



FSBC *Messenger*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH | JANUARY 2021

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Operation Christmas Child

God is so good no matter what is going on in our world. I am so thankful that He is in control. I am excited to report that our church packed 134 shoeboxes (gospel opportunities)! Our church is also a Drop-off location. This means that during National Collection Week, individuals and groups bring their packed shoeboxes to a Drop-off location nearest them. We took in 596 boxes, which is 50 more boxes than last year! Our South-Central Kansas area brought in 20,832 shoeboxes!!

Against COVID obstacles, we are very grateful for this count. All shoeboxes have been processed and are on their way to their destinations for distribution. What an exciting time coming up for those who use these boxes to show God's love to children and to share the Good News of Jesus with them.

I know November 2021 is a little ways off, but it works really well to collect certain items throughout the year to put in our boxes. This month, let's focus on hats, scarves, gloves, etc. If you see other items that you think would be great to put in a shoebox, pick it up.

I want to thank you all for your generosity this past year. Just think, 134 children will be receiving, maybe their first gift ever, and hearing about the love of Jesus all because you helped pack a shoebox. What an incredible thought!

Karen Leibbrandt
Year-round Volunteer with
Operation Christmas Child (OCC)
www.samaritanspurse.org

Children

Wow! What a way to end the year. We have had a few volunteers that have had to quarantine due to Covid, including me. This has made ministry challenging. I want to send out a huge THANK YOU to Karen Leibbrandt, Deb Reinert, Rebecca Boender and Diane Goertz. These Ladies stepped up so that the Children could still have their Christmas program.

The Children's Christmas program will be Dec 20th. We were blessed with the middle school youth joining us this year. The children are singing songs and reading a poem. I am very proud of each and every one of the kids for all the hard work they put into the program this year.

We were able to help 5 families with Christmas gifts this year through Operation Showing God's Love. I want to say Thank you to the Pastor for delivering the gifts for me.

Our next program will be our Easter program on April 4th. The children will start working on songs in March.

I have planned the next Young Leader Training program for January. If you know of anyone that would like to start serving, please have them sign up for the program. We have 2 youth that have completed the training and are already serving on Sunday mornings.

I want to thank all of our awesome volunteers. You are the reason we have great programs. We can always use more volunteers in the children's and youth departments. If you feel led to help, please let me know. Please be praying for these ministries.

I look forward to seeing where the Lord leads the Children's department in 2021.

Blessings,

Nikki






Pastor's Pen

Merry Christmas Church! Happy New Year Church! I love you Church!

Have you ever held a greater desire to turn the calendar to a new year than you do today? 2020 has been a year to mourn its troubles and celebrate its passing. To top off all the year's disasters, "The Office" is leaving Netflix! Oh, the horrors! (Or not.) Yes, most people are looking forward to a rear view of 2020 in hopes that 2021 provides relief.

But what if it does not? What if our troubles get worse? Sorry to mention it and even more sorry to predict it, but I have reasons to suggest it will.



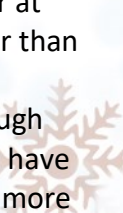
First, we apparently have not learned many good lessons in this year of great trials that could turn our course around. It seems our lessons have been bad ones, such as we must never smile at a Native American if we are a teenager wearing a particular hat; we must always trust government that cannot get their "scientific" messages straight or follow their own mandates; it is perfectly OK for free speech platforms to remove voices that dissent from the only "acceptable" message; ; and that fear, hate, and violence can all win the day if the distracting, subversive drum-beat is loud and strong enough. We have learned that we do not know what people or voices we can trust, even our neighbors.

The best lesson we could have learned this year still eludes our attention (perhaps intentionally): We need God's help desperately! We have given it our best human shot. We have (with even noble intentions) shut down our economy, mandated masks, worked feverishly for vaccines, run countless PR ads, value shamed, and educated the public while nearly stopping educating our children, blamed foreign and domestic government officials, elected new officials with self-proclaimed power to stop the virus, socially distanced, eaten take out, shopped at odd hours of the day and still the numbers are rising. Why do we assume we even have the power to stop that which could be part of God's judgment on our very independence

from Him? We have heard no public cries to seek the Lord and His relief from this pandemic.

You see, our greatest problem is not a pandemic or government or media or a calendar year. IT IS US. We are sinners and we need God desperately. But our arrogance refuses to allow us to admit it. We are the wealthiest, brightest, most capable people in human history. Who needs God? We do. Perhaps more than any other people. 2020 has tried to teach us that lesson. Will we learn it? If we do not look to Him, do we expect luck and circumstance to make 2021 any better? That is not very enlightened of us if we do.

This problem is the very reason a Savior was born of a virgin in Bethlehem, placed in a manger, heralded by angels to the least among us, grew in stature and favor with God and man, proclaimed the Kingdom of God, and died an undeserved death. He did it all to continually offer us a new start which begins with repentance of our self-reliance and unbelief and unfolds as we trust and follow Him. If we want next year to be better than recent history, what better place to start than lowly at a manger and a cross? Let us pursue a better future together, as a church, engaged in a community of faith growing in our Lord and sharing Him with our fellow broken man. If we do not, we cannot expect anything different for ourselves or for our world.



