

The Messenger



from the Pastor

The Gift of Hope.

Counselors say that many people find this time of year very depressing. Perhaps it's our unfulfilled expectations or our losses. Sometimes family problems are magnified. Add to all these the challenge of a pandemic and the hard times 2020 has brought and it's no wonder people struggle.

However, the message of Christmas stands the test of time. The simple message of God coming to live with us, born in a remote village to the poorest of parents into a world that hardly noticed or cared is the gift of hope. The angel announced, "For unto you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior which is Christ the Lord."

This Christmas season we will remember the Hope that comes to us in Jesus. Hope found in the thrilling announcement of the angels; 'to us is born a Savior.' The gift of hope is that no matter how damaged our lives, how flawed our actions, how desperate our world, God has come because He 'so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...'

This month as we remember the ancient story and sing the old carols, we remember the gift of Christmas and the hope Jesus brings to our world and to us.

Certainly it's been a hard year. Yet, we conclude the year with the promise of the Gift of Hope.

1 Peter 1:3 – "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

Let's come around the Gift of Hope this month so that we can be renewed in our faith. Let's come around the Gift of Hope so that we can worship Him. Let's come around the Gift of Hope and share that gift to a world full of people who need Him.

Don

Gift of Hope



FIRST BAPTIST *Oxford*

800 Van Buren Ave., Oxford MS 38655 ■ 662.234.3515

[fbcxford](https://www.facebook.com/fbcxford) [@fbcxford](https://twitter.com/fbcxford) ■ gotofirst.org

December

See gotofirst.org for event updates and the latest safety guidelines.

DECEMBER 2

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's
- 12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's
- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom
- 6 p.m. GriefShare
- 6 p.m. Women's Explorer's
- 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth

DECEMBER 6 *Baby Dedication*

- 8:30 a.m. Senior Adult Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 3 p.m. Preschool Christmas Party
- 3 p.m. Children's Christmas Party
- 6 p.m. Sunday PM for Youth

DECEMBER 9

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Explorer's
- 9:30 a.m. Women's Explorer's
- 12 p.m. Men's & Women's Explorer's
- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom
- 6 p.m. GriefShare
- 6 p.m. Women's Explorer's
- 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth

DECEMBER 12

- 7:30 a.m. Men's Ministry Workday



**SATURDAY WORKDAY
DECEMBER 12**
Email mm@gotofirst.org
to sign up!
Meet at the CLC at 7:30 a.m.

DECEMBER 13

Worship with Christmas Music

- 8:30 a.m. Senior Adult Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 6 p.m. Sunday PM for Youth

DECEMBER 15

- 7 p.m. Brazil Mission Trip
Interest Meeting

DECEMBER 16

- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom
- 6 p.m. GriefShare
- 6 p.m. Midweek for Youth

DECEMBER 17

- 6:30 p.m. Women's Ministry Book Club

DECEMBER 20

- 8:30 a.m. Senior Adult Worship Service
- 9:45 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 11 a.m. Worship Service/Sunday School
- 6 p.m. Sunday PM for Youth

DECEMBER 23

- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom
- 6 p.m. GriefShare

DECEMBER 24 *Christmas Eve*

Church office closed

- 2 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- 6 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER 25 *Christmas*

Church office closed

DECEMBER 27

No Sunday School

- 8:30 a.m. Senior Adult Worship Service
- 11 a.m. Worship Service

DECEMBER 30

- 6 p.m. Prayer Meeting on Zoom
- 6 p.m. GriefShare

We will continue to offer online options for worship and Sunday School. Worship Service link available at gotofirst.org. Sunday School Zoom meeting numbers are sent out through church-wide email prior to each meeting. If you would like to be added to our email list to receive meeting access, send a request to pccarter@gotofirst.org.

Our Family

Budget November 1-15, 2020

Budget	\$100,109.52
Building	\$1,780.00
Designated	\$11,480.94
Total	\$113,370.46

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LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

FBC Oxford Goal: \$100,000
Given to date: \$20,554.94

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS: In order to receive credit for charitable contributions made in 2020, they must be received in the church office by Thursday, December 31, 2020 or have been post-marked by December 31, 2020. Other contributions (stock, bonds, etc.) must be transferred by December 28, 2020 for credit in 2020. Electronic giving needs to be made by December 30 in order to provide clearance by December 31. For more information, contact Dina Addy or Robert Allen at 234-3515. All donations to FBC are handled according to IRS rules and regulations. Thank you for your faithful and generous giving.



How may we
pray for you?

Scan with your
phone camera.

Deacons of the Week

Nov. 29-	Dave Miller, Derrell Doss,
Dec. 5	Lanny Shackelford
Dec. 6-12	Brad Golmon, Jim Rose, Lane Wilson
Dec. 13-19	Michael Meurrier, Bobby Clanton, Gary Carter
Dec. 20-26	Fred Johnson, Michael Meurrier, Nelson Little
Dec. 27-	Jeff Busby, David Erhart,
Jan. 2	Michael Ferris

New Members in November

Ryan and Lauren Fortenberry

Congratulations

Britt and Celeste Sheffield welcomed **Aubrey Jean Sheffield** on November 5. Aubrey joins big brother Henry.

Andy and Jessica Stronger welcomed **Jordan Andrew Stringer** on October 28.

Dakota and McKenzie Willis welcomed **Ann Wesley Willis** on November 3. Ann joins big brother Hudson and big sister Reese.

Our Sympathy

To Mr. Noah Miller after the loss of his grandmother Mrs. Shirley Miller

To Mrs. Mary Lou Dabbs after the loss of her nephew Mr. Jim Pace.

To Mrs. Susan Martin after the loss of her father Mr. Lee Ferrell.

