The Purpose of FBC	For Our Guests	Volunteer House Cl	eaners Needed at 8	FBC
Accept, love and challenge people with God's truth. We help any willing person reach his or her fullest potential to become radically Christ-like. Bible Deading for the Week	 Welcome to First Baptist Church! We are so glad you have joined us this morning. Guests If you would like to receive information or a brochure on FBC and any of its ministries, please stop by the Connections Center. 	 We are looking for a few good men and women who could help with some important tasks on our campus. We need help with: Vacuuming Cleaning windows, Landscape projects, Clean tables and chairs, Dusting for cob webs and Organizing several storage rooms. 		
Bible Reading for the Week January 1-Genesis 1-3 January 2-Genesis 4-7 January 3-Genesis 8-11 January 4-Job 1-5 January 5-Job 6-9 January 6-Job 10-13 January 7-Job 14-16 January 8-Job 17-20	Also, please share any prayer or praises in the	contact the Church Office at 480-839-0926.		
	space provided on one of the orange Communication Cards located in the pew racks. Let us know how we can help you!	Financial Update General Giving Budget Plan Giving (Donations)	2022 Last Week \$ 28,355 \$ 22,652 \$ -5,703 (Shortage)	YTD (12/25) \$ 1,473,875 \$ 1,180,791 \$ -293,084 (Shortage)
	By giving to Faith Promise you help our missionaries spread the Gospel	GF Expenses	\$ 9,513	\$ 1,193,475
	of Jesus around the world!	Faith Promise Budget Plan Giving (Donations)	Last Week \$ 1,045 \$ 775	YTD (12/25) \$ 53,294 \$ 45,617
Birthdays Grace Blum (1/1) Noah Ordaz (1/2) Larry Meyer (1/3) Molly Bass (1/6) Al Fadi (1/7) Ira Walker (1/7)	Visit our Website for more information on all our ministries: http://fbc-tempe.org	FP Expenses	\$ -270 (Shortage) \$ 2,927	\$ -7,677 (Shortage) \$ 63,355
	For a complete listing of our Pastoral Staff and contact infor-	Legacy Cumulative Debt Reduction		
	mation, please visit our website at fbc-tempe.org. You may also contact the Church Office at 480-839-0926.	our long-term Leg	Last Week \$ 400	ely \$749,653.00
	Free Sermons	On February 6	5, 2018, our debt was \$	1,829,855.40.
	Want to listen to one of the sermons by Pastor Roger or one of the other FBC Pastors?	How Do I Get Connected? Do you want to meet and get to know the full-time Pastors, Children's Director, Women's Ministry Director and others? If so, you are invited to attend one of our "Welcome Lunches" as a guest of Pastor Roger and Dianna. If you would like to attend our next Welcome Lunch please contact the Church Office by calling 480-839-0926.		
	Free sermons by Pastor Roger and the other FBC Pastors are available to you on the FBC webpage at www.fbc- tempe.org.			



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Accepting, loving and challenging people with God's truth

