

# CHRISTMAS

AT FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

DECEMBER 24TH 4PM & 6PM  
1409 PALMER PARK BLVD

**DECEMBER NEWSLETTER**



**WE MAKE DISCIPLES WHO WORSHIP, GROW & GO**

Thoughts from Pastor Josh Hargett

Up Coming Events as well as News and Family Celebrations



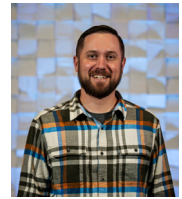
# FROM YOUR PASTOR

## Hey Church!

December is here and as we move into the Advent season, the world around us often tries to distract us with a frantic pace of shopping, events, and obligations. It's easy to get lost in the hustle and bustle and forget the profound mystery we are preparing to celebrate: the Incarnation, the moment God took on human flesh and made His dwelling among us.

This Christmas, let's intentionally choose to follow the light of the star rather than the rush of the crowd. The Christmas message is one of incredible hope and light in a world that often feels full of shadows, pain, and uncertainty. It's a reminder that God's grace spontaneously breaks into our lives, not just in grand, sweeping gestures, but in the quiet, local experiences of building relationships, offering a word of encouragement, or performing an act of kindness.

Jesus came to show us the way to live, bringing us truth, new life, and salvation. He experienced human pain, loneliness, and loss, yet as fully God, provides us with healing and hope. This Advent season, we are called to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our Savior.



Here are a few ways we can prepare our hearts this December:

- Ponder the message: Take time for quiet reflection, prayer, and intentional thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ. Maybe set out and try to read each of the birth accounts all the way through each week between now and Christmas.
- Be a "blessing bearer": Deliberately choose to bless three people each week with an act of kindness, an encouraging note, or a simple act of service.
- Pray for those around you that don't know Jesus. There are "signs" all around this time of year pointing to Him. Pray that their hearts will be lead by the Holy Spirit, and that you'll be sensitive to have gospel conversations when the opportunity arises.

By focusing on these intentional acts of faith and love, we fight against the temptation to become too familiar with the miracle of Christmas. It is a pleasure to be your Pastor, may you and your families have a very Merry Christmas.

**Pastor Josh**





## REMINDER

Dear Church Family,

As a quick reminder, we are collecting staff Christmas gifts through November 30th as a way to bless and appreciate our church staff for their faithful service this year. We'll present these gifts on Sunday, December 7th.

If you feel led to participate, you can give online by selecting "Staff Gifts" from the drop-down menu, or you can place a check or envelope marked "Staff Gifts" in the offering plate or in the giving boxes at the back of the Worship Center.

There is no obligation to give—this is simply an opportunity to love on our staff and their families during the Christmas season.

Thank you for being a generous and encouraging church family.

With appreciation,  
The Overseer Team

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

AVA MEEKINS	12/1
SOPHIA MAESTAS	12/3
NOELLE PEEK	12/7
CRAE MURRAY	12/9
TIMOTHY SALMOIRAGHI	12/17
ZEKE HARGETT	12/19
CJ MURRAY	12/20
JUDY HEMENWAY	12/21
MARIAN ELLIS	12/22
JOSHUA SALMOIRAGHI	12/23
SCOT AUTRY	12/24
DEBORAH SALMOIRAGHI	12/28





## PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUESTS

Margaret Lovett ~ Health  
Mandry Family ~ Daughter-in-law  
(Sammi) Balance Family Life & New Full Time  
Teaching Position  
Maestas Family ~ Coping with the loss of  
Isabella  
Don Stith ~ Safety in Traveling Internationally  
with Paralympic Shooting Team  
Mike Jaumott ~ Health  
Rosie Miller ~ Health  
Keith Loyd ~ Health  
Logan Lee ~ Health

Mike Yearout ~ Health  
Bill Mosley ~ Health  
Burlin Fayne ~ Health & Loss of Harriet  
Hal and Margaret Seagraves ~ Health  
Fortune Family ~ Continuing to Adjust to Life  
After the Loss of Stephannie  
Roger & Michele Hamilton ~ Family  
Teresa Chambers ~ Health  
Annie Wade ~ Continued Provision For  
Teaching Job at The Daniel International School  
in Thailand  
Continue to Pray for Peace in the Middle East

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR DECEMBER

December 3 - 6pm ~ AWANA Store Night  
December 6 - 8am ~ Men's Fellowship Breakfast  
December 10 - 6pm ~ AWANA PJ/Flannel Night  
December 12 - 5pm ~ God's Masterpiece Small Group Christmas Party  
December 13 - 8am ~ Women's Breakfast & Bible Study  
December 14 ~ Flannel Sunday  
December 17 - 6pm ~ Church Wide Christmas Party  
December 21 ~ Christmas Sweater Sunday  
December 24 - 4 & 6pm ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
December 25-Jan 2 ~ Church Office Closed for Christmas Break  
December 28 ~ 10:30am Worship Only **(NO 9am SMALL GROUPS)**



### DECEMBER PRAYER FOCUS: BROWN AREA

THIS MONTH, WE'RE PRAYING FOR THE BROWN-HIGHLIGHTED SECTION OF OUR CITY MAP IN THE CHURCH LOBBY.

**BOUNDARIES:** THE MOUNTAINS (WEST), FILLMORE ST (SOUTH), WOODMEN RD (NORTH), AND CENTENNIAL BLVD (EAST).

**NEIGHBORHOODS:** PEREGRINE, MOUNTAIN SHADOWS, AND KISSING CAMELS.

### HOW TO PRAY:

1. THAT GOD WOULD DO A GREAT WORK IN THIS AREA.
2. THAT WE'D SEE PEOPLE THE WAY HE DOES.
3. FOR WISDOM AND BOLDNESS TO SHARE THE GOSPEL.

**REMEMBER—PRAYER ISN'T JUST PREPARATION FOR THE WORK.  
PRAYER IS THE WORK.**