

The Vision
First Baptist Church
 1301 E. 6th St.
 P.O. Box 426
 Lamar, MO 64759

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 Permit No. 426
 Nonprofit
 Organization
 Carrier Presort

Sunday Worship Times

Morning Worship @ 10:15 am
 Evening Worship @ 7:00 pm (2nd & 4th)
 Small Groups @ 5:30 pm (1st & 3rd)

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

STAFF

Church Phone..... 682-3538
 Fax Number..... 682-3539
 Church Web Site..... www.fbclamar.org
 www.facebook.com/firstbaptistchurchoflamar
 Dr. Robert Hodson, Pastor..... 681-0393
 Steve Livingston..... 225-2821
 Worship Leader & Family Ministries
 Chris Roth, Youth Director..... 214-0233
 Belinda Shoff, Secretary
 Chastity O'Neal, Secretary
 Larry Edge, Financial Secretary/Treasurer

Church Office Hours
 Monday-Friday
 8:00 am - 12:00 pm
 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Staff Meeting
 Monday 1:30 pm



**FOR DECEMBER
 FRIDAY
 December 22nd**



The Church Staff would like to wish everyone a Happy & Blessed Christmas!

CRAFTERS

Saturday, December 2nd
 9:00 am

Youth Christmas Party & Scavenger Hunt

Wednesday, December 6th
 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Here at FBC in the Youth Department.
 Bring a White Elephant Gift (not to exceed \$5)
 We will eat at the Church Wide Christmas Dinner, then move upstairs.

Upcoming Meetings:

Sunday, December 10th
 Business Meeting @ 5:00 pm



December 11th
 12:00 pm
 Fellowship Hall



Christmas Mail Box



The mail box will be set up in the Gathering Area for your convenience to give cards to others. Please remember that the postage you save may be given to missions.

November 29, 2017
 Volume 10, Issue 11

The Vision



To Know Christ and to
 Make Him Known



BLAST Children's Choir Presents.....

"Jingle Bell Beach!"
 Sunday, December 10th
 6:00 pm



Handbell Program
"An Evening of Bells"
 Sunday, December 17th
 7:00 pm



The Sanctuary Choir Christmas Presentation

Sunday, December 24th
 10:15 am Service



Lottie Moon Offering

Goal: \$10,000
 Sunday, December 24th
 Received during the Morning Service

Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24th @ 6:00 pm
 Lord's Supper

From the Pastor's Heart

Dear First Family and Friends,

As you read this, Thanksgiving is behind us and the Advent season is upon us. Of course, if you have ventured out into the retail market, Christmas has been highly publicized for several weeks. Between the plethora of Christmas commercials and movies on television, the bright colors of advertisements in paper and stores, to the decorations of red, green, and gold on individual houses, is it any wonder that our children have trouble realizing the true meaning of Christmas. Do not read me wrong, I enjoy the trimmings and trappings (yes, feeling trapped) of Christmas as much as the next person. However, I have begun to ask God to help me feel and portray the true meaning of Christmas in everything I do.

God so desired a relationship with me that He gave His only begotten Son. A gift I did not deserve, nor could I have ever earned. A gift that was so personal that it was exactly what I needed. Now I realize it was the one gift I really wanted. When I consider the depth of God's love, I cannot imagine how someone could love me so much.

Do you want to know the truly amazing Good News! He loves you too!

Keeping the Main Thing, the main thing,
 Pastor Robb

Looking Ahead

- December 3-10 Week of Prayer for International Missions
- December 2 9:00 am Crafters
- December 3 *Advent of Hope*
10:15 am Lord's Supper
12:00 pm Deacon/Wife Banquet
6:00 pm Community Youth Night Here @ FBC
- December 6 5:00 pm BLAST
5:30 pm Annual Christmas Dinner Youth Christmas Party
- December 10 *Advent of Peace*
5:00 pm Business Meeting
6:00 pm BLAST Choir Program
- December 11 12:00 pm Bloodmobile
- December 14 5:00 pm YAH Adventure - Joplin Little Theatre
- December 16 7:00 am Random Acts of Kindness, Wrapping Gifts at Wal-Mart
- December 17 *Advent of Joy*
7:00 pm Evening of Bells
- December 20 No Youth
- December 24 *Advent of Love*
10:15 am Adult Choir Presentation
Receive Lottie Moon Offering
6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
Lord's Supper
- December 25 Christmas - Office Closed
- December 27 No Youth



Lord's Supper
December 3rd & 24th

Annual Churchwide Christmas Dinner

Wednesday, December 6th
5:30 pm

Sign up sheets are in the Gathering Area or you may call the Church Office.

