



DECEMBER 2020



*"Behold, my servant whom I have chosen,  
my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.  
I will put my Spirit upon him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.  
He will not quarrel or cry aloud,  
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets;  
a bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not quench, un-  
til he brings justice to victory;  
and in his name the Gentiles will hope."  
-Matthew 12:18-21*

Christmas has always been associated with the idea and concept of hope, and rightly so. The arrival of a Holy Son into an unholy world, the birth of the Light of the World into the dark spiritual chaos of humanity. This event is not just an event filled with hope it is the embodiment of hope; the only true hope there is or ever will be. This Hope is also not for everyone, it is only for those who have trusted in Christ as their Hope. Many millions of people celebrate Christmas each year and it is a booming industry consisting of presents, decorations, meals, cookies, Hallmark Movies, and all the accoutrements that go along with it. Many businesses evaluate their success on the sales that are procured in the last six weeks of the year...they hope for a profitable Christmas. However, when all is said and done and the Lord returns, a consistent fourth quarter profit will not be the hope that they will so desperately need. Many will be hoping for a perfect Christmas; one filled with family harmony, the perfect gifts, a glorious meal, and maybe even a little light falling snow. The only problem with that expectation is that it is based upon a fallen humanity and world, and therefore is unrealistic. The hope of peace and glorious unrealized expectations will not be found in anyone else but in the "Word made flesh."

At this point you are probably saying to yourself: "This is true, and this is right." You might even through out an Amen, which would be contrary to your Midwestern stoicism and your Germanic and Dutch heritage. The only problem with your acknowledgement of the truth of what has been said, is that you and I do not live like that is true. We put our hope not in the "Hope and consolation of Israel," but rather in the things of men. So much hope is put on the shoulders of mankind and every time when he is placed into the balance he is found to be wanting. A favorite author of mine is J.C. Ryle a 19<sup>th</sup> Century Anglican minister from Liverpool, England; he put it well when he said: "The best of men are men at best." The truth of that statement is that mankind is hopelessly flawed and will ultimately always fail, even the most noble of them. If we recognize this frailty and fruitlessness of men then why in the world do, we continue to put our hope in political leaders, governments, economies, military strength, intelligence and science. There is not one of these that will be of any use to us on the Day of the Lord. All of the aforementioned false sources of hope will not hold back the wrathful hand of an Almighty God. All of their power, influence, and accomplishments will be destroyed by fire, so I would not recommend hitching my eternal soul's wagon to any of those stars.

We are creatures who are always looking for other gods to fulfill us and give us hope that we so desperately need. We are willing to ignore the Hope that is given to us through Christ for other hopes that we can see, feel, touch and promise immediate gratification. These hopes are nothing but a cheap mirage of the Hope that is eternal, real, and immensely satisfying. Is it any wonder that often in the Old Testament we are admonished to not put our hope in things like chariots, horses, and men; but rather find Hope from the source: "O LORD, the hope of Israel, all who forsake you shall be put to shame; those who turn away from you shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living water." (Isaiah 17:13)

My Christmas prayer for you and I is that the Holy Spirit will reveal to each of us the false hopes that we have replaced the true Hope with. That we will repent of "serving other gods" and put our trust and find our Hope in the Holy Word made Flesh and not in fallen man and his worthless words. Merry Christmas and A Christ-filled New Year.

*In His Name & For His Glory,  
Pastor Tim*



Just a reminder about the Prayer Pouch that is on the bulletin board. During this challenging time we are facing, we need to share our prayer needs with our brothers and sisters in Christ! Even though the ladies are not meeting together physically each week, they are still gathering in prayer in spirit in their homes. Please join them!



### Brewster Village Christmas Blessing Gift Bags.

Thank you everyone that has already donated to the Brewster Village Christmas! Your love is shown in your giving! Donation deadline has been updated to:

Sunday, December 13th.

#### Needed Items

- Candy,
- Soda,
- Individually wrapped snacks (i.e: Little Debbie's),
- Gum,
- Mints,
- Lip balms,
- Hand creams,
- Socks with grippies on the bottom,
- Hand knitted or crocheted items,
- Small toys (yo-yos, harmonicas, maracas, egg shakers, stress balls...etc),
- toothbrushes or toothpaste, fun sponges and other things



### ***Birthdays:***

19-Delaney Hoffman  
25-Carol Smith  
26-Ellen Rudzinski  
30-Katie Mlodzik



*Happy Anniversary*

### **St Joseph's Food Pantry**

Each month we will collect  
non-perishable food items.  
Place your food items on the  
table provided in the foyer.



### ***NO Evening Services***

*Sunday, December 13, 5 pm*  
*Sunday, December 27, 5 pm*



### **Praises & Prayers**

Here at FRBC, we have a prayer chain meant for  
the sharing of prayer request needs and for  
sharing praise for the awesome & mighty work  
God does in our lives. Please feel free to share  
any praise or request at our new prayer request  
email address:

**prayer@foxriverbaptist.com**

**Care to be part of the prayer chain?** Email or  
call Renee Brown (920)428-5306  
eener654@gmail.com

**Deaconess of the Month:**  
**Lynn Abitz**

### ***Usher Schedule***



**December 6**  
Kyle Tubbs & Ryan Smith  
**December 13**  
Scott Smith  
**December 20**  
Ron Van Asten & Keith Brown  
**December 27**  
Jay Hoffman & Howard Schimke

### **Financial Update**

November 1-22, 2020  
Budget needed weekly: \$ 2606.00  
Received: \$ 1814.00  
Contact Rob Mlodzik with questions.



Communion is celebrated  
the first Sunday of every  
month

If you have events and need bulletin inserts made  
please send me the information by Thursday, 9  
am, of each week, bulletins are printed Thursday  
morning

### ***Fox River Baptist Vision Statement***

*We desire that everyone who enters Fox River  
Baptist Church grow in the grace and knowledge  
of Jesus Christ and grow in authentic, loving,  
familial relationships to make the name of Christ  
known in our community and world, all for the  
glory of God and joy of all.*

# ***Advent Prayer***

God of Love,  
Your son, Jesus, is Your  
greatest gift to us.  
He is a sign of Your love.  
Help us walk in that love  
during the weeks of Advent,  
as we wait and prepare  
for His coming.  
We pray in the name of  
Jesus, our Saviour.  
Amen.



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***Office Hours:***

***Wednesday & Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon***