



A thrill of hope

FROM THE DESK OF *Pastor Trent...*

“A thrill of hope – the weary world rejoices.” Those lyrics from John S. Dwight’s beloved hymn “O Holy Night” describe the emotions of one who truly understands the implications of Immanuel – God with us. There is a lot of pressure we put on ourselves this time of year whether it is Christmas, New Year’s Day, or Valentine’s Day. We want it to be perfect. We put a lot of effort into these days to make them as grand as the picture we have in our minds. Honestly, most of the time I miss a lot of the joy due to trying to make it perfect. Instead of a thrill it tends to lead me to a place of melancholy and disappointment due to the fact I didn’t make it better. It is important for us to remember the hope of the season isn’t about us getting the perfect gift from others or for others, executing perfectly all our New Year’s resolutions, or finding the perfect way to make Valentine’s Day Special. There is “a thrill of hope” to experience but it is not found in any of those things.

The “thrill of hope” comes from God taking on flesh and coming to us. It comes from the reality that Jesus didn’t come to destroy us, as the shepherds feared (though He had every right to), but to save us. He came to give us the perfect gift that we all need and deep down we truly desire – eternal life. He came to live a perfect life we never could no matter who many resolutions we keep. He came to lavish the greatest love on us that we could ever experience. Matthew records that Jesus name reveals why we should be thrilled and have hope. Matthew 1:21 says “And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call Him JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” He is where the “thrill of hope” is found.

To help us keep our hearts and homes focused on the reason for our hope, our staff has written four devotions to use personally or with your whole family. I pray these will help your heart be filled with hope during this special time of year, and into the New Year as we continue to strive to be a faithful “Haven of Hope.”

From my family to yours – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In Jesus,
Pastor Trent

As we finish 2022 strong and celebrate our Savior's birth, let's look to the new year as an opportunity to serve the Lord and grow as disciples. Our prayer should always be that we serve in humility (**Philippians 2:3-4**). Serving in humility is an act of worship. Not one of us from the senior pastor to the newest lay person is so essential that the church will not function without us. In other words, God does not need any of us to accomplish His purposes,

but He does give us the privilege to participate in the growth of His kingdom as functioning members of the body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 12:12-31**). Paul reminded the church at Ephesus that each must serve with the right attitude: **Ephesians 5:20-21 (ESV) 20** giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, **21** submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

As we begin 2023 together, our assignment from Jesus as

believers is to serve in humility: **Mark 10:42-45 (ESV) 42** And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **43** But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, **44** and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. **45** For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give



his life as a ransom for many." Join us each week on Sundays and Wednesdays as we serve the Lord together with gladness. Invite a family member, friend, co-worker, or neighbor to one of our services or studies. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ephesians 4:1-6
Growing Together in Unity
Pastor Grady



On Wednesday nights, our children have been focusing on TeamKID:Good News. They have been on a journey through the four Gospel books, which tells them about who Jesus is and why He came. They have also been learning about infinity. What is infinity? Does it exist in space as well as time? These questions are fun to think about, but it can be hard to understand, especially for kids. When something is "to infinity," that means it goes on forever and ever. God is infinity to the future and infinity to the past. He has always existed and always will exist. This always amazes the children. It gives a whole new meaning to the phrase "to infinity and beyond!" So, what is God's plan for the rest of infinity? The children have been learning the answer to that question. They have been learning that God has prepared a place called Heaven. Heaven is "to infinity and beyond" in a lot of ways. It's a place that's far away and can only be imagined in our dreams. The Bible says there is a sea of glass, the streets shine with gold and the entry gate is made of pearl. Incredible! When Jesus comes back to get us, we will instantly leave the earth and be present in Heaven. No one really knows when or how this is all going to happen, but the Bible tells us it is definitely going to happen someday. You can be certain that the greatest day in history will be the day Jesus comes back to get all the Christians and take them to Heaven where they will live for infinity and beyond. Make sure you will be a part of the biggest event of all time. Accept His free gift of salvation and then share His love with others. By doing this, you are guaranteed a ticket to the ride of a lifetime. So, as we get closer to the new year and into 2023, keep your heart and mind focused on God, and you will be ready for "INFINITY AND BEYOND!"

