



THE
First Baptist Church
OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON D.C.

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | DECEMBER 2018

Love 2 In Four Acts

Advent Sermon Series



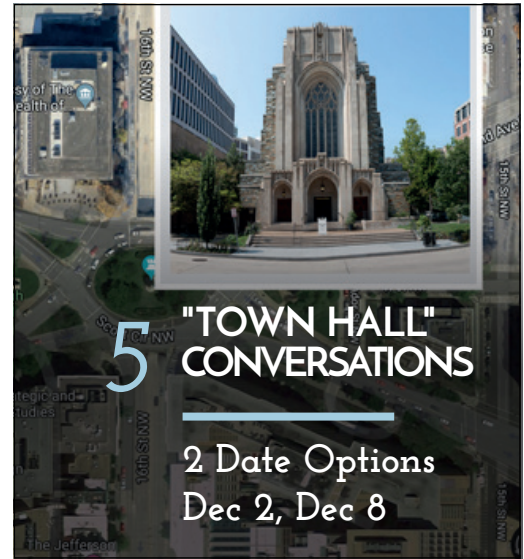
4 **BLUE CHRISTMAS
COMFORT + HOPE**

Wed., Dec. 12
7pm Sanctuary



5 **CHRISTMAS
OFFERING**

Change the World
This Christmas



5 **"TOWN HALL"
CONVERSATIONS**

2 Date Options
Dec 2, Dec 8



6 **FBC caring
CHRISTMAS
CARING
CHRISTMAS**

Wednesdays



3 **61ST ANNUAL
CANDLELIGHT CAROLS**

Sunday, December 9 @4pm

Love In Four Acts

ADVENT SERMON SERIES

December 2

The Finale

Luke 21:25-36

December 9

Act I: A Good Beginning

Genesis 1:1-5, 26-31

December 16

Act II: Evil Takes the Stage

Genesis 3:1-9

December 23

Act III: Enter the Hero

Luke 2:1-7

December 24

Christmas Eve, 4pm

Love in Plain Wrapping

Luke 2:1-20

December 30

This Curious Doorway

Luke 2:25-35

THE
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61st Annual
Christmas
Candlelight Carols

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2018

4:00 p.m.

Love Offering to benefit
Christ House, a residential medical facility for
men experiencing homelessness in D.C.



BLUE CHRISTMAS

A SERVICE OF HOPE AND COMFORT

*Are you struggling this Christmas because of loneliness, stress or grief?
This hour of hope and comfort may be the best gift you receive this year.*

You are warmly invited

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018 • 7PM

The service will be held in the Sanctuary. Come as you are.



1328 16th Street NW Washington, D.C. 20036

MISSION

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR MISSIONS

First Baptist Church can help change the world through the love of Jesus Christ by supporting global missions efforts. Give a Christmas gift for missions through The World Mission Offering of the American Baptist Churches, U.S.A., and/or the Offering for Global Missions of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. Offering envelopes in every pew starting December 2nd.

"TOWN HALL" CONVERSATIONS IN DECEMBER: TWO DATE OPTIONS

Sunday, December 2, after worship or Saturday, December 8 at 10am (Fellowship Hall)

The Facilities Improvement Team (FIT) invites the FBC family to hear and discuss the compiled results of the church-wide Questionnaire (see announcement below) in Town Hall conversations on TWO different dates in December (choose one): **Sunday, December 2**, after worship or **Saturday, December 8** at 10am, both in Fellowship Hall. Responses will be used to prepare

a written report and recommendation that will be presented to the church at our Annual Meeting on May 5, 2019. So that the FIT may prepare, **please indicate the day you plan to attend** by clicking here:

<https://www.firstbaptistdc.org/a-call-to-conversation/>

COMPLETE THE FIT QUESTIONNAIRE BY NOV. 29 (Deadline Extended)

The Facilities Improvement Team (FIT) invites you to dream big dreams about God's future for our church by completing a questionnaire by November 29. We will discuss the compiled results in "Town Hall" meetings on TWO different dates (see above.)

