



# The Visitor

DECEMBER 2014



## Advent

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*Wade Allen*

An early blast of arctic air made it seem like Christmas in November. While the trees still bore colored leaves, they were covered with several inches of snow. The holiday season is on us, ready or not.

The church calendar calls this season *Advent*. Advent is a season of waiting and preparation. On the one hand, we are awaiting the birth of Jesus. We sometimes reflect on the prophets' passages that anticipate the coming of the Messiah. We join them in their anticipation and yearning for God to show up. On the other hand, Advent is a season of awaiting the second coming of Jesus. We look forward to his return; He will show up again and make all things right.



This year, we will walk through the lectionary passages in our worship each week. The first two weeks of Advent will point us to the Gospel of Mark. On week one, we will consider Jesus' conversation with his disciples about his second coming. Jesus urges them to be ready. On the second week, we will consider the role of John the Baptist in pointing to Jesus' identity. John's message was one of urgency about Jesus showing up. He challenged the world to get ready for Jesus. In the third week, we will contemplate the mind-boggling description of Jesus in John 1. Finally, on week four, we will discuss God's choosing Mary. The season provides an opportunity for us to practice a posture of preparation as we encounter God.

Finally, we will gather together on **Christmas Eve** to celebrate the Savior's birth. The service will be at **7 PM** at the church. Celebrating communion by candlelight is a wonderful way to begin the holiday.

I am looking forward to walking through this season together. As the world around us focuses on buying the right presents, we have the privilege of reflecting on the greatest gift in history.

(John 1:14 ESV) "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

## Worship in December

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As we begin the month of December, you may want to read the Scriptures ahead of time. The December schedule is:

- December 7 - Prepare the Way (Mark 1:1-8)
- December 14 - Down to Earth (John 1:1-18)
- December 21 - Why Mary? (Luke 1:26-38)
- December 28 - Preparing for the New Year

## TEAMwork fundraiser

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If you'd like to be a part of national "Giving Tuesday" on **December 2**, right here in our community, consider buying Lasagna Drive-Thru tickets to benefit the anti-poverty work of TEAMwork for Quality Living. Lasagna (meat or veggie), salad, breadstick, and a cookie sell for \$8 each. Call TEAMwork at 747-7158 or email Molly Flodder at [molly@teamworkql.org](mailto:molly@teamworkql.org) if you'd like tickets. From 4-7 PM that day you can drive through the circle drive out front, present your ticket, and get lasagna to take home.

## Birthday Party for Jesus

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Save the date for our annual Children's Birthday Party for Jesus **Sunday, December 6!** We will meet following the late service. Lunch will be provided for the whole family, and afterwards there will be fun games and activities for the kids! This is always a GREAT time for everyone, so we hope to see you there! Please RSVP to Gayle, Jessica, or Colleen. Letting us know if you can attend is especially important, not just for the food, but because the children will receive a gift and we want to make sure every child gets one.

## Parent's Night Out

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Back by popular demand, FBC will be hosting another Parents' Night Out! It will be **Friday December 12** from **6 PM-9 PM**. What a great opportunity to finish (or start) your Christmas shopping, while your little ones enjoy pizza, cookies, and the movie *The Polar Express*, in their most comfy pjs! It will be fun for everyone! Please RSVP to Gayle.

## Children's Musical

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The children will be presenting a musical, Calling All Angels, on **December 14** in the first morning worship service. Sarah Kline, our intern from Taylor, will be assisting and singing with the children. Their Angel voices will help us prepare our hearts for the Christmas season.

## **First Baptist/Riverside Christmas Caroling and Dinner**

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We will be at Riverside Avenue Church **Sunday, December 14**. Caroling at **4 PM** (Come at 3 PM for assignment). Dinner will be served at **6 PM**. Meat, drink, rolls, and table service will be furnished. Bring a dish or two to share. A program will follow dinner.

## **Salvation Army Bell Ringing in December**

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We are signed up to ring bells at the Muncie Mall **December 16 and 18** from **10 AM to 8 PM**. Our bells will be at Macys both days and at MCL on Tuesday (Dec. 16) until 4 PM and at JCPenney on Thursday (Dec. 18). Sign up sheets will be available at the Harvest Dinner; then, it will be posted on the bulletin board in lower hall. Give some of your time to help another.

