

DECEMBER 2023/JANUARY 2024

The Flame

FAIRVIEW CHURCH



FROM PASTOR BARRY TAYLOR

CRASHING INTO THE OBVIOUS

A certain Christian bookstore in Cleveland, Tennessee has an unusual sign posted at the parking space directly in front of its entrance. The sign simply says, "THERE IS A POLE BEHIND YOU!" The sign is there due to the location of a large utility pole in the middle of the store's small parking lot. No driver can avoid noticing the utility pole upon driving onto the lot; indeed, if a driver attempts to park his or her car in the space immediately in front of the bookstore's door, a very deliberate effort must be made to avoid striking the pole. Because of its placement, the utility pole is the first thing a customer sees upon leaving the establishment. Upon visiting the store several years ago, I found the posting of the warning sign redundant and, frankly, rather funny! When I half-jokingly commented to a cashier at the store that the sign's message was pretty obvious, his response was in a very serious tone: "You'd be surprised how many shoppers get into such a hurry that they crash into the obvious!"

We are now entering the Advent season, which includes the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. Throughout the centuries the Church has viewed the Advent season as a time of preparation: it reminds us to prepare to celebrate Christmas...Christ's first "advent" into this world as the Baby of Bethlehem and the Savior on the Cross...with appropriate reflection, thanksgiving, and joy, and it also reminds us to be prepared at all times for Christ's second "advent," when He will come in final victory. The "signs of the season" are intended to slow us down so that we may truly celebrate the mystery and majesty of God's gracious gift of salvation from sin through His Son. After all, even the shepherds in the fields around Bethlehem left their flocks in the night (an unthinkable break from their work!) for the opportunity to see and celebrate the birth of Jesus that was announced to them by the angel (Luke 2.8-20).

In truth, the hustle and bustle of December often causes us to ignore the real message of the signs and "crash into the obvious." We find ourselves with neither the energy nor the focus to experience the wonder of the birth of Jesus, God's Redeeming Son, and marvel at the thought of life abundant and eternal through faith in Him. Please don't let the stresses of the season cause you to ignore the signs of the season this year. Take the time, personally and with your loved ones, to celebrate the obvious rather than crash into it. Christmas is all about grace; give yourself the opportunity to abound in it this Christmas.

May your Advent/Christmas be blessed abundantly this year and thank you for the year-round gift of allowing me to serve as your pastor!

Blessings in Christ,

Barry



KATHERINE LEWIS
DIRECTOR OF
CHRISTIAN
MINISTRIES

At the beginning of this year, I shared with you my focus word of the year. I have done this for quite some time and this year's word was RENEW. This has been a year of change and renewal for us all as we have navigated some tough waters through our disaffiliation, pastoral changes that left us with a gap and many other things, but during this time, I, myself, have had some time to work and renew my focus. I am working to find balance and know that in this season of Joy and Hope, there is also a huge sense of Renewal and Change on the Horizon for me. I am beginning my prayer and search for my 2024 Focus word as we speak! I pray that during this Advent season, your sense of HOPE, JOY, LOVE and PEACE will be RENEWED as we celebrate the Birth of OUR SAVIOR.

There are some great upcoming things for December and January.

Here are a few:

For our Kids

- Our Children's Christmas Program will be on Wednesday December 13th. Please come and see the children share the news of Jesus' Birth!
- We will have our last JUMP meeting for the year on December 17th and this will be a Birthday Party for Jesus! From 3-4:30 in the Social Hall. If you have children or Grandchildren that you would like to bring, let me know. The more the merrier! I just want to make sure we have enough food!
- There are many other things coming on the Horizon. Watch for more info coming soon.

For our Youth

- December 10th will be our Christmas Dinner to celebrate Christmas together. We also will honor our Seniors this evening. I am so looking forward to this.
- I am also planning a fun night together for our last youth group this calendar year on Sunday, December 17th with lots of fun, games and prizes.
- Keep your eyes open for lots more fun and events as they come.

For Everybody

- Please note that we will not have a Fifth Sunday Fellowship in December. Since it will be New Year's Eve and we will only have one service, we decided to not have fellowship that day. Please stay tuned for announcements about the next fellowship opportunity.

As many of you may have heard there are some new changes and alterations to my responsibilities here at Fairview that will be coming during the 2024 Calendar year. Thanks for your patience and prayer as we all transition into what these new things will look like. I am excited to continue to serve with you in new ways!

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Lots of Love and Prayers for you all!

I Love you!

Kate

Staff Love Offering

This is a reminder to use a Love Offering envelope to share a Christmas Love Offering with your church staff. Love Offering envelopes are located in the back of the pews.



REMEMBER TO CHECK
THE NARTHEX FOR
ADVENT RESOURCES
& THE CHRISTMAS
CARD MAIL CENTER

PAR TAY
WITH A TWIST

TRUNK
OR
TREAT



Fall Fun At BKK



MISSIONS CORNER



For December we will be collecting **Donations** for the Fellowship Fund. The Fellowship Fund is the Pastor's discretionary account where we respond to needs in the community such as helping with rent or utilities. We also purchase food cards and gas cards for those type of needs. This mission focus is dedicated in honor of our pastor, Barry Taylor. You can place your contributions in the Little White Church in the Narthex.

The Missions Committee thanks all of you so much for the generosity you have shown these monthly missions!

EXCITING NEWS!

Effective immediately, Fairview Church has a brand new presence on the World Wide Web! Please take a moment to check out www.gofairviewchurch.org.

This new website is contemporary, easy to access, very user-friendly and now is also formatted for smartphone use.

