

# FOCUS

DECEMBER 2023 - MMXXII ISSUE XII

735 RIDGE LAKE BOULEVARD | MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38120

# Year-End Giving by Taylor Park

Dear First Evan,

(If you are a "bottom-liner" skip to the last two paragraphs, but I hope you'll read the whole article.)

Yesterday (as I am writing this) we had our annual "Deck the Halls" here at church. On the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, some awesome volunteers along with all the staff, deck the halls with all the festive decorations you see around the building this time of year. As I was carrying a wreath or small Christmas tree down the hall, I couldn't help but burst out with a chorus or two of "Deck the Halls With Balls of Holly" as I thought it said when I was a kid, or "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" or "Christmas Waltz" (It's That Time of Year). Of course, in many places, especially retail centers, it has been looking that way since Halloween or before.

One of the tell-tale signs we are into the Christmas season is the content of our mailboxes. For the most part, the actual Christmas cards haven't begun to arrive just yet, but the appeals for giving certainly have. Our Deck the Halls day actually coincides with Giving Tuesday. Every organization; local, national, and global has probably planned their annual budget with the anticipation of a lot of their annual revenue coming in December and our mailboxes show it. It's partly because generosity naturally runs high around the Christmas season and partly because the calendar year-end, with all its tax planning ramifications lands just six days after Christmas.

In so many ways I wish that wasn't true. I wish in this season that the only thing we would find in our mailboxes were the Christmas greetings of our family and friends and all those



Click on the video to hear about year-end giving or visit www.firstevan.org/giving.

amazing family photos we, at the Park house, proudly clip with little mini clothes pins to the jute string stretched tightly just above our heads across the doorway. Then, maybe we could have some big funding crunch season at some other time of the year. But that is not to be—at least not for now—because the end of the year does come 6 days after Christmas and many fine organizations—and some not-so-fine ones—count on all of us to help them meet their financial goals this time of year.

We are no different. First Evan and most every other church I know, looks toward December as the time we catch up from the first half of the year and stock up for the second half. Frankly, it seems to work quite well. We budget for approximately 21% of our annual revenue to come in December. Of course, God can and sometimes does choose not to work that way and then at some unexpected time in some unexpected way meets our need—completely.

As a congregation, you have repeatedly told us, "Let us know what the needs

are so we can pray about them and see what we believe God would have us do." And that too, seems to work quite well. This is a praying and obedient congregation, and we have, through this Body, always seen God richly meet our needs.

So, where we are right now (as of November 28) is that we need \$918,153 by the end of December to meet our Ministry Fund year-to-date need and we need \$87,631 by the end of December to meet our Missions Fund year-to-date need. Later in this issue of the Focus Newsletter, there is a lot of pertinent information about ways to give, how to maximize your giving and when the finance office folks are available to help you with any giving questions you have and when the office is open for you to drop off your gift if you choose to give by check or cash.

Thank you for being a faithful people. God has always abundantly met the needs of this church and He has primarily done it through the faithful gifts of the people of this church—each giving in accordance with how the Lord has blessed them.

# CHURCH-WIDE

#### **Pastor Search Prayer Focus**

Sunday, December 3

10:00-10:20 a.m., Sunday School Classrooms or Fellowship Hall

The purpose of this Prayer Focus is to pray for our pastor search committee and our next pastor. On Sunday, December 3 we will pray in all Sunday School classes church-wide.

Going forward we are asking you to pray every Tuesday until we call our next pastor. Weekly prayer guides will be emailed church-wide.

# **Sunshine Stockings for Seniors** Pick up a stocking today!



Lining the front desk and the children's desk, you will see "Sunshine Stockings" for our homebound senior adults. Adopt a stocking as a family or partner with friends to honor our homebound members. Fill the stocking and then deliver by Christmas with a smile to share a little joy this Christmas! Visit <a href="https://www.firstevan.org/stocking">www.firstevan.org/stocking</a> for more details.