Finally, have you considered whether this is the beginning of the end of days "birth pains"? If it is, then we cannot expect 2021 to be better at all. Trial and tribulation will be worse by far than we have thus known. Oh, the horrors! (for sure!) How will you expect to make it through without the Lord's presence and help? We have no help but Him. Tribulation makes all the more reason for seeking Him together in His church. We need to get back in the habit of gathering together and building the Kingdom of God. If we do, 2021 will be a great year for us as believers no matter what the weeks bring.

JANUARY 2021

27	28 Dylan Davis, James & Kelly Davidson	29	30 No Programs or Services	31 Barry & Sue Mohler	1 David Baca	2
		NO REGULAR OFFICE HOURS				
3 Young Leader Training 5:30 Women's Bible Study	4	5 Austin Prewit, Sophie Simpson	6	7	8 Willie Spivey	9
10 Young Leader Training Potluck "A Team" Meeting 5:30 Women's Bible Study	11 Charles & Jill Greenwell NOON Women on Mission	12 Stuart Smith	13	14	15 Vivian Thiessen	16 Nathan and Nancy Wright
17 Gloria Tucker Young Leader Training Calendar Dates and Newsletter Articles due 5:30 Women's Bible Study	18	19	20 Walter Shepherd	21	22 Deb Reinert	23
24 Jakiyah Warren 5:30 Women's Bible Study	25 Lisa Crook	26	27 Lesa Rumsey	28 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	29 Opal Wartick	30
31 John Meister 5:30 Women's Bible Study						

January Birthdays and Anniversaries

1st—David Baca
 5th—Austin Prewit, Sophie Simpson
 8th—Willie Spivey
 11th—Charles & Jill Greenwell
 12th—Stuart Smith
 15th—Vivian Thiessen
 16th—Nathan and Nancy Wright
 17th—Gloria Tucker
 20th—Walter Shepherd
 22nd—Deb Reinert
 24th—Jakiyah Warren
 25th—Lisa Crook
 27th—Lesla Rumsey
 29th—Opal Wartick
 31st—John Meister

January Events

3rd, 10th, 17th Young Leader Training
 5:30 Sunday Nights Women's Bible Study
 10th—Potluck
 10th—"A Team" Meeting
 11th—NOON Women on Mission
 17th—Calendar Dates and Newsletter Articles due
 28th—5:30 Facilities Team Meeting

FEBRUARY 2021

	1	2 Connie Allmond, Matthew Wint	3 Cory Gill	4	5 Vicki Peacock	6
7 5:30 Women's Bible Study	8 Tyler Luehrs Noon Women on Mission	9 Tyson Nielsen	10	11	12 James & Dwayna Todroff	13
14 Valentine's Day, Potluck, "A Team" Meeting 5:30 Women's Bible Study	15 President's Day, Mike Rumsey, Dan Sherman, Trenton Davis, Joe & Marietta Brown	16	17 Marty Kincaide	18	19	20 2 pm Food Packing and Delivery
21 Calendar Dates and Newsletter Articles due 5:30 Women's Bible Study	22 Jim Thomas	23	24	25 Aidan Davis 5:30 Facilities Team Meeting	26	27
28 5:30 Women's Bible Study	1	2	3	4	5	6 River Horner

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

2nd—Connie Allmond, Matthew Wint
 3rd—Cory Gill
 5th—Vicki Peacock
 8th—Tyler Luehrs
 9th—Tyson Nielsen
 12th—James & Dwayna Todroff
 15th—Mike Rumsey, Dan Sherman, Trenton Davis, Joe & Marietta Brown
 17th—Marty Kincaide
 21st—Joanie Taylor
 22nd—Jim Thomas
 25th—Aidan Davis

February Events

5:30 Sunday Nights Women's Bible Study
 8th—Noon Women on Mission
 14th—Valentine's Day
 14th—Potluck
 14th—"A Team" Meeting
 15th—President's Day
 20th—2 pm Food Packing and Delivery
 21st—Calendar Dates and Newsletter Articles due
 25th—5:30 Facilities Team Meeting

Youth

The Fuel and Ignite groups finished up 2020 with a fun Christmas party. We enjoyed pizza, soda, and cookies then had a Christmas gift exchange with gifts purchased from Dollar Tree! There was some stealing going on but in the end, well, they were okay with their gifts!!! I encouraged them to regift them if needed this Christmas. We had sixteen students and two leaders.

We look forward to 2021 being a MUCH better year. As your family looks to 2021, we hope you will encourage your students to join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. for Bible study and again on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. Fuel is for students 9th-12th grade. Ignite is for students 6th-8th grade. On Wednesdays, Fuel meets downstairs and Ignite meets upstairs near the Children's room. We would love to have them join us!!!

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