

VITAL SIGNS

Sunday, November 5, 2023

Sunday School Total.....477
 First Day Worship.....339 (25)
 11:00am Worship.....178 (9)
 Total.....517 (34)

Sunday, November 12, 2023

Sunday School Total.....477
 First Day Worship.....319 (22)
 11:00am Worship.....135 (14)
 Total.....454 (36)

Sunday, November 19, 2023

Sunday School Total.....399
 First Day Worship.....293 (22)
 11:00am Worship.....169 (7)
 Total.....462 (29)

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Sunday School Total.....445
 First Day Worship.....316 (21)
 11:00am Worship.....154 (17)
 Total.....470 (38)

NOVEMBER 2023 BUSINESS MTNG

Budget YTD.....\$1,331,883.60
 Received YTD.....\$1,116,789.32



Welcome to our new members...

Taylor Lunn



Steve & Kim Barton

Micah Grubbs



11:00am USHERS
 for December 2023
 (* indicates prayer door)

December 3
 *Mark Crenshaw, Clark Sexton,
 George Stegall, Bryan Warren,
 Dee Atkins, Joe Austin

December 10
 *Eddy Taylor, Mike Bowen,
 Joe Brown, Richie Chrestman,
 Phillip Cox, Roger Gentry

December 17
 *Chad Anthony, Wally Henry,
 Jay Hughes, Ben Howard,
 Rickey Hill, Carey McMullen

December 24
 *Jerry Bell, Sam Dowdy,
 Jody Stringer, Glenn Gillen,
 Chad Anthony, Ellis Reeder

*All ushers in December are needed
 to usher at both morning and
 evening worship services.

**If you are unable to fulfill your
 duty as usher, please find
 someone to take your place.



First Baptist Church
 31 W. Washington Street
 Pontotoc, MS 38863

DECEMBER 2023

BUILDING THE KINGDOM WIDE AND DEEP

**DEACONS ON CALL
 for DECEMBER 2023**

December 3-
 Tommy Wood
 Jim Long
 Mark Vandiver

December 10-
 Richie Chrestman
 Neal Anderson
 Craig Downing

December 17-
 Sam Gibbs
 Chad Anthony
 Mark Griffith

December 24-
 Glenn Gillen
 Howard Hill
 Kevin Morrow

December 31-
 Scott Hatcher
 Chase Jefcoat
 Ellis Reeder

HANGING OF THE GREEN
 Join us

in the Sanctuary at 5:00pm
 on Sunday, December 3 as
 we decorate our Sanctuary for
 the Christmas season.
 G.A.s, R.A.s, and Fusion
 are needed to help decorate.
 *Rehearsal is at 4:00pm

Our last Family Night Meal for
 2023 will be Wed, Dec. 6.
 Meals will start back on
 Wed, January 10, 2024.

Join us in the Sanctuary on
 Sunday, December 10 at 5:00pm as our
 Children's Choirs present their
 Christmas music.
 We will have soup & light snacks
 immediately following in the
 Fellowship Hall.



If you would like to order a
 Christmas Poinsettia
 in honor/in memory of someone,
 Please call the church
 office no later than
 Tues, Dec. 12.
 Poinsettias are \$20



Bring your kiddos (K-6th grade)
 for a night of Christmas caroling
 and hot chocolate on
 Wed, December 13.
 *Be sure to send a coat to wear!



BAKE SALE

Our Children's Committee
 is hosting a bake sale on
 Sunday, December 17 before both
 morning services.
 All money raised will go to help
 cover summer camp expenses.

Join us in the Sanctuary on
 Sunday, December 17 at 11:00am
 as our Sanctuary Choir presents
 "Hallelujah! Jesus is Born!"

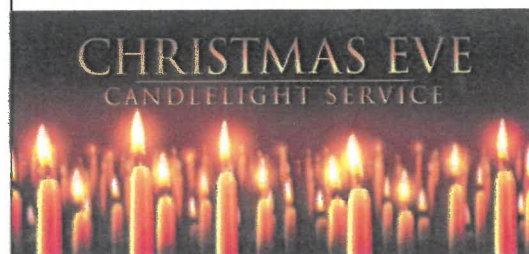
DEACONS MEETING
 Sun, Dec. 17 at 3:30pm
 in the FH.



**INTERNATIONAL
 MISSIONS
 (Lottie Moon)
 Week of Prayer-
 Dec. 3-10**



Come worship with us in the Sanctuary
 at 5:00pm on Sunday, December 24 as we
 celebrate the birth of our Savior at our
 Christmas Eve Candlelight service.



The G.A.s would like to thank each of you who helped us send
 over 600 shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child.
 We look forward to working all next year for this ministry.