# The Annunciation of Advent: "Discovering Christ, Mary & Gabriel in Advent Art from a Global Perspective"

Wednesday, December 20 6:00-7:30 p.m., Chapel Refreshments will be provided.



Join us for an evening about Advent Art, including a presentation and fun group discussion as we look at the advent art from various cultures about the Virgin birth of our Savior, Jesus. Register at <a href="https://www.firstevan.org/annunciation">www.firstevan.org/annunciation</a>.

# WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBER



#### Nick Birdwell

#### **Food Services Coordinator**

Nick grew up locally and attended St. George's Independent. He comes to us with a plethora of food service, catering and BBQ knowledge. Apart from trying new recipes from different cultures, Nick loves working out, watching soccer and spending time with his brother.

#### Discover First Evan

Sunday, January 28 4:00-6:00 p.m., Chapel



This class is offered to those interested in learning more about First Evan or desiring membership. Attending the class in no way obligates you to join, but it is the first step toward membership. Questions can be directed to Jacki Stieferman at <a href="mailto:istellar.org">istellar.org</a>. Sign up at <a href="mailto:www.firstevan.org/dfe">www.firstevan.org/dfe</a>.

#### Josh Raspberry Meet & Greet



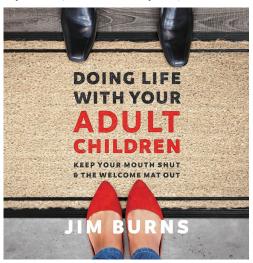
On November 28, we met Josh and Jane Raspberry. Josh is the current Pastor of Family Ministry candidate. He shared his story and answered questions from members. If you missed it, visit <a href="https://www.firstevan.org/media">www.firstevan.org/media</a>.

#### Midweek at First Evan Wednesdays, January 10-April 24

There is something for everyone on Wednesday nights! Enrich your spiritual walk and deepen your relationships with others in our fellowship. It starts with dinner at 5:00 p.m., followed by electives for all ages. View full details and menu at <a href="https://www.firstevan.org/midweek">www.firstevan.org/midweek</a>.

Attending or volunteering and need childcare?
www.firstevan.org/midweek-childcare
(For ages 2 and under. Subject to availability.)

"Doing Life With Your Adult Children" Midweek Elective facilitated by Pastor Taylor Park Wednesdays, January 10-April 24, 6:15-8:00 p.m., C210



If you have an adult child, you know that parenting doesn't stop when a child reaches age 18. In many ways it gets more complicated. Both your heart and your head are as involved as ever, whether your child lives under your roof or barely stays in contact.

Join us in a support group format as we study this insightful book, learn from and encourage each other. We'll cover things like healthy and gracious boundaries, the difference between helping and enabling, supporting them when you don't support their choices, relating to their significant other, living with a broken heart and much more.

Please purchase the book through *Amazon* or other retailer prior to the class beginning. A study/discussion guide will be provided.

### WORSHIP

#### A Christmas Festival of **Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, December 10 9:00 and 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary International Brunch 10:20 a.m., Fellowship Hall



"Prepare Him Room" is presented by the Worship Choir, orchestra, soloists, and readers. As the hymn "Joy to the World" says, "Let earth receive her king, let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing!" Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join us. Childcare is available for those 2 and under.

#### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** with Childrens Choir & Nativity Sunday, December 24

5:00 p.m., Sanctuary



Come worship with us! We will have special music, congregational singing, and a message from Pastor Taylor Park.

#### **Baptism**

Sunday, January 21, 10:45 a.m. Our next regularly scheduled baptism is January 21. If you are interested in being baptized then, please apply by December 31 at www.firstevan.org/



baptismapplication.



Ronan Powers was baptized on November 26: www.firstevan.org/baptisms.

#### **Pulpit Preview**

View all recorded sermon messages at www.firstevan.org/sermons.

