

### The Purpose of 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 Reading for the Week

November 26—Acts 17:1-18:18  
November 27—1 Thess 1-5,  
2 Thess 1-3  
November 28—Acts 18:19-19:41  
November 29—1 Corinthians 1-4  
November 30—1 Corinthians 5-8  
December 1—1 Corinthians 9-11  
December 2—1 Corinthians 12-14  
December 3—1 Corinthians 15-16

### Birthdays

Ava Garcia—11/26  
Rebecca Linton—11/26  
John Becker—11/27  
Carol Becker—11/29  
Emilia Lozano—11/29  
Brandon Nicholson—11/29  
Travis Bader—12/1  
Kevin Paschke—12/1  
Sheila Jording—12/2  
Keith Branin—12/3  
Tony Martin—12/3

### For Our Guests . . .

**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.

**Also, please share any prayer or praises** in the space provided on one of the orange Communication Cards located in the pew racks. Let us know how we can help you!



*By giving to Faith Promise you help our missionaries spread the Gospel of Jesus around the world!*

**Visit our Website for more information on all our ministries:**  
<http://fbc-tempe.org>

**For a complete listing of our Pastoral Staff and contact information, please visit our website at [fbc-tempe.org](http://fbc-tempe.org).**

**You may also contact the Church Office at 480-839-0926.**

### Free Sermons

Want to listen to one of the sermons by Pastor Roger or one of the other FBC Pastors?

Free sermons by Pastor Roger and the other FBC Pastors are available to you on the FBC webpage at [www.fbc-tempe.org](http://www.fbc-tempe.org).

### Volunteer House Cleaners Needed at FBC

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.



If you would give a few hours to help with one or more of these projects, contact the Church Office at 480-839-0926.

### Financial Update 2023

General Giving	Last Week	YTD (11/19)
Budget Plan	\$ 27,775	\$ 1,305,448
Giving (Donations)	\$ 37,130	\$ 1,060,772
	\$ 9,355 (Over)	\$ -244,676 (Shortage)
<b>GF Expenses</b>	\$ 36,118	\$ 1,038,868
<b>Faith Promise</b>	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>YTD (11/19)</b>
Budget Plan	\$ 1,089	\$ 51,184
Giving (Donations)	\$ 622	\$ 32,310
	\$ -467 (Shortage)	\$ -18,874 (Shortage)
<b>FP Expenses</b>	\$ 0	\$ 36,270

### Legacy Cumulative Debt Reduction

	Last Week	Since Jan 2019
Legacy Designated	\$ 0	\$ 552,602

Please continue to give to help reduce our long-term Legacy debt of approximately \$389,769.00  
On February 6, 2018, our debt was \$1,829,853.40.

### 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 Di-anna. If you would like to attend our next Welcome Lunch please contact the Church Office by calling 480-839-0926.



FIRST BAPTIST  
CHURCH  TEMPE

WE  
LOVE  
GOD  
PEOPLE

Accepting, loving and  
challenging people with  
God's truth

**November 26, 2023**

4525 S. McClintock Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
480-839-0926  
[fbc-tempe.org](http://fbc-tempe.org)  
Dr. Roger Ball, Managing Pastor

# Welcome to Worship

## 8:00 am-Traditional Worship

This is the Day  
Welcome and Announcements  
Count Your Blessings  
This is My Father's World  
Prayer  
Message-Al Fadi  
"Give Thanks"  
Advent Candle Lighting

## 9:30 am-Contemporary Worship

I Thank God  
Welcome and Announcements  
You've Already Won  
This is Our God  
Prayer  
Message-Al Fadi  
"Give Thanks"  
Advent Candle Lighting

## 11:00 am-Alternative Contemporary Worship

All Glory be to Christ  
Welcome and Announcements  
Angels We Have Heard on High  
O Come O Come Emmanuel  
Jesus Thank You  
Prayer  
Message—Al Fadi  
"Give Thanks"  
Advent Candle Lighting

## 6:00 pm-Evening Worship

Glorious One  
Hymn of Heaven  
Prayer  
Message—Peter Molina  
"Advent—Prophecy"

## CIRA 2023 Update

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.

