

Weekly Summary	10/22/2023	10/29/2023	11/05/2023	11/12/2023
Chi Alpha Wed.	5	5	7	8
AWANA	41	38	44	42
Sunday Bible Studies	115	151	162	140
WOW Bible Study	-	15	14	-
Worship Attendance: 8:30AM	-	112	125	124
11:00AM	205	141	157	104
Worship Totals	205	253	282	228
Offering	\$6,833.00	\$5,104.00	12,224.00	15,391.00
E-Giving since 10/03/2023	\$17,602.71	-	-	-

Ministry Opportunities

Saturday, December 2
9:00 a.m. Men’s Basketball
6:00 p.m. Adult 7 Christmas Party
Sunday, December 3
8:00 a.m. Prayer Warriors Pre-Service Prayer
Budget Vote at end of both services
2:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsal
2:00 p.m. Angel Christmas Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. Deacons’ Meeting
Monday, December 4
1:30 p.m. History Committee (211)
6:00 p.m. Pastor Search Committee (CR)
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
7:00 p.m. Personnel Committee (C111)
7:15 p.m. Properties Committee (C112)
Tuesday, December 5
7:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels
10:00 a.m. Bramstedt Bible Study
6:30 a.m. ESL Class (B1, B4)
Wednesday, December 6
9:00 a.m. FB Bible Plan Discussion (FB)
10:00 a.m. Pickleball
5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Dinner
6:00 p.m. **Last Wed. Activities until January 10**
6:00 p.m. International Missions Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship Practice
7:30 p.m. Stewardship Committee (CR)
Thursday, December 7
10:00 a.m. Remnants Sewing Group (217)
10:00 a.m. Bob Foster Small Group (Café)
11:00 a.m. Blood Drive
1:00 p.m. Prime Time Game Time
6:30 p.m. ESL Class (B1, B4)
Saturday, December 9
9:00 a.m. Men’s Basketball
Sunday, December 10
Lottie Moon In-Gathering (both services)
12:30 p.m. Worship Team Lunch
2:00 p.m. Christmas Choir Rehearsal
2:00 p.m. Angel Christmas Rehearsal
Monday, December 11
10:00 a.m. Mobile Market
6:00 p.m. Pastor Search Committee (CR)
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
Tuesday, December 12
7:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels
10:00 a.m. Bramstedt Bible Study
10:00 a.m. May Clermont WOM
2:00 p.m. Prime Time Council (D-1)
6:30 p.m. ESL Class (B1, B4)
Wednesday, December 13
9:00 a.m. FB Bible Plan Discussion (FB)
10:00 a.m. Pickleball
6:00 p.m. Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal

Thursday, December 14
10:00 a.m. Remnants Sewing Group (217)
6:30 p.m. ESL Class (B1, B4)
Friday, December 15
7:00 p.m. Christmas Performance
Saturday, December 16
8:30 p.m. International Food Pantry
9:00 a.m. Men’s Basketball
3:00 p.m. Christmas Performance
Sunday, December 17
12:15 p.m. Children’s Committee (CR)
3:00 p.m. Christmas Performance
Monday, December 18
9:15 a.m. Wagner/Sherer WOM
6:00 p.m. Pastor Search Committee (CR)
7:00 p.m. Choir Practice
Tuesday, December 19
7:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels
10:00 a.m. Bramstedt Bible Study
4:00 p.m. Loaves & Fishes Ministry
6:30 p.m. ESL Class Christmas Party
Wednesday, December 20
9:00 a.m. FB Bible Plan Discussion (FB)
10:00 a.m. Pickleball
5:30 p.m. Missions Committee (FH)
7:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship Practice
Thursday, December 21
10:00 a.m. Remnants Sewing Group (217)
10:00 a.m. Bob Foster Small Group (Café)
1:00 p.m. Prime Time Game Time
6:30 p.m. ESL Class (B1, B4)
Friday, December 22 -
Christmas Holiday - Office & Building Closed
Saturday, December 23
9:00 a.m. Men’s Basketball
Sunday, December 24
11:00 a.m. Combined Christmas Eve Worship
Monday, December 25
Christmas Day - Office & Building Closed
Tuesday, December 26
7:00 a.m. Meals on Wheels
10:00 a.m. Bramstedt Bible Study
6:30 p.m. ESL Class (B1, B4)
Wednesday, December 27
9:00 a.m. FB Bible Plan Discussion (FB)
10:00 a.m. Pickleball
7:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship Practice
Thursday, December 28
5:00 p.m. Remnants Sewing Group
6:30 p.m. ESL Class (B1, B4)
Saturday, December 30
9:00 a.m. Men’s Basketball
Sunday, December 31
11:00 a.m. Combined New Year’s Eve Worship