January 1, 2023

4525 S. McClintock Drive Tempe, AZ 85282 480-839-0926 fbc-tempe.org Dr. Roger Ball, Senior Pastor

Welcome to Worship	CIRA 2022 Update	This Week at FBC	Safety and Security
9:30 am-Contemporary Worship You are Good Welcome and Announcements His Mercy Is More Praise to the Lord Communion All Glory Be to Christ Prayer Message-Pastor Matthew Downs "Truth Will Prevail"	The Center for Islamic Research and Awareness (CIRA-a full-time ministry of FBC) is excited to provide you with this financial update for the period of January-February 2022. <u>Financial Need</u> Annual Budget \$126,770.00 Giving-to-Date \$131,018.00 OVER Budget \$4,248.00 On behalf of AI Fadi, Hanane and the CIRA ministry thank you for your kind-	 Sunday, January 1 9:30 am-Contemporary Worship 9:30 am-Kid City Children's Classes 9:30 am-Adult Bible Classes 11:00 am-Alternative Contemporary Worship 11:00 am-Acoustic Praise and Worship 11:00 am-Kid City Children's Classes 11:00 am-Adult Bible Class Tuesday, January 3 Too pm-Young Singles Small Group	ty and security ty and security bag may be Thanks for y ati FBC Window Decals FBC car window decals are st for purchase. All proceeds fro to Faith Promise to support of
11:00 am-Alternative Contempo- rary Worship You Are Good	ness and your continued support. Your contributions enable them to serve HIM to advance the Gospel to Muslims	Wednesday, January 4 5:30 pm-Young Families Group	Missionaries and Short-Term Trips. If you have any questions regarding
Welcome and Announcements His Mercy Is More Praise to the Lord Communion	here and throughout the world. For more information contact Al Fadi at alfadi@CIRAInternational.com.	Thursday, January 5 9:00 am-Tot Town	these, contact David Brinn.
All Glory Be To Christ Prayer Message-Pastor Matthew Downs	Make out all checks to FBC earmarked "CIRA."		Visit our Websit
"Truth Will Prevail"	Church Plant 2022 Update	Consider These "Our real worth is what will be ours in eternity."	ministries: http://fbc-tempe.c
	The FBC Church Plant (10 minutes from FBC-Tempe) in Guadalupe (a ministry of FBC) is pleased to provide you a financial update for the period of January-February 2022.	"Charitable giving should be a spiritual, rather than an economic decision. Economically, charitable giving never pays." (Ron Blue, Christian Financial Planner)	Library News Christmas Books and DVD's are out and on the sh
	Financial Need Annual Budget \$ 150,000.00	"Looking for the reward of good works, we must wait patiently till the last day, the day of resurrection." (John Calvin, French Theologian and Reformer)	of the FBC Library! Stop by and check it

Annual Budget Giving-to-Date Under Budget

e \$ 46,831.00 \$ 103,169.00

The FBC Church Plant in Guadalupe along with Peter and Trisha Molina, would like to say thank you for your support and contributions which enable them to serve HIM and share the Gospel with the people of Guadalupe. For more information regarding the Church Plant, you can contact Peter Molina at

pmolina@fbc-tempe.org. Make out all checks to FBC earmarked "Church Plant." Reflect

A main focus for your giving should be your local church and ministry staff . . .

- I Corinthians 9:10 Christian workers should be paid by those they help. Those who do the plowing and threshing should expect some share of the harvest.
- Galatians 6:6 Those who are taught the Word of God should help their teachers by paying them.
- Deuteronomy 12:19 Be careful not to neglect the Levites (ministers) as long as you live in your land.

For the safecurity of eveur backpack or be inspected. r your cooperation! S still available from these go t our FBC m Mission ite ll our .org S shelves it out!

FBC Bible Classes

8:00 am

Messenger Class-Room 107/108 (Couples and Singles, 50's-70's)

9:30 am

Nursery-Birth through 23 Months Old Children's Classes-Kid City (2 Years through 6th Grade)

Ladies Class-Room 104 (Ladies Only)

Men's Class-Room 105 (Men Only)

Truth Seekers-Room 106 (Couples and Singles All Ages)

JHM (Junior High)-Room 207 (Junior High Ages 12-14)

HSM (High School)-Room 207 (High School Ages 14-18)

11:00 am

Nursery-Birth through 23 Months Old Children's Classes-Kid City (2 Years through 6th Grade)

The Hood-Room 107/108 (Couples and Singles All Ages)

Journeys-Room 106 (Couples and Singles All Ages)

Online Donation

Why not consider signing up for electronic giving. FBC relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give once or on a recurring basis. To give electronically, visit www.fbc-tempe.org and locate the link to the electronic giving page.

Help FBC Meet Its Budget

We appreciate your faithful giving to FBC and its ministries.