### Financial Need

Annual Budget	\$ 139,447.00
Giving-to-Date	\$ 121,789.00
Under Budget	\$ 17,658.00

On behalf of Al Fadi, Hanane and the CIRA ministry thank you for your kindness and your continued support. Your contributions enable them to serve HIM to advance the Gospel to Muslims here and throughout the world. For more information contact Al Fadi at [alfadi@CIRAIInternational.com](mailto:alfadi@CIRAIInternational.com). Make out all checks to FBC earmarked "CIRA."

## Church Plant 2023 Update

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.

### Financial Need

Annual Budget	\$ 150,000.00
Giving-to-Date	\$ 46,067.00
Under Budget	\$ 103,933.00

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](mailto:pmolina@fbc-tempe.org). Make out all checks to FBC earmarked "Church Plant."

## This Week at FBC

### Sunday, November 26

8:00 am-Traditional Worship  
8:00 am-Adult Bible Class  
9:30 am—Kid City Classes  
9:30 am-Contemporary Worship  
9:30 am-Adult Bible Classes  
11:00 am—Kid City Classes  
11:00 am-Alternative Contemporary Worship  
11:00 am-Adult Bible Classes  
6:00 pm-Contemporary Worship

### Monday, November 27

7:00 pm-Parents of Addicted Loved Ones

### Wednesday, November 28

6:30 pm-Choir Rehearsal  
6:30 pm-Orchestra Rehearsal  
6:30 pm—11am Worship Team Rehearsal  
7:45 pm-Choir and Orchestra Rehearsal  
8:00 pm-9:30amWorship Team and Orchestra Rehearsal

### Thursday, November 29

5:00 pm—Youth Music Hang Out  
6:00 pm—Youth Group

### Saturday, December 2

8:00 am—All Church Hike

## Consider These

*Consistent giving facilitates consistent ministry.*

*Abundant grace brings abundant blessing and spurs abundant ministry.*

*The work of God is to be done by the people of God giving according to the will of God.*

## Reflect

**Happiness comes when we stop wailing about the troubles we have, and offer thanks for all the troubles we don't have.**

Patience strengthens the spirit, sweetens the temper, stifles anger, subdues pride, and bridles the tongue.

Romans 8:6-8 "If they plant to satisfy their sinful selves, the sinful selves will bring them ruin. But if they plant to please the Spirit, they will receive eternal life from the Spirit. We must not become tired of doing good. We will receive our harvest of eternal life at the right time if we do not give up."

## Safety and Security



For the safety and security of everyone, your backpack or bag may be inspected. Thanks for your cooperation!

## FBC Window Decals

FBC car window decals are still available for purchase. All proceeds from these go to Faith Promise to support our FBC Missionaries and Short-Term Mission Trips. If you have any questions regarding these, contact David Brinn.



**Visit our Website for more information on all our ministries:**  
<http://fbc-tempe.org>

## Library News

### New DVD's in the Library:

- ✓ "The Chosen Season 3"
- ✓ "Ben Hur"
- ✓ "Journey Toward Creation"
- ✓ "Is Genesis History?"
- ✓ "Jesus Revolution"

### New Books in the Library:

- ✓ "The Battle for the Beginning" by John MacArthur
- ✓ "Dancing Through Sorrow" by Ben Joseph
- ✓ "The Search for Significance" by Robert McGee

**Stop by and check them 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 118**  
(Ladies 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)

**Marriage Class-Room 118**  
(Engaged, newly wed, or Married forever, open to all.)  
**GriefShare-Room 104**  
**Young Adult Class-Room 217**  
(Open to ages 18-25)

## 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](http://www.fbc-tempe.org) and locate the link to the electronic giving page.

Every Donation Helps

God values and blesses your faithful giving. Read Proverbs 3:5-10.

God is doing many good things at our church. Thanks for your offerings to God.

We need \$27,766.00 each week to meet our budget.

<b>YTD Money Needed</b>
<b>\$1,305,448</b>
<b>YTD Money Received</b>
<b>\$1,060,772</b>
<b>UNDER Budget</b>
<b>\$-244,676</b>

2023 General Fund Giving



	Budget	Received
■ Series 1	\$1,305,448.00	\$1,060,772.00

Sunday Lunch in the MAC



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

- 11-26 NO LUNCH
- 12-3 NO LUNCH – Gingerbread House event (lunch for attendees only)
- 12-10 Pasta toss with Sausage, fresh tomato sauce, garlic bread, Caesar salad, salad bar and dessert.
- 12-17 teriyaki chicken with veggies, rice, spring rolls, salad bar and dessert.



