

## YOUTH RE+MIND

### Youth Announcements:

December 10 Christmas Tea Party, 3:00-5:00 PM  
December 13 Youth Christmas Party, 6:00 PM  
December 20 No Youth Activities  
December 27 No Youth Activities



## CHILDREN'S CORNER

Merry Christmas (season)! As we draw closer to the nativity and a time of both gratitude and reverence, our Children's Ministry is chugging ahead at full steam. We're averaging about 34 kids a week and are finishing up our annual canned food drive for the food pantry -- a donation challenge that the girls are currently winning! In Sunday school, our younger kids are working diligently to engage with Scripture and deepen their love of learning about God. The kids in our older class are having lots of fun with games as well as memorizing and connecting the Bible passage with their daily lives. We are blessed with students that have a deep understanding of what they're soaking in. Our nursery VIP program has been successful in making sure our toddlers and babies are cared for while their parents are in church and Sunday school being poured into. This rotation has helped our nursery workers and volunteers be able to join in church services as well -- don't forget to write your name down to volunteer once a quarter! *Thank you for your support of our Children's Ministry!*

## DECEMBER EVENTS

December 2 Men's Prayer Breakfast, 8:00 AM  
December 3 Youth Vocal Ensemble, 4:00-5:00 PM  
December 3-10 Week of Prayer, Lottie Moon Christmas Offering  
December 6 Mid-week Activities, 6:00-7:30 PM  
Prayer, Youth, AWANA (wear Christmas shirt),  
Adult Bible Study  
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM  
December 7 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM  
December 10 Youth Christmas Tea, 3:00-5:00 PM  
December 11 Budget and Finance Committee Meeting, 4:00 PM  
Deacons Meeting, 5:00 PM  
December 13 Mid-week Activities, 6:00-7:30 PM  
Prayer, AWANA Christmas Celebration,  
Youth Christmas Party, Adult Bible Study  
Choir Practice, 7:30 PM  
December 14 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 AM.  
December 15 Genesis & Timothy Classes Christmas Party @  
6:30 PM  
December 17 Christmas Musical, 10:45 AM  
Special Called Business Meeting, 12N  
December 20 Mid-week Activities, 6:00-7:30 PM  
Prayer & Adult Bible Study, No AWANA  
or Youth, Choir Practice @ 7:30 PM  
**December 24 Christmas Eve Service, Lord's Supper, 10:45 AM**  
December 27 NO Mid-week Activities  
**December 31 New Year's Service, 10:45 AM**



## CHRISTIAN CALLER

December 2023  
Volume 23, Issue 12

**MISSION STATEMENT:**  
**WE DESIRE TO HONOR GOD BY**  
**LEADING PEOPLE TO**  
**BECOMING FULLY DEVOTED**  
**FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST.**



**First Baptist Church of Buda**  
**104 S. San Marcos Street**  
**Buda, Texas 78610**  
**512-295-2161**

**BUDDY JOHNSON, PASTOR**  
**TREY JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE PASTOR/**  
**YOUTH MINISTER**  
**NANCY JOHNSON, MUSIC MINISTER**

**WiFi address: MySpectrumWiFi38-2G**  
**WiFi password: squareocean250**  
**[fbcbuda@austin.rr.com](mailto:fbcbuda@austin.rr.com) ~ [www.firstbaptistbuda.com](http://www.firstbaptistbuda.com)**  
**Facebook: [fbc\\_budatx](https://www.facebook.com/fbc_budatx) ~ Twitter: [fbcbuda](https://twitter.com/fbcbuda)**



## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

*The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.*” - Isaiah 9:2

One of our national leaders, current Speaker of the House, who also happens to be a committed and openly professing Christian, recently made this statement, “America has become a dark and depraved place on many fronts. America is facing a ‘civilizational moment.’ The only question is: Is God going to allow our nation to enter a time of judgment for our collective sins? ... Or is He going to give us one more chance to restore the foundations and return to Him?” The culture is so dark and depraved that it almost seems irredeemable.”

He cited, as evidence, the decline of church attendance nation-wide and the rise of morally bankrupt and debased behavior that have over-taken our culture, the decline of the home and family and the rise of radicalized and deprived ideologies that are taking the minds of our young people. This national leader closed his comments by offering this prayer on behalf of our nation, *“We repent for our sins individually and collectively. And we ask that You not give us the judgment that we clearly deserve.”* Quite frankly, I find such a reality check, and truthful assessment of our times strangely refreshing. Just that someone on the national leadership roster would see it for what it is and isn’t afraid to speak the truth about what is happening in our nation. But I am taken by his word, “America has become a dark and depraved place on many fronts.... The culture is so dark and depraved that it almost seems irredeemable.” I have felt like that is where we are for a while now. The darkness of our day and our culture seems palpable (intense, deep, profound). Don’t think so? Just watch, listen, pay attention to what is going on all around you. We can’t even recognize sin as sin anymore. The side of the issues American’s protest in the streets and on campuses are on the wrong side of right and wrong almost 100% of the time. The viewpoint and ideologies we hear spouted in the mainstream today sound like the dystopian (hellish) future of a society bereft of reason. In other words, “dark!” Times like these call for and have always called for the Messiah to break forth, to come through. The “good news” is we have a Messiah. He has broken through. He has come forth. He is here! And He wants to be our Savior in this

dark time. He is our hope, and the hope of the Nations. Listen to it again in Isaiah 9:2, *“The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.”* That light has shined over 2,000 years ago and it still shines brightly today for all who will peer through the clouds of darkness to see it... in many cases our own personal darkness that we have allowed to set in on our lives, our own clouded and crowded and noisy and messy and darkened lives. Oh, how in His great love and grace and mercy He desires to chase the darkness away from our lives with His great light. And He will do just that!

Christmas isn’t really that complicated. It’s about the true light that was coming into the world and is now here. John writes in John 1:4-5, 9, *“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it... That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.”* Jesus is the “Light of the World,” and that Light offers hope... real hope for our dark and darkening world, and our lives.

Every time you look at the beautiful lights that adorn our homes, our trees, in our church, in our neighborhoods, on downtown buildings, in our Christmas displays... every time you see those lights be reminded there is hope in the Light of the World that shines in our dark day and in our lives. His name is Jesus, and He brings light, clarity, hope, life to this dark world... our dark world. And if you know Him let your light shine for all the world to see. May I offer Paul’s blessing in Romans 15:13 to you this Christmas season, *“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”* ***Merry Christmas! I love you! - Bro. Buddy***

## WMU

We have set our Lottie Moon Christmas Offering @ \$3,500 for this year. The Week of Prayer is December 3-10. We will be taking donations through the end of December. Please give as the Lord leads you.

We were able to contribute to the postage cost for over 600 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child this year.

***Thank you for your continued support of our WMU.***



## MUSIC NOTES

Hey everyone. Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years to all of you! Can’t wait for you all to see our Christmas musical presentation ***“Glorious Impossible”***. I pray it will touch your hearts as it has touched all of ours as we have worked in it. Blessings to all of you.

***In His Name, Nancy***

