

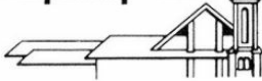
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN BEVERLY

A progressive and welcoming Christian community

The week is finally here! Thursday is Longest Night on 12/21 at 7:00 p.m. and our Christmas Eve Services include Worship at 10:00 a.m. for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, the 5 p.m. Early Service Planned with the Enthusiasm of Children in Mind, followed by the 11 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols. There are lots of ways to be together as we close out this Advent Season and anticipate the coming of God's Real Love – just come to FBC Beverly!

The BULLETIN

of the First Baptist Church in Beverly



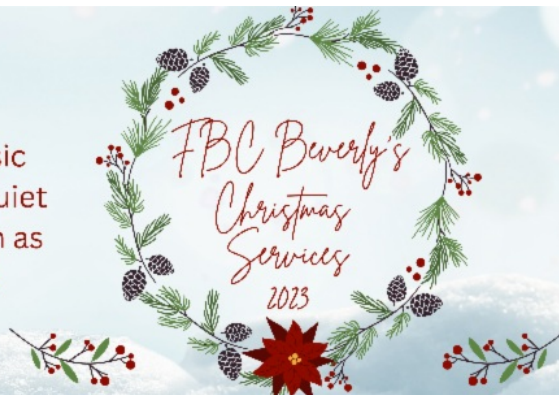
A progressive and welcoming Christian community!

Get
Involved

Worship with
Us

Longest Night Service Thursday, December 21st

7:00 pm: A brief service of music and candlelight that offers a quiet space for worship and reflection as we draw nearer to Christmas.



Christmas Eve Services Sunday, December 24th

10:00 am: 4th Sunday of Advent
Worship Service
5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service
Planned with the
Enthusiasm of Children in Mind
11:00 pm: Candlelight Service of
Lessons & Carols

Worship With Us!

Join us this **Sunday, December 24th at 10:00 a.m.** for Worship either in person or via our *FBC YouTube Channel* for the **Fourth Sunday in Advent.**

Our Middle School and Senior High Youth will help continue building our Nativity Scene during the opening carol this week and will help unveil a brand new piece for our set!

Members of our Music Program will be lighting the candle during Worship for the Fourth Sunday of Advent this week!

Notes for Sunday:

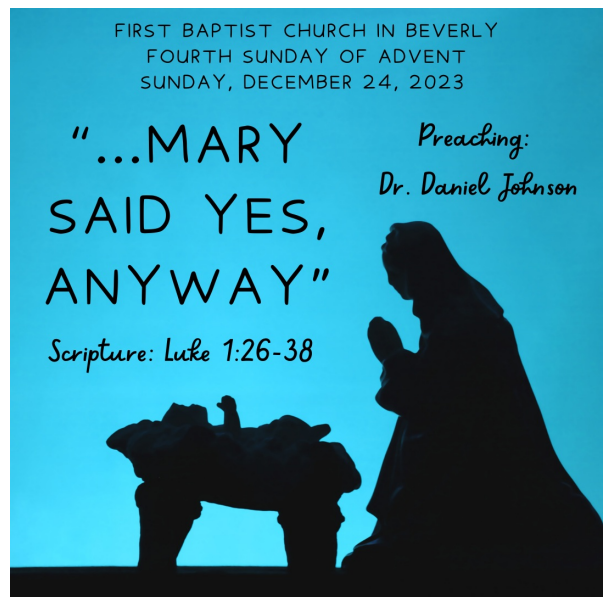
- The Infant/Toddler room will be open during worship this week.
- There is NO Sunday school this week, but childcare

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN BEVERLY
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023

"...MARY
SAID YES,
ANYWAY"

Preaching:
Dr. Daniel Johnson

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38



Click [HERE](#) to join Worship via Livestream on Sunday

WILL be offered during the service. Elementary Classes will NOT meet this week.

- The Playground will be open for the enjoyment of our Elementary and younger friends & their families to use during worship.
- The Youth Pew is available for youth in grades 5-12 to enjoy worship together with peers.
- **Esther invites ALL children in Elementary Grades and younger to stay immediately after Worship and rehearse as they prepare to sing for the early 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service.**
- Reminder that there is no Middle School or Senior High Youth Fellowship this week.