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*(Birth through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade)*

## **Preschool and Kindergarten**

***Bible Story:*** I Can Share

***Bible Point:*** The Widow's Coins

## **Elementary**

***9:30 am Bible Story:*** Having a Thankful Heart

***11:00 am Bible Story:*** Having a Thankful Heart

## **Extraordinary Blessings / Special Needs**

### **Bible Story:**

The first Sunday of each month during the 9:30 and 11:00 am services, our 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders will worship with their families. These worship services are purposefully designed to introduce our 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders to worship with their families. An age appropriate Sermon Guide will be provided to help your son or daughter navigate and follow along with Pastor Anthony's sermon.

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.





## 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](http://www.fbc-tempe.org) and click on "Donations" and follow the directions. If you need assistance contact Pam Rosendale at 480-839-0926.



### \*\*\*CANDY DONATIONS WANTED\*\*\*

Bring your leftover Halloween Candy or Holiday Candy for  
Gingerbread House Decorating.  
Drop it off at Kid City Entrance Near the Café





## 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



## GriefShare Support Group

Help and encouragement following the death  
of a loved one

### ***GriefShare Weekly Seminars –***

Sunday, October 10, through December 17

For registration information, contact Teresa Kovac  
at 732-319-5533 or visit [www.Griefshare.org](http://www.Griefshare.org)



## All Church Hike

**Date and Time** – Saturday, December 2, 8:00am – 12:00pm

**Location** – Lost Ranch Ruin Train – South Mountain  
(Moderate 2.5 mile hike)

**Bring:** Water, snacks, sunscreen, layers

This trail leads to the abandoned ruins of a ranch house.

For more information, contact Adam Bachman at  
480-363-5570 or at [ajbachman7@hotmail.com](mailto:ajbachman7@hotmail.com)

Directions to trailhead: Chandler Blvd and 19<sup>th</sup> Ave.

Park along Chandler Blvd, then walk to the trailhead.



## Women's Ministry Events

### 2024 Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study Connections *Bible Study*

**Date, Time, Location** – January 9 – April 9, 2024: 9:30 am, Rooms 107-108

**Study Topic to be Determined**

### Thursday Evening Women's Bible Study

**Bible Study** – "Life and Ministry of the Messiah" – Learning the Faith of Jesus

**Date, Time and Location** – January 11 – March 21, 2024

6:30 pm, Room 104, Study Book - \$13.00

Join us in this study to understand the world in which Jesus lived. We will journey back to the time of Jesus. Discover how the events of Jesus' day impacted His life, ministry and communication. DVD filmed in Israel.



### Christmas Tea Party

Tuesday, December 12

9:30am – Noon, Room 107-108

**Join us in celebrating Advent!**

Signup to bring a holiday potluck item at the Women's Ministry table.

Must RSVP by December 10. All Women are welcome!

**For more information and to sign-up for any of these events, stop by the Women's Ministry Table!**



1 Thessalonians 4:3-4,6 "Always be joyful. Pray continually, and give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in Christ Jesus."



## Let's Help Families in Need this Upcoming Holiday Season

There are families in our church who face many "monthly painful challenges." Hardship has become a way of life for these families. But all of these families serve God with a smile among us. They work hard.

They purpose to pay their bills on time. Lazy, no. No scams here. But no savings. Some families are younger. Some are older. Red, yellow, black and white and they all need some help during the holidays. Some families struggle every month to make medical payments on major medical expenses. Some families work part-time as they constantly look for full-time employment. From big families to families of one. Some face the loss of their rental home and some contemplate being homeless. Some live paycheck to paycheck on part-time wages. Some walk or ride the bus. Some families have one car. Some have no insurance.

We would like to help 20 low income families in our church with some extra money at Thanksgiving or at Christmas. If you know of a family who is facing some special needs, please contact Pastor and give him your recommendation.

Starting now and until Christmas, please give a check marked "Helping at Thanksgiving". Pray and give. The last opportunity to give to this is at our two Christmas Eve Services on Sunday, December 24, at 4:00, 6:00 pm.



### Can you **HELP** the homeless?

*Dinner on the Hill Homeless Ministry*

is collecting items to give to homeless people.

