

“THE VISION”



December 2024 www.firstbaptistwest.com admin@firstbaptistwest.com 536-4227

FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings, Everyone;
MERRY CHRISTMAS! Now that we have stepped into December, it is officially time for me to say that to everyone. It's no secret that I love Christmas and everything about it. I love the lights, the decorations, gifts, parties, family gatherings, Christmas plays, and of course, the Hallmark Christmas Movies. With all the great things about Christmas, my favorite thing is celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. Nothing about this month can overcome that. We have a great opportunity to have a great Christmas experience on December the 15th with our Christmas at West program entitled What Kind of Throne. Over the past several years, our program has become an amazing experience, and I have no reason to doubt that this year will be the same. I know everyone has been putting in a lot of hours planning and rehearsing to make this the best we can offer. I would encourage you to plan on attending and bringing someone with you for this great night. We will also be having our Christmas Eve Candlelight service which is always a special night for FBW. We have already begun planning for our Winter and Spring studies and events, so be looking for our promotional material explaining everything that is coming our way for the first part of 2025.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Gloria Edwards to our church family. I look forward to getting to serve as your pastor and seeing how God is going to use you at FBW.

I hope you have a great month; God bless you and Merry Christmas!

Bro. Harold



Join us Sunday, December 15, 6:00 pm for a multi-generational Christmas experience featuring the FBW Worship & Kids Choirs, FBW Band, Live Nativity and so much more! A dessert fellowship will follow the performance. Childcare available for children age 0-4. Admission, dessert, & childcare are all FREE!

Sign up to bring a non-refrigerated dessert in the church foyer.



DECEMBER 24 AT 5:00 PM



Sunday, December 22, 29, & January 5

No 8:30 am Worship Service

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship Service

FROM THE ASSOC. PASTOR

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped with our Thanksgiving banquet. It took a lot of people to make it happen and I am so grateful for each and every one of them.

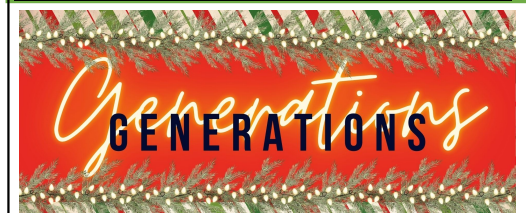
As we get ready for the Christmas season, let don't forget the Thanksgiving season. We all have so much that we can be thankful for. We can be thankful for our families, our friends, our church, our country, and so much more. We often are moving too fast to stop and be grateful For what we have been blessed with. We are quick to ask for blessings, but sometimes we are slow to be thankful for the ones that we already have.

As we get ready for the Christmas season, let's make sure we remember the real reason for Christmas. It's not about the decorations or the lights or the gifts that we receive, though they are nice to enjoy. It is really about the birth of our savior. he came to seek to save those who are lost.

With all of the anxiety that comes with the Christmas season, let's remember to be kind to those around us. You never know what someone is going through and a little bit of kindness can go along ways and helping them. We want them to know that the love of God has made a difference in our life and can make a difference in their life as well.

Serving together

Bro. Barry



CHRISTMAS GENERATIONS
DECEMBER 4 | 6PM-7PM
WILL SNACKS START AT 5:45PM

Join us for a festive Christmas Generations! This is a time for everyone from kids-adults to come together for holiday fun and fellowship! This generations, join the staff in dressing in your favorite Christmas attire! We will also be having an ugly Christmas sweater contest, so don't forget to wear your ugliest sweater! sign up in the foyer or by using the QR code!



By Statement: Gloria Edwards



Sunday, December 29, during the Worship Service.



The church office will be closed December 25- January 1.

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FROM THE ASSOC. PASTOR OF WORSHIP & MISSIONS

Church Family,

God is good! His blessings are all around us! I pray that you had a wonderful time together with family and friends recounting God's blessings and giving Him thanks!

God's greatest blessing came to us that first Christmas in the birth of our Savior, Jesus. This December may Christ be at the forefront of all that we do. May we allow Him to be the true reason for the season.