Take a moment to browse the website and be sure to give us feedback or suggestions.

The website is always a work in progress and new items are added on a regular basis. You can access our online worship videos, our current and past bulletins and our current newsletter. You can also find out about programs and ministries going on here, view the current calendar and even give online!

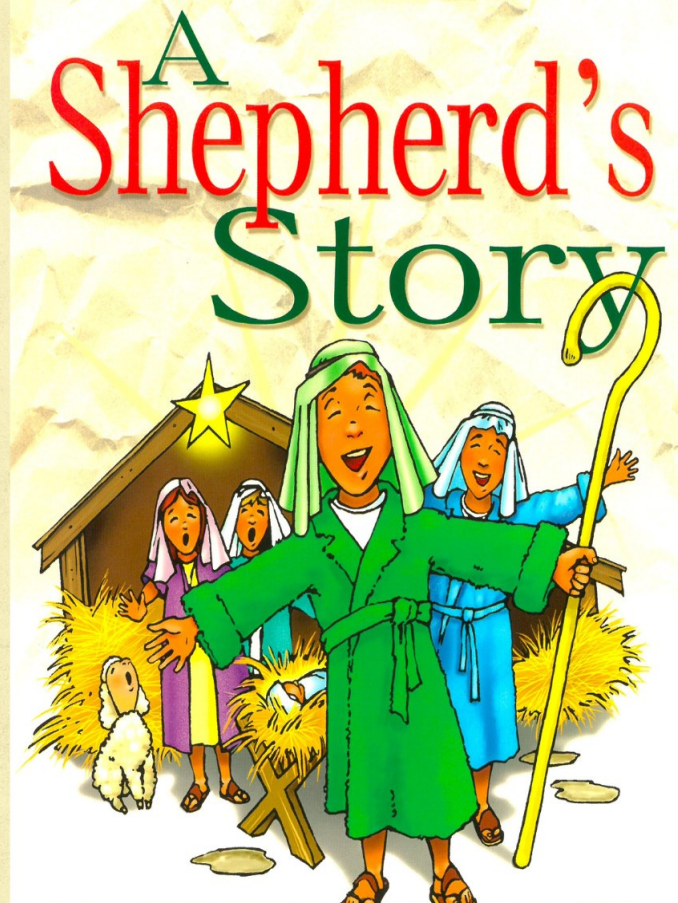
We're excited about our new look and hope that all will enjoy the new website.



Join us as
Fairview's
Children
present

A SHEPHERD'S STORY

Wednesday,
December 13
6:00pm
Church Sanctuary






**THE CHURCH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED
DECEMBER 25, 26 & 29
& JANUARY 1**

Have a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Christmas Services



Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24

9AM & 11AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:45AM



Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

DECEMBER 24

5PM



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Sunday Worship</u>	<u>Online Worship* (Vimeo)</u>	<u>Offering</u>
October 29	120	56	\$4,137.00
November 5	26/89	21	\$12,631.00
November 12	114	6	\$8,791.20
November 19	126	18	\$14,319.56
November 26	84	30	\$4,998.00

*Denotes views of online worship videos for the first week available for viewing. Vimeo views are multiplied by 1.5 to account for families watching together.

Average Weekly Giving in November 2023:
\$10,184.94

2023 Budget approved by Admin Board :
\$ 481,096.00

Average Weekly Giving Year to Date 2023:
\$8,262.35

2023 Weekly Contributions Needed to Meet Budget:
\$9,077.29

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Gary Jack	6 Andy Nordon	17 Doug Haraway
4 Joanne Barnes	8 Payton McGarvey	18 Austin Dishman
Don Nodtvedt	Sam Swanson	20 Esme Woodard
Margaret Snider	10 Emily Broyles	24 Angela Hyatt
Sue Franklin	Wayne Merricks	26 Terry Haraway
5 Debra Tucker	15 George Harvey	28 Marilyn Booth
6 Bryce Connor	Chris Hayzlett	Jonathan Dillion

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

21 Bill & Bonny Shelton	29 Scott & Gail Carter
23 Jim & Ann Jennings	30 Don & Barbara Nodtvedt

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Maggie Dishman	13 Linda Fitzgerald	25 Russ Williams
Zachery Ratliff	16 Emery Dillion	27 Duane Davis
2 Lee Ann Dillion	Patty Gann	Paul Davis
3 Chelsea Franklin	20 Michele Franklin	28 Susan Hoskins
5 Chaz Nickens	Ricky Dix	30 Brenda Brooks
11 Nancy Clark	21 Katherine Lewis	Jennifer Shelton
12 Derek Merricks	23 Nancy Batterman	Annette Tennant
Ronnie Boyles	25 Kenny Hoskins	

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

8 Garrett & Chelsea Franklin

Fairview Church
1013 Westover Drive
Danville, Virginia 24541

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORG.

US POSTAGE PAID

PERMIT NO. 4

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA



STAFF:

REV. BARRY L. TAYLOR, PASTOR

KATHERINE LEWIS, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

DEBBIE DEANE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

HEATHER PERRYMAN, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

DEEDEE DILLARD, PIANIST

HEATHER TAYLOR, DIRECTOR, BECKY'S KIDDIE KOLLEGE

WWW.GOFAIRVIEWCHURCH.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/FAIRVIEWCHURCHDANVILLE

PHONE: 434-792-3391

EMAIL: OFFICE.FAIRVIEWCHURCH@GMAIL.COM

*Fairview is a Christ-centered
welcoming church that loves the community
in undeniable ways.*