

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

December 3—1 Corinthians 15-16
December 4—II Corinthians 1-4
December 5—II Corinthians 5-9
December 6—II Corinthians 10-13
December 7—Romans 1-3,
Acts 20:1-3
December 8—Romans 4-7
December 9—Romans 8-10
December 10—Romans 11-13

Birthdays

Keith Branin—12/3
Tony Martin—12/3
Brian Julian—12/8
Mary Paschal—12/9
Lorraine Weimer—12/9
Dwayne Johnson—12/10
Sue Jones—12/10

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.
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.

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 (11/26)
Budget Plan	\$ 27,776	\$ 1,333,224
Giving (Donations)	\$ 12,818	\$ 1,073,590
	\$ -14,958 (Shortage)	\$ -259,634 (Shortage)
GF Expenses	\$ 4,272	\$ 1,043,140
Faith Promise	Last Week	YTD (11/26)
Budget Plan	\$ 2,178	\$ 52,273
Giving (Donations)	\$ 1,043	\$ 33,353
	\$ -1,135 (Shortage)	\$ -18,920 (Shortage)
FP Expenses	\$ 2,766	\$ 39,036

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 \$377,727
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 OF TEMPE**

**WE
LOVE
GOD
PEOPLE**

Accepting, loving and
challenging people with
God's truth

December 3, 2023

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

Welcome to Worship

8:00 am-Traditional Worship

Angels We Have Heard on High
Welcome and Announcements
Hark the Herald– Heaven Came Down
What Child is This
Prayer
Message-Pastor Anthony Whitlatch
“Wonderful Counselor”
Advent Candle Lighting

9:30 am-Contemporary Worship

Angels We Have Heard on High
Welcome and Announcements
How Great is Your Love
How Great is Our God
Prayer
Message-Pastor Anthony Whitlatch
“Wonderful Counselor”
Advent Candle Lighting

11:00 am-Alternative Contemporary Worship

Born is the King
Welcome and Announcements
O Come All Ye Faithful
Noel
Once Upon
Prayer
Message-Pastor Anthony Whitlatch
“Wonderful Counselor”
Advent Candle Lighting

6:00 pm-Evening Worship

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Above All
We Fall Down
Prayer
Message—Peter Molina
“Advent—Bethlehem”

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	\$ 126,030
Under Budget	\$ 13,417

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. 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	\$ 48,474.00
Under Budget	\$ 101,526.00

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.”

This Week at FBC

Sunday, December 3

8:00 am-Traditional Worship
8:00 am-Adult Bible Class
9:30 am-Contemporary Family Worship
9:30 am-Adult Bible Classes
11:00 am-Alternative Contemporary Family Worship
11:00 am-Adult Bible Classes
12:00 pm—Gingerbread House Event
6:00 pm-Contemporary Worship

Monday, December 4

7:00 pm-Parents of Addicted Loved Ones

Tuesday, December 5

7:00 pm—Young Singles Small Group Meets off campus

Wednesday, December 6

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, December 7

5:00 pm—Youth Music Hang Out
6:00 pm—Youth Group
7:00 pm—Finance Committee Meeting

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 form 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 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.

YTD Money Needed
\$1,333,224
YTD Money Received
\$1,073,590
UNDER Budget
\$-259,634

2023 General Fund Giving



	Budget	Received
■ Series 1	\$1,333,224.00	\$1,073,590.00

Sunday Lunch in the MAC



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

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 6th Grade)

Preschool and Kindergarten

Bible Story: Mary is given a special message

Bible Point: WOW

Elementary

9:30 am Bible Story: Family Worship Service

11:00 am Bible Story: Family Worship Service

Extraordinary Blessings / Special Needs

Bible Story:

The first Sunday of each month during the 9:30 and 11:00 am services, our 1st – 6th graders will worship with their families. These worship services are purposefully designed to introduce our 1st – 6th 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 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



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



Women's Ministry Events

2024 Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study Connections

Tuesday's, January 9 – April 9, 2024:

9:30 am, Rooms 107-108

2 Studies Offered

- 1. BOOK of JAMES** – Discover God's truth of living by faith. Learn how to discover God's truth for yourself and how to apply it to your life. This study will break out to Room 118 at 9:45am.
- 2. JOHN'S LETTERS** - Discover what qualities and beliefs are the most important aspects of the Christian faith. Learn what matters now and for eternity.

