



DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sundays	@	9:00 AM	Ray's Sunday school class
	@	10:15 AM	Worship Service
Wednesdays	@	5:30 PM	Family Meal
		6:00 PM	Kid Zone/Youth Zone
		6:15 PM	Worship on Wednesday

Sunday, Dec. 5	Meeting for Live Nativity following worship
Tuesday, Dec. 7	6:00 PM Trustee Board meeting
	6:30 PM CE & M&E Board meetings
Thursday Dec. 9	5:45 PM Pastoral Relations Committee meeting
Friday, Dec. 10	6:00 PM Deacons' supper at Baird's
Tuesday, Dec. 14	1:00 PM Maxine Bates Circle meeting
	6:30 PM Church Council meeting
Thursday, Dec. 16	6:30 PM Sac & Fox Lapidary Club
Saturday, Dec. 18	5:30-7:30 PM Live Nativity & soup supper
Wednesday, Dec. 22	5:30-7:30 PM Family Christmas Party & Movie
Friday, Dec. 24	6:00 PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We're still be providing a Worship experience through Facebook Live. You can tune into that worship by clicking on this

link: <https://www.facebook.com/Fairfield-First-Baptist-Church-104294022934947/>



Baptist Tidings

Fairfield First Baptist Church
"A Faith Building Community"



Vol. XLVII No. 11

December 2, 2021



Giving a Gift to the people of Fairfield

Recent polls of those in the U.S. and European countries are showing a growing disconnect with the real meaning of Christmas. While a whopping 93% of Americans celebrate Christmas, "a rising number of Americans will have secular celebrations," according to a 2019 Gallup poll. Since 2010, those who say their celebration of Christmas is "strongly religious" has dropped from 50% to 35%.¹

And while a 2013 YouGov poll in the U.K. found that 75% of those in the U.K. "liked Christmas," 16% didn't know the significance of December 25th.² Their studies from other European countries, though, found that Christmas was faring even worse.³

1

<https://news.gallup.com/poll/272378/americans-celebrating-secular-christmas.aspx>

<https://www.christiantoday.com/article/poll.reveals.ignorance.around.meaning.of.christmas/35083.htm>

3

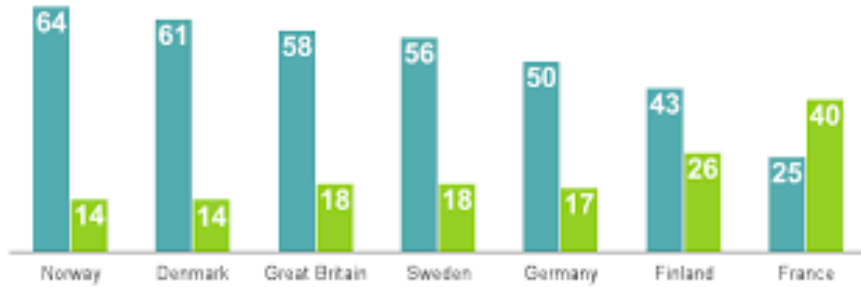
<https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/articles-reports/2013/11/30/one-six-would-cancel-christmas>

And what's going on in France? While many of our Christmas carols originated from this great country, Christmas celebrations are falling into disfavor, as this graph shows.

EuroTrack: Christmas anticipation across Europe

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? I am looking forward to Christmas this year*

Agree Disagree



Source: YouGov

What can we do to slow this trend, in Fairfield, and keep the truth and joy of the real meaning of Christmas? Here are a few ideas:

- 1. Let your light shine!** Decorating our homes with lights has always been a powerful symbol of our hope in the One who is the Light of the World. Don't drain the grid, but go ahead and "light it up"! The beauty of the decorations shares our joy.
- 2. A Living Nativity!** Join in the fun and meaningfulness as we present a Live Nativity for our community. On Saturday, December 18th, between 5:30 and 7:30, we're going to "act out" the scene of Christ's birth. Our hope is that it will be a reminder that the Wise Men, Shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and especially, Jesus, were real people and that it was a real event in human history. Would you consider being an angel, (just for two hours, 😊) or a shepherd or a Wise Guy? There's not much to it, besides dressing the part and having fun with it. Call the church office if you want more information.
- 3. Wish people a Merry Christmas!** Take opportunities to share a little more deeply...maybe say, "I really hope you have a Merry Christmas", and see if it might spur a conversation.