WEEKLY EVENTS
SUNDAYS
8:30 a.m.—Traditional Worship
9:45 a.m.—Bible Studies (All Ages)
11:00 a.m.—Contemporary Worship
11:00 a.m.—KidsZone
No KidsZone on 4th Sundays
Lord’s Supper on 4th Sundays

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6:00 p.m.
AWANA
Youth Small Group
Women’s Bible Study
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting
Adult Bible Study & Prayer
No Wednesday Night Activities
12/6/23 - 1/10/24

Welcome, New Members
On Sunday, October 9
Baptized: Jeff Halcomb and Jeremiah Halcomb
On Sunday, November 5
Baptized: Benjamin Masakano
Sympathy
Our love through Christian sympathy is extended to
...Sandra Attey on the passing of her father, Robert White

Mobile Market
Upcoming dates are:
• Dec 11
• January 8
• February 12
• March 11
Anyone is welcome to come get groceries on the second Monday of each month, at 10:00 a.m. (until the food runs out).

International Food Pantry
Food items needed for December include:
Canned Fruit
Laundry Detergent
Dish Soap
Please bring items by December 15

The History Committee has completed a compilation of staff experiences of how the COVID-19 pandemic affected Fee Fee Baptist Church. Copies are available in the Media Center.

Church Office Staff
Dr. Matt Easter, *INTERIM PASTOR*
Derald Harris, *INTERIM PASTOR*
Gloria Fox, *DIRECTOR OF SENIOR ADULTS & BIBLE STUDY*
Kathy Scott, *DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES*
Ronna Paden, *DIRECTOR OF MUSIC*
Tyler Kiefer, *INTERIM YOUTH DIRECTOR*
Vance Stewart, *IT ADMINISTRATOR & OFFICE MANAGER*
Andrea Jennings, *ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT*
Melissa Eberts, *WORSHIP LEADER*

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PERIODICAL

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THE FORERUNNER
FEE FEE BAPTIST CHURCH
BUILD & PURSUE

A Word from Interim Pastor, Matt Easter

We are starting a new series on the Life and Teachings of Jesus on Sunday, December 3. As we’ll see, Jesus always challenges our preconceptions.

Take, for example, the story of a rich young man who approaches Jesus and asks, *“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”* (Matthew 19:16-22; Mark 10:17-22; Luke 18:18-23). Now, if someone were to ask most of us that question, we’d be elated.

Here’s someone primed to hear the gospel! The hook is set ... we just need to reel him in: tell him that he needs to trust in Jesus, repent of his sins, and get baptized. Get this guy in church, put him in a Sunday school class, assign him an offering number, and have him over for dinner – we got ourselves a winner!

But this isn’t what Jesus does. Instead of sealing the deal, He pushes back: *“Why do you call me good?”* Perhaps we read this and think, *“Cut him some slack Jesus! Can’t you tell he wants to get saved? He’ll learn in time.”* Then, before the young man can answer, Jesus digs even further: *“Are you keeping the 10 Commandments?”*

Shockingly, the young man claims that he has – and Jesus doesn’t doubt it! Gosh. Now we’re talking about a young, rich, powerful, and good guy! *“Reel him in now, Jesus!”* But He doesn’t. He keeps asking for more:

“You need to do one more thing. Sell everything you own and give it away.” That’s a bit extreme, don’t you think? *“Jesus, you mean to tell us that you made this guy sell everything before joining us?! What were you thinking?! Since when do we have to sell everything? He could have given his money to the church instead!”*

The Gospels tell us that the young man, who at first seemed so eager to follow Jesus, went away sad.