Click below to complete the questionnaire:

<https://www.firstbaptistdc.org/a-call-to-conversation/>

GIVE TO MISSIONS



American Baptist Churches USA
America for Christ/World Mission Offering

\$ _____



Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Offering for Global Missions

\$ _____

Name: _____ Email: _____ Total: \$ _____





WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN ADVENT

Each Wednesday night during Advent we have opportunities to serve the homeless, the grieving and the elderly. Dinner afterwards at a local restaurant. Reserve your spot for dinner by signing up online or emailing Pastor Alyssa. aaldape@firstbaptistdc.org

Wednesday, December 5th

**Organize the Donated Items for N-Street Village /
Write Christmas Notes to our Homebound Folk
(6:30-7:30pm, Fellowship Hall)**

Dinner following at **The Commissary** on P St. NW
RSVP with Pastor Alyssa

Wednesday, December 12th

**Blue Christmas Service for Those Who Grieve
(7pm, Sanctuary)**

Even if you don't feel blue during this season, your caring presence will be a gift to those who do. Greeters also needed for this service. Dinner following at **Bua Thai** on P St. NW
RSVP with Pastor Alyssa

Wednesday, December 19th

Christmas Caroling at The Residences at Thomas Circle (6:30-7:30pm)

Meet at the church at 6:30pm for the two-block walk to The Residences (1330 Mass. Ave, NW) or meet us there for the caroling which begins at 7pm. Dinner following at **City Tap House** Dupont
RSVP with Pastor Alyssa



MISSION

DONATE ITEMS FOR N STREET VILLAGE THROUGH DEC. 2



a community of empowerment
and recovery for women

During the month of November, we are holding a supply drive for N Street Village. For the past 45 years, N Street Village has been a community of empowerment and recovery for women experiencing homelessness and other vulnerabilities.

Here is a list of supplies needed:

- Deodorant (full + travel-size)
- Women's Underwear (sizes 11-14, new)
- Full Size Body Wash
- New and Gently Used Sneakers (Size 8-12)
- Washcloths (new)
- Bath Towels (new)
- Cough Drops (sugar-free)
- Poise Pads
- Maxi Pads (extra-long with wings)



We will have three drop-off bins at the church:

- The Narthex
- O Street Lobby
- 2nd Floor just outside the library

If you would like to order items and send them to the church, we will be happy to hold on to those supplies for you; please address them to Alyssa Aldape.

Then join us on December 5th as we sort and organize the donations together.

We look forward to sharing this Caring Christmas event with you!

CHRISTMAS LOVE OFFERING FOR FBC STAFF

During this season of giving, we think of our church staff who serve our church family in a spirit of faith, hope and love. It has been the custom for many years at FBC to invite the congregation to contribute to a Christmas Love Offering for our staff. You may give your gift online here ([LINK](#)) or in the form of a check or cash in an envelope, placed in the offering plate any Sunday between now and December 23 (please note on the outside of the envelope: "For Staff Love Offering"). Or simply give your gift to Life Deacons **Ellen Parkhurst** or **Steve Netcott**.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

ADVENT BEGINS DECEMBER 2ND

The Christian year, sometimes called the liturgical year, is a centuries-old way of marking time for Christ-followers in the global church. The beginning of the Christian year is Advent, the four-week season leading up to Christmas Day. "Advent" means "the coming." The spirit of Advent is a spirit of expectation and longing for the return of Christ into the world, which the Bible has promised. Advent invites us to resist the fever of a commercialized Christmas by taking hold of the simple joy of opening our lives to Jesus. At First Baptist, we suspend committee meetings and other "business" during Advent, allowing us to focus on worship, acts of service and compassion, and nurturing relationships with one another and with our neighbors.

CDC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM DEC 14TH

FBC members and friends are invited to the CDC's annual Christmas Program on Friday, December 14, beginning at 5pm in Fellowship Hall. Get in the spirit of the season as children and teachers sing and dance to favorite holiday songs.