DEC 3 Pradip

DEC 10 Taylor Park DEC 17 Ronnie Stevens

**DEC 24 Taylor Park** 

**DEC 31** Seth Stevens

## FEC KIDS

#### FEC Kids Midweek

Wednesdays, January 10-April 24, 6:15-7:30/8:00 p.m. K-5th grade, Gym | PreK & Younger, C-wing & Nursery FEC Kids Midweek programming offers a variety of age-appropriate activities for children ages birth through 5th grade. Ages 0-2 will attend childcare with Mrs. Angel, who will teach through the attributes of God as seen in each week's **Gospel Project** lesson. Ages 3-5 will go on a learning adventure with Cubbie the puppet, who will be studying and memorizing New City <u>Catechism</u>. Kindergarten through 5th grade will continue Awana programming with Mrs. Kelley and her team of Awana leaders. New students welcome! Come join the fun. www.firstevan.org/kids-live





#### DECEMBER IN FEC KIDS

This year, the children are practicing **Jesus**, **Joy of the Highest Heaven** by Keith and Kristyn Getty from their album Getty Kids Hymnal: Family Carol Sing. We will sing for the congregation during the annual Children's Nativity at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Our practice time is from 10:15–10:30 a.m. each Sunday during Sunday School.

- DEC 3 Regular Children's Programming "Jesus is our Perfect Prophet" (Deuteronomy 18)
- DEC 10 A Christmas Festival of Lessons & Carols Services 9:00 and 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary No Sunday School. Childcare for ages 2 and under.

Age 3 & older worship with family!

DEC 13 Emmanuel: A Live Nativity Event 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall & Gym Families will enjoy a pizza dinner, fun crafts and treats, and a visit from a very surprised shepherd with an amazing story to tell! Come and see!



DEC 21 Pizza & Practice\*

10:00 a.m., Chapel & Sanctuary \*Rehearsal for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, followed by a casual lunch for moms & kids (on the playground if weather allows!)

**DEC 24 Christmas Eve Service** 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

> No Sunday School. Childcare for ages 2 and under. Age 3 & older worship with family!

#### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** with Children's Choir & Nativity

5:00 p.m.\*, Sanctuary Family Service - No childcare. \*Children arrive at 4:00 p.m. to dress up prepare for their song!

**DEC 31 Family Worship Service** 

10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

No Sunday School. Childcare for ages 2 and under.

Age 3 & older worship with family!

## **STUDENTS**

#### Thanksgiving Feast







Student Ministries had so much fun at our Thanksgiving Feast last month. We had a great time together to reflect on all this past year has brought and share moments of gratitude. We ate yummy food prepared by parents and students!

#### A Very Classy Christmas Wednesday, December 6 6:15-8:00 p.m., E202/E226

For Midweek, we will be having our annual A Very Classy Christmas. Impact will be in the Impact room, and Common Ground will be in the Common Ground room. We will have pizza and hot cocoa, games, and a white elephant gift exchange. Bring a \$5-\$10 gift. This is our annual end of the semester Midweek celebration! We can't wait to be festive and classy! Wear your Christmas best! We will resume Midweek on January 10.

# Impact and Common Ground Midweek

Wednesdays, January 10-May 1 6:15-8:00 p.m. Impact (6th-8th grade), E226 Common Ground (9th-12th gr.), E202







Students will learn how to apply Biblical truths to their lives through engaging worship and service as we connect with our local Memphis Ministry partners. Join us for community, worship, prayer and small groups as we learn to deepen our call to love our neighbors. www.firstevan.org/students

#### **SAVE THE DATES:**

# Student Ministries Lock-In Friday-Saturday, January 12-13

9:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m.
Get ready for a night full of worship,

Get ready for a night full of worship, fellowship, and so many fun activities! We will have an exciting speaker to share with us about the gospel! This is one of our biggest events of the year, and we absolutely cannot wait! Register by January 7 at <a href="https://www.first-evan.org/lock-in">www.first-evan.org/lock-in</a>.