God is doing many good things at our church. Pray for the economy in America.

We need \$28,355.00 each week to meet our budget.

YTD Money Needed \$1,473,875.00 YTD Money Received \$1,180,791.00

UNDER Budget \$-293,084.00

 2022 General Fund Giving

 Received

 Budget
 Budget

 Budget
 Received

 \$1,473,875.00
 \$1,180,791.00



Sunday Lunch in the MAC

Your donations at the food line in the wood boxes help greatly to cover the cost of each meal

January 1 – No Lunch

January 8 - Beef Lasagna, Garlic Bread, Vegetables, Salad Bar and Dessert

January 15 – Chicken Chow Mein, Stir Fry Veggies, Egg Rolls, Salad Bar and Dessert

January 22 – Taco Bar, Rice and Beans, Chips and Salsa, Salad Bar and Dessert

January 29 – Traditional Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Vegetables, Salad Bar and Dessert



(Birth through

6th Grade)

Preschool and Kindergarten Bible Story: The Widow Shares Bread with Elijah Bible Point: I Can Share

> Elementary 9:30 am Bible Story: 11:00 am Bible Story:

Extraordinary Blessings / Special Needs Bible Story:

Our goal is to partner with parents in teaching children to see and experience the world through the lenses of our beliefs. Our desire is for them to have a biblical worldview instead of a secular worldview. Our worldview influences everything in our lives. We want our children to know that God's Word is the foundation for our lives and is the standard we use to judge every thought and action. Our Bible is perfect and true. If we use it as our foundation, it will guide us and change our lives.

> Kid City Prayer Request for the Week: *Pray for our Kid City teachers*...

As they serve, lead and instruct in this building.



Awana Clubs

Sunday Evenings from 5:45 to 7:15 pm 3-years-old – 6th Grade

> January 1 – New Year's Break January 8 – Club Night

> > *.*//

"TOT TOWN"



FREE New Indoor Play Area in Kid City!

Ages – Birth to 5 years old with attending parent When – First and Third Thursdays of each month from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Where – FBC Kid City Preschool

Call your friends, bring your tots and meet up with new friends for some great play time. This is an amazing NEW community space, which includes bounce houses, imagination play, doll houses, an indoor playground and more! Contact the Church Office for more information.

Men's Breakfast Saturday, January 14, 2023

7:50 to 10:00 am

You will get to:

- Meet Know Pray for Other Men
- Enjoy an Excellent Breakfast
- Join Other Men in Lifting Up Jesus
- Develop New and Lasting Friendships
- Worship
- Discover Special Events for Men

Sign-up today at the Men's Ministry Table in Skylight Hall – Don't miss it!



All Church Hike

 Date and Time – Saturday, January 7, 6:00 to 10:00 am
 Location – Bursera Loop Trail – South Mountain (Moderate – 4 Miles – 826 Feet Elevation)
 Bring: water, snacks, layers and a flashlight

Take in the morning sunrise as we hike up the south side of South Mountain. After the hike we will enjoy a bagel near a lake filled with ducks, fish and turtles.
For more information, contact Adam Bachman at 480-363-5570 or at <u>ajbachman7@hotmail.com</u>





Online Giving

Have you ever considered

using online donations to make your contributions to FBC?

Online Giving . . .

- Helps you plan your offerings as a percentage of your income (I Corinthians 16:2).
- Is easy, convenient and secure.
- Supports the ministry program at FBC, just like your plate offerings do.

Would you like to give online? Go to the FBC webpage at www.fbc-tempe.org and click on "Donations" and follow the directions. If you need assistance contact Pam Rosendale at 480-839-0926.



