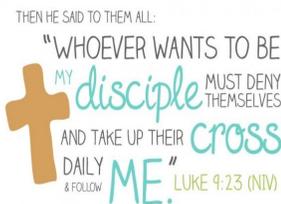


First Edition



First Baptist Church

Jesus warned his disciples that following him would cost them.



THE MOST LIFE-CHANGING NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION WON'T COME EASY

Every year at the end of December, people begin to consider the exciting possibilities for themselves in the new year ahead. Whether we've resolved to read more, run a marathon, eat healthier, keep a journal, or take up a new hobby, we're surrounded by resources and tips that promise to make our goals easy and attainable. Many Christians will set out to become more faithful followers of Jesus in 2022. It's a worthy resolution. Jesus is Lord over everything in heaven and on earth, and he wants his followers to place everything under his lordship.

In 2022 and the years to come, the resolve of every Christian should be to follow Jesus on the narrow and difficult path of discipleship. However, Jesus' words in Scripture and church history tell us the price of discipleship will be costly. In Matthew 8:19, a scribe approaches Jesus to tell him he would follow wherever Jesus would go. In the next verse, Jesus responds, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." This was Jesus' way of asking: *Have you considered the cost of following me wherever I go?*

As Jesus sends out his disciples on mission in Matthew 10, he commands them to preach the gospel in his name, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and cast out demons free of charge. Jesus says these acts would be signs that the kingdom of heaven has come through his mission. He informs his disciples of the imminent dangers they would experience as they preached the gospel of the kingdom to a hostile world (Matt. 10:16-17). Consequently, they must be as "wise as serpents and as harmless as doves" since they would suffer persecution and since many people would hate them on account of his name (Matt. 10:16-23).

Jesus states that when his disciples are persecuted in "this city," they should flee to another (Matt. 10:23, KJV), for the cities must be evangelized before the Son of Man comes. Still, Jesus encourages his disciples to neither fear nor worry about what they will say when they stand trial before hostile leaders on account of his name, because the right words will be given to them to speak (Matt. 10:19; see also Acts 4). Jesus promises that his disciples "will be saved" if they faithfully persevere in their faith until the end of the age as they suffer on the narrow and difficult path of discipleship (Matt. 10:22).

The cost of discipleship is not the same for everyone. The cost is greater and more intense in certain parts of the world than in others. Yet, following Jesus certainly comes with a cost for all who would dare to take up the cross on the narrow and difficult path. The apostle Paul makes it clear that "all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted" (2 Tim 3:12). Obedience to Jesus requires total allegiance to him and to him alone, which will cause a great divide between those who faithfully follow Jesus on this path and those who do not (Matt. 10:34-37).

All of us should ask ourselves the following questions in this new year: Have we counted the cost of faithfulness to Jesus? If so, are we willing to pay it? Only time will tell in the new year and in the years to come whether our answer is yes.

Reprinted in part from Christianity Today article by Jarvis J. Williams

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Caring & Sharing	2
Women's Ministry	2
Calendar & Birthdays	3
Missionaries	3
Life Groups	4
Future Operation Christmas Child	4

Effective January 7, 2022, the office work week will be Monday through Thursday. The office will be closed every Friday.

There will be a special Called Business Meeting Wednesday, January 19, 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. The 2022 budget revisions will be presented.



CARING AND SHARING

Focus on Missions. Attention quilters or wanna b's who would like to make a difference. Have you ever wanted to quilt, but... you have no clue where to begin, you don't have time to spare, or you don't have a sewing machine? Could it be that you need some inspiration to get started? A new group will be starting up in January, dedicated solely to mission projects. We will be working on quilts and other projects that are for others in need.



This will be a weekly get-together on **Tuesdays from 10 till noon, starting January 4th, in the Annex Building.** The only thing necessary to bring is your desire to help others, even if you don't know a thing about quilting. This can be your starting point. If you don't want to use a sewing machine, or don't know how... there will be fabric to cut, and iron... and people around who can help you along the way. Fleece or crocheted blankets can be worked on as well.

Text or call Sallie Bluff at 830-391-2344 for more information.

HELLO and HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!

Thank you, Lord, for allowing this New Year! Let us make this year extraordinary and shine our light stronger to others we encounter. We give thanks for all that you do for us and ask that the Holy Spirit urge us to stand bold and courageous against adversity and complacency. We cannot just CHECK the BOX on "Asking the Lord to come into our HEART" and get baptized, and think, now we are done; ticket to Heaven obtained! NOT! We are done when the Lord says we are done and calls us HOME!