#### IRL Weekend Friday-Sunday, March 1-3

#### Student Life Camp Monday-Friday, June 17-21

Monday-Friday, June 17-21 Orange Beach, AL

Students will be attending a weeklong conference style camp where we will be led in worship by Judd Harris and will hear from sessions speaker Matt Carter. The focus of the week will be highlighting John 8:12 where Jesus makes the bold claim that "I am the light of the world. Anyone who follows me will never walk in the darkness but will have the light of life." Students will be shown how God is a God of revival, redeeming His people and giving them purpose. If you have any questions before you register, as always, don't hesitate to reach out. Total cost of the retreat is \$600 with a \$100 deposit due at registration. Register by January 30 at www.firstevan.org/student-life-camp.

## WOMEN

#### Coffee Club

Thursday, December 14 9:30 a.m., Sweet Lala's Bakery (6150 Poplar Ave., Suite 118) Join women of all ages for fellowship and a sweet break from holiday preparations. No registration necessary.

#### Christmas 2023

Several of you contributed to a compilation of memories, resources and recipes. *Click here* to view or download the pdf from Dropbox. (Let me know if



you have any trouble.) I hope the booklet is an encouragement but I also pray that this year will be the beginning or rooting of traditions for your family to honor and share the reason Christmas is so special. – Christy

#### Heart to Heart Bible Study "The Greatest Story"

Tuesdays, January 9-April 23 9:30-11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall Wednesdays, January 10-

April 24, 6:15-8:00 p.m., Chapel

Cost: \$15

Everyone is welcome to continue or start the study this Spring. As we move into the New Testament, we'll see clearly how the Old and New Testaments-work together to tell the one story of the



Bible and how God continues to prove His everlasting love and faithfulness to all of creation, especially through the life of Jesus Christ.

We begin in January with the birth of Jesus and the Gospels, and Advent begins on Sunday, December 3. Pre-reading is not required. Online registration opens soon at <a href="https://www.firstevan.org/women">www.firstevan.org/women</a>.

# Precept Upon Precept "Galations" Bible Study

Tuesdays, January 9-February 27 6:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom
What does it mean to live under grace?
Do you have to keep the law to be a Christian? Details at <a href="https://www.firstevan.org/precept">www.firstevan.org/precept</a>. Register by January 9 by contacting Sara Butler at 901-491-0101 or <a href="mailto:sarabutler6@gmail.com">sarabutler6@gmail.com</a>.

## YOUNG ADULTS

#### **Break and Global Friends**

















Break enjoyed two events with Global Friends non-profit organization in November. At the U of M campus, Break hosted a lunch for international students. Our young adults had opportunities to engage with people from different countries, and we heard a gospel rap by a local Christian rapper, Yunomike.

Break also supported the Global Friends annual Thanksgiving dinner. It was a great night to share how Christians celebrate this holiday. We had fun around bonfires, playing games, and enjoying the food brought by Americans!

#### Christmas with Global Friends Sunday, December 17 7:00 p.m., The Sherman's House



Break and Global Friends will partner to host a Christmas party for international students in Memphis! There will be a meal, live music, and gifts! All young adults are welcome.

Please pray for boldness for our young adults as we deepen our relationships with non-believers, and pray for hearts to be open to how God wants to speak to people during this Christmas season. Contact Kassie Sanborn for the address <code>ksanborn@firstevan.org</code>.

#### Break Christmas Party Tuesday, December 19



Break, the young adult ministry, will enjoy dinner and a white elephant gift exchange. All young adults are welcome! Contact Kassie Sanborn for the address **ksanborn@firstevan.org**.

# Break Midweek Bible Study "Colossians: Grounded in the Gospel"

Wednesdays, January 10-February 14, 6:00 p.m. The Meadows' Home



What does it mean to be grounded in the gospel? Join Break young adults weekly as we study through Colossians together and find out! We'll meet at Kary and Debra Meadows' home. Contact Anies Kunda at <a href="mailto:akunda@firstevan.org">akunda@firstevan.org</a> with questions and address.