## **All Church Business Meeting**

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We will gather in an all church business meeting at **10:15 AM** on **Sunday, December 21**. We will consider nominees for the CCT and the 2015 budget. You can get a copy ahead of time from Dan Lemen. Any questions or concerns can be address to CCT members. The hope is to keep this meeting brief.

## **Christmas Eve Service**

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We will gather on **Christmas Eve** at **7 PM** for a candlelight communion service. This service is a wonderful way to begin your Christmas celebration.

## **Combined Service on December 28**

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We will be gathering in a combined worship service at **10:45 AM** on **Sunday, December 28**. Due to travel plans of many in the congregation, it makes sense to gather in one service on this Sunday.

## **Missional Community Update**

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The Missional Community is on winter break. The leadership team is meeting and the Spring session will begin in February. If you are interested in being in a Life Group in the Spring session, please let Wade know.

## **Friendship Family Project with Ball State**

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The Oasis Campus Ministry is seeking to connect local families with Ball State international students through the Friendship Family Program. Our new intern, Olya Cherevko, from Kazakhstan, is leading us to begin

connecting with internationals more intentionally. Please visit our website at The Oasis Campus Ministry (at <http://www.bsuoasis.org/student-family-friendship-project/>) to find the link to registration information if you are willing to participate. We are trying to connect at least 30 international students to share holiday meals with families and possibly to build a once-a-month relationship. We thank you for your support and please let Pastor Dave know at [david@bsuoasis.org](mailto:david@bsuoasis.org) if you are registering so we can keep track. God bless!

## Visitor and Bulletin Information

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If you would like to place an announcement in the church bulletin please email it to [wade@fbcmuncie.org](mailto:wade@fbcmuncie.org). If you have an article for the January newsletter, please email it to [wade@fbcmuncie.org](mailto:wade@fbcmuncie.org) by **Sunday, December 14**.

## Thank You Notes

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**Judson Choir Planning Team** – Thanks to all who participated in housing, transportation, food, etc., for the Judson University Choir. I have heard only positive feedback and several students indicated they would like to be included next year.

**Dana Davis** – Thanks to all who helped make Clif's reception a success. The participating BSU students especially enjoyed the refreshments.

## Calendar

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**Sundays** – 9:15 AM Early Gathering/Early Sunday School (Intergenerational Class, K-5th grade), 10:15 AM Fellowship Time (enjoy coffee, donuts, and fellowship), 10:45 AM Late Gathering/Late Sunday School

**Tuesdays** – 7 PM - Friendship Class

No Friendship Class on December 23 and 30

**Wednesdays** – 6 PM Praise Team (Sanctuary), 6 PM Children's Choir (Elementary Room), 6:30 PM Handbells (Choir Room), 7:40 PM Sanctuary Choir (Choir Room)

No rehearsals on Wednesday, December 24 or December 31

**December 7** – Birthday Party for Jesus

**December 12** – Parent's Night Out

**December 14** – FBC/Riverside Christmas Caroling

**December 16 and 18** – Bell Ringing at the Mall

**December 24** – Christmas Eve Service

**December 28** – Combined Worship Gathering

## December Birthdays

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We would like to say Happy Birthday to the following people in the month of December. Please let them know that you are thinking of them on their special day.

12/2 - Tyler Stinson	12/20 - Willow Brown
12/3 - Bettyanne Morrow	12/20 - Harold Gill
12/4 - Shirley Johnson	12/21 - Aggie Brooks
12/6 - Eliana Heimlich	12/21 - Danielle Heimlich
12/6 - Katelyn Richardson	12/23 - Benjamin Whaley-Jones
12/6 - Aurora Richardson	12/25 - Jean Jones
12/8 - Kasey Kirklin	12/26 - Josh Barr
12/8 - John Mulcahy	12/26 - Randolph O'Bryant
12/9 - Julie Morency	12/26 - Grace Wright
12/11 - Bill Eidson	12/30 - Robert Kirklin
12/13 - David Jones	12/31 - Rodney Head
12/19 - Levi Allen	