors, and our nation will not despair or become depressed over changes we face this holiday season but will trust in Jesus.

Pray too for our children and their families this Christmas season. They are missing their Bible study teachers and classes. Despite this separation, pray that they will experience the real meaning of Christ's birth. Pray for our Lottie Moon Christmas offering and the missionaries it will help support. Include our Pastor and staff as we ask for God's blessings.

OUR MISSION:
Fee Fee Baptist Church exists to make disciples who **build** their lives on Jesus and **pursue** the good of our community for the glory of God.

Ministry Opportunities	Church Office Staff
<p>Sunday, December 20 — Deadline for Angel Tree Gifts</p> <p>8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:45 a.m. Potts' Bible Study (DR) 9:45 a.m. Monasmith Bible Study (FH) 9:45 a.m. Knepper Bible Study (C112) 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 11:00 a.m. Preschool Care 3:00 p.m. Christmas Program</p> <p>Monday, December 21 6:00 p.m. Properties Committee 7:00 p.m. Daily Prayer Live on Facebook</p> <p>Tuesday, December 22 7:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels 7:00 p.m. Daily Prayer Live on Facebook</p> <p>Wednesday, December 23 7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee 7:00 p.m. Daily Prayer Live on Facebook</p> <p>Thursday, December 24 — CHRISTMAS EVE Office & Building Closes at Noon 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service & The Lord's Supper</p> <p>Friday, December 25 — CHRISTMAS Office & Building Closed 9:00 a.m. Deacons' Christmas Day Service (Chapel)</p> <p>Saturday, December 26 Sunday, December 27 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:45 a.m. Potts' Bible Study (DR) 9:45 a.m. Monasmith Bible Study (FH) 9:45 a.m. Knepper Bible Study (C112) 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship 11:00 a.m. Preschool Care</p> <p>Monday, December 28 7:00 p.m. Daily Prayer Live on Facebook</p> <p>Tuesday, December 29 7:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels 7:00 p.m. Daily Prayer Live on Facebook</p> <p>Wednesday, December 30 7:00 p.m. Daily Prayer Live on Facebook</p> <p>Thursday, December 31 — NEW YEAR'S EVE 7:00 p.m. Daily Prayer Live on Facebook</p> <p>Friday, January 1 — NEW YEAR'S DAY Office & Building Closed Saturday, January 2</p>	<p>Pastor Zach Crook, SENIOR PASTOR Pastor Andrew Yakel, ASSOCIATE PASTOR Gloria Fox, DIRECTOR OF SENIOR ADULTS & BIBLE STUDY Kathy Scott, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES Ronna Paden, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC Kyle Baldwin, DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRIES Steve Middendorf, FINANCIAL OFFICER Vance Stewart, IT ADMINISTRATOR Tara Smith, MINISTRY ASSISTANT</p> <div><p>OFFICE ♦ (314) 739-1525 FAX ♦ (314) 739-1302 www.feefeebc.org</p><p>THE FORERUNNER is published Bi-weekly, by FEE FEE BAPTIST CHURCH 11330 St. Charles Rock Road Bridgeton, MO 63044-2792</p><p>Periodicals Postage rates paid at Hazelwood, MO 63042-9998</p><p>USPS 016957</p><p>POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: THE FORERUNNER Fee Fee Baptist Church 11330 St. Charles Rock Road Bridgeton, MO 63044-2792</p></div>
<p>Our worship services are available to watch via Live Stream on our website or Facebook page</p> <p><i>To stay up-to-date on all calendar updates, please check our website. Download our new app on Google Play Store or Apple App Store for more news; just search for "Fee Fee Baptist Church."</i></p>	<div>PERIODICAL</div>

A Word From Pastor Zach

As I write this, I think about how many things are going to be so different with Christmas this year at our church. Every time I walk into the sanctuary, there is a stark reminder of how different things are just based on what isn't there...we don't have our massive Christmas tree and we won't have our Singing Tree performance this year. It's going to be a big change.

However, rather than lamenting what we can't have, I want to take a second to praise our staff and volunteers for their adaptability. Sure, the Singing Tree is quite conspicuous in its absence. But we are still going to have an incredible Christmas performance. I am so thankful for all of the hard work that has been put into our Christmas presentation which will have a combination of virtual and live elements. Our staff and volunteers have worked really hard to get things prepared for this performance. I am confident that whether you are watching here, in person, or tuning in online, you are going to be entertained by this year's performance.

What is much more important than being entertained, however, is the reminder that God loved us enough to send His Son to rescue us! The cradle has so much meaning because it led to the cross. God made a way for us to be in right relationship with Him!

