

Sunday, December 21, 2025

# The Church With a Heart

#### THIS WEEK AT GRACE

December 21—27, 2025 Sunday School 9:45 am Lessons & Carols 11:00 am Int. Harvest Church 1:30 pm **Praise Team** 4:30 pm Evangelism 6:00 pm

Mid-Week

FB/YouTube Bible Study

Wednesday

No Activities on Christmas Eve

Thursday

Merry Christmas



#### Stewardship Thought...

John 3:16—"For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

The highest example of giving is God giving His Son. God gave that we might have eternal life. That others may also have eternal life is a motive for our giving.

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## **Worship Service**

TIME OF QUIET MEDITATION TIME TO GATHER

Opening: The First Noel Trio from the Praise Team

#### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Lottie Moon Movie and Offering\*

#### TIME IN MUSIC & WORDS

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Responsive Reading

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come

Lighting of the 4th Advent Candle

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

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\*Please place offerings in the wooden box in back of the church.

## December Birthday

Stetson Godwin	12/20
Misty Hayes & Christy Leona	
Bill Jackson	12/18
Tony Pohl	12/08
Nicole Ramirez	12/29
Donna Teneyuque	12/09

## Ministry Gifts

Offerings for Budget \$1,305.00 **Designated Offerings** \$ 611.50 **TOTAL OFFERINGS** \$1,916.50 10% Taken out for Missions \$ 130.50 Needed This Week for Budget \$ 270.00

Devotional Thought From the Pastor...

#### From Fright to Delight

Luke 2:10, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."

Many historians believe the first-ever radio broadcast of music and speech was heard by radio operators on US Navy and other ships in the Atlantic on Christmas Eve, 1906. Instead of the usual beeps and pulses to transmit codes, they listened to Reginald Fessenden play a violin solo of the Christmas carol "O, Holy Night." Fessenden closed his broadcast by echoing the angels' praise: "Glory to God in the highest heaven!" (Luke 2:14). The listeners must have been startled by the evocative music and statement of praise over the birth of Jesus.

The first people surprised by Jesus' birth were the shepherds who'd been keeping to their usual business of watching their sheep at night (Luke 2:8). Then an angel appeared, shining with the glory of God and giving the shepherds a fright (v. 9). The angel urged them not to be afraid and declared: "I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (vv. 10-11). The shepherds left their sheep to investigate the angel's words and found the baby lying in a manger, just as they had been told (vv. 16, 20).

The shepherds accepted this good news of great joy. May we too rejoice and share the wonders of Jesus' birth and life.

## Announcements. . . .

- •Lessons & Carols—Today, Bro. Oscar will share lessons about the coming of Christ from the Bible and Bro. Bill and the Praise Team will share Carols to enhance the lessons. You, the congregation, are invited to join in the singing of various hymns.
- •Mid-Week Bible Study—the Midweek/Wednesday night Bible study will take a short break in the midst on the holiday season. Have a blessed Christmas and Happy New Year.

On Wednesday, January 3-6, EVERYONE is invited to join Bro. Frank on YouTube where he will resume the Bible study and at the church on Wednesday. We will begin that study in 2 Chronicles 28.

- •Preschool Leaders Needed—We need members who are willing to watch little ones during our worship service. We also need a leader and assistant to teach preschoolers during Sunday School whenever new families begin coming.
- Donations Toward Our Church and Various Ministries—Please consider donating toward our CHURCH BUDGET, WHICH IS OUR MOST CRUCIAL NEED. Some of our ministry needs are Sharing the Load, 2026 VBS, 2nd Floor A/C fund, Together We Build, Children/Preschool fund, Youth fund, Benevolent Ministries, Music Ministry, North American and International missionaries, J & T, Texans on Mission, Samaritan's Purse, etc. You may place your donations in an offering envelope and write name of the ministry/organization on a "Special Offering" line (the amount goes on the right). Remember to place your regular tithe on the short line after the words, "Budget Offer-

ing." Then place all donations in the offering box in back of the church. Or—you may also send your donations through the mail or Zelle. The church's Zelle address is gfbc-fw@sbcglobal.net.

- •Church Website—If you have internet you can go to our website—https://www.gfbc-fw.org—to find lots of information such as sermon notes, pastor's weekly YouTube messages, Bro. Frank's YouTube Bible studies, giving opportunities, the ability to leave prayer requests and more.
- Instagram—Also, please remember to follow our church on Instagram at @gfbcfw where you can receive inspiration and information!
- •Toiletry Items for the Homeless—Since the homeless are always in need, please continue to collect travel-size toiletry items, and bring them to Becky at the church.
- •Budget Needs—Please, prayerfully consider your part in support of our church missions, ministries, utilities, and upkeep. This week we need to pay our building security, copier and Life-Way bills. How can you help? Please pray, trust God and be faithful.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

As we near the end of the year, I want to share a story that captures why your partnership matters so deeply. IMB missionary Beth Hipps recently shared this update from the work God is doing in Thailand through the first Christian pregnancy center, founded by IMB missionaries:

"At 17, Olive was terrified and

ready to end her pregnancy—until her younger sister connected her with Thailand's first Christian pregnancy center. Olive received practical help, emotional support and the hope of the gospel, transforming her fear into a resolve to keep and love her baby, Marigold. After nearly two years of discipleship and prayer, Olive and her boyfriend committed their lives to Christ, and she now encourages other pregnant teens to seek help—evidence that the center's Thai-led ministry continues saving babies, strengthening families and planting lasting spiritual hope."