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!**



In addition to our budgeted giving to missionaries, our Faith Promise giving is trusting God to enable us to give more money to missionaries above and beyond our FBC Budget. Through Faith Promise we support more missionaries to get out the news of Jesus Christ to people worldwide. **We are trusting God to enable us to give in this way, however, our Faith Promise giving has consistently fallen 40% below in donations to our Faith Promise missionaries. In light of that, we have reduced our support by 40%.**

Please be praying about how you can support our FP missionaries. Your donation can be made out to FBCT and earmark it FP Missionaries.

Faith Promise Missionaries

Ali Abboud (CIRA)	Mark Burritt (ITMI)
Steve & Darlene Evers (ITMI)	Jim & Carolyn Fasold (GEM)
Gideons	Bob and Elena Gonzalez (GEM)
Jeff HAuse (SAM)	Kevin & Lelani Humble (WVI)
Ben & Aleyamma Joseph (MD)	Luis Matute (WO)
Bernie & Mary Miller (GEM)	Nogales Baptist Seminary (MD)
Brent & Melanie Palmer (MAF)	Nathan & Meagan Pipe
Erika Potter (Christar)	Tom & Laura Requadt (WV)
Steve & Patty Robenalt (MD)	Salvation Army
Dwight & Gwynne Shaver (Wycliffe)	Southwest CBA
Church Plant (Peter Molina)	Ryan & Shelby Webb (WO)
Cathy Wilson (Chosen People)	World Venture (JAVA)
Tempe Community Action Association	



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



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 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



A Christmas Tradition

Candle Two Equals Bethlehem (Second Week of Advent) Micah 5:2 and John 6:35

The second candle represents faith and is called "Bethlehem's Candle." Micah had foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, which is also the birthplace of King David. This candle reminds of the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem.

The old, beautiful city of Bethlehem is surrounded by barren, unproductive regions – the wilderness of the Sinai and the mountains of Moab. Bethlehem means, "the house of bread." God chose this insignificant village as the birthplace of His Son.

Bread has long been a staple food for the human race, Leavened and unleavened, it is mentioned many times in Scripture. When the Israelite slaves had to free Egypt, they ate unleavened bread that they could prepare quickly. During their wandering in the desert on the way to the Promised Land, God showered heavenly bread on their encampments: manna. During His final Passover Supper with the disciples, Jesus used bread as an illustration of Himself. He said that He was "the Bread of Life." What does this mean to us? Even as bread sustains physical life, Jesus can bring us life, strength and satisfaction when we have faith in Him.



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 24th 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 Lemmon at aklemons2@gmail.com or text/call 480-415-7898.



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



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 _____

Big Praises and Big Prayer Requests from Pastor Roger



#1. Praise God for 18 passionate missionary families signed-up to soon be in our church between Jan 21 to Feb 25. Three different missionaries, each Sunday for 6 back to back Sundays, sharing their exciting ministries in our Sunday Bible Classes and Worship Services. Together we Build God's Kingdom.

#2. Pray for increased donations to our Faith Promise Missionaries. In recent months because of reduced donations we have reduced monthly support by 40%. If donations continue to decrease we will reduce support more to our Faith Promise missionaries.

#3. Praise God for our three High School students planning to go on a mission trip in the spring of 2024. Donations are needed for Becca Blum, Anya Sorbo and Emma Malmin. You can make a check out to FBCT with the name of the student(s). You can electronically send the funds online via credit card to Valley Christian High School. Check out the bulletin insert for more details.

#4. Pray for the church nominating team as they now consider people to serve in church leadership in 2024. If you would like to nominate someone to be a church officer contact Aaron Will or the church office.



Big Praises and Big Prayer Requests from Pastor Roger

#5. Pray for the viability of our Sunday night 6 pm worship service because attendance, post-covid, has been low for many months. Give your feedback to Pastor Roger.

#6. Praise God for the meaningful Angel Tree ministry and point leader Bruce Baird plus many helpers and people willing to buy a gift for a child with an incarcerated parent.

#7. Thank you God for the missionary work of Al Fadi who recently lead Mujaahid from South Africa to Jesus for salvation.