## **MEN**

#### Men's Midweek Bible Study "The Book of Acts" led by Steve Atkins Wednesdays, January 10-April 24

6:15-8:00 p.m., A121/122
Men, join us on Wednesday nights this semester as Steve Atkins, one of our Session elders, leads us on a study of the book of Acts. Acts walks us through the founding and history of the early church. What is the church really to be about? What is God's plan and intention for it? What is our mission? How did those early followers of Christ spread

the Gospel throughout the then-known

world and establish the foundation upon

which we continue to build to this day?

Men's Midweek Bible Study "Philippians, Colossians, & Philemon" led by Buddy Jones Mondays, January 29-April 29 6:30-8:00 p.m., E135 OR Wednesdays, January 31-May 1 6:30-7:30 a.m. via Zoom

These letters were written by the Apostle Paul to four New Testament churches. Paul told Timothy that the Scriptures are profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. We'll look for those four benefits each week as we study these letters. The format includes weekly study assignments, small group discussion, and lecture. Contact Buddy Jones at <a href="mailto:buddyjones0@gmail.com">buddyjones0@gmail.com</a> with questions. Register at <a href="https://www.firstevan.org/mens-bible-studies">www.firstevan.org/mens-bible-studies</a>.

Men's Fish Fry SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, January 24,, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall & Chapel

# On-Ramps to Spiritual Conversations (Men's Outreach Community Group)

Wednesdays, January 11-April 24 6:15-8:00 p.m., E111

Bringing up the gospel may feel awkward or intimidating. It doesn't have to be! Join us as we share personal experiences and discuss creative on ramps to spiritual conversations. Contact Chuck Dalton with questions or interest at <a href="mailto:chuckdalton.com">chuckdalton.com</a>.

## **OUTREACH**

#### Praise Moment: Everyday CoJourners Overflowed the Room!

"The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do." - Exodus 36:5









One hundred and twenty. This number represents 20% of First Evan's average Sunday worship attendance. It is also the number of attendees who I prayed would come to the conversational evangelism training last November. If 120 of us would invest in one person for a whole year to see him or her come to faith, we would see at least two people being baptized EVERY Sunday! So, we prayed that God would intervene against all the reasons and circumstances that would prevent our people from coming. Then He reminded me of two passages.

In Exodus 35-36, Moses calls Israel to freely contribute to the construction of the Tabernacle. The account ends with Moses preventing the people from contributing because there was an overflow. (Who wouldn't want to be a part of a building where God will meet them?) Then in Matthew 9, the eyes of two blind men are opened upon their faithful answer to Jesus' question—"Do you believe that I am able to do this?" The lesson seemed clear. Building the eternal kingdom is even greater than the Tabernacle. God stirs, moves, and brings His people. He is able. Now, do I trust that He does what He has been doing for generations?

Wow! Did God move in a mighty way! On November 18, over 225 First Evaners came together to learn from Gabor and Edina Gresz. Praise God! We learned, practiced, and prayed as a community so that we can continue to seek nonbelievers together. We took an amazing first step to seek God's heart. This is an exciting time for us because we know that when we would sow His seeds, He makes them grow! Would you pray for the laborers of His harvest? Let's keep seeing Him move, stir, and bring!

Lastly, I'd like to share an amazingly simple way to normalize evangelism in your life and believers around you. Talk about what God is doing in each other's conversations and relationships, encourage each other to continue, pray together by names, and learn together.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **Everyday CoJourner:**

Step 2 - Celebrate, Encourage, and More Equipping!

Tuesday, December 5, 7:00-8:30 p.m. via Zoom OR

Sunday, December 17, 12:15-2:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Effective disciple-makers need a community that testifies, encourages, and prays together. Details and registration at www.firstevan.org/events/cojourner2.

#### **Everyday CoJourner:**

Step 3 - Discovery Bible Study and Evangelism Planning

Saturday, January 20, Morning, Fellowship Hall

The Greszes are back to teach us how to read the Bible with interested seekers and young believers. We will also create goals and steps for our evangelism.

