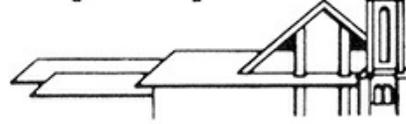


THE BULLETIN

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

*Join us for Fourth Sunday of Advent
at First Baptist Church*

MUSIC SUNDAY December 20, 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.)

10:55 am: What a Zoom Fellowship! Immediately following Virtual Worship (see info below)

***Scriptures:
Matthew 1:18-23 &
Luke 2:1-7***

Sermon: "To Walk with Courage"

Rev. Julie Flowers

The Constantine Family will be lighting the Fourth Candle of the Advent Wreath and Continuing to Build the Nativity Scene





Join us virtually for First Baptist Church in Beverly's Music Sunday, on our Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistBeverly/>

Enjoy a performance from our Sanctuary Choir, as well as from our Jubilee Ringers (a hybrid group of ringers from both our Celebration and Harborlight Ringers) bell choir, filmed in our beautifully decorated sanctuary. There will also be a duet featuring FBC Beverly's Director of Music, Dr. Esther Chang, with Cindy Shupp on flute, as well as a duet featuring Esther and Matthew Hennek on bell tree, *and* two traditional carols to be sung joyously along from our home worship spaces by everyone in our congregation.

We all need the Christmas Spirit this year more than ever. FBC Beverly brings this joy to you through music - albeit safely and remotely this year!

Advent Season 2020:

The People Who Walked in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light

This Advent season we have been 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 have been 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 have endeavored 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 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!

You can also join us live each Friday, now through Christmas Night, at 7 p.m. on our Facebook page, for bedtime stories of the season, read by members of our FBC church staff. These are stories *both* for our children *and* for all of us who are children at heart!

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 continue 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](#)



Christmas is a Time of Stories – Bedtime Stories!

During the season of Advent, we will be hosting a short series for children (and for all of us who are children-at-heart) of bedtime stories being read aloud on Friday evenings at 7 p.m. These stories will be drawn from the rich and varied library of beautiful and beloved Christmas stories from the church's children's bookshelf in the Playground, and will be read for ministers and church friends and staff each week, as a way to wind down from a busy week; to walk through the Advent season

together; and to center ourselves as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child into the world. Children are invited and welcomed to hop on our First Baptist Church Facebook page with their grownups for this weekly Facebook live bedtime story. Wear your pajamas, bring a cup of hot chocolate, and get ready to enjoy a good story together with your FBC Beverly family!

Stories will be read on Friday December 18th, and 25th at 7 p.m. EST. Storytellers will include:

December 18th – Jaimie Crumley
December 25th – Julie Flowers



This Week's Christmas Story: *The Night of Las Posadas*

Christmas is right around the corner! Can you believe it? This week, our Christmas story is *The Night of Las Posadas* (1999). The book was written and illustrated by Tomie DePaola. Don't be shy! Go ahead and slip into your comfiest sweater or a pair of Christmas pajamas and join Rev. Jaimie on the FBC Facebook page on **Friday, December 18 at 7:00 pm** as she reads this beautiful story about family, tradition, and the light of Christ. This 15-minute interactive story time is especially for the young and young at heart. See you on Friday!



In Case You Missed Last Week's Story:

Last week's story was the classic *Great Joy*, written by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Bagram Ibatouline, and read by Kent Harrop.

Watch it here!

<https://www.facebook.com/21543947822/videos/3276816939093897>



Virtual Longest Night Interfaith Service

December 21st at 8 p.m. via Facebook Premiere (on the FBC Facebook page), you are invited for an Interfaith Longest Night Service. This year, Kent Harrop, on behalf of First Baptist, is coordinating an interfaith service to mark the winter solstice and create sacred space to acknowledge the losses and challenges during this pandemic and the hope we find in faith and in community.

Holidays, particularly this year with the pandemic, often bring forth a roller coaster of emotions. How do we find hope and joy in the holiday season, if a loved one has died, a job lost or trust breached? How do we hold on to hope in the midst of societal injustice and the wide gulf between those who have much and the many who have little? During this pandemic, where do we find hope and healing? These questions are accentuated during the holidays (whether one has a religious tradition or not). The winter solstice, marks the shortest day of the year for light and the longest length of time for darkness. It can serve as a metaphor for the journey that we are on. The truth too, is that the winter solstice, also marks a turning



point in our journey toward Spring. Each day following, the days become incrementally longer, building toward the promise and renewal of Spring.

This year, we will do something different, provide a 40 - 45-minute Interfaith Longest Night Service, drawing upon the wisdom of a variety of faith traditions. We will reflect on how we find light in the darkness, hope in our despair, healing in our divisiveness, community out from isolation. The service will have Four Candle Lightening segments, each with a theme. (Viewing from home, we are each invited to bring 4 unlit candles and if you desire, light a candle and type in a response to a question posed for each theme). Three musical gifts will be provided by Dr. Esther Chang, music director of First Baptist, featuring a solo by Jenn Bobzin. Leadership will be provided by Rabbi Alison Adler, of Temple B'nai Abraham, Rev. Kelly Weisman Asprooth-Jackson of First Parish UU, Rev. Manny Faria of St Peter's Episcopal, Dr. Emilia Phillips of North Shore Baha'i, Rev. Gail Cantor, Spiritual Life Chaplain at Endicott College and Kent Harrop.