For someone who called *“fishers of people,”* sent 70 people out on mission, and charged His followers to spread the gospel throughout the world, Jesus seems to drop the ball here. How could Jesus miss such an easy opportunity with this rich young man? Maybe Jesus just isn’t missionary material.

But, then again, maybe I’m the one to blame. Maybe my standard of what a good evangelist looks like is the problem. Maybe Jesus wasn’t such a terrible evangelist after all. Maybe I’m just too happy with mediocre disciples.

With the fullness of the Gospels in front of us, we see precisely what Jesus was doing with this rich young man. Jesus teaches that being His true follower means abandoning everything for His sake. He wants us to take up our cross, deny ourselves, and follow Him. This is the necessary step in evangelism as far as Jesus is concerned.

Jesus won’t be our savior if He is not our lord. This is what He was showing the young man: *“are you ready to make me boss?”* Maybe we need the perfect evangelist Jesus to evangelize us again.

Blessings,
Pastor Matt

Family Front Kathy Scott, Director of Children & Family Ministries

Isn’t God good! Several of our children have made the decision to follow Jesus recently and show that commitment through baptism. It’s been great to see our kids growing to love Jesus more. Thank you to all of our teachers and workers and their parents who serve so faithfully so our kids know our awesome God!

The kids have done another wonderful Christmas story video for the Christmas presentation again this year. You won’t want to miss that and, of course, the rest of the Christmas presentation this year Dec. 15-17.

January 21, 2024, Derald and I will host a **New Member’s Class** in the dining room following Sunday service including lunch. Watch for sign-up sheets in the connection Center in January.

February 9-10 is Super Start event for pre-teens (our 4th and 5th graders) right here in St. Louis. If your preteen is interested, I will need a deposit commitment by January 7. We need to register early for the discounted price of \$50. After January 10 the price goes up to \$70. I will send out a permission form this month you can turn in with that deposit. Here is the link to see info about the event <https://cij.com/superstart/sup24mo>. I have taken our preteens to this for several years and it does not disappoint!

Praying for you during this holiday season that you and your family will have a fresh peek of Jesus’ wonderful grace.

Heart of Worship Melissa Eberts, Worship Leader

The end of the year is upon us, and I can’t think of a better thing to do than to think back through this past year to remember all the great things our God has done!

Maybe you had a magnificent year, full of blessings and prosperity. You can think back to many wonderful times the Lord has been faithful. But maybe when you think back on your year, you’re full of heartache and brokenness. Guess what – the Lord can work with that too.

Let God be God in your trials. In your emptiness. In your hopelessness.

It’s the times we’re really open and honest with ourselves that God can work with our vulnerability and mold and make us in what He would have us be. It’s then that He can create “*beauty out of our ashes. Strength for fear. Gladness for mourning. Peace for despair.*” (lyrics from Beauty for Ashes by Crystal Lewis)

It also reminds me of another song:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

When we think about eternity, the problems in this world fail in comparison to the life awaiting us with our Lord and Savior! Friend, turn to Him. He is the true reason for ALL our seasons of life – especially during this Christmas season! Give it all to Him and watch as our faithful God makes something beautiful from our lives.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you Church! Because of your generosity, we were able to pack **239** Operation Christmas Child boxes for this holiday season! **This is an increase of 73 over last year!** There will be so many children excited to receive the surprises you have picked out for them, making this a bright Christmas for them. Thank you once again for your continued support of missions and your heart for giving.

Music Musings Ronna Paden, Director of Music

Our Christmas production will be here before you know it.

Christmas Details

Don't miss our Christmas Musical, **Come, Messiah King**. As always it will feature beautiful Christmas music, angels, and pageantry depicting the events of the Nativity. Here are the dates and times: Friday, Dec. 15 - 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16 - 3:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17 - 3:00 p.m. **Volunteers Needed** We will need greeters for each performance. You may sign up to greet for one or more performances. The sign up list is in the Connect Center.

Chi Alpha Tyler Kiefer, Interim Youth Director

Hello Church! My name is Tyler Kiefer. I am so excited for this blessing of being able to partner in ministry with you all as the new Interim Youth Director.