Serving Helpers and Cooking Helpers Needed

 Serving Help is needed in Skylight Café on Sundays at 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am – Contact Pastor

Anthony at 480-766-2394 or at the Church Office at 480-839-0926

- Serving Help is needed at Lunch in the MAC on Sundays at 12:00 pm Contact Pastor Anthony at 480-766-2394 or at the Church Office at 480-839-0926
- A Cooking Assistance is needed on Sundays for Lunch Preparation Contact Pastor Anthony at 480-766-2394 or at the Church Office at 480-839-0926
- Individuals are needed to help Wash Dishes on Sundays following Lunch – Contact Pastor Anthony at 480-766-2394 or at the Church Office at 480-839-0926



Invite Someone To Worship Family, Friends, Neighbors, Co-

Workers

Help Send a Kid to Church Camp



Would You Invest in Young Families?

We need two or three individuals to watch children for the Young Families Small Group every other Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 7:30 pm at FBC beginning in January.

YES, I would like to invest in our Young Families I can help one time each month OR I can help two times each month	`.
Name	
Email Address Tear off and place in the offering plate or contact Pastor Anthony at 480-766-2395 for more information.]



Women's Ministries helps create opportunities for women to grow in their relationship with Jesus, to make healthy and safe connections with other women of faith, and to use their God given talents to benefit the church body and the community.

Sign-up at the Women's Ministry Table to receive an email reminder on all activities and events.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Dates – January 10 – April 25 (No Spring Break) **Time** - 9:00 – 11:30 am in Room 118

We are excited to welcome back Sue Jones. She will be teaching on the *Fruit of the Spirit* ~ *Cultivating Christlike Character*. You can purchase the book on Amazon for \$7.99 or find it at your favorite Christian bookstore.

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Dates – January 19 – March 2 *Time* – 6:30 – 8:00 pm in Room 104

The Gospel on the Ground ~ Join us for another study by Kristi McLelland.

You can purchase the study book on Amazon for \$24.99 which includes video access

Mindelle Will will lead in homework discussion time, and we will learn from Kristi via her DVD series.

Feel free to bring your beverage and dinner during this fun time with friends!



Skylight Café ...

Skylight Café will be open on Sunday, January 1, for the 9:30 and 11:00 am Services



GriefShare Support Group In-Person or Online

Help and encouragement following the death of a loved one Loss of a Spouse (via Zoom)

Thursday, January 5, 6:00 – 8:00 pm Sunday, January 29, 2:00 – 4:00 pm *GriefShare Weekly Seminars* –

Sunday, February 5, through May 7 (via Zoom or in person on request) For registration information, contact Teresa Kovac at 732-319-5533 or visit www.Griefshare.org

Walk to Bethlehem Needs YOU

DISMANTLE on Monday and Tuesday, January 9 and 10, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm and store it away for another season.



LOTS of volunteers with helpful hands are needed. Bring a battery charged



drill if you have one and a pair of gloves. Lunch will be provided. Please stop by the table in the foyer area or RSVP to Pastor Roger at rb618@cox.net

if you are available to help.

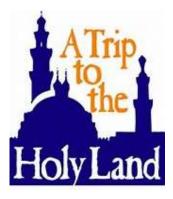
Can We Count on YOU!!

Yes, I plan to help to dismantle Walk to Bethlehem on Monday and Tuesday, January 9 and 10, from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Name _

Email Address ____

Tear off and place in the offering plate or contact Pastor Anthony at 480-766-2395 for more information.



Experience the Trip of a Lifetime . . .

Pastor Roger and Dianna would like to invite you to join them for a ten-day trip of a lifetime to the Holy Land – March 6-16, 2024.

The Holy Land is a truly unique place and the scriptures will come alive as you visit

the places you have read about in God's Word. You will visit the **Village of Nazareth**, ride on a boat on the **Sea of Galilee**, be baptized in the **Jordan River**, visit the **Mt. of Olives**, walk the streets of the **City of Jerusalem** plus visit the **Western Wailing Wall.**

Upcoming Trip to Israel March 6-16, 2024

There is no other place quite like the Holy Land in the entire universe. It is the birthplace of the Savior of the world and the only place where Jesus lived and ministered to people.