#### Items Needed:

- SOCKS (new) – Any type adult sock (tube socks are best!)
- Shoes – warm & comfortable (men's and women's)
- Jackets/Coats, Sweat Shirts, Sweaters
- Blankets (throw size)

There will be boxes set up to collect donations in the hallway across from the café. The ministry will be feeding 130 people and handing out items. Donations need to be in by December 12. If you have any questions contact David Brinn at 480-466-3481 or Pat Mitchell at 480-223-2408





# A Christmas Tradition

## Candle One Equals Prophecy

### (First Week of Advent)

#### Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14

Prophecy is the foretelling of future events. God has used many people as His prophets to communicate His intentions and promises. God Himself gave the first prophecy of a Savior that is recorded in the Book of Genesis – the promised offspring of the woman who would crush the head of the serpent (Satan) was ultimately fulfilled in the person of Christ. This promise of a Savior was given thousands of years ago and was never forgotten by the One who gave it.

Daniel, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Zachariah and other Old Testament prophets all spoke of the coming Messiah. In the New Testament, we see that John the Baptist was God's prophetic voice announcing the coming of "the One that takes away the sins of the world."

It is sometimes difficult to keep promises that we make. That is part of being human. But isn't it wonderful to know that we have a God who never forgets His promises and always follows through on fulfillment.

## FBC Tempe Community Nativity Display



To help celebrate the Christmas season, we're asking our FBC Tempe Church community to consider loaning us one of your family's nativities to display in the church lobby. Whether it's a set from an international destination or a store-bought set or sculpture that shares the real reason for the Season, we'd love to display them as a group and share them with the FBC family.

The collection will be available for viewing Sunday, December 3 – Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup> before and after services.



If you would like to take part in this FBC family display please register by using the QR code, signing up in the lobby or by going on line at

<https://forms.gle/bidYgwBUFV4dR9ai9>

If you have any questions, please contact Aly Lemmons at [aklemons2@gmail.com](mailto:aklemons2@gmail.com) or text/call 480-415-7898.



## Help FBC With Your Year-End Donations

***Help FBC reduce the deficit, pay our bills and reach our budget goal. You can give through online giving, through your local bank or by writing a check and placing it in the offering plate on Sunday. Your year-end giving is greatly appreciated.***

To be able to declare your end-of-year gifts for 2023, and in accordance with IRS rules:

1. All checks need to be dated no later than December 31, 2023,
2. If hand carried to FBC, your gifts need to be in the church's possession on or before 1:00 pm on Sunday, December 31, 2023,
3. If sent through the mail, your gifts need to be postmarked no later than December 31, 2023 and
4. If you use online giving your gifts must be dated no later than December 31, 2023.



### **3 High School students are STEPPING out in FAITH!**

**Becca Blum, Anya Sorbo & Emma Malmin**

These three high school girls have stepped out in faith and committed to go on a mission trip, next year, with Valley Christian High school.

Can you support one or all three of these girls to go do Kingdom Work around the world? God may be creating a long term missionary, or an evangelist, or a children's worker, or a women's leader in one or all of these girls. This will be a time of great discipleship for them. Will you help God work in their lives? Scan the QR code for more information and/or to support each student.



**Becca Blum**  
(Hawaii, cost \$2775)



**Anya Sorbo**  
(Hawaii, cost \$2775)



**Emma Malmin**  
(Curacao, cost \$2575)



## June 2026 Debt/Bank Loan for Worship Center, Music Center and Kid City



Originally the Loan was \$1,829,853.44 in November 2016  
The Loan is now \$389,769.00 as of November 19, 2023.

FBC Endowment, a support organization of First Baptist Church of Tempe, services the National Bank of Arizona loan out of \$13,500.00 monthly payment from the church. With an additional \$24,000.00 of contributions each year, that loan would be fully paid off in May 2026. (And by the end of that year, a secondary loan of \$110,000.00 would also be paid off.) Payments of \$13,500 per month (\$162,000.00) can then be used to support other ministries of the church!

***Amazing! Help Pay down the debt.  
Make your donation to FBC, earmarked "Legacy"***

James 2:15-17 "The people asked John, "Then what should we do?"  
John answered, "If you have two shirts, share with the person who does not have one. If you have food, share that also."