## **MISSIONS**

#### Who Could You Introduce to Christmas This Year?

by Marie Thompson

### International Brunch 10:20 a.m.

North America, South America, Europe, Africa, and Asia! Every Year people from these continents come to First Evan to celebrate Christmas with us. Some of them discover what Christmas is all about for the first time. For over 25 years, we have had the honor of hosting internationals at our beautiful Christmas music service and the brunch that follows. People from other countries are very curious about Christmas in the United States. Many want to have the chance to experience it for themselves.

How can they do that? You can invite them! It might be someone you work with who has lived here for years or someone who you've only recently met. People just want a personal invitation. I've been surprised at the people who have said yes! Christians, followers of other religions, and non-religious attendees all seem to have a great time. In fact, if you don't currently have an international friend but have an interest in meeting some new faces, you can join us too. It's always nice to have our international friends make new contacts.

What can they expect? The morning starts at 9:00 a.m. with the traditional First Evan music service of Lessons and Carols led by Ken Boer, our choir, and members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra. After the service, you and your international friends will go to the fellowship hall for a brunch buffet. When people have gotten their food, Hickman Ewing will ask what countries are represented and have our guests tell us how to say "Merry Christmas" in their own language. There is also a short program which has varied over the years. Mostly it's a time for you to share Christmas with your international friends and for them to meet others who can join you in extending hospitality to these special guests.

#### Global Missions Conference **SAVE THE DATE:**

February 17-18 - Antonio Muñoz February 23-25 - George Murray

## **GIVING**

#### Year-End Giving

In the month of December charitable organizations, including many which faithfully serve our Lord, will appeal to you for year-end support. Many non-profit organizations, including First Evan, receive a large portion of their budget in the month of December. We trust that if each one in our church family, including you, prays and obeys, the Lord will meet the needs of First Evan and the other ministries and missions our congregation supports. Will you pray, seeking our Lord's guidance for your year-end giving?



Gifts must be placed in the offering chests at church or delivered to the finance office by December 31, 2023, in order to be considered as charitable gifts for the 2023 tax year.

The church office will be closed December 23 -26. The finance office Wednesday-Friday, December 29 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 30 and Sunday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.



Gifts given through Venmo @fecmemphis by midnight, December 31, 2023, will be considered as charitable gifts for the 2023 tax year.



Gifts mailed to the church must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service by Sunday, December 31, 2023, in order to be considered as charitable gifts for the 2023 tax year.

If your mailing envelope is postmarked after December 31 2023, your gift will count towards 2024, not 2023, regardless of the date on your check.



If interested in making a stock donation, please call the finance office at 901-682-8452.



Gifts given online through our website: www.firstevan.org/giving or First Evan app by midnight, December 31, 2023, will be considered as charitable gifts for the 2023 tax year.

# Thanksgiving Offering A Christmas Gift for our Missionaries

Give now through December 10
There is still time to give a Christmas gift to our missionaries. Designate "Thanksgiving Offering" on your check to First Evan, or give online at www.firstevan.org/thanks.

#### **Giving Opportunities**

First Evangelical Church is thankful for the many faithful members and regular attendees who consistently give tithes and offerings to the Lord. Our Church is greatly blessed through your generosity. Although we do not pass a collection plate during worship services, there are collection boxes conveniently located at the entrances of the sanctuary to collect offerings. Checks and cash are wonderful and convenient ways to give to the ministries of First Evan, and are the primary method used for most of the gifts that we receive. Outlined below are a number of other ways you can give to First Evan that we want to bring to your attention.

**Stock Gifts** Even with the uncertainty of the stock market, many people still have stock worth more than they paid for it. A long-term appreciated stock offers two tax savings. First, you avoid capital gains tax. Second, you receive an income tax deduction based on the increased value of the stock instead of the cost basis of up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income.

**Insurance Policies** A gift of a life insurance policy you no longer need makes a perfect year-end gift. To qualify as a gift, First Evan must become the owner and beneficiary or the irrevocable beneficiary. If the policy is paid up, your tax deduction is usually the cost basis or the replacement value of the policy, whichever is less.