Do you wonder what's on the menu
 for our Family Night Meal?
 Do you ever want to listen to the
 music that will be played at First Day
 each week?
 Do you want to find out what's going
 on at FBC?
 Would you like to tithe online?
 Would you like to see who our new
 members are?
 Do you ever wish you could re-listen to
 a certain sermon?
 If you answered YES to any of these
 questions, we've got your answer!
 Go to your App Store and search for
FBCPontotoc
 Download our new app on your phone!



Senior Adults

Senior Adult Luncheon
 on Monday, December 18
 at 12:00pm
 in the Fellowship Hall.
 Bring a side dish and dirty
 Santa gift to swap!





FIRST THINGS FIRST

First Baptist Church, Pontotoc, MS
31 West Washington St.

662-489-1346 fbc@fbcpontotoc.org

Rev. Clay Stegall-
Associate Pastor

Justin Cobb-
Minister of Youth

Danielle Davis-
Minister of Children

Zach Keller / Mickey Gentry-Worship Leaders

Volume 4 No. 12

Dr. Ken Hester, Pastor

December 2023

Parson to Person

"I'll be home for Christmas." This phrase has resonated with listeners since it was first released on October 23, 1943. Originally the song is sung from the point of view of a soldier stationed overseas during World War II. The soldier is writing a letter to his family and tells them to prepare for his coming home during Christmas. The song takes on a melancholy turn at the end with the soldier saying, "... if only in my dreams."

"Home" is where we want to be, especially for the special days. This song has touched people for the last 80 years. This song speaks to all those who are far from home and to those who long to have their loved one close.

Whether in Europe or in the Pacific during the War, Korea, Viet Nam, the Gulf, Afghanistan, on some military base or ship, or just being a long way from the place you grew up - this songs speaks to our longing hearts. But one doesn't have to be in the military for this to speak. I know a lady who would cry to Rascal Flatts's version of this song as she made the 10 hour drive back to Mississippi. I have a special memory with this song during my freshman year at Mississippi State and the bells ringing from the Chapel of Memories. I am sure you have your moment with this song too.

Funny thing about "home," it changes. My "home Christmas" has changed a great deal from when I was a kid. Four kids waking up way before dawn on Christmas morning was a deep dive into Christmas thrill chaos. Gifts, toys, wrapping paper, excitement, and then going to our grandparents' house. Then there was more toys, wrapping paper, excitement, and cousins. Then we got older. Change happened. The older cousins brought boyfriends and girlfriends with them, who later became fiancés. Then grandparents passed away. Home changed again. Balancing different families and their traditions became part of the deal. No longer was the 25th sacred. We had "Christmas" at different times on different days at different houses. "Home Christmas" seemed to be a faded memory. Marriages, births, and more deaths all changed what my original "Home Christmas" was.

So, I learned to have a new "Home Christmas." I cherish the memories of my original "Home Christmas," as I embrace the beauty of the new "Home Christmas." If I didn't embrace the new "Home Christmas" I would have missed out on a lot of wonderful Christmases. I thoroughly enjoyed being newly married at Christmas. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing my daughter enjoy Christmases. I thoroughly enjoy nieces and nephews at Christmas - all the way from talking about college courses to monster trucks. As an adult, I've learned that the key to making it Home for Christmas is to make Christmas special for those around me. It is in the giving that makes Christmas "Home" no matter what the change is.

For many of us, our home has changed. We liked it the way it was, but it changed. This Christmas will be different. And this difference will make Christmas difficult. I want to encourage you to put forth effort in making this Christmas special for those around you. Let the secret out: It is in giving to others that helps us get Home for Christmas.

Merry Christmas,

Ken



December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:00pm rCESS	2
3 3:00pm Women's Bible Study 5:00pm Hanging of the Green	4 NATIONAL WEAR BROWN SHOES DAY	5	6 the last Family Night Meal of 2023	7 NATIONAL COTTON CANDY DAY	8 NATIONAL BROWNIE DAY	9
10 5:00pm Children's Christmas Musical in Sanctuary	11	12 Deadline to order Poinsettias	13 6:00-7:30pm Caroling & Cocoa	14	15 NATIONAL LEMON CUPCAKE DAY	16 NATIONAL CHOCOLATE COVERED ANYTHING DAY
17 Bake Sale 11:00am Christmas Cantata in Sanctuary 3:00pm Deacons Mtg	18 12:00pm Sr. Adult Christmas Luncheon	19	20 NATIONAL GO CHRISTMAS CAROLING DAY	21	22	23
24 5:00pm Candlelight Service  31	25  MERRY CHRISTMAS !!	26 NATIONAL CANDY CANE DAY	27	28	29	30
						CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED