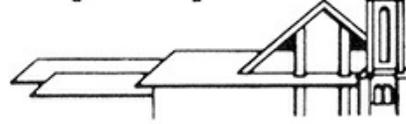


THE BULLETIN

of the First Baptist Church in Beverly



A progressive and welcoming Christian community!

Ministers:

[Rev. Julie R. Flowers](#)

[Rev. Kent D. Harrop](#)

Virtual Ministry Associate: [Rev. Jaimie Crumley](#)

Director of Music: [Dr. Esther Chang](#)

Office Manager: [Pat Haight](#)

Communications Associate: [Mary Powers](#)

HNS Director: [Jennifer Baez](#)

HCP Director: [Andrew DeFranza](#)

Treasurer: [John Thomson](#)

Facilities Manager: [Jeremy Weir](#)

Video Tech Production Associate: [Andrew Bakhit](#)

Visit our Website

Thanksgiving Day at 2:00pm on Facebook

*A time to Pray,
Reflect, and
Give Thanks!*

THANKSGIVING DAY 2020
ON FACEBOOK
AT 2:00 PM EST



Join Rev. Jaimie Crumley on Thanksgiving Day at 2:00 pm ET on Facebook as she offers Scripture, prayers, and words of encouragement. If you cannot join at 2:00, do not worry! The video will remain on Facebook for you to access at any time.

Join us for First Sunday of Advent at First Baptist Church

November 29, 2020

10:00am: Join us on our [Facebook page](#) for a Facebook Premier Worship Service!

(This video will ALSO then be available to watch at any time following on our Facebook page and website.)

10:50-ish: What a Zoom Fellowship! Immediately following Virtual Worship (see info below)

To Walk with Hope

Scripture: Isaiah 9:2-7 and Isaiah 11:1-9.

Rev. Julie Flowers, preaching

Rachel Schneider, Maureen Cotton, and their children, Zeke and Esme, will be lighting our Advent wreath to open the service

THE PEOPLE WHO WALKED IN DARKNESS
HAVE SEEN A GREAT LIGHT

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN BEVERLY ADVENT 2020

Advent Season 2020:

The People Who Walked in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light

This Advent season we will be exploring the theme *The People Who Walked in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light* and considering the ways in which even when *our* world and lives feel dark, uncertain, and heavy, *God comes*. Into the darkness of our nights, *God comes*. Into the loneliness and the uncertainty, *God comes*. God touches the darkness of our night with light. *God comes*. That is the wonder and the miracle of the Christmas story; that is the message and the story that we will explore with fresh eyes and hearts this year.

This year, particularly, it may feel like *we* are the people walking in the darkness; walking in the loneliness, the worry, the fear, and the uncertainty. Yet, despite it all, the Advent message and the Christmas story remind us that into our lives, *God comes*.

We will be working to create multiple ways of connecting and entering into the Advent story and experience with us this year. This past Sunday, members and friends drove by the church to pick up their Advent-in-a-Box Kits, and many kits were then lovingly delivered by volunteers to those who could not make it by during the morning. If you did not yet receive an Advent-in-a-Box Kit and would like one, please email Julie at jflowers@fbcbeverly.org and let her know.

In our worship services during the Advent season, we will endeavor to weave in beloved traditions of our church – seeing church friends lighting the Advent wreath to begin the service or church families working to build a nativity scene, week by week. These traditions may feel different this year, as we watch others lead them from their homes as we worship in our homes, but we hope that what feels new and different can also be an invitation into the warmth and love of the familiar, as we walk the Advent journey together, remembering what we most love, and connecting across distance, for now.

We also invite you to join us on Facebook Live each Monday of Advent at 7:30 p.m., as Jaimie will lead us in a time of devotion and prayer and in a lighting of the Advent wreath. You are invited to light your candles along with her or simply to join her in this time of reflection as part of your walking through the season. You are also invited to use the Advent Home Devotion booklet, which can be found in your Advent box *or* accessed on our church website at <https://www.fbcbeverly.org/advent-resources/> as you make your way through the season. Traditional Advent candles are purple and pink, but the truth is, any candles that you might have at home will work *just beautifully* as we walk together toward God's light.

