



First Baptist Church Collinsville

Teaching and Training Kids

That Rock for Jesus

Don't Miss Christmas!

Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. ⁵ He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. ⁷ She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. (Luke 2:4-7, NLT)

High boys and girls. Well, we made it. In spite of all the challenges in 2020, Christmas is finally here! What do you like best about Christmas? Is it the Christmas tree with its blinking lights? Maybe it's the beautiful music or the delicious Christmas goodies. Perhaps it's Christmas dinner with turkey and dressing and all of the trimmings. For some it might be all of the parties or visiting with family and friends. For many people the best thing about Christmas is the presents — both the ones we give and the ones we receive. Especially the ones we receive! Can you think of anything I have left out? Oh yes! It's someone's birthday, isn't it? Whose birthday is it? That's right! It is Jesus' birthday.

You know, sometimes we get so caught up in all of the decorations, lights, parties, and presents that we miss the real Christmas.

That reminds me of a story I heard about a little boy who had always wanted to go to a circus. One day he was walking down the street when he saw a poster in a store window. The poster said that a circus was coming to town and that a ticket to the circus cost one dollar. The boy ran home and asked his father if he would give him a dollar to go to the circus on Saturday. His father told him that if he would work hard and get all of his chores done, he would give him a dollar to go to the circus. Saturday morning came and the boy got up early and did all of his chores. "I have all of my chores done," the boy told his dad. The boy's father gave him a dollar and the boy headed into town filled with excitement about seeing wild animals, trapeze artists, and all of the things that come with a circus. Since he arrived in town so early, he was on the front row when the circus parade started down the main street of town. The boy was thrilled when the animals and other circus acts paraded by. At the end of the parade came the clowns and following the clowns was the ringmaster. When the ringmaster passed by where he was standing, the boy ran out into the street, took his folded dollar bill from his pocket, and handed it to the ringmaster. "Thanks," mister, said the boy, "that was a great circus." Then he turned around and walked home.

He never knew what he had missed. He thought he had been to the circus, but he had only been to the parade. If we are not careful, we can be like that little boy. We can get so caught up in the celebration, the decorations, and the gifts that we miss the real Christmas -- the birthday of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that we won't get so caught up in the celebration that we miss the real meaning of Christmas.

Merry Christmas from Pastor Larry & Jan

A NOTE FROM Mrs. Charlotte:

Merry Christmas. We are about to celebrate one of my favorite times of the year. As you can see from our lessons, we will begin with Advent and end with the birth of Jesus. When we think about Christmas, we think about family, Christmas plays, a break from school, great food, Christmas carols and of course presents. When we receive those presents on Christmas morning, some will last for a short time, some will eventually get broken, and some will just be forgotten. We need to understand the importance of the one present that will last for our entire lifetime. That is Jesus Christ. Each one of us has to understand Jesus for ourselves. I want to share a story with you.

I know you know a lot of Christmas carols, like "Silent Night, Holy Night"; "The First Noel"; "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"; and "Joy to the World". I want to tell you about another Christmas carol you probably do not know. Read with your family Luke 2:1-14.

You know that Jesus was born in a stable. You know that He was wrapped in swaddling clothes, which were strips of cloth, and put in an animal feed box called a *manger*. *But, what if you had never heard these things about Jesus' birth? How would you explain Jesus' birth to people who knew nothing about it?*

Well, that is exactly what the writer of the first American Christmas carol tried to do – explain Jesus' birth to people who knew nothing about it. A French Catholic missionary named John de Brebeuf in about 1640 wrote the first American carol. He was a missionary to the Huron Indians in the Northeast. His Christmas carol was called, "Jesus Was Born." He sang of Jesus' birth by describing it like this:

Within a lodge of broken bark
The tender babe was found;
A ragged robe of rabbit skin
Enwrapped his beauty round;
And as the hunter braves drew nigh
The angel song rang loud and high;
Jesus our king is born,
Jesus is born,
In excelsis gloria.

Now, we know that Jesus was not born in a bark lodge and wrapped in rabbit fur with Indian hunters who visited. But, the missionary was explaining the birth of Jesus in a way the Huron Indians could understand and accept it for themselves.

Boys and girls, each of us has to come to our own understanding of faith in Jesus. You know the Christmas story from the Bible. When you believe in Jesus and receive Jesus in your own way for yourself, Christmas is a merry time indeed.

Dec. Sunday School Schedule:

- 12/6: The Holy Spirit Comes: Acts 2
- 12/13: Peter Healed a Man: Acts 3-4
- 12/20: Jesus was Born: John 1
- 12/27: Faithful in Hard Times: 1 Peter 1-2

Children's Church Schedule:

- December 6: A Time of Hope
- December 13: A Time of Giving
- December 20: A Time of Seeking
- December 27: A Time of Getting

**Don't Forget the Upcoming
Drive Thru Events:**

Nativity: 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Communion: 4:00 p.m.

RIGHT NOW MEDIA FOR CHILDREN:

Parents, make sure you check out Right Now Media for great movies and lessons for children. It is free! Go to the website for the church and look under Resources. There are great bible studies for adults too!



GIRLS IN ACTION:

Girls,

For the month of December, we will be meeting Aaron and Sophia Robertson who live in Mexico City. They live in a large city filled with loud noises, smells, traffic and barking dogs. They have five boys. The city's official color is bright pink. They use any reason they can to invite friends to their home to tell them about Jesus. Their support comes from the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, which helps to pay for their housing, transportation, schooling for their boys and all of their basic needs.

In addition, for December, we will be studying about China and a missionary named Miss Lottie Moon. Here are some facts about Miss Lottie you may already know:

1. She came from a wealthy family of seven children.
2. Her sister who was eleven years younger than she was went to China first as a missionary.
3. She loved to hear her mom tell stories about missionaries.
4. She taught at a school for girls in China.
5. Miss Lottie gave as much money and food to the Chinese people as she could.
6. She used her famous cookies as a way to introduce herself and witness to others about Jesus.

Long ago Miss Lottie went to the northern province of Shandong. She resided in the city of Tengchow. Tengchow had little contact with the outside world. Miss Lottie shared the story of Jesus and his love as she visited nearby villages.

Watch the FBCC Facebook page for postings on Wednesday nights for GA's. Work along in your GA World book each week as we share. Make sure you look at the MK kids that are having birthdays for the month. Say a prayer for them and their families.



Awana is currently postponed until the first of the year. We will re-evaluate in January!

Mission Friends:

Ages 2-5 (Pre-K)

In December Mission Friends will be in Mexica City and learning about Lottie Moon. Our missionaries are Aaron and Sophia Robertson. The concept area is Jesus. We will focus on the birth of Jesus.

***"I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone that believes."
Romans 1:16***