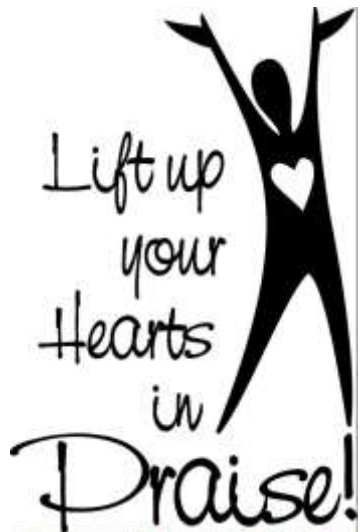
#8. Pray for meaningful growth in our Sunday morning 8 am worship service since post-covid attendance has been low. Give your feedback to Pastor Roger.

#9. Praise God as Pam Rosendale begins a gradual return a few hours a week to the church office.

#10. Praise God for the greatly improved health of Julie Huver and Pastor Anthony. Pray for David Brinn regarding his back pain surgeries.

#11. Pray for justice and peace in Israel between Hamas and Israel. Our March 2024 to Israel for over 70 of us is looking less likely. Most individuals are transferring to the March 2025 Israel trip. We have room for you in March 2025.

#12. Praise God for the 250+ volunteers who serve in our church. Approximately 150 of them attended the appreciation event held in their honor on Sunday night, November 19 – thanks to Rob, Scott and Julie for leading and hosting this event.



December 2023 God Stories

Love Came Down!

1. **Needs are being met by FBCT showing practical love.** Every year FBCT collects money to help families during Thanksgiving and Christmas. We have already helped several families! You, too, can help families this Christmas season by giving to FBC-T and earmarking the gift Christmas.
2. **God's love is seen in His character.** FBCT's missionary Ben Joseph told us to focus on God's character when facing the storms of life. God is faithful and He never changes. As you pray to God, His peace changes you. Ben wrote a book, *Dancing Through Sorrow*. Ben and his wife Aleyamma face new challenges in their life. Aleyamma is struggling with her immediate memory. Pray that God gives both of them strength, patience and peace as they walk through this new challenge. C.S. Lewis wrote, "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks to us in our conscience, but shouts in our pain. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."
3. **Love requires parents and teens respect each other.** Students and parents enjoyed a night of pizza and *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, followed by a discussion on the film's messaging. This film wrestles with the teen/parent relationship. Parents were encouraged to remind the teen who he is, how much he is loved, and how they have to trust him with his own decisions (after giving him a good foundation). Teens were encouraged to remember who they are, where they come from, who truly has their best interest at heart (their parents), and doing the right thing over what everyone else is telling them to do. Themes of honoring your parents, being truthful, and being a person of good character are biblical ethics.

4. **Faithful servant helps you worship a God who loves sacrificially.**
Sally Compton has faithfully volunteered in our Worship Ministry for many years! Weekly she serves on the piano/organ and is a regular accompanist for our choir. Many don't realize that accompanying choirs and orchestras requires a specific and distinct skill set. She dedicates her time to our weekly rehearsals, choir/orchestra retreats, and concerts. We are thrilled that Sally is a part of our team; we could not do what we do without her!
5. **FBC Students created imago dei – in the image of LOVE!**
Students attended a conference to help them to better understand what it means to be created in the image of God, imago dei. The speakers reminded students that to be an image-bearer is to have intrinsic, God-given value, and that their identity is not in their gender, sexual orientation, or anything other than who they are in Christ. They mentioned that even those outside of the faith share His image, and are therefore deserving of being treated with dignity and care, as Jesus perfectly displayed.
6. **Over 5,000 views each week on Facebook give people a midweek spiritual pick-me-up.** They view Pastor Roger's weekly Walk and Talk. And, each week there are over 900 through plays. Wow! God is blessing His Word. What began as an informal way for Pastor Roger to connect with the FBCT family during the COVID shut down has become a significant ministry. If you need a midweek spiritual pick-me-up, join Pastor Roger on Facebook Thursday mornings. Or, watch it anytime on YouTube or on the church web page, www.fbc-tempe.org. Pastor Roger is currently walking through the Book of Proverbs.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only son. that whoever believes in Him shall not perish by have eternal life."