We also invite you to try on a spiritual practice with our Reverse Advent Calendar, which can again be found *either* in your Advent box *or* on our website. This calendar invites you to take on a practice of giving each day as we move toward Christmas and to count down the days of Advent through acts of service. If you do not live local to us, we invite you to adapt the calendar to work for acts of service in your area!

We will continue to add resources and options that you can use for Advent-at-Home to our website and to send them out via our social media and in this newsletter, so we encourage you to keep checking these spots for new Advent information.

Please consider this your warm invitation to walk with us through the season and to find ways to pause and to look for the moments in which God's light is breaking through, even in the midst of our temporary darkness; because even in the midst of our darkness, *God comes*. And in that truth, there is hope.

Advent 2020 Home Devotional "Walking in God's Light"

Dear FBC Beverly Members and Friends!

Blessings to you during this season! We invite you to use this year's Advent Home Devotionals each week as you anticipate the joy of Christmas Day! This year, journey with us through the darkness with hope because the people living in darkness have seen a great light!

Please join Rev. Jaimie Crumley on Facebook Live each Monday of Advent at 7:30 pm ET to supplement your home devotions. Jaimie will lead a brief time of devotions and prayer as we fill our homes and souls with light. We hope you will come along each week of Advent for the journey.

[View the Printable PDF of the Advent Home Devotionals Here](#)



Virtual Sunday School

Virtual Sunday School for our children and young people will resume at its usual time (11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.) this coming Sunday, on the usual zoom link (check your email for a reminder email and ease of access to the link, as well!).

[Sign Up For Sunday School](#)

Youth Fellowship Activities

We have been loving having the opportunity to build a Fellowship year for both our Middle School and Senior High groups this year, despite it being an unusual one! We also *deeply* appreciate the flexibility of youth and families, alike, as the year has seen more schedule changes and shifts in times and programming than is typical for us.

This coming Sunday, November 29th, we are choosing, out of an abundance of caution, and following the lead of several local schools and organizations, to offer remote programming for both groups, as we all come out of the Thanksgiving holiday week.

We know that virtual connections are not the preferred form of connection for the majority of our youth – and we get it! We recognize the fatigue that can come with virtual life and how much more strange it can feel. We are not shifting permanently to virtual programming at this time; rather, we are going week by week in an effort to make the best decisions we can for our groups and for our community, and we feel that this week it makes the most sense to act with caution and shift to virtual sessions.

We hope that our youth will still hop on and join us, as virtual programming is *far more fun* when there are many of us in the mix!

We are hard at work planning really fun programs for each group so that they will find the time interesting and engaging and silly and joyful – all the things youth fellowship strives to be, whether in person *or* virtual! Even if virtual gatherings are not your favorite thing, please consider logging on and giving this a try with us – we would love to see your faces!

Here are the Zoom links and times for each group:

Middle School Fellowship will meet at 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

The Zoom meeting info is below:

Topic: Middle School Fellowship
Time: Nov 29, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88014460139>

Meeting ID: 880 1446 0139
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,88014460139# US (Chicago)
+16465588656,,88014460139# US (New York)

Senior high Fellowship will meet at 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

The Zoom meeting info is below:

Topic: Senior High Fellowship Zoom
Time: Nov 29, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83828692591>

Meeting ID: 838 2869 2591
One tap mobile
+16465588656,,83828692591# US (New York)
+13017158592,,83828692591# US (Washington D.C)

What a Zoom Fellowship!

Each Sunday, many of you join us LIVE on Facebook for our virtual worship service. We love spending that sacred time together, but we are also missing the joy of fellowshiping together after the worship service. After the worship service each Sunday, join your FBC Beverly friends for a time of fellowship. We will put the link in the Facebook comments, but it is below for your convenience.