Have a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ms. Leanne



Notes from the Music Stand

In the last Messenger I put in a few pictures of our FBCLH Veterans. Were you able to figure out who they were? Most of you who talked to me were pretty close in your picks. Without further ado, in the top row of pictures (left to right) it was Rick Blaich (U.S Air Force), and Lori Battig (U.S Army). Bottom row (left to right) was Chad Stone (U.S Coast Guard), and Don Teel (U.S Air Force). If you see these fine men and women around, make sure you tell them thank you for their service to our country.

Christmas and the New Year is here yet again. It sure does seem to get here faster

every year! This time back in December of 2021 we were eagerly awaiting the arrival of Pastor Trent and family's first Sunday at FBCLH. It is a great thought to know that long before that day ever happened, God had it planned out. Oh, but how many times do we worry and fret over things that we should not? I like the way the NLT states Philippians 4:6: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all He has done." I've heard it said that worry is one of the most ineffective pastimes we can indulge in. It is so draining. Jesus asked, "Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?" (Mt 6:27). I believe we know the

answer. Take heart as we read more of Philippians 4, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus...Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable...things that are excellent and worthy of praise... Then the God of peace will be with you (Php 4:6-9). I pray we let God set us free from worry and that we keep this thought as we go into Christmas, The New Year, and on.

Lastly, Crystal, I, and our family

have enjoyed the opportunity to continue to serve God's Kingdom here at First Baptist Lynn Haven. We continue to look forward to our future together, and what God has in store. It continues to be a great gift to grow with you and stand with you, both in the hard times and good. We love you! We pray as we close out another year and approach the next that we will "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" and that "the Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace" in Jesus Name. Amen!

In His Service,
Pastor Daniel

Upcoming Events December

- Dec. 2: Journey CG Christmas Party @ Missions Center 5:30 pm
- Dec. 3: Willis Coulliette CG Christmas Party @ Rodeos 5 pm
- Dec. 4: Family Worship Day, Christmas Night of Worship 6 pm
Growing Together CG Christmas Party 3 pm (Teel Home)
- Dec. 6: A Day of Prayer & Fasting 12 pm
- Dec. 7: TeamKID Christmas Party, Student Ministry Christmas Party
- Dec. 11: Happy Birthday Jesus Event (during Kid's Church)
Deacon's Lunch (after am service)
- Dec. 14: Carols in the Park 6 pm (Sharon Sheffield Park)
- Dec. 18: Redeemed Christmas Party
- Dec. 19: Next Gen. Christmas Party 10:50 am
Baywinds Community Band Concert 6:30 pm (Sanctuary)
- Dec. 21: Christmas Reflections @ Defuniak Springs
No Wednesday Activities
- Dec. 22-23: Christmas Holiday - Office Closed
- Dec. 22-Jan.8 Christmas Break for Bay County Schools
- Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service 5 pm
- Dec. 25: No Connection Groups
Worship 10 am
- Dec. 26: Christmas Holiday - Office Closed
- Dec. 28: No Wednesday Activities
- Dec. 29-30: New Year's Holiday - Office Closed

January

- Jan. 1: Family Worship Day
Lord's Supper
- Jan. 3: A Day of Prayer & Fasting 12 pm
- Jan. 8: Deacon's Meeting 4 pm
- Jan. 9: School starts after holidays
- Jan. 10: J.O.Y. Seniors Potluck Lunch (Foyer) 11:30 am
- Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Office Closed & Schools out
- Jan. 20-21: Adventures in Marriage (Foyer & Children's Worship Area) 5 pm

February

- Feb. 1: Teacher Planning Day - Schools out
- Feb. 5: Family Worship Day
- Feb. 7: A Day of Prayer & Fasting 12 pm
- Feb. 12: Business Meeting
Adventures in Marriage 2-5 pm (Foyer & Children's Worship Area)
Deacon's Meeting 4 pm
- Feb. 14: J.O.Y. Seniors Potluck Lunch (Foyer) 11:30 am
- Feb. 20: Presidents Day - Office Closed & Schools out

December

1 Calvin York, Vonzeil Bryant, Matthew Hagler 4 Marsha Sumner 7 Ann VanZant 10 Kelley Warren, Karon Lassiter 11 Hershel Hill
12 Kerry Davis 13 Kaylyn Varnum, Maxwell Snyder 14 Brenda York 15 Niki Scott, Alexia Spradley, Candice Wilds, Judy Walker
17 Jolene Barnes, Dianne Newton 18 Nevaeh Riegel 19 Bobby Buchanan 20 Brent Skipper, Mary Ann Walden, Annabelle Snyder,
 Earl Pettis, Kelly Gervera 23 Dick Agar, Donald Stewart, Brenda Strickland 25 Fred Johnson, Margie Smith 26 Lysa Oswalt, Phillip Shutt
27 Faye Kelley 28 Tim Stuhr 29 Juanita Singletary, Jack Thomas 30 JP O'Neal, Callandra Green 31 Matthew Webb, Jordan Osborn