These simple steps can be like Christmas Gifts to Fairfield!

I really hope you have a Merry Christmas,

- Pastor John

PRAYER LIST

Tiff Widmer, Jerry Leazer, Pat Campbell, Marilyn Holmes, June Workman, Mike Adam, Deanna Wilson, Henry Salee, Portia Bisgard



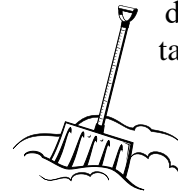
CONGRATULATIONS!

Fairfield High School seniors, **Ellie Anderson and A.J. Roe**, and junior, **Erin Epperson**, were inducted into the National Honor Society in November. Congratulations to all of you!



HELPING HANDS MINISTRY

Do you have a job that you are unable to tackle by yourself? Sometimes even the smallest task is too big to do...like changing a high-hanging light bulb, taking the trash out to the curb, or picking up a few groceries! Well, we have the solution for you! Our church has a Helping Hands Program through the Deacon Board ministry that is waiting to complete such a task for our church members and attendees. Just call the church office (472-5205) any weekday morning or contact one of your deacons and we will try to fulfill that need.



Jan Baird	472-5293	Lisa Greenig	919-4343
Darrel Bisgard	472-6201	Sharie Leazer	472-3892
John Rathbun	472-1452	Harold Munson	472-8895
Lee Muntz	919-3337		

POINSETTIAS FOR THE HOLIDAYS



You are invited to donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas season. Please either bring it or have it delivered to the church any weekday morning between 8:00 and 12:00 noon. If you donate a poinsettia in memory of a loved one, let Jane know.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Dorothy Rathbun | 11 Michelle Kooiker | 20 Diane Van Winkle |
| 2 Ray Woody | 12 Paul Greenig | 20 James Kyle |
| 2 Lisa Greenig | 13 Lorri Deeke | 23 David Wilson |
| 3 Martha Cathey | 15 Rachel Clark | 25 Jerry Leazer |
| 3 Mike Stiemsma | 17 Jason Crandall | 29 Deb Hunt |



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARY

20 Rod & Taryn Ryan

Note: If your birthday or anniversary is this month, but is not listed, please call the church office with that information.

HEAD USHERS

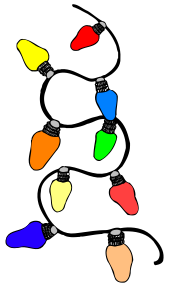
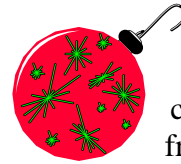
- | | |
|------|-------------------|
| Dec. | 5 Bob Keller |
| | 12 Dick Hunt |
| | 19 Randy Baird |
| | 26 Darrel Bisgard |

COMMUNION SERVERS December 5 – Harold Munson, Lee Muntz, Jan Baird, JoDee Kyle, John Rathbun

CHILDREN’S SERMON December 19th – Jan Baird

ALL ARE WELCOME TO HELP DECORATE SANCTUARY

We will be decorating the sanctuary this Saturday morning, December 4th, beginning at 8:00 AM. This is primarily a Worship Board responsibility, but with a small committee they hope to recruit many helpers from the church family to complete the job. It’s a beautiful transformation for the Advent Season to honor the birth of our Savior. Please join us if you can - there are tasks for everyone!



MAXINE BATES CIRCLE

Maxine Bates Circle will have their regular meeting on Tuesday, December 14th (please note the change of date) @ 1:00 P.M. in Fellowship Hall. Lorri Deeke will be hostess. Women will be making Christmas tray favors for the nursing homes. All women are welcome to attend.

The women are reaching out to the congregation for donations of individually wrapped Christmas candy to put in the tray favors. If you would like to donate a bag of candy, please leave in the church office or give to Lorri Deeke or Margaret Stephens by December 19th. Thank you.

The past couple of years, the women have been making the much-needed birthing kits to send to the Congo. It’s time to be thinking about that again. Patterns and fabric will be available the first Sunday in January if you would like to help with that project.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE AT 6:00 P.M. ON DECEMBER 24TH.

-Get in the Zone!

Our kids' programs are up and running--and growing!

KidZone, for preschool through 5th grade, meets every Sunday morning (during the morning worship service) and Wednesday evening (during WOW). Packed with games, crafts, and Bible stories, the kids are exploring the life of Jesus and how He wants us to live. Our program has been growing--to the point that we'll be dividing the group into two smaller groups for activities to deal with space and noise issues. While this is a good problem to have, it also means we need more volunteers. Contact Jamie Gates to get involved!