## HELP Needed in Skylight Café!

Skylight Café is still in need of more volunteers! Come and be a part of this exceptional ministry!

☐ I would like more information on working in Skylight Café!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please tear off and place in Offering Plate!**



# CHRISTMAS @ FBC

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3**

**AM SERMON - "NAME OF GOD – WONDERFUL  
COUNSELOR" (8:00, 9:30 AND 11:00 AM)**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY GINGERBREAD HOUSE EVENT  
AT 12:00 NOON IN THE MAC.**

**PM SERMON – "ADVENT -BETHLEHEM" (6:00 PM)**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

**AM SERMON - "NAME OF GOD – MIGHTY GOD"  
(8:00, 9:30 AND 11:00 AM)**

**PM – "BEHOLD", CHRISTMAS CONCERT (6:00 PM)**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17**

**AM SERMON - "NAME OF GOD – EVERLASTING FATHER"  
(8:00, 9:30 AND 11:00 AM)**

**PM SERMON – "ADVENT – ANGEL" (6:00 PM)**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24**

**★ ONLY ONE MORNING SERVICE AT 11AM  
"WORSHIPPING THE KING"**

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE-LIGHTING FAMILY SERVICES  
"NAME OF GOD – PRINCE OF PEACE"  
(4:00 AND 6:00 PM)**

**THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL GIFT FOR ALL CHILDREN**



## Christmas To Do List

Bruce Baird heads up our Angel Tree event each year and needs YOUR help to complete the to-do list!

- ✓ 10/16: Receive Participation forms
- ✓ 10/23: Send Caregiver letters
- ✓ 10/30: Call caregivers
- ✓ 11/1: Generate Spreadsheet
- ✓ 11/4: Fill out Angel tags
- ✓ 11/9: Set up Christmas Trees
- ✓ 11/12: Register donors
- ✓ 11/19: Register donors/Receive gifts
- 11/26: Register donors/Receive gifts
- 12/3: Receive gifts
- 12/9: Examine, organize and bag gifts
- 12/16: Deliver gifts



Early January 2024: Send letters to incarcerated parent and send report to AngelTree.

Will you pray?? **CAN YOU HELP??** Contact Bruce at [brucerobertbaird@gmail.com](mailto:brucerobertbaird@gmail.com)





## Your **HELP** is Needed on Christmas Eve

For our Christmas Eve Receptions in the Quad we need hosts, servers and individuals to help with clean-up. This is your opportunity to love people on Christmas Eve before

and after the 4:00 and 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Services.

- From 3:30 to 4:00 pm we need 10 greeters
- From 5:30 to 6:00 pm we need 10 greeters
- From 5:00 to 6:00 pm we need 8 more individuals
- From 6:00 to 7:00 pm we need 10 more individuals
- From 7:00 to 8:00 pm we need 10 more individuals
- From 8:00 to 9:00 pm we need 8 more individuals

If you can help make Christmas Eve special for those people attending our Candlelight Services, please tear off the form below and place it in the offering plate or stop by the Christmas Eve Table in Skylight Hall to sign-up to help at this special event.

\*\*\*\*\*

**YES, I would be willing to host and serve for the FBC Christmas Eve Reception**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> From 3:30 to 4:00 pm (greeter) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> From 5:30 to 6:00 pm (greeter) |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> From 5:00 to 6:00 pm           | <input type="checkbox"/> From 7:00 to 8:00 pm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> From 6:00 to 7:00 pm           | <input type="checkbox"/> From 8:00 to 9:00 pm |

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

## November 2023 God Stories

Hebrews 6:10, "God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered

and in still ministering to the saints."

Below is a small sample of those serving God at FBCT.

