

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 Third Sunday of Advent at First Baptist Church

December 13, 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)

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



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](#)



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!

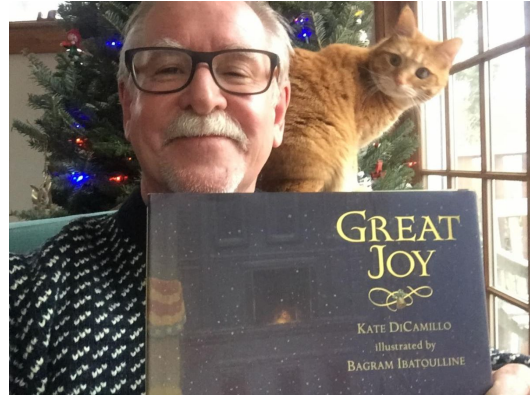


Stories will be read on Friday December 11th, 18th, and 25th at 7 p.m. EST.
Storytellers will include:

December 11th – Kent Harrop
December 18th – Jaimie Crumley
December 25th – Julie Flowers

This Week's Christmas Bedtime Story: *Great Joy*

This week's story is the classic *Great Joy*, written by Kate DiCamillo, illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline, and read by Kent Harrop, with Autumn the cat! This Friday, at 7 p.m. go to the FBC Facebook page and enjoy this 20 minute interactive story time, hosted by Kent via Facebook Premiere. This story time is especially for children and the young at heart.



In Case You Missed It: Last Friday's Advent Storytime

Our Childcare Coordinator Abby Johnstone shared the first in our Advent story series, *The Year of the Perfect Christmas Tree* by Gloria Houston with illustrations by Barbara Cooney.

<https://fb.watch/2feqVJ5VO2/>



Stepsitters from Home

We loved receiving this picture of our friend Lotti (who also participated in virtual worship this morning with her family (Britta, Alexander, Max, Connie, and Lily), leading us in the Invocation and Lord's Prayer!) praying along with Julie at the end of our Stepsitters children's message time today.

What a beautiful reminder of the ways in which we remain connected at heart and in God's Spirit, even when we worship in separate spots! Thank you, Lotti!



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:

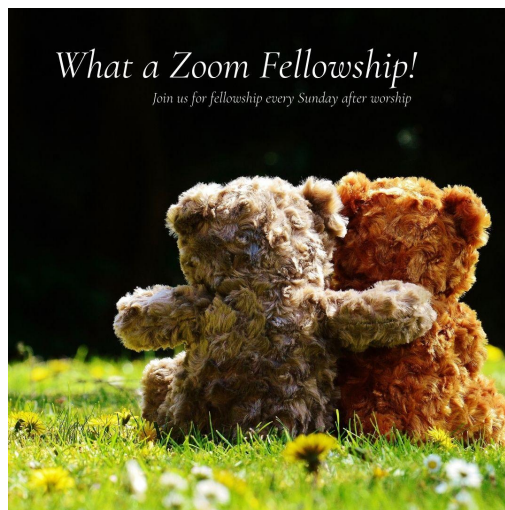
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87584963293?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87584963293?pwd=VndSanBZVTIVQVJhcXNPUGlwaEFFdz09)
[pwd=VndSanBZVTIVQVJhcXNPUGlwaEFFdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87584963293?pwd=VndSanBZVTIVQVJhcXNPUGlwaEFFdz09)

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

Another first Sunday of a new month meant another Sunday School Supply Crate pick-up and hands-on activity event for our virtual Sunday School families! It was a chilly day, but that could not dampen the warmth of the spirit of our gathering in the church parking lot, as families picked up Sunday School materials for December – including Bibles for all our 3rd grade and above students who had not yet received one from the church and a special book for every 2nd grade and younger student! Children also worked hard to decorate ornaments for a Christmas tree that we then all decorated together; a reminder for us all that even when we might be apart more than we wish, we are still *all* connected as a church family and in God's love, just as our individual ornaments are all connected on the tree.

HUGE thanks go to our teachers **Abby Johnstone**, **Lindsay Ducharme**, and **Eva Oliveira** who braved the chilly wind and ice to make the day so warm and welcoming for our crew!

Check out some of the pictures from our morning together!

This coming Sunday, December 13th, our virtual class will resume as usual at 11:15 a.m. EST, with pageant rehearsal coinciding with that time (we will use the usual Sunday School link for both activities!).

[Sign Up For Sunday School](#)





Youth Fellowship for Sunday, December 13th: Virtual Puzzle Break!

Coming Up for BOTH Fellowship Groups for Sunday, December 13th – VIRTUAL PUZZLE BREAK!
5:00 p.m. EST – PLEASE SIGN UP WITH JULIE BY THIS THURSDAY AT THE LATEST TO PARTICIPATE!

Both our youth groups will have the opportunity to go to spy school this coming Sunday – virtually, at least! The youth and advisors will be participating in a virtual puzzle break escape room experience, beginning at 5 p.m. EST, hosted by an company that ran escape rooms before COVID and has now shifted to a virtual model. Together in small groups, our teams will work to crack the mysteries and solve the problems that arise at spy school and see if they can make it all the way through and out of the virtual puzzle! At the end, there will be time for debriefing and team building together as we talk through how we solved the puzzles and met the challenges of the experience.