*In case you might be feeling a little overwhelmed in the midst of prepping, wrapping, cooking, full-out-holidaying, we wanted to invite you to this Sunday's Service **to come as you are, in whatever clothing you are in**, to just come and be together for this welcoming, breezy Fourth Sunday in Advent Service!*



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Click [HERE](#) to view our Web Calendar

Be a PART of FBC Tradition: The Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant at the 5:00 o'clock Christmas Eve Service is Calling YOU!

One of the special traditions at the Early Service on Christmas Eve is an unrehearsed Christmas pageant for all ages that is open to *everyone* who would like to choose a role and take part in the telling of the story of that first Christmas Eve! Children and adults alike are invited to choose a part and jump into the pageant as it unfolds at the start of our Early Service. You can choose your part ahead of time and come to the service already in costume, or you can choose your role upon arriving at the church, and then use materials and costume elements provided at the rear of the sanctuary to get ready.

In order to help you start pondering and planning your role, here are the parts we will need people to jump in and play in the unrehearsed pageant. *All* of these roles are those for which we will have props and costume elements ready for you to use that evening, but should you want to come already in costume, we've included a few suggestions of what you might have around your house that would work well for the part (although you can be as creative as you wish – these are suggestions to help get your thinking started, if useful)!

Donkeys, Cows, Chickens, Pigs, and Other Assorted Stable Animals: clothing in the color that suggests the animal of your choice (gray for a donkey, for example, or brown for a cow) can work well for these stable animal roles; headbands with animal ears are also an easy way to costume for these choices, as are costumes from other events (Halloween, for example) where a child may already have dressed as a stable/farm animal – feel free to use/wear such costumes on Christmas Eve!

Angels: white dresses or shirts work well for angel costumes; garland makes an easy halo, or gold pipe cleaners wrapped around a headband can also work well to create a halo.





Shepherds and Sheep: children often have good luck using bathrobes in solid colors as shepherd costume elements; another option for a shepherd tunic is to take a large piece of fabric, fold it in half, cut a hole in the center of the folded edge to create a neck in the top, and then place over the head, tying with a rope or piece of fabric under the arms; for sheep, white clothing works well to suggest this role; a headband with sheep ears can be another easy way to create this costume.

Stars: wearing colors like yellow or gold or sparkly fabrics can help suggest a star.

Magi, Camels, and Elephants: sparkly or fancy attire can work well for suggesting the role of the Magi, as well as wearing a crown on the head or adding a fancy cape to an outfit; wrapped gift boxes also make a good prop for the Magi to carry; for camels and elephants, coloring in the color that suggests the animal of choice can work well (brown for camels, gray for elephants); you can also make or use a headband with the ears for the animal of choice.

Looking for a little inspiration as who YOU might like to dress up as on Sunday?! See Pam pictured here to get your wheels a turning!

Services this week & our children singing: A lot happening at FBC Beverly this time of year!



You & yours are warmly invited to the following services offered at the First Baptist Church in Beverly this week:

Longest Night Service

Thursday, December 21st at 7:00 pm for a brief service of music and candlelight that offers a quiet space for worship and reflection as we draw nearer to Christmas.



Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24th
10:00 am: Fourth Sunday of Advent
Worship Service

5:00 pm: Christmas Eve Service
Planned with the Enthusiasm of Children in Mind and featuring our Christmas Pageant for all who would like to participate!

11:00 pm: Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols



CHILDREN INVITED TO SING!

ESTHER IS ASKING ALL ELEMENTARY-AGED CHILDREN AND YOUNGER WHO WOULD LIKE TO SING IN THE 5:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TO PLEASE STAY FOR A BRIEF REHEARSAL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 10:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE ON THE 24TH!

What's more joyful than children singing at Christmas time?!

WE WOULD LOVE AS MANY VOICES AS POSSIBLE TO COME LEARN THIS FUN, EASY AND JOYFUL SONG!

A Recap in Photos from last week's Christmas Potluck & Yankee Swap Party on Friday night as well as Jesus' Birthday Party on Sunday AND our Youth Group Holiday Parties!



Youth Fellowship Reminder & A Call for Alumni Volunteers!


Reminder that Fellowship groups will NOT meet on 12/24 or 12/30, but will joyfully reconvene on January 7th in the New Year with bowling and celebrating Dave's birthday for Middle School and Life After Fellowship in the youth lounge for Senior High!

Julie is also still looking for COLLEGE-AGED (Class of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023) Youth Fellowship Alums to serve, as is our FBC tradition, as the greeters, ushers and candlelighters at the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service.

Alums of these Fellowship Class Years should *RSVP to Julie* if they are able to assist with that special role in this service!