YouthZone, for 6th through 12th grades, meets every Wednesday evening, during WOW. The youth have fun playing whole-group games, spending time each week focusing on a Biblical "nugget", and engaging in small group discussion and prayer. Youth leaders have been taking turns directing each week's games and discussion, and there's always room for more help. Contact Lisa Greenig to get involved!



DEACONS' SUPPER

Hey Deacons – Bring your spouse and join fellow deacons at Baird's on Friday, December 10 @ 6:00 P.M. for a great night out! Jan Baird (Randy might help) will be cooking supper for you in appreciation for all the work that you do throughout the year on the Deacon Board.

Please let Jan know several days in advance if you plan to attend.



Retired
Ministers &
Missionaries
Offering
2021

*Transformed
by Generosity*

RETIRED MINISTERS AND MISSIONARIES OFFERING

Transformed By Generosity is the theme for the American Baptist Denominational Retired Ministers and Missionaries Thank Offering for 2021. The American Baptist Denomination is strong today because of those who devoted themselves to serving our more than 1.2 million members in prior decades.

This difficult year of the Pandemic is a reminder of why we honor retired pastors and missionaries and their spouses who have served ABCUSA churches and ministries for 15 years or more through this offering which is called RMMO.

Because of their devoted service, our American Baptist denomination remains resilient - praising and celebrating Jesus Christ as well as serving those who seek to walk with Him and those in need. First Baptist Church Fairfield has been led by several pastors who will receive this offering this year. Additionally, over the years, our church has contributed to the support of numerous missionaries serving internationally. Why not honor them by contributing to this remarkable offering as a means of thanking them for their service. That's why this is called a Thank Offering.!!

Submitted by the Mission and Evangelism Board



Trustee Board Meeting - November 1, 2021

Financial report: Month was good with \$9300.00 more than expenses. Ray has also been meeting a challenge with a church credit card that they lost a payment that was paid on line. He hopes he has it cleared up. We discussed the budget. Next month we will actually put the budget together for the coming year. Discussed having John Rathbun come and talk to trustees about the deacon's budget for the coming year. Also discussed having the new trustees come to the meeting next month. Ask Jane to put in the newsletter the total monthly giving, along with the monthly expenses instead of each individual weeks giving, but continue putting the weekly giving and expenses in the bulletin.

Deacon Board Meeting - November 1, 2021

Jan reported there is a balance of \$1,931.61 in Deacons' Fund. The Halloween Party was a success – lots of joy throughout the night. We discussed the reflections that were shared during Sunday's service about those who have gone before us. It was suggested to put those thoughts & ideas in writing to share. It was also discussed how important it is for us to communicate appreciation to all those around us. Deacons will meet in December at Baird's house for a meal. Please contact a deacon if you know of any needs or concerns that we can serve.

Christian Education Board Meeting - November 2, 2021

We approved last year's budget for this year as well. Instead of a Christmas program, we're preparing for a live nativity event. We'd like to combine that with our fellowship event. JoDee proposed including a fundraiser for the youth at this event. The youth will make pies and candies to sell as a fundraiser for QUEST. John is wrapping up his life group this month. The last evening will feature Mike Stiemsma and his thought about depression and anxiety. We didn't host an event for Barb's group in October. For November, we're hoping to have them help make table decorations for the Thanksgiving dinner. We set it for Friday, November 19.

Mission and Evangelism Board - November 2, 2021

Those present discussed and made suggestions for the M and E Budget to be submitted to Bob Keller.

First Baptist Church Council Meeting

November 16, 2021

Present: Pastor John Kermott, Aaron Kookier, Margaret Wilson, Joyce Roemen, Lorri Deeke, Bob Keller, Pat Comfort, Jan Baird, Sue Carr, JoDee Kyle

Devotion and prayer read by Lorri.

Previous minutes were approved.

Budget questions for 2022 were discussed. Concerns of the council were to leave choir and communion budgets the same as 2021. JoDee said filling and donating "shoe boxes" will not take place this year because of the high cost of shipping.

Bob reported giving is not meeting expenses. First week of October, \$3000 was given and second week was \$3800. There was a balance from September, but Bob is looking forward to the time when giving is high enough when each expenditure does not have to be approved by the trustees.