MINISTRY OF PRAYER CHURCH FAMILY

Elsie Ritchey Keith Divine Elaine Reynolds Junior Hammons
Mae Cooper Bonnie O'Neal Glen Stone Joe Ramseyer
Loyd Clements

EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

Shirley Cook
Mary Woodhouse, friend of Sheila Stevens
Rhonda McKee, daughter of Mae Cooper
Chris Hall & Harvey Lee Vice, daughter & son of Harvey & Lorraine Vice
Doug Linthicum & Mark Stewart, friends of Gary & Carol Melton

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Austin Potter - Marines, son of Dan & Tanya Potter
Cole Markunas - Marines, friend of the Sandbergs
Kaden Overstreet - National Guard Deployment, husband of Haley Overstreet
Michael LeeMasters - National Guard - son of Sam & Jolene LeeMasters
Brandon Lipe - Norfolk, VA, grandson of Noel & Lynn Grigery
A1C Nathan Sanden - Turkey, grandson of Dwayne & Linda Jones
Joey Rossiter - North Carolina, grandson of Sue Hobson
Merissa Schmidt - Ft. Bragg, NC, granddaughter of Wanda Reno
Landon McManis - Moody AFB, GA, grandson of Albert & Justine McManis
Mark Jones - Okinawa, Japan, son of Dwayne and Linda Jones
Patrick Beetler - Camp Lajeune, NC, son of Sherry Stettler
Lt. Cody Rossiter - Ft. Bragg, NC, grandson of Sue Hobson
Nathan Davis-National Guard, husband of Sarah Davis

MISSION OUTREACH

Pastoral Staff Missionary Tony Pitaniello Lamar's Unchurched
Building Committee

Community Youth Night

Sunday, December 3rd
Here @ FBC
Youth eat at 6:00 pm
Service at 6:30 pm

Random Acts of Kindness Gift Wrapping @ Walmart

Saturday, December 16th
7:00 am - 10:30 pm

Once again we will be wrapping Christmas Gifts inside Walmart for anyone that would like us to. We are in need of Volunteers for one hour time slots. Sign up sheets are in the Gathering Area. Any donations of large gift bags would be appreciated. If you have any questions please contact Sue Ann Noll.

Family Ministries

I like to read. And one of my favorite places to read is a web site called, www.gotquestions.org. As I've been preparing for the Advent Season I read this in one of their articles: "One of the verses in which we find the word hope is **(Hebrews 11:1)**. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." This verse at the beginning of the faith chapter, carries with it all of the confidence that comes with knowing for sure, with no question, what we have been promised by God in His Word. Our faith is confident assurance, for it is founded upon the Rock of our salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ. All of the actions of the heroes of the faith recorded in **(Hebrews 11)** were made possible because they had this faith based in their confident assurance, or hope in God. Therefore, biblical hope is a reality and not a feeling.

Biblical hope carries no doubt. Biblical hope is a sure foundation upon which we base our lives, believing that God always keeps His promises. Hope, or confident assurance, can be ours when we trust the words, "He who believes in Me has everlasting life" **(John 6:47)**. Accepting that gift of eternal life means our hope is no longer filled with doubt but, rather, has **at** its sure foundation the whole of God's Word, the entirety of God's character, and the finished work of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

So, what is your hope in? Who is your hope in? This is a question I ask myself almost daily. May we always find our "Hope" in Christ alone.

God Bless, Steve



December Homebound

Dorothy Roberts

PRAYER WARRIORS

Teacher gifts for December need to be in the Church Office by Wednesday, December 6th for delivery on Thursday, December 7th.

Young At Heart December Outing

Joplin Little Theatre
"I'll Be Home for Christmas"

Thursday, December 14th

7:30 pm - 9:30 pm

Cost: \$5 per person

Meal: Carthage Sirloin Stockade

We will leave the church at 5:00 pm

We have 25 tickets. Call the church office to sign up.

I'll be home for Christmas is a faith-based story about a family right before World War II, complete with songs and radio shows from the big band swing era.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to our church family for your participation in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, **290** shoeboxes collected. Each child that will receive a shoebox will also have an opportunity to hear about God and His love for them. Please continue to pray for these children.

Thank you also for the volunteers that helped during Collection Week, as our church served as a drop-off sight. There were **1303** shoeboxes dropped off, packed into shipping cartons and delivered to Joplin to begin their journey to child all over the world.

Ladies' Night Out

Tuesday, December 12th

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Come & Go

Sandy McDown's Home @ [1304 Crestwood Dr.](http://1304CrestwoodDr.com)

Menu: TBA

Vital Signs for November, 2017

Average Attendance for November

Morning Worship - 259

Sunday School - 158

Small Groups - 61

Evening Worship - 40

Treasurer's Report for November 2017 Business Meeting

Total Income: \$63,346.05

Total Expenditures: \$39,359.17