I grew up in High Ridge, MO, which is south of here in Northern Jefferson County. I graduated from Northwest High School in Cedar Hill, MO. I am engaged to my high school sweetheart, Anna. My hobbies are fishing, hiking and basically anything outdoors and in the woods.

I am currently a student at Missouri Baptist University, majoring in Christian Ministry with a Minor in Church Planting. I am passionate about discipleship and scriptural fluency.

Currently the youth group is through the book of James. We are exploring how we can respond to God’s commands to us and glorify Him with better Christian living.

We are currently looking for more leaders (especially women) to help with the youth group. If you are interested in helping with the youth, please email me at: tyler@feefeebc.org. I would love to get connected with you.

Holiday Schedule

Friday, December 22

Church Office & Building Closed.

Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Bible Study: 9:45

Combined Christmas Worship: 11:00

(will include The Lord’s Supper and the Candle-lighting service)

Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day)

Church Office & Building Closed.

Sunday, December 31 (New Year’s Eve)

Bible Study: 9:45

Combined Christmas Worship: 11:00

Monday, January 1 (New Year’s Day)

Church Office & Building Closed.

Prime Time Gloria Fox, Director of Senior Adults & Bible Study

Well, this certainly was a fast year. As you read this, we will be entering the season of advent and celebrating the birth of the King of Kings.

I have decided to add a trip to see the lights on Tuesday, December 19 at 4pm. We will drive to Illinois before rush hour, eat dinner somewhere yet to be determined and then go through **Wonderlights**. There are more than 1 million LED lights synchronized to traditional and newer Christmas music played through the car stereo. The cost will be around \$5-\$7 depending on how many people sign up.

Your senior adult council has planned the first quarter of 2024 and hope you will join us on our adventures.

On Wednesday, January 10, at 11 am, we will have a soup and salad lunch and then watch the movie, **The Hill**. This is an inspiring, true story of baseball phenomenon Ricky Hill. Ricky is extremely talented despite being burdened by leg braces from a degenerative spinal disease. Will his faith and love of the game allow him to play professional baseball? Come and find out! The movie is free but your soup and salad lunch is \$7.

On Friday, January 26, we will go to Florissant to the Shrine of St. Ferdinand established in 1789. The Shrine tells the story of St. Philippine Duchesne, the Jesuits and the pioneer days of the Louisiana Purchase. The tour is free but donations are appreciated. We will follow our tour with lunch at Cugino’s, home of the stuffed meatball – YUM!

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

Wednesday, February 7, 11:00, Sandwiches and valentine creations for Mizpah

Thursday, February 22, 10:00, Omnimax and Zia’s

Monday, March 4, 10:00, Boat House Museum in St. Charles and Magpies for lunch

Thursday, March 28 St. Louis Art Museum

Pray for the church this month as we get ready to transition to our new schedule on January 7.

Bible Study Corner

We will still be having Bible Study on December 24 and December 31 but the church service on both of those days will be at 11:00. The 24th will be a candlelight service and the service on the 31st will be our opportunity to say goodbye and thank Melissa and Jason Eberts for leading the music in the 11 a.m. service for the last few years. We will also be recognizing Kathy Weber for her service as our Church Hostess. There will be baskets for cards and gifts.

Angel Tree

Did you notice the tree in the Welcome Center with the beautiful handmade ornaments? This is your opportunity to share the love of Jesus this Christmas. Take an ornament that will have an item for a child or adult. The ornament will indicate whether the gift is for a boy or girl and the age and size if it is an item of clothing. Hang on to that ornament! Buy the designated item, wrap it, and return it no later than December 18. Make sure you tape the ornament to the wrapped gift and place it under the tree. **Please return your gifts to the church by December 20.**

Lottie Moon Offering for International Missions

The Week of Prayer for International Missions will be December 3-9. Donna Potts will lead a study and prayer session on Wednesday evening, December 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Dining Room. The **Lottie Moon Offering “In-Gathering”** will be Sunday, December 10 in both worship services. The goal for our church this year is **\$28,000**. Please prayerfully consider what you and your family can do to support International Missions this year.