Pastor John handed out information about a prayer tent. Training will be during the All-Church Retreat in January. Pastor mentioned the prayer service at The WELL at 2:00 PM Sunday, November 21. Margaret thanked Pastor for being available for the community during the recent tragedies.

December 18th is the date for the live nativity event, followed by soup and dessert supper.

There will be a short business meeting to vote on the constitution changes on December 19 after the proposed changes have been posted for two weeks.

Sue mentioned ladies of the congregation are making casseroles for First Lutheran Church, "Come to Supper", meal December 7.

Children and youth are enjoying Wednesday evening supper and program afterward. Seven adults are attending worship service at the same time.

Pastor John closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorri Deeke, clerk ✨

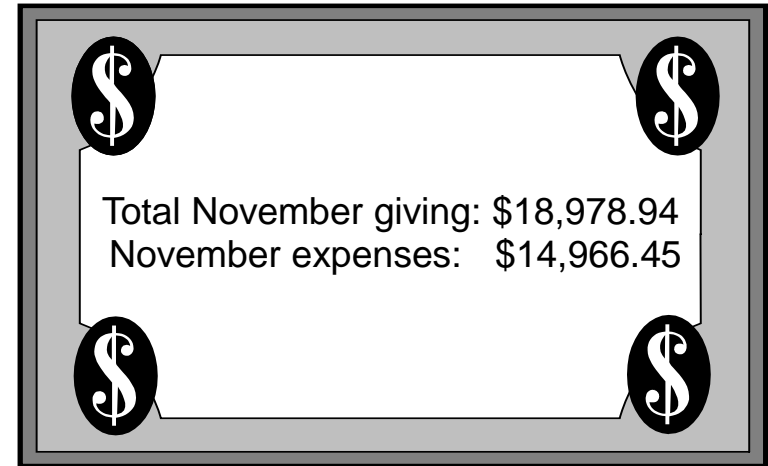


Suggested Changes for Worship Board and Responsibilities

The Worship Board will have representatives from musical ministry, technical computer volunteers who are working on the presentation of worship services, and others who may be involved in the worship ministry of the church. This board will be responsible for providing oversight of all worship related activities and will work in conjunction with the pastor and his designated staff to accomplish this. The following are duties which will enhance the process:

1. Pastor and Worship Leader will meet monthly with the Worship Board for the purpose of communicating themes and emphases of worship as led by preaching of the Word and leading the congregation in worship through music, scripture readings, etc.
2. Worship leader(s) will attend an annual conference (paid for by the church) focusing on the leading of congregational worship.
3. Communion...The Worship Board shall assign individual responsibility to various members regarding the preparation of the communion elements at all communion services as well as the scheduling and training of new servers.
4. Ushering...Recruiting and scheduling of ushers/welcomers for worship services.
5. Flowers and decorating will be organized by the Worship Board to coincide with the various traditional Church seasons including but not limited to Lent, Advent, Christmas, and will solicit the assistance of church volunteers to assist in this task.
6. Pulpit Supply and special services will be determined jointly by the pastor and the Worship Board.
7. The Worship Board will provide members of the congregation opportunities to share their reflections about worship services through the use of occasional surveys. It is hoped the completion and examination of these surveys may help enhance our worship services for any persons who may attend or watch online.

These changes for the church constitution will be voted by church members at an upcoming meeting.



THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the fruit basket from the Deacons! I also want to thank you for the prayers, cards, and meals as I heal from my surgery.



Thank You

In Christian Love,
Portia Bisgard

Fairfield First Baptist,

I wanted to take this opportunity to say: THANK YOU! As a volunteer, you are a large part of the reason The Well – Fairfield is able to provide such a successful ministry. In the first 6 months of the Resource Center being opened, we have passed 100 clients assisted. And the Thrift Store continues to see an increase in lives touched as well as sales made. Again, this is all because of volunteers like you. So, THANK YOU. I would also remind you that now is the busiest time for the Thrift Store. If you are currently helping out in the Thrift production, another Thank You to you. If it has been a while since you were able to help and you have some time to volunteer, please contact me so we can get you on the schedule. I know that this is a hectic time for everyone, but if you have even a few hours over the holidays, please give me a call. Or email me.

Volunteers are the backbone of this ministry. We can't thank you enough for what you are doing.

Joe Phipps (641-819-4044) josephp@thewelliowa.org