If this is something that you would like to do, please fill out the form below and drop it in the offering plate.

	Yes, I/We are interested in visiting the Holy Land with Pastor Roger and Dianna
Signed	
Telephone	Number
Email Addro	ess
	For more information tear off this form and drop it in the offering plate.

Praising God in January 2023

1. A text was received from a woman in Mindelle Will's Sunday Bible Class on Understanding the Bible. She expressed how she had the confidence and ability to share with her children and family what she believed. She no longer felt intimidated but empowered to be able to study the Bible on her own. She now has the knowledge and skills to feed herself the Word.

2. A woman attended the Women's Holiday Brunch and was partnered with a woman she did not know. Both had attended the church for years but had never met. They are now prayer partners and share similar life challenges. They have introduced each other to new friends and have formed a small community of prayer warriors.

3. A woman brought a friend the Women's Fall Retreat who had lots of questions about God. Her friend found the answers she was seeking and is now attending church and Bible studies.

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4. There are many stories of women here at FBC making connections with each other and making a deeper commitment to study God's Word which results in major life changes for themselves, developing a family legacy, and a positive witness to friends at work.

5. A man named Michael stopped by the Church Office. He lives in New Mexico but was traveling to Lake Havasu. On December 24, 2020, he lost his wife, brother, and nephew in a boating accident. He had moved to New Mexico where his family had property. A couple of months ago, he had considered suicide; however, he reached out to his pastor and was able to get professional counseling. He is in the process of traveling back to Lake Havasu via bus to visit family and to hopefully resolve some of his grieving issues during the visit. Because of the generosity of the people of FBC, we were able to provide the means to a couple of meals as he continues his travels. Please continue to pray for Michael.

6. 2022 was riddled with many challenges. However, with those challenges came an equal number of opportunities to show Christ's love to others.

7. This year two colleagues individually suffered significant financial and emotional hardships. The first colleague found herself and family in significant debt due to her husband losing his ich and only to replace it with a new position that was literally.



his job and only to replace it with a new position that was literally half the salary. This person broke in tears admitting how they continued to live as if

they had the same income. This debt as well as credit card debt has put a great deal of stress on her family. What a great opportunity God provided to show His love in being there just to listen. The family has taken full ownership of the situation and is doing all they can to honestly dig their way out. I watched her bring lunches of no more than peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and discuss how hard it is to say "No" to others. Before Christmas God blessed me with a Target gift card that I was able to return the blessing and gift to the family. They were excited and thankful indicating that they were only able to purchase one small gift for each member of the family.

8. In a very similar fashion, another colleague's husband lost his job a couple months ago. This colleague just came off maternity leave giving birth to their second son. This has been devastating not just to their financial security but more in that she has watched her husband's confidence and career be forever altered. Her husband was an orphan in Poland who was adopted in his youth by a family in America. He worked harder than others to learn the language and joined the military to serve. He is a decorated US veteran who saw death and lost fellow soldiers in the battles he fought for America, then when he finished his service, he entered law enforcement only to see his career in law enforcement end as well. God allowed me to be there, listen and talk about how He (God) is there and will provide. Multiple times she was in tears in my office, also noting that it must be Gods will and there will be a blessing in the end, but it is dark for them now. I encouraged her to stay fixed on their faith and the importance of keeping their marriage strong. God led to provide a daily devotional for men for her husband, not knowing how he was taking that gift or if he would use it. Two weeks ago, she gave me a letter from her husband and told me she has no idea what it says. The husband wrote a thank you note on how much the devotional has meant to him. My colleague said, "Her husband has never done that before." God blessed my wife and I through (FBC) with a gift card to a nice restaurant that I was able to pass on to her re-affirming the importance of marriage and encouraging her to do a date night. She was near tears in agreement and thankful saying they have been so busy surviving that it did not dawn on them that they just go out together and will absolutely use it.