I want to invite you to join us for our Christmas performance. It's called *Christmas: Night of Angels*, and it will be on Saturday, December 19 and Sunday, December 20. On both dates, the performance will start at 3:00 p.m. There are two ways that you can watch the performances. First, you

can go online to our website and reserve your spot. Since we are at 25% capacity, we need everyone who is planning on being here physically to make a reservation. It doesn't cost anything, but we need to make sure we stay within the county's guidelines. Or, you can always watch the performance online. It will be shown on our website and also streamed on our church's Facebook page.

Besides our Christmas performance, we will also have a Christmas Eve service. You will need to reserve your spot for this special service as well if you are coming in person. However, we will also stream this service online. Finally, our deacon body is leading a Christmas morning service in our chapel. We'd love to have you come to this as well.

Finally, as we are on the subject of Christmas, I want to remind you to prayerfully give to our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Our church has set a goal of \$25,000 for this special offering. 100% of your gift will go directly to supporting missionaries around the world. Please pray for our missionaries and that God will use them to reach the lost with the truth of the Gospel!

For God loved the world in this way: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Christmas might be different this year, but the message is the same: God loves us and sent His Son! Let's praise Him for that! I'm praying you have a great Christmas!

In Him,
Pastor Zach

Prime Time

Gloria Fox, Director of Senior Adults & Bible Study

Christmas has always been my favorite time of the year. It promises fun times with friends and family and the joy that comes from watching the excitement of children. It stirs up memories of long ago when all my cousins and I would load onto a wagon pulled by grandpa’s tractor and ride down the road to spot that perfect cedar tree to chop down. We would then return to the warmth of the wood stove, make construction paper chains, string popcorn and sing Christmas carols accompanied by grandpa’s fiddle and my uncle’s guitar. Even writing that makes me realize that we might be once again living in those simpler times.

This year, for most of us, Christmas will be a little different. Extended families will probably not be gathering. People will not be flying or driving across the country to celebrate together. For me personally, this is the first year that I don’t have a place of my own to entertain and decorate as I am living with my daughter and her family until my house is completed. I now live with an Elf on the Shelf who is quarantined in a plastic bag after having come here from the North Pole.

But some things never change. I always share an Axel nativity story in the Forerunner. He has loved playing with the characters and animals since he was a toddler. He is 6 now. The kids did not have a nativity scene, so I got a small one from Amazon. The characters are tiny and fit well into the back of a toy truck and the kings have been seen driving cars and even doing a little racing. I guess they can get away with it because of their kingly status.

Last weekend, Hermione the sheep, Stanley the donkey, and Max the cow, (the names were Izabella’s contribution), were riding in the back of a pickup truck. I asked Axel where they were going, and he told me they had to get a gift for baby Jesus since the kings had shown up with gold and a ham. I asked what they were going to get for the baby and where they were going to shop. He said they were going to Sam’s because they had nicer blankets than Jesus was born with. He said baby Jesus needed something better than just some old rags.

His insights always make me think about the Christmas story in a new light. This year it made me realize that the only gift we have that is good enough to give to Jesus is ourselves. Scripture says that our righteousness is as filthy rags and without faith; that is absolutely all we have to offer! The good news is if you have experienced the transforming power of a relationship with Jesus, you are now clothed in His righteousness and the only thing He wants from you is your love, devotion, service to others and obedience. Are you willing to give up what you want and expect to wholeheartedly give yourself to Jesus?

Bible Study Corner

Are you ready to go on an adventure together? Starting January 4, the entire church will be reading all of the New Testament together using a reading plan entitled *Grounded*. I hope you will join us. You can either read along on your own or you can join a virtual discussion group via Marco Polo. More details to come!

Chi Alpha News

Kyle Baldwin, Director of Student Ministries

Merry Christmas everyone! I hope you all plan to have a wonderful time celebrating the holidays this year, but please remember to stay safe and be wise this season! I want you all to return back to us happy and healthy. Just a reminder, we are still having Sunday and Wednesday Bible Studies on Zoom over the holiday season. There are a couple days that we have off, so parents please check your schedules that were emailed to you after Thanksgiving. Stay tuned, because we will be announcing our return to in-person activities soon and we want you to be there for all of them! So until then, stay safe, finish your semesters strong, and have a very Merry Christmas!