We hope you will join with our wider community and find wisdom and hope for the journey ahead.

What a Zoom Fellowship!

Each Sunday after our service streams on Facebook, we invite you to join us for a time of virtual fellowship. We might not be able to gather together face-to-face, but we know that where two or three are gathered in God's name, God is in their midst. Whether you are a long-time church member, a newer church member, or just passing through, we invite you to join us.

Zoom Link:

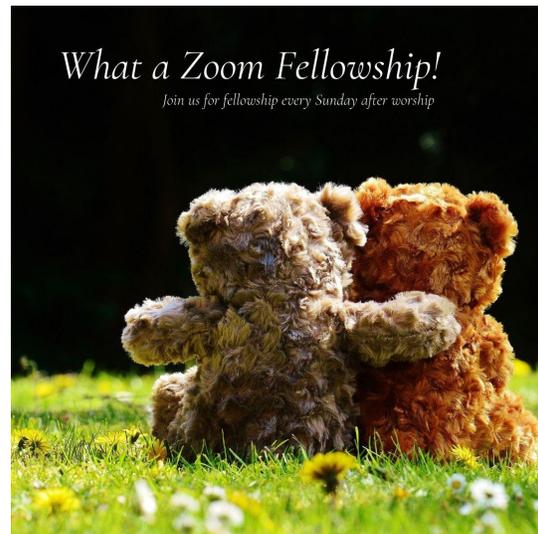
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87584963293?
pwd=VndSanBZVTlVQVJhcXNPUGlwaEFFdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87584963293?pwd=VndSanBZVTlVQVJhcXNPUGlwaEFFdz09)

Meeting ID: 875 8496 3293

Passcode: 835114

Dial by your location

- +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)



Virtual Sunday School

Virtual Sunday School for our children and young people will take place from 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

Both Fellowship groups gathered this past Sunday for a virtual puzzle break experience that found them in small teams, chasing down their missing professor as part of the School for Spies puzzle experience! It was a really fun – and challenging, in some moments! – time, and all the groups did a wonderful job AND earned A+ grades in Spy School, it seems! Other perks of this fun virtual experience were finding new ways to work together and ways to practice working as a team and building and strengthening relationships in our Fellowship family, even in our virtual space.

Coming Up for Middle School: Virtual Holiday Party

Sunday, December 20th, 4 p.m. – 5 p.m.

The Middle School Fellowship will follow the lead of our Beverly Public Schools and meet virtually this coming Sunday, December 20th. The group will gather on zoom for a festive holiday party and fun – *all* participants attending are encouraged to wear ugly sweaters (or other festive holiday attire!) *and* to make or find a funny holiday-themed hat to wear to the zoom party! Awards will be (virtually) presented for outlandish and outstanding ensembles! In addition, the group will play holiday games together and find lots of fun to be had as we celebrate the coming of Christmas, even across distance! Grab a cup of hot chocolate and sign on to the Middle School Holiday Party Zoom:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81619448224>

Meeting ID: 816 1944 8224

Coming Up for Senior High: Zoom Cookie Decorating

Sunday, December 20th, 6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Thanks to advisor Abby Johnstone, the Senior High Fellowship has big plans for a zoom cookie decorating session this coming Sunday, to celebrate the holidays and prepare for the coming of Christmas! Advisors will be working to deliver gingerbread cookies and decorating supplies (baked and assembled by Abby, masked up and using COVID-safe practices!) to the homes of all our youth (please email Julie at jflowers@fbcbeverly.org to ensure she has your correct address!) ahead of the Sunday zoom session. Youth and advisors will then log on together and work on their cookie decorating skills – and then have a chance to share their cookie works of art with each other – during the zoom time. Come and join your Senior High Fellowship family in getting ready to welcome Christmas with a joyful cookie decorating (virtual) party:

Topic: Senior High Fellowship Holiday Zoom

Time: Dec 20, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89646603865>

Meeting ID: 896 4660 3865

BOTH YOUTH GROUPS WILL HAVE THE SUNDAY FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS OFF AND WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD!

Virtual Pageant Rehearsals

The Virtual Christmas Pageant is in its final week of rehearsals leading up to filming on Saturday! Those in the pageant are reminded of a full cast virtual rehearsal this coming Thursday, December 17th, from 4 p.m. – 5 p.m. Please make sure to attend to run through the pageant in its entirety. Then, on Saturday, December 19th, the full cast will be needed on zoom to record the pageant for Christmas Eve!

