

E-news from FBC

(A weekly update to keep you abreast of happenings at church)

The First Baptist Church Motto: In Touch With God - Involved In Life

Upcoming Scripture(s) for Sunday, December 10, 2023

Isaiah 26:3-4

Colossians 3:15-17

(Note: Announcements which did not change from the previous week will be designated with a +)

The FBC 2023 Advent Theme is: Hope, Peace and Giving Back.

- + **Attention Boards and Committees.** On December 13th, the Board of Trustees will be meeting to develop the Church Budget for 2024. As we review our Church's expenses across 2023 and work toward covering expenses for 2024, it is important for the Trustees to receive your 2024 budget expectations. Please forward this request to the Church Office by email (fbc_pittsfield@yahoo.com) or USPS ahead of our December 13th meeting date. If you have any questions, please call Don Gagnon at (413) 822-8385. Thank you!

Poinsettia Order Forms/ PACC Donation Forms are due back to the Office by this coming **Friday, Dec. 15th** so the order can be called into the florist. The time is short, so if need be, call the Office and give your order over the phone.

Myra Whittaker Chapter Will Meet December 18th at noon.

Reimbursement Requests for the treasurer **must be submitted by Dec. 19th.** If not submitted by this date, there is a possibility you may not be reimbursed until January 2024.

Genesis Bake Sale will be on Sunday, December 17th during the All-Church Christmas Party! Come get some delicious baked goodies!

Diaconate Meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 12th at 5:30pm. Dinner will be included.

- + **The Angel Tree.** Thank you to all who took an angel from the tree! There are still some angels left, so stop by the Assembly Hall and take one! Each angel has one item on it, including the age of the recipient and requested size if needed. We ask that you purchase the item, wrap it, and **attach the angel to the wrapped gift**, so we know who the gift is for. **Return the gift to the Church no later than Sunday, December 17th.** Thank you so much for your generosity and for helping to make other families' Christmases a little brighter!

- + **Christmas Caroling.** On Sunday, December 10th, we will be Caroling for some of our members who are unable to come to Church. As we have been asked to carol after 1:30pm, those who would like to be a part of this special Christmas ministry should please meet at the Church at 1:15pm. We will divide into two groups, get our caroling books and be off for a time of song and fellowship. Please let Lynn LaRagione know (413-442-8592) if you will be able to attend. We do not want to leave anyone behind! Thank you!

Bible Study will resume January 25, 2024.

Thank You Mamé Opoku and the Diaconate for organizing our first International Food Festival! And thank you to all who participated! The food was delicious, and learning about the origins of the food and our Church Family was very interesting. What a fun way to begin the Advent Season! All who attended said they would like to have more of this type of event. Thank you to all!

- + **Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service** with communion will be at 11:00pm on Sunday, December 24th. At 10am on the 24th will be the usual worship service in celebration of the 4th Sunday of Advent.

Annual Reports Needed. All Boards and Committees - please submit your report to the Office (fbcpittsfield@yahoo.com) by Wednesday, January 10th.

- + **Choir Rehearsal.** Every Tuesday at 6:30pm.

- + **Christmas Pageant Rehearsal** will be on Saturday, December 16th, from 1:30 - 4:30pm. The Pageant will take place on Sunday, Dec. 17th, during the Worship Service.

- + **FUSION Youth Group Schedule December 2023**

Sunday, December 10: Christmas Cookie Baking 11:00 - 2:30 pm

We will have Sunday School and bake Christmas cookies together. **Please pack a lunch to have after Sunday School.**

SATURDAY, December 16: MANDATORY PAGEANT REHEARSAL 1:30-4:30 pm

If you are participating in the Christmas Pageant on 12/17, there is a **MANDATORY** rehearsal. Pizza will be provided at the end of the rehearsal.

Sunday, December 17: Church Christmas Party 11:00-12:30 pm

Join us for the Christmas Pageant during worship, followed by the All-Church Christmas Party.

MONDAY, December 18: Feed My Sheep 4:30 - 6:00 pm

Under the leadership of FBC member Sue Gagnon, we will prepare, serve and clean up the Monday night homeless meal. Please join us if you are able for this important ministry.

Sunday, December 24: Christmas Eve - No Sunday School or Youth Group

Sunday, December 31: New Year's Eve- No Sunday School or Youth Group

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!

- + **Sunday Coffee Hour Host/Hostess Reminder**

Dec. 10: Sam & Eleanor Bennett & Claire Caesar

Dec. 17: Joretta Magri & Mickie Allen

Dec. 24: Tammy Kupernik & Sandy Cronin

- + **Adult Sunday School** meets after worship each Sunday. All are invited to participate!

- + **Reminder.** The Church's Office hours are Tuesday – Friday from 9am – 1pm. If you send an email to fbcpittsfield@yahoo.com after 1pm, it will not be read until the following day the Office is open. If you need to reach Pastor Sheila during these “off” times, it is best to email her directly at ssr1919@msn.com.

- + **Tithe.ly App.** You may scan the QR code found on the back of the bulletin or download the app to make a donation. Look for “First Baptist Church of Pittsfield.”

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

- + **Spirituality of Finances.** Did you ever wonder what the Bible has to say about personal finances? Do you wish you had some tools to help get out of debt? At St. Mark's in Pittsfield, we will be running a program by **Dave Ramsey and his Financial Peace University**. This will hopefully give all the folks interested some strategies they can use to get out of debt as well as ideas about how to approach charitable giving to the church.

This program will be open to all parishes and will begin in class sessions starting in January. If you want to join, the deadline to register is December 28th.

Please register by household and submit to St. Mark's offices (400 West St., Pittsfield) your \$20 payment along with your name and the best number to reach you. Your registration fee gets you a workbook to track your own finances and online access to all materials and videos that will be used in the class.

Thank you very much.

Dana Arce

St. Mark's Church

The office is open for registrations Mon-Thu 9 am to 2pm

Please call: 413.447.7510 for any other questions

- + **“I’ll Stand By You” – The 10-Year Anniversary Christmas Celebration with Samantha Talora and Ron Ramsay with Music Director Barbara Anselmi, Broadway Composer.**

Where: St. Ann Church in Lenox

When: Friday, December 15th at 7:00pm

Tickets: Go to <https://IllStandByYouConcert.Eventbrite.com>

Tickets can also be purchased at the door on the 15th.