FBC KIDS PERFORMING @ CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS - DEC 16

Get ready for an all-star performance of "The Not-So-Silent Night" at this year's Church Family Christmas on December 16th. Young shepherds joyfully shout praises after visiting the newborn Savior. How were they to know they were disturbing the peace? Watch the story develop in a Bethlehem courtroom, as performed by FBC children. The play will be performed in the Fellowship Hall after worship. A wonderful meal will be offered by Chef Laval. **Please register and pay online.** The cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for a children under 12. Thank you for supporting the Children's Ministry.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Cast members should report to Room 117 each Sunday until December 16 to rehearse The Not-So-Silent Night. Morning snacks and beverages will be provided. Plan to join Ms. Kelly, Mr. Taylor, and Ms. Charlotte on November 25 and December 2, 9, and 16 to read lines, pick out costumes, and many other play-related activities. Please contact the Children's Ministry at kmp@firstbaptistdc.org if you require a copy of the musical CD or an additional written script. Thank you!

CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS - DEC 16

After Worship in Fellowship Hall

Celebrate the season on December 16 with a Christmas feast prepared by Chef Laval, carolers from the Chancel Choir and a special theatrical/musical performance by FBC Kids (see announcement on page 8). Cost of the meal is \$10/adults; \$7/children under 12. RSVP and pay in advance **here:** (<https://goo.gl/4XMpHL>) (preferred), or email Church Administrator D'O Dillard and pay at the door (ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org). Please consider chipping in the cost of an extra meal, so we can treat our guests that day.



MORE

WINTER FORUM

Rev. Dr. Brad Braxton

SAT & SUN FEB 9-10



Rev. Dr. Brad Braxton, Director of the Center for the Study of African American Religious Life (CSAARL) and the Supervisory Curator of Religion at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Saturday: Visit to the National Museum of African American History and Culture with orientation lecture by Dr. Braxton. Lunch at the museum.

Sunday: Brad lectures during the Bible study hour and preaches in worship. Stay tuned for more information including how to RSVP for Saturday's museum visit, as there will be a limited number of spots available.

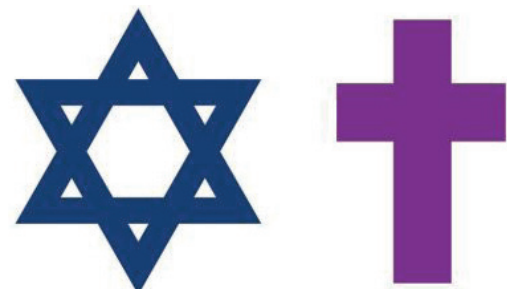
COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN THROUGH DECEMBER

Only 12 more pledges needed to meet our goal of 60

On November 18 (Gratitude Sunday), **48** individuals and families turned in commitment cards for a total **\$225,900**, with **14** commitments representing a first-time pledge. Only **12** more pledges and **\$104,100** needed to meet our goal of 60 pledges and \$330,000. **There's still time to make your commitment.** You may pledge through our website [HERE \(https://www.firstbaptistdc.org/give\)](https://www.firstbaptistdc.org/give) or with a pledge card (available in the narthex and office area).

JANUARY 2019: DEEPENING RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR JEWISH BROTHERS AND SISTERS

Four-week Sunday Morning Series begins January 13.
Taught by Charlie Reynolds (with Rabbi Marc Gopin on 1/27)
9:30-10:30am; Church Library (2nd floor)



EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 2

- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Room 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12 noon: Pot Luck Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, Dec. 4

- 6:15pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Wednesday, Dec. 5

- 6pm: Caring Christmas activity: Sorting donations for N Street Village - Dinner afterwards at The Commissary

Sunday, Dec. 9

- 7am: Serve at Christ House; Questions & Sign-up: (muller.oliver@gmail.com; mollyvyoung@hotmail.com).
- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)
- 4pm: 61st Annual Candlelight Carols (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, Dec. 11

- 6:15pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Wednesday, Dec. 12

- 7pm: Caring Christmas event: Blue Christmas service (Sanctuary) Dinner after the service at Bua Thai.