John 3:16

7. **Love initiates commitment.** Praise God for Sam Sayegh and Sophia Matheos committing to each other in marriage in October. Their commitment to be faithful until death is a picture of the faithfulness between God and the Church. Beautiful ceremony, beautiful couple, beautiful faithfulness to God.
8. **Young Adults are drawn to love and truth.** Nine college age students showed up to the new college group upstairs at 11am on week one! Praise God for a safe place for them to find others going through a similar life stage and work together at growing in Christ. Michael McCall leads the class and they are discussing Christian beliefs.
9. **What better gift of love than giving the Word of God!**
Missionary Shelby Webb writes, "In a society where women are valued very little, let alone, own anything of significance that belongs to them, I was able to give 4 audio bibles with the Bible teaching loaded on it to these ladies! Their very own - let that sink in!!! They faithfully come to every lesson and faithfully hear God's Word being taught! I encouraged them to play the lessons at night to their children and anyone that walks by and wants to hear. God's Word continues to go forth....so thank you to those that have given specifically for Bibles, audio Bibles and glasses! YOU can know YOU are having a part in getting the gospel to the Manam people! If you aren't and would like to be a part go to www.worldoutreach.org/835."
10. **A mother's love teaches God's character to her children.** A mother of teens says, "Every day I ask my kids 2 questions:
1. What is one thing you learned today?
2. How did you see God working today?
My young teen texted me after school today and said, "I won't have time to talk to you today before your Bible study so I'm gonna answer your questions now. 1) I learned that you get threatened with detention if you're 1 minute late because you're in the bathroom and 2) I saw God work because I didn't get detention for being 1 minute late to class"

11. **Love builds community in creative ways.** Trunk or Treat on October 29 had excellent attendance of kids and adults and over 23 trunks. Praise God for building community with open trunks and a little candy.
12. **One Life One Purpose reflects God's love for us and for others!** Philippians 2:3 was the key verse for our Sunday, October 22 Compassion Day. Everyone kindergarten through 99 met together to participate in an all-church Compassion Day. All were challenged to live with one life purpose – to consider others more important than yourself. We worshipped together and served together. Our compassion project was Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Outreach. We collected 330 boxes and \$1,500 to mail the boxes for children around the world.
13. **When you love, you want people to know.** Five people declared their love for Jesus by being baptised on November 5. Susan Glendy, Ron Glendy, Kobe Garcia, Anastasia Kyetemteng, and Andy Brennan were baptized declaring their faith in the power of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
14. **How many "God loving" volunteers does it take to setup, implement and tear down Walk to Bethlehem?** Each year for the past twenty years, 60+ individuals faithfully setup the display. Another 120 people hosted WTB each Thanksgiving night to Christmas Eve night. Then, each January about 30 people dismantled the display and stored it. Each year approximately 210 volunteers were needed for Walk to Bethlehem. For years, 70+ FBC tech, orchestra and choir held Christmas concerts on Natal Circle. Others served hot chocolate and hot apple cider to concert goers. Thank you for your sacrifice. This wonderful ministry came to a conclusion in December 2022.

"We love because He first loved us." 1 John 4:19

**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

**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

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

December 10 – “Behold”
6 pm FBC Choir & Orchestra Christmas Concert & Cookie Reception

**December 17 – “Advent – Angels”
(Luke 2:8-14)** Pastor Peter Molina

“Wonderful Counselor”

Isaiah 9:6

December 3, 2023
Pastor Anthony Whitlatch

*For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. – Isaiah 9:6*

Sermon Outline

Isaiah 9 is the _____ God Will Provide His
People.

“Wonderful”

- Tip #1 – The Best place to go in the Bible to help you understand any verse are the verses _____ and the verses _____
- Tip #2 – If you can’t find an answer...the next best place to look is the _____

Isaiah 25:1 – *O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt You, I will give thanks to Your name; For You have worked wonders, Plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness*

Wonderful is God's Ability to Work Out His Plans to Perfection

Isaiah 29:14 – *Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous*

The Blessing and the Judgement of Jesus Will Be Perfectly Faithful

“Counselor”

Isaiah 41:28-29 - ²⁸ *“But when I look, there is no one, And there is no counselor among them Who, if I ask, can give an answer.*
²⁹ *“Behold, all of them are false; Their works are worthless, Their molten images are wind and emptiness.*

- A Counselor is not _____ - Truthful
- A Counselor is not _____ - Highly Valuable

- A Counselor is not an _____ - Seeking Godliness for themselves and you

God knows _____ Therefore He is able to give the _____ counsel.

How does God counsel people

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____