The cost for this program is \$15/person, which can be mailed to the church (make sure to note in the memo line that the check is for Youth Fellowship!) OR can be dropped off in Julie's mailbox. As always, we also never want any youth to miss a program due to finances, so assistance is available; please do not hesitate to let Julie or any advisor know if it would be helpful to have some scholarship money.

We MUST have everyone participating signed up ahead of time, so please make sure to email Julie by THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10th, to make sure you are on the list!



Photos from this past Sunday's Middle School Fellowship wintry outdoor activity!



Virtual Pageant Rehearsals Rolling Along!

2020 is the Year of the Virtual Christmas Pageant! While we all embarked on this adventure never having DONE a virtual pageant and not knowing how it would feel or go, rehearsals have begun, and the cast of children and youth is doing an absolutely incredible and outstanding job already of leaning into this new way of telling the Christmas story and sharing the wonder of that first Christmas Eve and of Jesus' birth. Our cast will be rehearsing this week; Julie will be emailing the zoom links for all rehearsals, so please watch your email and let her know if you do not receive a link for a rehearsal you or your child was slated to attend.

The upcoming rehearsal schedule is included here for ease of access

Rehearsal Schedule:

Tuesday, December 8th, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – ALL STARS, ANGELS, MARY and JOSEPH

Thursday, December 10th, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – ALL MAGI, SHEPHERDS, and CHILDREN

Sunday, December 13th, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. – ALL PARTS

Tuesday, December 15th, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – ALL STARS, ANGELS, Mary and JOSEPH, MAGI, SHEPHERDS, and CHILDREN

Thursday, December 17th, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. – ALL PARTS

Saturday, December 19th – 10:00 a.m. – ***RECORDING OF PAGEANT! Please let Julie know ASAP if this does NOT work for you! This will include ALL parts, as well as the closing solo***

Sunday, December 20th – 10:00 a.m. – Back-up Filming Date!

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86584006956>

Meeting ID: 865 8400 6956

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86584006956# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,86584006956# US (Chicago)

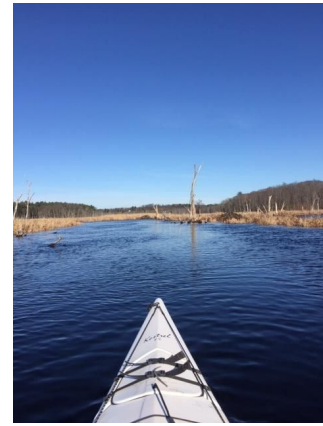


Marcus Borg Book Study Group Underway

The book study group for Marcus Borg's book *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time* got underway this past Thursday at 7 p.m., with a wonderful group gathered in the virtual space together. The first session was really an introduction to the class, so the second session, which is this Thursday, December 10th, at 7 p.m., will dig further into the book, taking a look at and discussing chapters 1-3. The zoom link will be the same as the one used for the first class; new members are still welcome and may join by emailing Julie at jflowers@fbcbeverly.org to ask to be added.

Deepening Your Spiritual Toolbox - hosted by Kent Harrop from the Ipswich River

During this pandemic, where do you go to have your spirit fed? Where do you go to be spiritually awakened? Where do you go, to have that 'wow' experience? [This Friday 1 p.m. via Facebook Premiere on the FBC Facebook page](#), join Kent as he takes you to his 'wow' place, as he paddles along the Ipswich River. In this 10 minute video, Kent will invite you to look and listen with fresh eyes and ears, to the wonder that is all around you too. So, grab a hot drink and join Kent for a mid-December paddle along this gem of a river. And, be ready to have your spirit fed too. Note: This video will remain posted on the FBC Facebook page to be watched at a time convenient to you. And, feel free to share this video with others. We all need all the encouragement we can get!



FBC "Room for a Crowd" Yankee Swap 2020 Re-imagined!

Yes! The annual "Room for a Crowd" Yankee Swap is going to happen! 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) between December 8th and 17th. Or, you may drop off your gift(s) at the church parking lot on Sunday, December 13th from 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. The Zoom link will be provided to participants closer 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.

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.

Church Family News

Our love and prayers surround Pam Constantine and family, upon the passing of her mother, June Cunningham Walch, on December 2nd at 92 years of age. June was the beloved wife and friend of Alan Walch with whom she shared 70 years of marriage. A lifelong educator, wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, she made the world a better place. A celebration of June's life will be held in Kezar Falls, Maine in the summer.

Coming Up at FBC



Thursday, December 10
10 a.m. ZOOM Coffee Chat

Friday, December 11
1:00pm: Facebook Live: Deepening Your Spiritual Toolbox - hosted by Kent Harrop
7:00pm: Advent Bedtime Stories

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

Sunday, December 13
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
5:00pm: Middle School Fellowship and Senior High Fellowship: Virtual Puzzle Break

Monday, December 14
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

Tuesday, December 15
9:30am: Staff Meeting

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

When the Miraculous is Painful

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

Rev. Jaimie Crumley, preaching



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

STAY CONNECTED