This kind of moment only happens when missionaries are able to stay long enough to learn the language, build trust, and share the gospel clearly. And that happens because people like you send them and sustain them.

Your gift keeps missionaries on the field long enough to share the gospel clearly, faithfully, and in the language of the people they serve. It provides a home in places with no churches, language training, visas, and travel to reach difficult places, health and safety support for missionary families, and ministry tools that open doors to gospel conversations.

Our goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$1,400,000 by December 31, 2025. Every gift—large or small—brings us closer to reaching that goal and helps ensure more people will hear the hope of Christ for the very first time.

Thank you for being part of this mission. Your generosity is helping ensure that no one is left without a chance to hear and respond to the good news of Jesus.

Gratefully,

Jacob Boss, Vice President, Global Engagement

Remember, every penny that is given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goes to the mission field. To date, we have given \$750.00



## **FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

#### LESSON 1

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed. Responsive Reading

Song: God of Wonders

#### LESSON 2

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness. Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

### **Responsive Reading**

Song: King Jesus Is His Name

#### LESSON 3

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Isaiah 11:1-4

Hymn: Like A River Glorious

#### LESSON 4

The King is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation. Micah 5:2-5

Hymn: O Sing A Song Of Bethlehem

#### LESSON 5

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Luke 1:26-38 Mary.

Song: Mary, Did You Know?

#### **LESSON 6**

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. Luke 2:1-7

**Song:** Prepare the Way

#### LESSON 7

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find Him lying in a manger. Luke 2:8-16

Genesis 22:15-18 Hymn: Joy Has Dawned

#### LESSON 8

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-12

Song: Jesus, Oh What a Wonderful Child

#### **LESSON 9**

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarna-John 1:1-4 tion.

Song: How Great Is Our God

**Closing Prayer** 

Closing Hymn: O Holy Night

## Have a Blessed Christmas!



# kemember in Prayer . . .



week, read through and upour prayer date requests. Let us know if we need to keep praying for something or if the prayer has been answered.

Please pray for strength and total healing for Kylie from cancer; for health issues for Bill; Alice to continue healing; continued healing for Tony from cancer & broken ribs; for Lori-just diagnosed with stage 4 cancer; for healing for Ben's mother and strength for Ben as he cares for her; healing for Victor from cancer and for Liz's many issues; for Mark H. from cancer; for Lisa from breast cancer as she goes through chemo and for her hus-



band to find a new job; healing for Tonya from surgery; Laura Thompson's vision loss; for Amy from surgery; heal-

ing for Tonya from neurological issues and loss of mobility; Frank's hip and back to heal; for Carmon from her fall & hip surgery; for Gwen from pancreatic cancer and for Dale as he cares for her; for Cliff and Stacey's poor health, and for Sharon as she cares for them; for Kevin to heal from pancreatitis; healing for Herbert, Barbara and Kitty; healing for a growth on Ashlyn's brain; for Paige and Kristie's health issues; healing for Virgie and Rose E; for Oscar A and Robert and Annie, Nora and Doyle: for John's head and memory; for Laura's vision and memory issues; and for Susen's eyes, stomach and feet.

please †Miscellaneous praises and prayer needs—Please pray for a spirit of love and peace in Cora's family; for an unspoken request for Becky; for Jesse H. as he finds himself, his peace and forgiveness; praises and prayers for Paige, Jacob and Stetson; for an unspoken need for Nick; for an unspoken prayer for Donna; for an unspoken need for Tiffany; for an unspoken need for Richard: for Jim and his need; for family challenges for Daisy; for needs of the Polk/Flores family and their needs for God's †Pray for the naguidance; for Paige and Brian, Carla and Tony as they continue to care for Dakota's type 1 diabetes; for Jourdeah's best interest in her family and for unity in the Maroney family; for Chris and his little girl—Amiyah, and for their unspoken needs; for Ryan and his unspoken needs; for Genna, Nick and RJ's needs; and for Shannon and Allison's relationship.

> †Pray for the Children— 🕪 Please pray for the children and youth in our church and who came to our VBS; and for teachers and staff who are leading them this year.

Pray for our church—for our pastors and their families; for REVIVAL among our members; for a preschool teacher to come forward; and for a miracle involving the demolition of the south building.

†International Harvest Church and Ministries—Please continue to pray for the International Harvest Church and Ministries as they worship and praise God in the GFBC facilities. Pray for the missionaries they are supporting in Myanmar.

†Pray for wisdom, peace and protection in our nation—for state and North American missionaries: for Texans on Mission and Samaritan's Purse and their work; for first responders and those who have suffered loss from various disasters: for thousands who have lost homes; for the homeless, refugees and those suffering from hunger in our nation; for churches that are struggling; for wisdom for our political leaders, including our president, VP, governors, senators and congressmen; for our government officials to pass wise laws.

tions—for Samaritan's Purse as they minister to hurting people around the



world; for our International missionaries; for J and T as they minister to Afghan refugees; for a peace agreement in Israel; for the situation in Ukraine to be resolved; for Burmese Christians in Myanmar; and for other Christians, missionaries and refugees who are suffering from persecution in the Middle East, Taiwan, N. Korea, India, Africa, Viet Nam, China, Russia, Turkey, etc. Pray for the OCC shoeboxes and for the children who will receive them.

#### **Prayer Requests & Announcements**

You may email new prayer needs, announcements, edits and deletions to gfbc-fw@sbcglobal.net or enter them on the website by Tuesday at noon, 12:00 pm. You may also text your prayer requests to 817-937-5974.