Typically, January is a time for new ideas and resolutions. Well, after chatting with Sallie Bluff, a wonderful suggestion surfaced in our conversation. We would like to change up the Operation Christmas Child, the way our Church collects the items. We were thinking of focusing on "an item" or a couple of "items" each month. For example, in January we can collect - bar soap and face cloth. As we purchase those items, we will store them. Then the next month, we will go down the list of items and by the time we reach November we will have collected a good assortment. Each month we could just add some of these items to our regular shopping list. We will post the OCC Items for the month on the bulletin board near the Coffee Corner and in the monthly newsletter article! If you have any questions, please call Sallie Bluff @ 830.391.2344.

During my morning bible reading, I was reminded of one of Bro. Mike's sermons on "Facing the Storm" in Hebrews 12, a very timely issue. There were specific points to remember that the LORD gave us:

- "Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles." Heb 12-1 ***DROP THE WEIGHT***
- "Let us run with PERSEVERANCE." Heb 12-1 ***LET GO OF THE SIN OF UNBELIEF***
- "Fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning the shame" Heb 12-2 ***SHAME OF THE CROSS***
- "Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow **weary and lose heart.**" Heb 12-3 ***ENDURE HOSTILITY***
- "In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood" Heb 12-4 *** AVOID TEMPTATION AND RESIST***

Thank you, Bro. Mike, for that message. Please give us a rerun!!!

Wishing everyone a BLESSED NEW YEAR 2022! Share the joy with someone and pass it on!

Please remember to pray for all those on our prayer list. If you have someone on the church prayer list, please keep the Office updated. If you have any Women's Ministry ideas, please share with Sally Gaertner @ 361.290.1068 or Donna Arispe @ 210.560.9642.

In HIS Service!

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	JANUARY					1  <i>New Year's Day</i>
2  10:30 am *Shaun Murray	3	4	5	6	7	8
9  10:30 am *Lord's Supper *Bill Perry	10	11	12	13	14	15
16  10:30 am *Carter Thomas	17	18	19 <small>Special Called Business Mtg 6:30p</small>	20	21	22
23  10:30 am *Ron P. Tipton	24	25	26 <small>Life Groups</small>	27	28	29
30  *Ronald Tipton	31					

- | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 Don Voyles | 8 Stan Swahn | 20 Lenora Dickens | 28 Kathy Mills |
| 1 Dayna Deaton | 9 Tara Loeffler | 20 Linda Pipes | 29 Sarah Collins |
| 2 Thomas Detamore | 11 Paul Moss | 21 Jim Browning | 29 Daniel McKeen |
| 2 Debra Yeager | 12 Rusty Coston | 21 Cindy Mahula | 29 Kathy Sawers |
| 3 Luke Keith | 13 Travis Miller | 22 Gunter Clements | |
| 5 Tami Kensing | 14 Neysa Choate | 22 Lis Kotzur | |
| 5 Charles Sawers | 15 Grace Pierce | 22 Madeline Street | |
| 5 Harold Snowball | 16 Andy Eubanks | 22 Midge Perry | |
| 6 Joni Huber | 17 Jerrid Alfaro | 23 Paula Gorzell | |
| 6 Patsy Roberts | 17 Otto Hierholzer | 23 Jeanette Kunath | |
| 7 Caiden Gorzell | 17 Jonathan Pehl | 24 Becky Braune | |
| 7 Wanda Bodiford | 18 Shelly Boyd | 24 Skip Glenn | |
| 7 Hilda Esensee | 18 Jo Carolyn Hierholzer | 25 Melissa Bland | |
| 8 Jim Holt | 18 Mary Martinez | 26 Tiffany Gonzalez | |
| 8 Jim McWilliams | 18 Stephanie Pierce | 26 Asa Welfel | |
| 8 Harry Pehl | 19 Mary Jordan | 27 Mason Taggs | |



The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated Sunday, January 9, in both services.