2021 Pledge Drive Needs Your Help: An Update

The drive-by pledge drive was a big success with \$94,000-plus raised that day and in the following weeks the generous people of FBC continued to respond, to a current total of \$170,00! However, the drive still has a ways to go to come close to last year's pledged amount of \$203,380. The staff and volunteers of the church have worked incredibly hard to keep the church relevant and meaningful during this most difficult year, and preparations for the church re-opening when it's deemed safe are well underway.

But we need your continuing financial support to make this happen. If you haven't pledged yet and if you are able, there are two ways to turn in your pledge card: mail your card to the First Baptist Church at 221 Cabot Street, or put your pledge card in the mail slot of the church office's back door at the corner of Cabot and Hale Streets (the door which faces Hale street, not the gym door which faces Cabot Street). If you need a pledge card, please email the church's Financial Secretary, Pat Haight, at phaight@fbcbeverly.org. Pat can also help you with any questions you may have about your current 2020 pledge.

Whatever you are able to give during this challenging time, is very much appreciated.

~ Loyce Thomson, Stewardship chair.

Thursday Coffee Time, 10 a.m.

Grab your morning coffee or tea and pop in to this virtual Zoom Coffee Break from 10-10:30 a.m. each Thursday morning! All are welcome, and you should be able to join from a smartphone or computer, just by clicking on the meeting link below!

Topic: Zoom Coffee Time

Time: Dec 17, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89969221527>

Meeting ID: 899 6922 1527

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89969221527# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,89969221527# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 899 6922 1527

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/keuWvVVnu>



DVDs with our Advent Worship Services

Dear Church Family,

We are in the process of making DVDs of our Advent Worship Services. This is particularly for those with limited computer access. If you would like to receive DVDs and are in need of a portable DVD player please contact the Church office at **978-922-3295**. If there is no answer, please leave a message with your name and phone number. You may also contact the Church via this email: office@fbcbeverly.org.

Blessings,

Gloria Stoneham, Moderator

Music with Esther - Friday at 1:00pm on Facebook

Join FBC's Director of Music, Dr. Esther Chang for music, brought to you directly from the FBC Sanctuary! On our Facebook Page www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistBeverly this Friday, December 18 at 1pm.

This week Esther leads a celebration of the season with a dazzling array of Christmas carols!

Deadline Extended for Yankee Swap Submissions

The deadline has been extended to 1:00 p.m. on Friday, December 18th for dropping off your Yankee Swap gifts. Please join the church family for a virtual Yankee Swap (on Zoom) hosted by Dianne and Rich Cashman on Friday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to participate in the swap drop off your wrapped gift(s) with your name, email and phone number attached at The Cashmans' house (9 Dyer Road, Beverly). The Zoom link will be provided to participants prior to the event. No gift? That's ok! Send us your email and we will send you the Zoom link so you can watch all the fun unfold! A prize will also be awarded for the most festive Zoom box background. Hope to see you there! If you have any questions please contact Dianne and Rich at 978-921-1438 or richanddianne@comcast.net.

FBC Beverly's Compassion Fund

First Baptist Church in Beverly has established a \$25,000 fund to provide emergency financial assistance to those in our church community who may be especially affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, and resulting shutdowns, lay-offs and the like. We are calling this our Compassion Fund. Below are its key elements:

- Potential recipients include not just church members, but all those (and their immediate families) who have a connection to our church, whether by attending church worship services, by participating in church sponsored programs of any kind, or as employees or volunteers at the church or its outreach ministries. Recipients do not need to live in Beverly.

- Awards are expected to be \$500 or less per family or individual, but awards up to \$1,000 may be made in special circumstances. All will be in the form of grants, not loans.

If you or someone you know needs financial assistance due to the pandemic:

To apply, please go to the following link and complete the form: <https://form.jotform.com/200727212739958> or call 978-927-1561

- If you have a financial need arising out of the pandemic and wish to be considered for assistance, please complete and send in the application form as indicated above.

- If you know of someone in our broader church family who has such a need and might not otherwise be aware of our Compassion Fund, please encourage them to apply.

- All applications and information relating to this program will be kept strictly confidential except as necessary to review and process the awards, and in order to issue checks and payments by the church.

Coming Up at FBC



Thursday, December 17

10 a.m. ZOOM Coffee Chat

Friday, December 18

1:00pm: Facebook Live: Music with Dr. Esther Chang - Christmas Carol Edition!

7:00pm: Advent Bedtime Stories Series

Saturday, December 19

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

MUSIC SUNDAY, December 20

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)

10:55-ish: Fellowship Zoom immediately following Virtual Worship

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

4:00pm: Middle School Fellowship: Virtual Holiday Party

6:00pm: Senior High Fellowship: Zoom Cookie Decorating

Monday, December 21

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

7:30pm: Facebook Live: Advent Home Devotionals with Jaimie

8 p.m. Interfaith Longest Night Service via FBC Facebook

Tuesday, December 22

9:30am: Staff Meeting

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

Scripture: Luke 2: 8 – 20

Sermon: To Walk with Joyful Hearts

Rev. Kent Harrop

The Tremblay Family will be lighting the
Third Candle of the Advent Wreath and
Continuing to Build the Nativity Scene



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

STAY CONNECTED