Gift of Hope

Christmas Eve Services

2 p.m. • 4 p.m. • 6 p.m. *The Lord's Supper will be served.*

*Reservations will be taken Sundays in the Atrium
or by calling the church office at (662) 234-3515.*

MISSION & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Questions? Contact Jeff Holeman at 662.234.3515 or wigtake@gmail.com

THURSDAYS in MARKS December 3, 10, 17

Leave church at 2 p.m. and return at 6 p.m.



Helping with tutoring, homework, and recreation with kids. Reserve your space on the bus by contacting Pam Carter at pcarter@gotofirst.org or 662-234-3515.

OAXACA MISSIONS PARTNERSHIP

FBC Oxford has adopted the Tlacolula Valley Zapotec people and we send teams to work in several communities among this people group in southern Mexico.

- **MEDICAL TEAM** March 20-26, 2021. \$950 per person.
 - **WOMEN'S MINISTRY** April 17-24, 2021. \$950 per person.
 - **OAXACA LEADER TRAINING** August 18-23, 2021. \$950 per person.
- FBC Oxford members/college students receive a \$500 discount.*

BRAZIL MISSION TRIP JUAZEIRO DO NORTE, STATE OF CEARÁ July 15-25, 2021

Construction, Medical, and Children's ministry teams.

Cost will be a max of \$2400 per person and includes all expenses except some meals and tourist activities.

First Baptist Oxford members will receive an \$800 discount.

Interest Meeting Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. in the Choir Room



SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY Sundays at 5 p.m.
in the Clubhouse. Dec. 6 and 13. We will resume Jan. 10.
We are studying The Gospel Project.

ENGLISH LEARNERS' CLASS FOR WOMEN

Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. on Zoom *If you know someone who would like to participate, email lynndyfurdle@gmail.com for Zoom meeting information.*

Come Together for Christmas Cookies

We are planning a Christmas cookie social at The Links. If you would like to bake cookies, email lynndyfurdle@gmail.com.



First Baptist Oxford
**MISSION TRIP TO THE
AMAZON RIVER**
(PERU) **MAY 9-19**

EVANGELISM AND DISCIPLESHIP IN VILLAGES

\$2400 includes all costs except meals to/from field.
FBC members/College students get \$800 discount.
Email Jeff at wigtake@gmail.com if you want to go.

NEW ORLEANS MISSION TRIPS

FBC Oxford partners with Brian and Joan Morales in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Morales' are a part of Lakeshore (Spanish) Church. FBC Oxford supports the Morales family financially and we send small mission teams to support their ministry.

- **NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY** April 9-11, 2021. \$90 per person.
- **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TRIP** July 7-10, 2021. \$125 per person.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK PARTY** Fall 2021. \$90 per person.

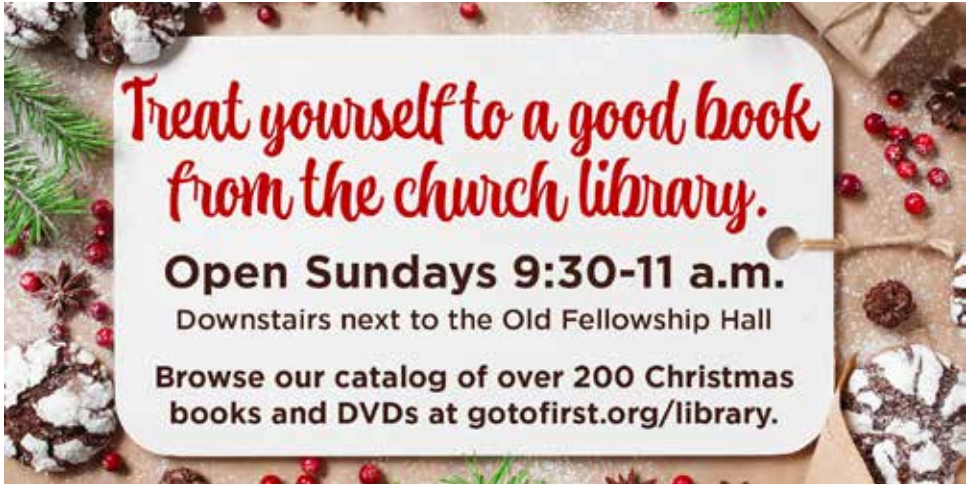
MISSIONS PRAYER TEAM

Join the prayer team by contacting Pam Carter (pcarter@gotofirst.org or 662-234-3515). Prayer team will meet periodically and will receive monthly prayer updates.

Coming in February

15 minutes for 50 days. Begins Valentine's Day!
A 50 day challenge to spend 15 minutes in prayer
and Bible study every day until Easter Sunday!

Tuesday Night Training returns in February!
Steps To Becoming A Prayer Warrior.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY NEWS wmin@gotofirst.org

Monthly Book Club Thursday, December 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Zoom link sent out the event day. Email wmin@gotofirst.org to be added.

PRESCHOOL & CHILDREN'S NEWS



Preschool and Children's Sunday School

Sundays at 11 a.m. Check in downstairs from the Atrium

Children's Sunday School also meets on Zoom at 9 a.m. Email wsimon@gotofirst.org for details. Check out Gospel Project resources at gotofirst.org/children

STUDENT MINISTRY NEWS



Sundays at 11 a.m.
in person and on Zoom
Third Floor



Returns Jan. 3!
Sundays at 6 p.m.
in the CLC



Dec. 2, 9, and 16
Wednesdays at 6 p.m.
in the CLC



FBC OXFORD STAFF

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McKenzi Massey Peyton Schiller
Joanna Word

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JR Wilbanks Abby McCutcheon

BUILDING

Maria Thompson W.C. Certion
Carl Pettis Synthia Gilliam



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