9. Over the last two years I have watched numerous paralegals and secretaries in my office leave due to unprecedented times working at a law enforcement agency. It is not easy to be constantly told in the news that your work in law enforcement is not appreciated and you for working for them are deemed evil, in fact society cried out to defund. This has led to unhealthy personnel shortages putting more weight on the faithful shoulders

of those remaining. God again blessed me with an unexpected \$100 bill (from a trivia contest). What a blessing it was for me to be able to pass that on to them. It was the first time I have been able to provide something for all of them that work with me.

10. St. Francis who lived in 1182 was well known for this poem. "Lord make me an instrument of your peace when there is hatred, let me so love, for it is in giving that we receive it is in parting that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."

11. What a great tie into Proverbs 11:24 - "One person gives freely, yet gains more; another withholds what is right, only to become poor." King Solomon sadly only realized this at the end of his life how indicating how much time he wasted.

12. Ecclesiastes 1:12 – (CSB) I, the Teacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. (13) I applied my mind to examine and explore through wisdom all that is done under heaven. God has given people this miserable task to keep them occupied. (14) I have seen all the things that are done under the sun and have found everything to be futile, a pursuit of the wind.

13. Ecclesiastes 2:25 - (CSB) because who can eat and who can enjoy life apart from him? (26) For to the person who is pleasing in his sight, he gives wisdom, knowledge, and joy;

14. Pastor Anthony and his wife, Karissa, were at a local restaurant a couple weeks ago on a Friday night when the staff had tragedy strike. One young cook had a seizure and died in the restaurant. They offered to stay with the staff, to pray for them and just offer presence. The staff welcomed them (multiple by personal confession who were "not religious") and they were able to offer emergency support. April, the Regional Store Director welcomed their presence and said, "How is it that a pastor and a professional counselor would be eating dinner in our restaurant when all this took place? This didn't happen by accident."

15. One young couple in our church is about to have a baby in January. Praise God for the blessing of children. Stop and remember that every child from conception is a gift from God. Every mother is a mother from the moment of conception. Every father is a father from the moment of conception.



16. One young couple, seeking pre-marital counseling from Pastor Anthony, is learning about God's true meaning for marriage and intimacy. They have beautiful love for each other and vulnerability that leads to authentic communication and honesty. They continue to learn how a man humbly motivate a woman in a healthy way and how a woman can humbly motivate a man in a healthy way. They are preparing well for a lifelong marriage together. Pray God will bless their faithfulness to Him.

17. One family in our church is seeking pastoral guidance for help on how to respond to their daughter who told them she is in a relationship with a woman and planning to get married. Praise God they love their daughter. Praise God they are turning to the Scriptures for answers. Praise God they are turning to the church and fellow believers for help instead of isolating and feeling alone. Praise God they are understanding the Biblical instruction is for marriage between one man and one woman. God is with them and they are leaning heavily on God this season. God often uses pain and heartbreak to sanctify His children. Praise God He can bring good in spite of our sinfulness.

18. One woman in our church recently got to witness her 9-year old daughter accept Jesus as her Savior. Now her daughter is seeking baptism. God adds to His kingdom daily.

19. One homeless man came to FBC the day after Christmas because lots of stores were closed and many churches were also closed. We were able to provide him warm coffee, a plug to charge his phone, some food for breakfast, a couple gift cards for a couple more meals, and a homeless bag with basic essentials. He came with nothing but the clothes on his back and multiple people from FBC touched his life in a meaningful way because we were prepared for him that morning.

20. Many of our Christmas Shoe box gifts from our most recent Compassion Outreach event went to the country of Madagascar. Please keep praying for each child who received one of our boxes. Praise God He can build His kingdom through the shared Gospel and the gifts we give to each other.



21. Many in our church have chosen to send their kids to private Christian schools in the area to avoid some damaging immorality being displayed and taught in public schools today. These families are choosing to protect their children this way. Praise God for Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization (ACSTO) and the state of Arizona laws that allow people to make contributions to scholarship students for private school that become personal direct state tax credits towards state tax liability. This gives many church members a huge opportunity to designate their own tax dollars towards Christian education for other member's children. Many take advantage of this benefit and our children are blessed as a result.