Schedule of Events

Sunday

- 8:00—In-person Worship
- 9:15—Bible Study for all
- 10:30—In-person Worship and online worship through Facebook LIVE

Tuesday

- 5:30 — Choir practice
- 6:30—Bible Study Fellowship

Wednesday

- 3:30—Team Kids/Choir
- 6:30—Prayer Meeting / Youth Bible Study/

Weekly Activities

- Creative Hands—Quilting Mondays at 10:00 am
- Caring & Sharing—Quilting Tuesdays at 10:00 am
- Line Exercise Classes Mon, Tues. & Thurs. from 9:30-10:30 am
- * Deacon of the Week

We are working through the process of getting approval to enter the Philippines. We trust God is working and his timing is perfect. We will be taking Hannah to the college at Southeastern Seminary in North Carolina in early January and then will be heading to the Philippines as soon as our travel documents are approved. We will keep you updated as God unfolds his plan.

Paul and Sherry

THANK YOU FBCF!
OUR HEARTS ARE FILLED WITH JOY
and gratitude as we reflect on
YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION WORK.



paul & sherry sudolcan

First Baptist

1115 B Street
 Floresville, TX 78114
 Phone: 830-216-4946
 Fax: 830-393-3613
 E-mail: office@fbcf.org

Mike Clements, D.Min, Pastor
 830-391-2016

Terry Smith, Worship Pastor
 830-391-3362

Matt Keller, Family Pastor
 409-656-3089

Penny Smith, Office Manager

Christie Davis, Family Ministry Assistant

Rosa Beltran, Custodian



Because He First Loved Us.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!
 FIRSTBAPTISTFLORESVILLE
 WWW.FBCF.ORG

SPRING 2022 LIFE GROUPS

The Spring 2022 Life Group semester will begin Wednesday, January 26, 2022. The courses offered this semester are:

Prayer Meeting-Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving (Colossians 4:2). Prayer is foundational to the Christian faith. Let's gather with like-minded believers and see for yourself how God answers the prayers of His people. Pastor Terry leads this weekly time of intercession in the sanctuary each Wednesday evening at 6:30 pm.

The Story- The Story reveals the unfolding, grand narrative of the Scriptures. It sweeps you into the unfolding progression of Bible people and events from Genesis to Revelation, told as one grand narrative. Tom and Jean Harris lead this study via Zoom on Wednesday at 6:30 pm and Thursday at 7:00 pm. When we restart in January we will be studying Chapter 8 on January 5th - The Judges - and Chapter 7 on January 6th - The Battle of Jericho. We have room for a few more (2-3) in each class. If there is interest from at least five or more individuals, the class can be offered during the Sunday School hour. Contact Tom and Jean at tomandjean777@gmail.com or call/text to 210-842-2115.

Financial/Stewardship Class-This class will be led by Jason Talley. If you are interested, please notify the office at office@fbcf.org or 830-216-4946 so enough study materials can be ordered.

More classes will be announced as the time gets closer. Decisions were still being made at the time of publication.

Operation Christmas Child is going to be an ongoing project for the year ahead. Each month there will be a focus on a different theme for collection. By October when we are ready to have a packing party, we can fill the boxes with a well-rounded selection. There are about 5 categories of items, and each box should have a couple from each category. The number one rule or thought to keep in mind is do not donate something that you would not give to your child or grandchild. The OCC collection theme for January - Fill the pencil bags: Pencils - pencil sharpeners - pens - colored pencils - blunt point scissors - markers - erasers - other items appropriate for these 11" pencil bags. Also, please save your empty prescription bottles for an upcoming project. Questions? Send a text or call Sallie Bluff @ 830-391-2344.



BUILDING

History

Original Loan Amount:
 \$ 525,000.00

December Loan Payment:
 \$ 5,000.00

Current Loan Balance:
 \$ 59,794.76

"Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord."

Exodus 35:5a (NKJV)

FABULOUS FIFTH MEALS HAVE RETURNED!

Everyone is invited to join together on Sunday, January 30, 2022, after late worship service (no 8am svc) in the Fellowship Hall. The meal will be provided, consisting of brisket, sausage, potato salad and beans. Each family is asked to bring a dessert or bread.



online GIVING
 easy. fast. effective.

Online giving is an easy, convenient, and secure alternative to writing a check. Go to the church's web page, www.fbcf.org, or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

BUDGET-AT-A-GLANCE	Actual Giving Receipts	Required to Meet Budget
November 2021	\$ 33,300.40	\$ 59,329.67
YTD thru November 2021	\$ 553,804.86	\$ 659,959.74