Music Musings

Ronna Paden, Director of Music

Christmas Program 2020 – Our Christmas program will look a little different this year, but will nonetheless, still capture the joys of our Savior's birth. No doubt you will enjoy a mini movie by our kids and will agree that there is stardom in their future. Many thanks to Vance Stewart and Justin Flack who have used their uniquely creative skills to produce the Christmas Nativity story as told by our wonderful kids.

Following the children's Nativity will be our musical, *Christmas, Night of Angels*, told from the viewpoint of Mary and Joseph as they remember the events leading to the miraculous birth of Jesus, our Savior. The music will be presented by our virtual Christmas choir and live ensembles. You may view this program live or online. If attending in person you will need to go to our website to get a **free** ticket for performances on Saturday, December 19 or Sunday, December 20, both at 3:00 p.m. We hope you will plan to celebrate with us!

The Animals of the Nativity – The animals of the Nativity have been featured in various poems and songs. One of the most famous poems/songs starring the Christmas animals is a carol entitled *The Friendly Beasts*. The text of the piece focuses on the humble contributions of the stable animals assumed present at the birth of Christ. It is sung from the perspective of the donkey who lovingly carried Mary on her long journey to Bethlehem, the cow who donated the manger in which Christ lay, the sheep who gave up his wool for the swaddling clothes, and the dove who gently sang the Christ child to sleep on the night of His birth. Each verse begins with the refrain "I, said the donkey, shaggy and brown," or "I, said the sheep with the curly horn," and the carol's last verse runs as follows:

*Thus every beast by some glad spell,
in the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Emmanuel.
The gift he gave Emmanuel.*

Another poem that gives perspective from the eyes of the animals is *The Nativity* by C.S. Lewis. Lewis cites the various virtues of the animals in response to the presence of the Christ child - wishing to be able to respond to Christ's presence with the virtues which symbolically belong to these same animals.

*Among the oxen (like an ox I'm slow)
I see a glory in the stable grow
Which, with the ox's dullness might at length
Give me an ox's strength.
Among the asses (stubborn I as they)
I see my Saviour where I looked for hay;
So may my beastlike folly learn at least
The patience of a beast.
Among the sheep (I like a sheep have strayed)
I watch the manger where my Lord is laid;
Oh that my baa-ing nature would win thence
Some woolly innocence!*

*a thrill of
hope the weary
world rejoices*

Family Front

Kathy Scott, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Most Blessed Christmas Season Families! I hope you are using your ADVENT BOX to lead your family in celebrating the true meaning of Christmas! Enjoy and celebrate together the coming of our Lord!

Make it a New Year’s resolution to have Family devotions. Why? It’s God’s Command (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Ephesians 6:4, and Proverbs 22:6). Beginning January 1, 2021, we will put some resources into your hands to help you with daily devotional time and to lead your family closer to Jesus. But why wait? We all want to help our children to come to love and believe in the one True God. Setting time aside each day will show our children that God is the center and priority of our lives. If you need some devotional materials, your child receives a devotion booklet each month. Preschoolers receive a page each week. Those are a good place to begin.

Here are updates on kids’ activities:

Wednesdays: AWANA plans to start up again mid January, with the hope that the virus does not escalate after Christmas. We will keep you updated.

Sundays: Preschool care is provided for birth through Pre-k during 11:00 a.m. worship. Through at least January 3, elementary children will worship with their parents, as there will be no KidsZone; however, *PraizPaks* will be provided for both worship services. We hope to start preschool and children’s Bible study in January as well as KidsZone.

“Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and forevermore! From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised,” (Psalm 113:2-3).

Community Connection

Andrew Yakel, Associate Pastor

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering – We have a big goal for our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering: \$25,000. Why did we set such a high goal? Because we believe in the utmost importance of declaring the Gospel through all the earth and want to support the missionaries who are doing this work. All the money raised for Lottie Moon goes to support missionaries all over the world. Have you given yet? You can give in person on Sunday morning, online through the church website, or mail in your check.

No Mobile Market on December 28 – St. Louis Area Foodbank is closed on Monday, December 28, so there will not be a Mobile Market on that day. However, we are going to continue to host Mobile Markets in 2021! Our January dates are January 11 and 25. If you would like to serve in this ministry, please contact Andrew (andrew@feefeebc.org).

Wheels for the World Mission Trip, April 5-12, 2021 – Each year Wheels for the World works all over the globe to provide the gift of mobility to those in need while also sharing the Gospel love of Jesus with them. We have a team going from Fee Fee to serve in Mexico on one of these trips next April 5-12. If you are interested in serving on this trip you can get more info on the Joni and Friends website (joniandfriends.org/events), or talk to Andrew (andrew@feefeebc.org).