

FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST CHURCH

December 6, 2021

Volume 2, Issue 11

Pastor's Word

What is the word for December? The word for December is **JOY!**

Webster defines joy as 1) "a feeling of great happiness" and 2) a source or cause of great happiness: something or someone that gives joy to someone.

The joy we celebrate at Christmas is found in the events surrounding the advent of Jesus.

We find joy in the angel's announcement to the shepherds keeping watch over their sheep in the fields outside of Bethlehem:

⁸ That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. ⁹ Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, ¹⁰ but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. ¹¹ The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! ¹² And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." ¹³ Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

Luke 2:8-14 NLT

The angel's announcement was an announcement of "good news" which brings with it "great joy." ***The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!***

If you Google search the meaning of "joy" you will find: "The biblical definition of joy says that joy is a feeling of good pleasure and happiness that is dependent on who Jesus is rather than on who we are or what is happening around us."

The promised and needed salvation has come and it is wrapped in the person of Jesus. Jesus is our salvation. Jesus is our joy! May you find the joy this Christmas, may you find Jesus!

Janice and I want to wish you and your families – Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Pastor Jerry



Operation Christmas Child

Thanks to your generosity our church was able to provide 106 shoeboxes for the 2021

Operation Christmas Child ministry. Keep

praying as those and millions of other boxes are delivered to children around the world with the opportunity to experience God's love firsthand.

December Verse of the Month

"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

2 Corinthians 9:15 NIV

First Southern Baptist Church

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Porterville, CA 93257

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Office Hours are Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon

A Pinned Note from the Pastor's Wife



For my article this month I would like to share this poem that I've seen over the last couple of years on FB.

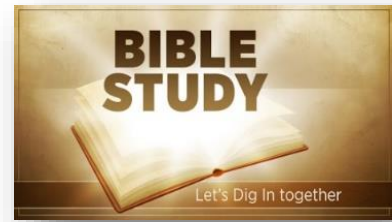
T'was the night before Christmas,
God glanced over the earth.
He looked to and fro,
All over it's girth.
They missed it again He said with a sigh,
A heavy heart and a tear in his eye.
I gave them my Son,
So they could be free.
My greatest gift,
To them from me.
They traded me in,
For a man in red.
A little tree,
And horse drawn sled.
How do I save them,
And make them see.
My love is complete,
My grace is free.
How do I help them,
When all they know.
Is a talking snowman,
And a box with a bow.
Maybe next year,
They will stop and see.
The biggest gift of Christmas.
Is the little child from me.

~ Author unknown

It says in Isaiah 9:6 NLT,

*For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

May you have a blessed Christmas and joyous holiday season.



Opportunities available at FSBC to study God's Word together:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. both in-person and on FB

Women's Friday morning Bible study is on break until early 2022.

JOIN US

For more information call the church office at 784-1641.

Follow us on the church's Facebook page at **First Southern Baptist Church**:

- "Worship and Word" broadcast at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays by Pastor Jerry; upon viewing you are encouraged to **Share** and **Like** so that it will be available to your friends on FB



- Also, "Wednesday Bible Study with Pastor Jerry" broadcast at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays



YOU are invited to a **Holiday "Meet and Greet"**

Sunday, December 19th

4:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

**First Southern Baptist Church
1641 W. Henderson Ave.
Porterville**

This is an opportunity for you to view the curriculum for GriefShare, to ask questions and just share some holiday treats together.

In order to plan appropriately, if you are planning to attend please call the church office at 784-1641 and reserve your spot(s).



North American Mission Board

Prayer Calendar – December 2021

Jacob and Francine Zailian

Church Planter
Set Free Sanger
Sanger, CA



Pray for God to continue to reach the lost as our church serves those in need in our community and those facing homelessness and addiction.

Joshua (Josh) Valdez

Church Planter
Higher Ground Church
Farmington, NM



Pray for our outreach efforts to the community surrounding the church. Additionally, pray for the Navajo Nation and our future endeavors to train pastors and plan churches there. (Many Navajo pastors have died because of COVID.)

Susan Ridings

Chaplain
Marketplace Chaplains
Canton, GA



Pray that I would be faithful to my calling. Ask God to create opportunities to witness in a way that is relevant. Ask God to provide a strong Christian friend to come alongside me.

Abraham and Sarah Diyali

Church Planter
International Fellowship Church
Cleveland, OH



Pray for our church as we develop the infrastructure of our church, from a church van to a new building. Pray that these tangible needs will further our gospel witness.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering 2021

We will be promoting the LMCO during the month of December, encouraging you to give as the Lord leads You.

It's true that 'together we can make a kingdom Impact.' Pray that the Lord will reveal to you what your impact will be this Christmas season, and then follow Him in obedience to that call.