Still Time to Give!

FBC is giving gifts from the 

THERE ARE TWO WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL OF US TO ENGAGE IN ACTS OF HOLIDAY GIVING AND KINDNESS THIS YEAR. PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER HOW YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE!

Gift of Heat

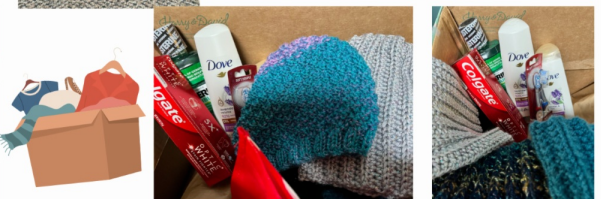


THE GIFT OF HEAT IS ALL SET UP FOR FOLKS TO TAKE AN ENVELOPE AND CONTRIBUTE (THANKS TO KAREN POPADIC ON BEHALF OF THE DEACONS!) IN THE REAR OF THE SANCTUARY.

River House Shelter Women's Donations



LESLIE BRENNAN ON BEHALF OF THE MISC (MISSIONS/SOCIAL CONCERNS TOGETHER!) COMMITTEE HAS MADE A DONATION BOX FOR RIVER HOUSE ITEMS, WHICH IS IN THE NARTHEX.



The Social Concerns Committee is collecting items for the River House Shelter through today. River House is now housing women and is in need of:

Hats, Scarves, Gloves, Mittens, Socks, Deodorant, Razors, Shaving cream, Shampoo and Conditioner, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste, Tissues, Laundry Pods, Anti-Bacterial Wipes, Reusable Water Bottle, Reusable Laundry Bags, Band Aids, Hand and Toe Warmers, Chapstick and Sleeping Bags.

Looking Ahead...

Together Again!

Zoom Coffee
Hour
Thursdays
@ 10am



[Zoom Coffee Hour Link](#)

Lectio Divina
continues Friday
with Daniel and
Friends at 5:00 pm.

Join us in the
Lounge or via
Zoom!



[Link to join Lectio via
Zoom](#)

Word Searchers

Join the Word Searchers shortly after worship this Sunday morning for the final week of our Advent study, as prompted by the writings and video presentations of Will Willimon in *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*. This week's focus is on Luke 1:26-55 and the theme of rejoicing.

We hope to see you there!



IN HONOR OF CHRISTMAS, OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON
MONDAY, DECEMBER 25TH AND TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26TH.
REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS WILL RESUME DECEMBER 27TH.



thank you

 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
IN BEVERLY

“
38 'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.'
Then the angel left her. — Luke 1:38
”

PENCIL IN FBC

December

21

Thursday

Longest Night Service at FBC

Join us from 7:00-8:00 p.m. for this reflective service on the longest night of the year as we continue onward in our Advent journey. An uplifting service of music and prayer!

December

24

Sunday

Christmas Eve Services

Our regular 10:00 a.m. Worship Service will be held for the Fourth Sunday of Advent. We will also be holding our usual Christmas Eve services at 5:00 p.m. (geared toward youth which includes our very fun Unrehearsed Christmas Pageant!) as well as our Candlelight Service of lessons & carols at 11:00 p.m.

December

25&26

Monday & Tuesday

Merry Christmas!

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Tuesday, December 26th in honor of Christmas. We look forward to reconnecting on Wednesday, December 27th!

December

31

Sunday

FBC Beverly Worship Service of Story & Song

The church will have a Service of Story & Song at 10:00 a.m. this Sunday but we will not have Sunday School (instead, all children are encouraged to remain in the sanctuary for this engaging service that works well for all ages!). *Please Note: Childcare will be offered.*

January

1&2

Monday & Tuesday

Happy New Year!

As we ring in 2024, the church office will be closed on Monday the 1st and January the 2nd. We look forward to catching up on Wednesday, January 3rd!

January

2

Tuesday

Theology On Tap

We're back at Post starting at 8:00 p.m. for this informal and fun FBC fellowship group- join us for the first time in 2024!

January

5

Friday

Parents' Night Out

Start brainstorming fun plans for January's upcoming PNO right around the bend from 6:00-8:30 p.m. the first Friday in the New Year!

CONTACT US



**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
IN BEVERLY**

Phone: 978-922-3295 (Main)

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
IN BEVERLY

221 Cabot Street, Beverly, MA 01915

bulletin@fbcbeverly.org

Contact
Us

Recent
Sermons

Donations