Sunday, Dec. 16

- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 12:30pm: Church Family Christmas program (Fellowship Hall). The children and youth will perform "The Not-So-Silent Christmas" under the direction of Minister Kelly. Chef Laval will cater lunch, Cost is \$10 per adult; \$7 per child 12 and under. Please make a reservation and pay online at: <https://goo.gl/4XMpHL> Contact Kelly with questions at kmp@firstbaptistdc.org
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Tuesday, Dec. 18

- 6:15pm: Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

Wednesday, Dec. 19

- 5pm: Sandwich making for Martha's Table (Fellowship Hall)
- 6pm: Dinner (Fellowship Hall; cost, \$8; RSVP to D'O Dillard at ddillard@firstbaptistdc.org).
- 7pm: Caring Christmas activity: Caroling at The Residences at Thomas Circle. Carolers will gather at FBC at 6:30pm to walk to Thomas Circle. Dinner after the singing at City Tap House Dupont.

Sunday, Dec. 23

- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Rm 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Monday, Dec. 24

- Offices and CDC Closed
- 4pm: Christmas Eve candlelight service (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, Dec. 25 through Friday, Dec. 28

- Building and CDC closed for Christmas Break



Sunday, Dec. 30

- 9:30am: Sunday Morning Bible Study for All Ages
- 10am: Chancel Choir rehearsal (Room 312)
- 11am: Worship (Sanctuary)
- 2pm: Worship in Spanish (Dawson Room)

Monday, Dec 31 and Tuesday, Jan. 1

- Building and CDC closed

Wednesday, Jan. 2

- FBC and CDC reopen; normal operating hours



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

We gather on Christmas Eve to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Join us for this beautiful hour of worship featuring special elements for children, a reading of the Christmas story, the music of pipe organ and choir, and a Christmas Eve meditation by Pastor Julie. We conclude the service with the lighting of congregational candles.



DEACONS ON-CALL: WEEK OF NOVEMBER 25:



Rose Smith

WEEK OF DECEMBER 2:



Wilma Prince

WEEK OF DECEMBER 9:



Allen Norfleet

WEEK OF DECEMBER 16:



Lilia Abron

WEEK OF DECEMBER 23:



Doug Duvall

WEEK OF DECEMBER 30:



Sadye Doxie

FBC PRAYER & CARE

Sympathy to:

- Zena Aldridge and family in the sudden death of her uncle, Arlie Hart, on Nov. 18.
- The family of Florence Czok passed away on Nov. 11 in Bedford, VA. Condolences may be sent to her niece, Barbara Duvall, at 1690 Main St., Mosheim, TN 37818

Hospitalized:

- Carol Nicholas: admitted to MedStar Montgomery Medical Center (likely through Thanksgiving)
- Gordon Richmond: now at BridgePoint Hospital (4601 MLK JR Ave., SW, Washington, DC)
- Ana Gooch: still at GW Hospital following surgery and a subsequent stroke in August

December Birthdays:

Dec. 1 Kevin Plovnick	Dec. 17 Matthew Turner
Dec. 5 Reneé Perkins	Dec. 20 Kerry McBeath
Dec. 10 Violet Bakare	Dec. 21 Tim
Dec. 10 Ann Bailey	Pennington-Russell
Dec. 11 Charlotte Straight	Dec. 27 Shane Royster
Dec. 14 Joseph Famoyegun	Dec. 29 Allen Norfleet
Dec. 14 Ana Gooch	Dec. 31 Harry Haynesworth

Don't see your birthday listed? Please email Zena at zaldridge@firstbaptistdc.org.

Church Staff

Julie Pennington-Russell

Pastor

jpr@firstbaptistdc.org

Charlie Fuller

Executive Pastor

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Alyssa Aldape

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