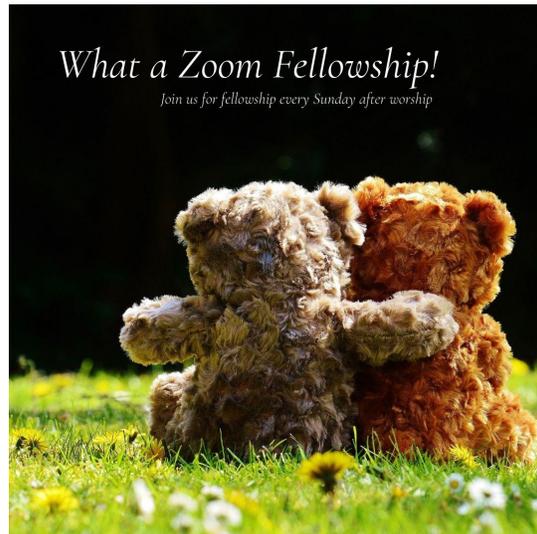
Our fellowship time might be virtual, but it will be so wonderful to spend some time together.

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://ucla.zoom.us/j/97973068006?](https://ucla.zoom.us/j/97973068006?pwd=ajdFcyopYmdBZmd1SUlJaUxSYlcvUT09)
[pwd=ajdFcyopYmdBZmd1SUlJaUxSYlcvUT09](https://ucla.zoom.us/j/97973068006?pwd=ajdFcyopYmdBZmd1SUlJaUxSYlcvUT09)

Meeting ID: 979 7306 8006
Passcode: 837820
One tap mobile
+12133388477,,97973068006#,,,,,0#,,837820# US (Los Angeles)
+16692192599,,97973068006#,,,,,0#,,837820# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location
+1 213 338 8477 US (Los Angeles)
+1 669 219 2599 US (San Jose)
+1 971 247 1195 US (Portland)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 602 753 0140 US (Phoenix)
+1 720 928 9299 US (Denver)
+1 470 250 9358 US (Atlanta)
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 651 372 8299 US (St. Paul)
+1 786 635 1003 US (Miami)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 979 7306 8006
Passcode: 837820
Find your local number: <https://ucla.zoom.us/u/aewANeebUa>



This Week's Thursday Zoom Coffee Time Cancelled

There will be NO Zoom Coffee Hour this Thursday, due to the Thanksgiving Holiday; we will resume the following Thursday, December 3rd!

Contemplative Practice with Kent - Friday at 1:00pm on Facebook

What do you do and where do you go, to restore your soul? An inspiring program of stories and practical steps to grow your spiritual tool box. Kent will reflect on how to find calm in the midst of the turbulence of life. At 1:00pm on our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistBeverly

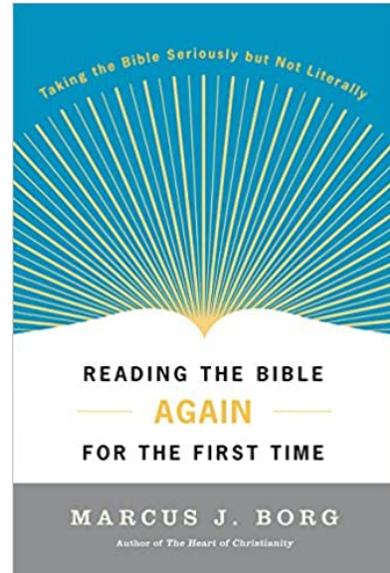
New (Virtual) Adult Class to be Held Thursdays at 7 p.m.!

One of the aspects of our faith life and development that can be post challenging – but also most rewarding and intriguing! – is reading and rereading the Bible and doing so faithfully while also honoring its history and context and development.

In his (now classic) book *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously but Not Literally*, author and theologian Marcus Borg explores anew the ways we can freshly appreciate the essential elements of both the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament in ways that help both our faith – and the history of the texts themselves – come alive.

Rev. Julie Flowers will be offering a 4-5 week virtual class **BEGINNING ON THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD AT 7 P.M.** for those interested in reading and exploring Borg's work – as well as the Bible itself – together.