Charitable IRA Rollovers A qualified charitable distribution (QCD), which allows individuals over 70½ years old to donate up to \$100,000 in IRA assets directly to charity annually, without taking the distribution into taxable income is a great way to give and avoid capital gain taxes. There are certain rules on timing your gift for it to count as a 2023 contribution. We encourage you to talk to your tax advisor or the company that handles your IRA in order to ensure that your QCD gift can count towards the 2023 calendar year.

Life Income Gifts Bequests Endowment Gifts Gifts of Inventory Gifts through Wills

## PRIME TIME

#### Mission Engagement

In keeping with the service mission of Prime Time Senior Adult ministry and the First Evan mission, Prime Time Sunday School classes are engaged and involved with both Global and Local Ministry opportunities.

#### **Local Involvement:**

Abundant Life - World Relief
Bountiful Blessings - YSE
Cornerstone - CEF
Cross Generations - Arise 2 Read
Foundations - Life Choices
Pilgrim's Progress - Global Friends
Sojourners - BCA
Global Involvement:

**Abundant Life -** Wichers & Spurgeons **Bountiful Blessings -** Hoppe, Littles,

Spurgeons, and D&F

Cornerstone - Maynards, Robbins, Rutherfords, and Stephanie & Jacob Cross Generations - C&A, Gaytans, Phillips, and D&F

Foundations - Bouchards & Maynards Joint Heirs - David & Katya, Lowthers, Mans, Millers

**Life Builders:** J&J Fraziers, Dawn, & Winsteads

Pilgrim's Progress - D&V Fraziers

DECEMBER 2023					1	2
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY		
Communion 3 Pastor Search Prayer 10:00 a.m., SS & 5:00, Zoom Christmas Luncheon (Prime Time & Care) noon World Prayer Focus 4:00-6:00 p.m., Chapel Break Dinner (YA) 6:30 p.m., Allie Williams'	4 Men's Bible Study 6:30-8:00 p.m., E143	Everyday CoJourner: Step 2 7:00-8:30 p.m., Zoom	Men's Bible Study 6 6:30-7:30 a.m., Zoom ACT II Widows Christmas Luncheon 11:00 a.m., TPC Southwind A Very Classy Christmas (Students) 6:15-8:00 p.m, E202/E226	Women's Christmas Dinner 6:00-8:00 p.m., Hilton	8	Lessons & Carols 9 Rehearsal w/ Brunch 9:00 a.m12:00 p.m. Garden Gathering: Hanging of the Greens (Women) 10:00 a.m. Mary Ewing's Home
Lessons & Carols 10 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. Services No Sunday School. Childcare ages 2 & under. International Brunch 10:20 a.m., Fellowship Hall FEC Prayer Focus 5:00 p.m., Zoom Break Dinner (YA) 6:30	Council Meeting 6:15 p.m.	Church Offices & Recreation Center Closed until 2:00 p.m.	"Emmanuel: A 13 Live Nativity" (Kids) 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall and Gym Recreation Center Closed & No Midweek	14 Coffee Club (Women) 9:30 a.m., Sweet Lala's	15	16
Baptism 17 Everyday CoJourner: Step 2 12:15 p.m., F-Hall Christmas with Global Friends (YA) 7:00 p.m., The Sherman's FEC Prayer Focus 5:00 p.m., Zoom	18	Break Christmas Party (YA) 5:30 p.m., The Hensley's	The Annunciation of Advent 6:00-7:30 p.m., Chapel	21 Pizza & Practice (Kids) 10:00 a.m., Chapel/Sanctuary	22	Church Offices & Recreation Center Closed For Christmas
Christmas Eve 24 Service 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall No Sunday School Childcare ages 2 & under. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 5:00 p.m., Sanctuary Family Service - No Childcare Worship Service 2 1	25 Church Offices & Recreation Center Closed For Christmas	Church Offices & Recreation Center Closed For Christmas	No Midweek	28	29	30

Worship Service 31 For year-end giving, the finance office will be open Wednesday-Friday, December 29 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 30 and Sunday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**FRIDAY** 

**SATURDAY**