



First Baptist Church Montgomery

BEACON

BRING THEM IN...BUILD THEM UP...SEND THEM OUT

Volume 77 | Week of **December 22, 2024** | Number 51



Join the **Great Pursuit** through your generous gift today.

LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS

FBC GOAL: \$260,000
GIVEN TO DATE: \$112,935.98

MONTGOMERYFBC.ORG/GIVE

DECEMBER

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. — **Isaiah 9:6** —

First Baptist Church Montgomery
20 | SCRIPTURE
24 | MEMORY
montgomeryfbc.org/scripture

montgomeryfbc.org | info@montgomeryfbc.org | 334.834.6310

LOOKING BACK AT THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

"My husband died a year ago, and it's been so hard."

"Everything has fallen apart."

"Please pray things would turn around. Everything feels so hopeless."

"I fall so short every day. I just don't have anybody."

"I feel so alone. I feel so distant from God, and there's nobody."

Several folks drew crosses on their response cards at the Living Christmas Tree. They had tremendous loads they were carrying, and it was my joy to help connect them to and remind them of the Prince of Peace. I am so thankful that despite their tremendous challenges, they could hear a hope-filled message of rich and meaningful truth.

I cannot say THANK YOU enough to the hundreds of volunteers who made this weekend possible and successful. It takes an entire church for something like this to happen. And it's incredible to see what can happen when a whole church comes together for a singular purpose. Thousands heard the gospel and left encouraged, hopeful, recommitted, and filled with hope for the future.



I'm reminded of how badly our world needs to know the Prince of Peace. People are hurting and lonely. People so badly need the light and life of Jesus. We've got a few more opportunities to invite someone to join us. You'd be amazed how open people are to coming to church with a simple invitation!

- ▶ **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22** | 8:30 and 11:00 AM worship services alongside 9:45 AM Bible Fellowship Groups. Come back at 5:30 PM for our Christmas Communion Service.
- ▶ **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24** | Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 3:30 and 5:00 PM. Don't miss these incredibly powerful worship and preparation services.
- ▶ **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29** | Normal worship schedule (8:30 and 11:00 AM worship services with Bible Fellowship in-between).

Go ahead and plan to be in worship to start the new year. Let 2025 be a year fueled by a higher commitment to eternal efforts.

Dear church, you are
loved so deeply.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Bethea".

MARK BETHEA
Senior Pastor

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Preschool + Children's Ministries

Volunteers are needed to love our preschoolers (birth through 3-year-olds) for the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Tuesday, December 24 at 3:30 PM. If you are willing to help, contact Judy Bryant at jbryant@montgomeryfbc.org.

Mission Friends, GAs, and RAs will resume on Sunday, January 12 at 5:00 PM. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of these exciting missions groups.

Bible Drill (4th-6th grades) and Bible Buddies (1st-3rd grades) begins on Sunday, January 12 at 6:00 PM. Join us as we learn God's Word. For more information visit montgomeryfbc.org/childrens-bible-drill.

Student Ministry

Registration for Disciple Now 2025 is open! Make plans now to join us for our annual weekend discipleship event filled with worship, Bible Study, fellowship, and fun....all here in Montgomery. Register at fbmsm.com.

Missions Ministry

Looking for team members for the Hope Heals Mission Trip on June 29 through July 4, 2025. The cost is \$400, and registration is due by January 21, 2025. If you wish to participate but are unable to attend the dates listed, reach out as there may be other sessions available. For more information, contact Britt Griggs at 334.207.7148 or brittgriggs@charter.net.

FBC Foundation

Are you in need of some assistance with your will/estate plan? The FBC Foundation has a service to help you! One church

Year-End Giving

The Church Business Office is here to serve you as we approach the end of the year. All gifts must be postmarked by Tuesday, December 31 in order to go toward your 2024 giving record. If you are gifting appreciated assets, please make the business office aware of those gifts and the designation of the gifts. Contact Patti Shoemaker at 241.5181 or Gwen Keene at 241.5185 for more information.



member said this about our service: *"They guided us to cover all the bases, including our wills, setting up a trust for our grandchildren, powers of attorney, living wills, medical directives, and a charitable trust to make our final offering toward the work for the Kingdom of Christ."* If you want some coaching in this area, contact Alissa Parrish at 241.5127 or aparrish@montgomeryfbc.org.

Community Ministries

Prepare to do global missions right here at home through the teaching of English as a Second Language! God is bringing the world to us! Whether you want to join a mission team traveling overseas or help at home with a weekly English ministry, prepare with this 14-hour training and receive NAMB certification as an ESL teacher. Training dates are Friday, January 10, 2025 from 1:00 to 8:00 PM and Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at First Baptist Prattville. The cost is \$30 and covers materials and meals. To register, email your name, church, email address and cell phone to esl@fbcprattville.org by January 3. For more information, contact Larry Jenkins at 365.0606, ext. 217 or esl@fbcprattville.org.

Churchwide News + Events

Join us for a special Week of Prayer on Monday, January 6 through Friday, January 10 from 7:00 to 7:30 AM in Stakely Sanctuary. Come start off the year right by joining in this important time of corporate prayer. For more information, contact Brian Gay at 220.4402.