1. **Sunday, October 8 we welcomed 16 new members** to FBC (Tom & Sheriess Croke, Jacqueline Kottwitz, Scott Sheehan, Jennifer Harris, LeeAnne Williams, Abby & Charles Waterland, Emma Frisbie, Jerry Kyeremateng, Al Beahm, Clifford and Adina Garcia, Mark Hemingway, Deanna & Jon Murray, and James & Susan Roberts)! One of the new members said she has never joined a church before, but when she came to FBC Tempe she was surprised how many people greeted her. She felt so welcome that she wanted to come back. Praise God for the many members welcoming new people to FBC and praise God for 16 new members committing to mutually invest and be invested in at FBC.
2. **Smell the coffee and donuts!** Our SkyLight Cafe is run completely by volunteers. They do it all: pick up supplies, make the coffee, sell yummy things, cleanup and decorate. Paulina Harner, a volunteer, leads over twenty-five volunteers in this ministry. Please make sure you stop by and thank them for their service. You, too, can serve in the cafe. Talk to Paulina.
3. **FBC-Tempe is blessed by Gary Maack!** Gary, who in the past worked closely with Pam Rosendale on the FBC-Tempe financial records, stepped in at a moments notice to fill an unexpected need. Gary has spent many volunteer hours keeping our financial records updated and running smoothly. Thank you, Gary! Please give Gary a big thank you when you see him!

You, too, can invest your time and gifts at FBCT.

Call 480-839-0926 and volunteer.

4. **Stepping into leadership** is an exciting and challenging way to serve God. Paul Turck is the new Messenger Sunday Class President. This class is a very welcoming group of couples and singles. They have a heart of gold and it shows as they meet the physical and spiritual needs of not only their class members but also others. You might think this group was serious but they are not. They have a fun social calendar. Paul is aptly fitted for this position. He is a planner but most importantly, he is a lover of people. Please pray for Paul as he serves as President. Thanks!
5. **Volunteers come and volunteers go!** But it is sweet when someone rejoins your volunteer team. Richie Brown is home in Kid City. Richie is a trained teacher and his desire is that kids learn about Jesus and become a child of God. God has gifted Richie to relate to both kids and their parents. Richie is a valuable team member in Kid City! See Kid City Director Sharmon Steil if you would like to join Richie and the Kid City Team.
6. **Their “behind the scenes” service elevates your worship.** Our volunteer tech ministry headed by Adam Bachman provides audio and visual support for our weekly rehearsals and worship services. These gifted and dedicated volunteers make all the difference. They are our “unsung” heroes! They help create a distraction-free environment so that we can place all of our focus on what God has to say to each of us every weekend.
7. **The search for a new senior pastor begins!** Scott Blum is the lead of the team searching for FBCT’s new senior pastor. Others on the senior pastor search team are: Michael McCall, Ted Gutierrez, and Rafael Salgado. The Search Committee developed a job description for the new senior pastor and posted the opening on-line. This committee reviews all applications and resumes. They interview potential candidates. Please pray for them as they read resumes and evaluate candidates.

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45

8. **Committee to help welcome a new senior pastor.** David Brinn is the lead of the Transition Team. Other members are Aaron Will, Josiah Bender, Don Halver, and Jeff Warrick. They are busy preparing FBCT for a new senior pastor. When a new senior pastor is chosen they will help the new senior pastor integrate at FBCT and help him get to know the church family. Please pray for them as they plan for FBCT's new senior pastor.
9. **Making relationships with others is key to the Christian community. Our volunteer run Sunday lunch program encourages many to develop relationships.** Chef Ryan Barbarisi and his sidekicks James & Nina Sidabras and Chad Curry work with others to provide delicious lunches in our gym. Tom Verburg organizes volunteers to setup and tear down each week. We have over ten servers serving up the delicious meals. Be sure to thank those serving in this ministry. Or, better yet join this team of servants. Contact Pastor Anthony to volunteer.
10. **Orange bags? Orange bags encourage others!** If you enter FBC near the church office on any given Sunday at 7:45 a.m., you will see Richard Compton collecting and giving out orange bags. Richard has teamed up with the Phoenix Rescue Mission to provide relief for people in need. These orange bags are filled with the basics of life: nonperishable food, toilet paper, full size hygiene items, water, socks, etc. Richard has a servant's heart. Activate your servant's heart and fill an orange bag.
11. **They are often considered the heartbeat of our Worship Ministry ...** our Music Library Team (Laura Bachman, Barbara Keeney, Kathy Taylor and Paulina Harner) works tirelessly behind the scenes, copying, organizing, filing, and distributing music for our weekend worship teams, orchestra, bands, and choirs. This is an amazingly complex and time-consuming ministry, but they have simplified and distributed the tasks in such a way that they make it look easy. They are a fantastic team that serves each week, keeping our ministry running. We are truly thankful for every team member.