If you are interested, please email Julie at jflowers@fbcbeverly.org to sign up as soon as possible! Those who have ALREADY signed up can begin reading the book (please let Julie know if you need a copy!) at your leisure so that we can dig into our conversation beginning on Thursday, December 3rd. Stay tuned for the zoom link as we get closer!



Dig in and see what it feels like to encounter the Bible again, as if for the first time.

Thanks-Giving Drive-by Rally

On November 22nd a steady flow of cars and members on foot dropped off their financial pledges for 2021 (it takes a village to make ministry happen) and received jars of local honey and cinnamon donuts as a thanks for supporting the ministry of First Baptist. The honey jar label reads "Thank for Bee-ing so generous!" In addition, everyone received an Advent-in-a-Box Kit, full of creative activities and readings to help us feel connected and create a memorable and meaningful season. FBC is committed to finding meaning ways to connect and share God's love.



Laura and Jason, present 'thank you honey and donuts' to Nancy Winters and Marty Lincoln, holding their Advent boxes, who walked over.



Laura Bitler and son Jason with Shannon Winn, part of our Stewardship Committee (along with John Thomson and chair Loyce Thomson), provided key leadership. Standing by the model of FBC created by Max Raines years ago.



Brendan Biancucci with homemade sign, receives an Advent Box from Karen Wood of the Advent Planning Team.

First-Ever Drive-By Pledge Drive is a Big Success

On Sunday members and friends of First Baptist drove by the church parking lot to drop off their completed 2021 pledge cards, pick up a thank you gift and Advent-in-a-Box. It was great fun, and many people said that the chance to see or wave to church friends in person made the event particularly special.

But the best part of all was that by the end of the drive-by hour, \$94,691 had been promised in pledges for 2021! This is a very auspicious start to the 2021 pledge drive.

There is still more work to be done to come close to last year's record-breaking total of over \$200,000. For those who were unable to participate in the drive-by event, there are two ways to turn in your pledge card:

- Mail your card to First Baptist Church at 221 Cabot Street, Beverly,
- Or place your pledge card in the mail slot of the church office's back door at the corner of Cabot and Hale Street. This is not the gym door which faces Cabot Street; it's the door nearby which faces Hale Street.
- If you need a pledge card, contact Pat at the office at phaight@fbcbeverly.org

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank the devoted church volunteers who presented this year's stewardship moments during worship. The Constantine Family, Eileen and John Hadley, and Abby Johnstone enthusiastically gave details of the work they do to make the church programs virtual, continue to provide food to the Beverly community and provide Sunday school experiences and fun for children. They represent a portion of the services that the church and its members continue to provide during this challenging year of the coronavirus pandemic. Your pledge for 2021 will help the church continue to provide meaning, inspiration, hope and even joy in the year ahead. ~ Loyce Thomson, Chair

Coming Up at FBC



Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving Day

2:00pm: Facebook Event: A Time To Pray, Reflect and Give Thanks with Rev. Jaimie Crumley

Friday, November 27

1:00pm: Facebook Live: Contemplative Practice with Kent

Saturday, November 28

12:30pm: Lunch Program (Boxed meals to-go will be provided from the gym)

Sunday, November 29

Advent Begins

10:00am: Virtual Worship via Facebook Premiere

(Worship video may be viewed on Facebook, YouTube, and our website at any time following the initial Facebook post)

10:50-ish: Fellowship Zoom immediately following Virtual Worship

11:15am: Virtual Children's Classes Sunday School

4:00pm; Middle School Fellowship Zoom

6:00pm: Senior High Fellowship Zoom

Monday, November 30

6:00pm: Monday Night Supper (Boxed meals to-go meals will be provided from the gym)

Tuesday, December 1

9:30am: Staff Meeting

Check out all of FBC Beverly's sermons at fbcbeverly.org/sermons

From Scarcity to Abundance

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26: 1 – 12

Rev. Kent Harrop, preaching



[First Baptist Church in Beverly](http://www.fbcbeverly.org) | 978-922-3295 | bulletin@fbcbeverly.org | www.fbcbeverly.org

STAY CONNECTED