Parents, mark your calendar for the Family Discipleship Weekend on February 22 and 23. This discipleship event will feature Seeds Worship and Adam and Chelsea Griffin. Adam is the pastor of Eastside Community Church in Dallas, Texas, and he and Chelsea have a podcast called The Family Discipleship Podcast. The weekend costs \$45/family and includes lunch, t-shirts, and equipping resources. More information coming soon!.

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, contact Carolyn Bryan at 241.5120 or cbryan@montgomeryfbc.org.

Sympathy Extended to

- Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Byrom (Kim) in the death of his mother; Kaiden & Jameson Byrom in the death of their grandmother
- Mr. Ronald Terry in the death of his father Decker Terry

Baptist East

Sue Raybon

Crowne Healthcare

Jeanette Martin

Capitol Hill Healthcare

Terry Yarbrough · Chris Cofty

Hillview Terrace

Lillian Wilkinson

John Knox Manor Rehab

Barbara Smith

Oak Crest Health & Wellness

Robert Smith

Emory University Medical Center

Joan Whitten

DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES

Begin Sundays, January 12 and Wednesdays, January 8

For a complete list with descriptions and to register, visit

montgomeryfbc.org/discipleship

SUNDAYS

Becoming His Vessel: The Power

4:30 PM // B415 // Jo & Keith Hancock

GriefShare

4:45 PM // B416 // Ben Kelley and Barry Bledsoe

Return to Mayberry

5:00 PM // B405 // Doug & Lori Rogers

Engage: Exploring Philosophy, Christian Apologetics and the Power of the Gospel

5:00 PM // B402 // Dr. Matt Burford and Dr. Sammy Gilbreath

Love and Respect: Building Blocks

5:00 PM // B408 // Mike & Brenda Rowell

Baptist Faith and Message: Our Statement of Faith

5:00 PM // B412 // Mike Nuss & Stephen Renner

WEDNESDAYS

Divorce Care

6:00 PM // B415 // Robert Gassman

Parenting: Ownership Road

6:00 PM // B402 // Tommy McGregor

**THERE WILL BE NO BEACON PRINTED
THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 29.**

FBC FAITHFULNESS | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024
ATTENDANCE

Bible Fellowship: Enrollment 3469 | **Attendance** 1287

Weekly Attendance 1586 | **Discipleship Attendance** 389

OFFERING

Required Weekly \$136,500.00 | **Received Sunday** \$145,324.67

Required To Date \$6,825,000.00 | **Received To Date** \$6,057,425.15

Lottie Moon Offering \$112,935.98

THIS WEEK AT FBC

Visit montgomeryfbc.org for the complete calendar of events.

Sunday, December 22

- 7:45 Prayer Time *(Welcome Center)*
- 8:30 Worship Service
- 9:45 Bible Fellowship
- 10:00 Pastor's Class
- 11:00 Worship Service
- 4:15 One Heart/One Voice/Reflections
- 5:30 Christmas Communion
- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Monday, December 23

- 5:30 Men's Bible Study
- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Tuesday, December 24

- FBC OFFICES CLOSED
- 3:30 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 5:00 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Wednesday, December 25

- MERRY CHRISTMAS! | FBC Offices Closed
- NO PM SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES

- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Thursday, December 26

- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Friday, December 27

- 6:45 Friday Morning Men's Group
- 6:30 Kilby Correctional Facility Service
- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Saturday, December 28

- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Sunday, December 29

- NO PM SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES
- 7:45 Prayer Time *(Welcome Center)*
- 8:30 Worship Service
- 9:45 Bible Fellowship
- 10:00 Pastor's Class
- 11:00 Worship Service

Monday, December 30

- 5:30 Men's Bible Study
- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Tuesday, December 31

- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Wednesday, January 1

- HAPPY NEW YEAR | FBC OFFICES CLOSED
- NO PM SERVICE OR ACTIVITIES
- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Thursday, January 2

- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Friday, January 3

- 6:45 Friday Morning Men's Group
- 6:30 Kilby Correctional Facility Service
- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

Saturday, January 4

- 8:00 Daily Prayer Time *(virtual)*

IN-HOME MINISTRY MEMBER

Bill McKenzie

3801 Oak Grove Drive, Room 112
Montgomery, AL 36116



305 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36104

First Baptist Church
montgomery

FBC Livestreams

Website

montgomeryfbc.org

Facebook

@montgomeryfirstbaptist

App

First Baptist Church Montgomery

Vimeo

vimeo.com/fbcmontgomery

YouTube

First Baptist Church Montgomery

Broadcast Schedule for The Living Christmas Tree

Frazer Channel 13 *(Montgomery & Prattville)*

BrightHouse Channel 122 *(Elmore County)*

Full Hour: Sunday, 12:00 PM & 6:00 PM

Half Hour: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday,
Friday, 6:00 PM

WSFA-TV Channel 12

Half Hour: Sunday, 10:30 AM

Full Hour: 12/24, 4:00 PM

The **Beacon** (USPS #046-620) is published and printed weekly by First Baptist Church, 305 South Perry Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104-4292. Periodical postage paid at Montgomery, Alabama. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Beacon, 305 South Perry Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36104-4292.