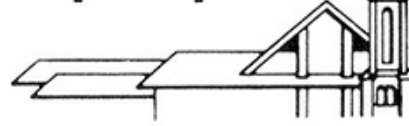


THE BULLETIN

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 Second Sunday of Advent at First Baptist Church

December 6, 2020

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

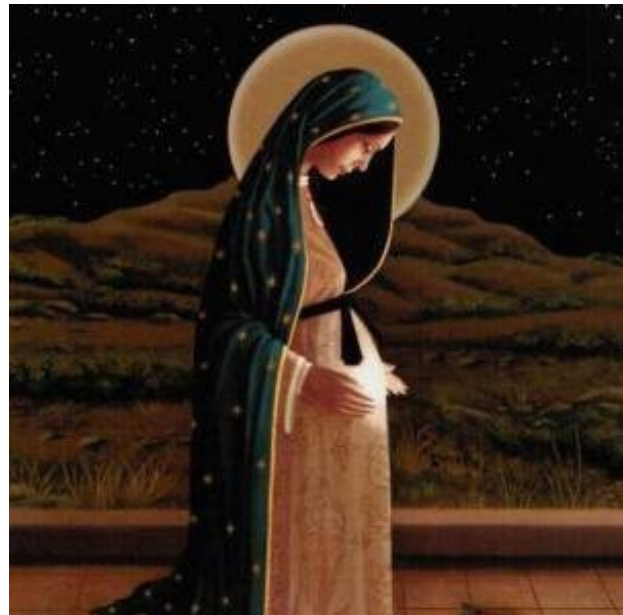
(This video will ALSO then be available to watch at any time following on our Facebook page and website.)

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

When the Miraculous is Painful

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

Rev. Jaimie Crumley, preaching
Members of Constantine family will be lighting our
Advent wreath to open the service.



2021 Pledge Drive Needs Your Help

The drive-by pledge drive was a big success with \$94,000-plus raised that day and \$25,000-plus received by mail in the week that followed, making a one week total of just under \$120,000 raised to date, a very auspicious start. However, the drive still has a long way 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.

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 4, 11th, 18th, and 25th at 7 p.m. EST. Storytellers will include:



December 4th – Abby Johnstone
December 11th – Kent Harrop
December 18th – Jaimie Crumley
December 25th – Julie Flowers

What a Zoom Fellowship!

What a Zoom Fellowship has a brand new Zoom link! 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>

Meeting ID: 875 8496 3293

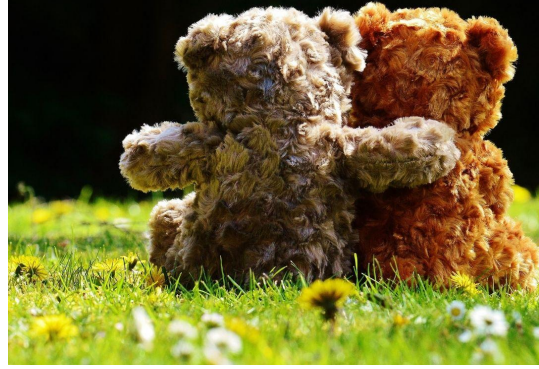
Passcode: 835114

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)

What a Zoom Fellowship!

Join us for fellowship every Sunday after worship



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 Activities

Middle School Fellowship - TBA

Senior high Fellowship - TBA

Stay tuned for updates from Julie on this week's Youth Fellowship activities

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 3, 2020 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89197357788>

Meeting ID: 891 9735 7788

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,89197357788# US (Washington D.C)

+13126266799,,89197357788# 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: 891 9735 7788

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kJxhnRn5>



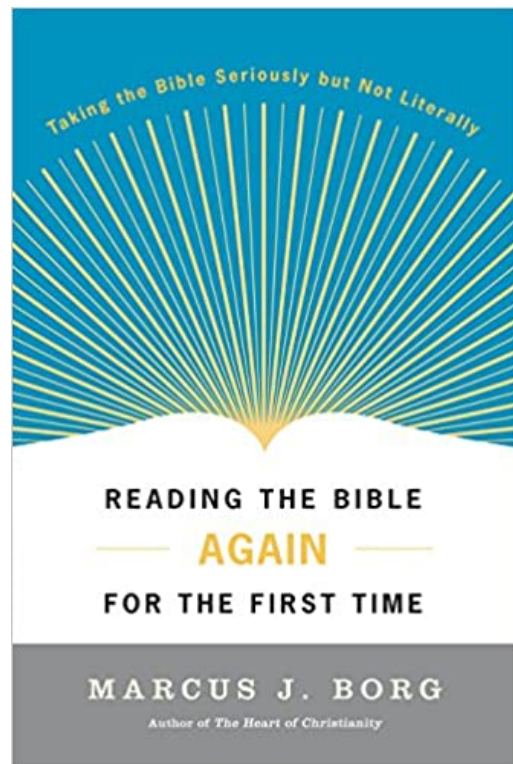
New (Virtual) Adult Class to be Held Thursdays at 7 p.m.!

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.

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 4 at 1pm.

Esther invites her friend Jenn Bobzin to join her in enhancing our Christmas music experience. Jenn will sing a soulful song called Sweet Little Jesus Boy. Esther will then delight you with a jazz rendition of What Child is This and a fresh take on God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, with an added Spanish flair! Don't miss this!

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.

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.

Update on AMOS: Health and Hope

FBC for the past three years has partnered with AMOS, a community based public health ministry in Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. FBC through donations by several FBC households and as a line item in our budget, seeks to provide up to \$9000 per year to support a clinic in Apantillo, a village of 1200 persons in the mountains of Matagalpa. Overall AMOS serves 70,000 people in 23 rural communities and two urban clinics.

Please read this update from AMOS, and know that we at FBC are part of that which is remarkable and life-giving. In partnership with AMOS, we at FBC are the hands and heart of Jesus!

From AMOS: November 30, 2020

Dear First Baptist in Beverly:

Your ongoing and continued support means so much to the people of Nicaragua. But, we are living in unprecedented times.

After being hit by two Category 4 hurricanes amid the COVID-19 pandemic and a sociopolitical and economic crisis, Nicaragua needs health and hope now more than ever.

We are still assessing the full extent of the devastation done by **Hurricanes Eta and Iota**. But we know the needs will be vast, and they will be ongoing.

We know that many families have lost their homes. In overcrowded emergency shelters, many are worried about staying protected from COVID-19 without social distancing, masks, or access to clean water.

We know that many families now face starvation. Many families in rural areas rely on subsistence farming to feed themselves. Their annual harvest was scheduled for the end of this month, but as a result of heavy rains and flooding, many families have lost their crops, their source of food for an entire year.

AMOS is on the ground, providing emergency relief and ongoing medical support. Please know that the ongoing support of First Baptist is so important and we are truly grateful for you! ~ Dr. Gabriella Woo, Executive Director of AMOS

Coming Up at FBC



Thursday, December 3
10 a.m. ZOOM Coffee Chat

Friday, December 4
1:00pm: Facebook Live: Music with Esther
7:00pm: Christmas Bedtime Stories

Saturday, December 5
12:30pm: Lunch Program (Boxed meals to-go will be provided from the gym)

Sunday, December 6
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
TBA: Middle School Fellowship
TBA: Senior High Fellowship

Monday, December 7
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 8
9:30am: Staff Meeting

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

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, light our Advent wreath to open the service.



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

STAY CONNECTED