January

1 Ann Gray 2 Jacqueline Webb, Jean Hebebrand 4 Mickie Dykes, Joy Sorrells 5 Ruth Wood 6 Doris Peterson 7 Gail Phillips,
 Cheryl Hodges 8 Bill Todd 9 Erica Dooley 12 Joel Singletary 13 Connor Walsingham, Tim Krohne 15 Michelle Brady,
 Anthony McElreath, Ron Smith 17 Amanda Woods, Gabrielle Abbott 18 Judy Sweeny 19 Tammy Harris, Sandra Ferrell
21 Stephanie Simonson, Sebastian, Emily McNeill, David Swedberg 22 Rodney Dykes, Margaret Pettis 23 Hershel Holcombe
24 Mike West 25 JoAnne Snyder 26 Catherine Walsingham, Dennis Landingham, Ida Moore, Cassie Solana 28 Savanna Neese,
 B.J. Davidson 30 Shelby Nale, Ricky Sapp, Shirley Miller 31 Brandy Woods

February

3 Marilyn Cook, Marvin White 4 Kelsey Bush 5 Don Teel, Dave Blaich 6 Sandra Phillips 8 Kinlea Dees, Daniel McNeill, Alyanna Glass
9 Ted Phillips 11 Jamie Sorrells 12 Donna Perrett 14 Cathy Bottoms 16 Billy Neese, Paula Booth, Roger Kennedy 17 Debbie Stewart
18 Sue Bromlow 19 Kathy Morgan 21 Susan Covington 23 Bob Wynn 24 Bo Green 25 Sandy Douglas, Jonathon Kumpan, Larry Finch
26 George Warren, Ashley Cather 27 Tommy Harris, Dominic Hagler, Lauren Beck, Italee Freeman

Fall Giving Totals

Sept.	
General Fund:	\$52,958.38
BFF Year to Date:	\$28,042.00
BFF Sept. Contributions:	\$2,575.00
Oct.	
General Fund:	\$80,441.86
BFF Year to Date:	\$30,643.25
BFF Oct. Contributions:	\$2,601.25
Nov.	
General Fund:	\$55,436.63
BFF Year to Date:	\$32,820.25
BFF Nov. Contributions:	\$2,177.00

Fall Attendance Averages

Sept.	
Connection Groups:	147
Morning Worship Service:	201
Mid-week Service:	147
Oct.	
Connection Groups:	152
Morning Worship Service:	231
Mid-week Service:	143
Nov.	
Connection Groups:	148
Morning Worship Service:	229
Mid-week Service:	138

2022
Tax Year Contributions

If you want to make a contribution to the church that will count in the 2022 tax year, your contribution needs to be in before noon Tuesday, December 27.

Lord's Supper
January 1
10 am
Worship Service Only

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Lottie Moon Christmas Offering
Church Goal: \$20,000



1005 Ohio Avenue
 Lynn Haven, FL 32444
 Church Office Hours:
 Mon. - Thurs. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Phone: 850-265-3688
 Email: info@fbclynnhaven.org Website: www.fbclynnhaven.org

Church Staff:
 Trent Gann, Senior Pastor.....774-9727
 Grady Booth,
 Associate Pastor of Discipleship & Students.....819-6021
 Daniel McNeill, Worship Pastor.....573-6159
 Leanne Krohne, Children's Minister.....624-4913
 Hope Phan.....Church Secretary
 Susan Covington.....Financial Secretary
 Paul Durden.....Pianist
 Terry Bryant.....Building & Grounds Supervisor



**First Baptist
 Lynn Haven**
 1005 Ohio Ave,
 Lynn Haven

3 - SESSION CLASS

FRIDAY 1/27
 5:30 pm - 9 pm

SATURDAY 1/28
 9 am - 3:30 pm

SUNDAY 2/12
 2 pm - 5 pm

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2023

Bible Reading Plan

**FOUNDATIONS
 NEW TESTAMENT**
A 260-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN FOR BUSY BELIEVERS

ROBBY & KANDI GALLATY
WITH GUS HERNANDEZ & TIM LAFLEUR