**12. Making Christmas memories for children:** FBC has two ministries creating Christmas memories for children. 1) Bruce Baird and a host of other volunteers work with Prison Fellowship in providing gifts for children whose parent(s) are incarcerated. Everyone at FBC is encouraged to get a tag from the Angel Tree and buy gifts. And, then volunteer to wrap, organize and deliver these gifts to the children. 2) Volunteers donate stuffed animals, candy, ornaments, etc. and then assemble Christmas bags for children who attend our Christmas Eve services. The theme for this year's bags is "When Love Came Down." Contact Pastor Roger to volunteer for either of these ministries.

**13. Serving With a Heart for God!** Someone recently wrote on Facebook, "I give thanks for our Kris Williamson! From the very first day that she was brought on as women's ministry director, she worked tirelessly for hours a day, every day, to ensure that we all had a retreat this year. She prayed over it, planned, requested, planned some more and prayed some more. She did this with no idea of what God had in store for us, but knowing, not just trusting, that He would do it. We are so blessed to have a woman with such love for Christ, knowledge of His word, and the ability to apply it so that we can grow in character, knowledge and relationships. Thank you Kris, for loving us."

**14. GOD Uses Pastor Al and CIRA.** Mujaahid writes, "I am from South Africa and was born a Muslim. Through the grace of God my wife and I have recently (and by that I mean only a few days ago) accepted Christianity after being touched by the Holy Spirit. I have done so after my wife showed me some of your videos on YouTube. We are still in the process watching your videos and they are really inspiring us. We have not gone to any churches yet and we are praying for our Lord Jesus to guide us on our journey. I am sure that you will be far too busy to reach out to us but I just wanted to thank you for words and videos, it has changed our lives! God bless."

You, too, can invest your time and gifts at FBCT.

Call 480-839-0926 and volunteer.





**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](http://www.fbc-tempe.org).**

## **Sunday Mornings Messages**

**November 26 – “Give Thanks”  
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)**

Al Fadi (8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 Worship Center)

**December 3 – “Name of God – Wonderful Counselor”  
(Isaiah 9:6)**

Pastor Anthony Whitlatch (8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 Worship Center)

**December 10 – “Name of God – Mighty God”  
(Isaiah 9:6)**

Pastor Anthony Whitlatch (8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 Worship Center)

**December 17 – “Name of God – Everlasting Father”  
(Isaiah 9:6)**

Pastor Anthony Whitlatch (8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 Worship Center)

**December 24 – “Worshipping the King”**

Pastor Scott Summers (11:00 ONLY Worship Center)

## **Sunday Evening Messages**

**November 26 – “Advent – Prophecy”  
(Isaiah 9:2-7) Pastor Peter Molina**

**December 3 – “Advent – Bethlehem”  
(Micah 5:2-4) Pastor Peter Molina**

**December 10 – “Behold”**

6 pm FBC Choir & Orchestra Christmas Concert & Cookie Reception

# **“Give Thanks”**

## **1 Thessalonians 5:18**

November 26, 2023

Al Fadi

In his first epistle to the believers in Thessalonica, the Apostle Paul admonishes us to live a life that is pleasing in the sight of the Lord, a life that glorifies our heavenly Father in heaven. He calls us to encourage and support the weak, to show goodness and grace to all people, and not to return evil with evil. He further encourages us to engage in constant rejoicing and ceaseless prayer, as we take every thought captive to Christ. He also calls us to offer thanks to our Heavenly Father in all circumstances, regardless of how difficult these circumstances might be. In this verse we will examine some principles that we can learn concerning why we ought to be “giving thanks to God” in all circumstances!

*“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

### **Sermon Outline**

Why should we give thanks to God in all circumstances?

#### **1. Because All Things Work Together for Good [for those who love God]**

- a. *“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” – Romans 8:28*

**2. Because God's Grace is Sufficient to Sustain Us [in all circumstances]**

*"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."  
Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me." – 2 Corinthians 12:9*

**3. Because Nothing Can Separate Us from the Love of God [in Christ]**

- a. *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Romans 8:37-39*

**4. Because God Can Support Our Prayer Life [even during trials]**

- a. *"Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." – Romans 8:26*

**5. Because Tough Circumstances are a Test [of the genuineness of our faith]**

- a. *“In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith...”* – 1 Peter 1:6-7

**Application**

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**