Video and audio services and messages are being live streamed at 9:30 and 11:00 am and 6:00 pm Sundays at https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchTempe



Pastor Roger's sermons and other FBC Pastors can be heard for free on our website at www.fbc-tempe.org.

Sunday Mornings Messages

January 8 – "Wisdom and Knowledge Cannot Save" (Ezekiel 34:1-31)

Pastor Matthew Downs (8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 Worship Center) Nathan Pipe (11:00 Upper Room)

January 15 – "Restoration of the Land – In Jesus" (Ezekiel 35:1-36:15)

Pastor Anthony Whitlatch (8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 Worship Center) Nathan Pipe (11:00 Upper Room)

January 22 – "Restoration of the Holiness of God – in Jesus" (Ezekiel 36:16-38)

Pastor Anthony Whitlatch (8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 Worship Center) Nathan Pipe (11:00 Upper Room)

January 29 – "The Resurrection of the Dead – In Jesus" (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

Pastor Anthony Whitlatch (8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 Worship Center) Nathan Pipe (11:00 Upper Room)

Sunday Evening Messages

January 1 – No PM Service

January 8 – "Faithful – Always Faithful" (Romans 3:1-4) Pastor Matthew Downs

January 15 – "Faithful – The Ends Justify the Means" (Romans 3:5-8) Pastor Matthew Downs

January 22 – "Faithful – Righteousness in the Flesh" (Romans 3:9-26) Pastor Matthew Downs

"Truth Will Prevail"

January 1, 2023 Pastor Matthew Downs

Ezekiel 33:21 – Now in the twelfth year of our exile, on the fifth of the tenth money, the refugees from Jerusalem came to me, saying, "The city has been taken."

Ezekiel 33:22 – Now the hand of the Lord had been upon me in the evening, before the refugees came. And He opened my mouth at the time they came to me in the morning; so my mouth was opened and I was no longer speechless.

Ezekiel 33:23 – Then the word of the Lord came to me saying,

Ezekiel 33:24 – "Son of man, they who live in these waste places in the land of Israel are saying, 'Abraham was only one, yet he possessed the land; so to us who are many the land has been given as a possession.' Ezekiel 33:25 – "Therefore say to them, 'Thus the Lord God, "You eat meat with the blood in it, lift up your eyes to your idols as you shed blood. Should you then possess the land?

Ezekiel 33:26 – "You rely on your sword, you commit abominations and each of you defiles his neighbor's wife. Should you then possess the land?"

Ezekiel 33:27 – "Thus you shall say to them, 'Thus says the Lord God, "As I live, surely those who are in the waste places will fall by the sword, and whoever is in the open field I will give to the beasts to be devoured, and those who are in the strongholds and in the caves will die of pestilence.

Ezekiel 33:28 – "I will make the land a desolation and a waste, and the pride of her power will cease; and the mountains of Israel will be desolate so that no one will pass through.

Ezekiel 33:29 – "Then they will know that I am the Lord, when I make the land a desolation and a waste because of all their abominations which they have committed."

Ezekiel 33:30 – "But as for you, son of man, your fellow citizens who talk about you by the walls and in the doorways of the houses, speak to one another, each to his brother, saying, 'Come now and hear what the message is which comes forth from the Lord.'

Ezekiel 33:31 – They come to you as people come, and sit before you as My people and hear your words, but they do not do them, for they do the lustful desires expressed by their mouth, and their heart goes after their gain.

Ezekiel 33:32 – "Behold, you are to them like a sensual song by one who has a beautiful voice and plays well on am instrument; for they hear your words but they do not practice them.

Ezekiel 33:33 – "So when it comes to pass – as surely it will – then they will know that a prophet has been in their midst."