Please mark your calendar to not miss one of the biggest events we do as a church by attending our Christmas at West "What Kind of Throne" presentation on December 15th at 6 pm. I can think of no better way to begin the Christmas season than to join together for a multigenerational worship experience as the story is told of God's wonderful love that came to earth to live among us! There will be beautiful music, singing and lights, narration, live nativity and drama, an inspiring message from our Pastor, and more, but most of all - there will be praise and glorifying our Lord! Please join us and invite your family and friends as well for a great night to celebrate what God has done for us!

Speaking of multigenerational – our Christmas Generations is coming up on Dec. 4th from 6-7 pm. Come ready for a night of fun, food and fellowship and wear your favorite Christmas outfit or ugliest Christmas sweater if you want to enter the Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest! If you've never been to a Generations before let me encourage you to not miss this one!

You'll also not want to miss the schedule change for our Sunday Worship Services. Beginning Dec. 22, 29, and Jan. 5 there will be no 8:30 am Worship Service. We will have Sunday School at 9:45 am and combined Worship service at 11:00 am.

Bro. Brent



IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Grace Whitworth passed away Nov 4. She was a member of FBW for over 11 years. Our condolences go out to Trevor & Linda Whitworth & family.



Debra Daubenspeck passed away Nov 7. She was a member of FBW for over 13 years. Our condolences go out to Terry, Lacey, & Derek Daubenspeck, Pat Wetmore, & family.



Women's Ministry Christmas Party

Ladies of all ages are invited to join us in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Women's Ministry Christmas Party! Please bring an appetizer, salad, vegetable, or dessert and a \$10 gift for a gift exchange.



FROM THE ASSOC. PASTOR OF STUDENT & FAMILY MINISTRIES

Hello Church Family!

November was a great month! Our last Recharge was November 20 and it was a Friendsgiving celebration! It was a blast and I'm looking forward to another one next year! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving as well!

We will have two Monday Night Fellowships at Jeremy's house, 12 Deer Run Trail, this month, December 2nd and December 16th starting at 6:00 PM. This is a great time for students to bond over food and fun! Dinner is provided!

Our Wednesday Night Recharge will start again on January 8 and Sunday night Bible study will start on January 12.

Mark your calendars for the FBW Students Christmas Season schedule:

- December 4 - Christmas Generations
- December 7 - Ice Skating/Christmas Lights in Chickasha
- December 8 - Christmas Movie Night at Jeremy Welborn's house.
- December 11 - Youth Christmas Party
- December 18 - Cookie Decorating and Ornament Painting
- December 22 - Sunday School Christmas Parties

Sincerely,
Bro. Keith Sahr



Students Salvation Army Project



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FROM THE PRESCHOOL AND KID'S DIRECTOR

Greetings from FBW Kids and Preschool: It's the most wonderful time of the year! Christmas is my favorite: I love the family traditions, the carols, the baking, the gift giving, the decorating...all of it!

The first part of December is my favorite time because I get to unpack our advent calendar and anticipate how our family is going to use our time. Like you, we are a very busy family: church activities, homeschooling, doctor's appointments, kid activities, Christmas parties and family activities. During this time, I must purposefully plan to slow down as much as I can to reflect upon the true meaning of the season.

Adventus, Latin for coming or arrival. For Christians, Advent is the quiet anticipation of Christmas (Christ birth), a spiritual time of reflection and preparation. A time to embrace the hope and remembrance of Christ's arrival and the expectance of His return.

Here are some scriptures to help you prepare your heart for the Christmas season:

- * Hope-Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
- * Preparation-Isaiah 40:3-5
- * Joy-Matthew 2:10-11
- * Love-John 3:16-19

On Sundays, we will be singing carols and learning about the Birth of Christ and how it changed the world. If you need any resources to guide your family spiritually through this Christmas season, contact me and I would love to chat with you.

- "For unto us a child is born..." Isaiah 9:6a

God Bless!

Melissa Burke

FBW Kid's Ministry Director



WE'RE GRATEFUL for you!

Church family,

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, phone calls, and memorial donations to the building fund in my mother's name. All these kind thoughts and actions speak highly of the loving church First Baptist West is. You are truly a blessing during a difficult time like this.

Trevor Whitworth and Family

FROM THE PASTOR

From Pastor Harold Gaches:

In an effort to conserve costs, starting in January 2025, the FBW Newsletter will no longer be mailed via standard mail. Instead, the Newsletter will be available via email (on the first of each month), on our website, or paper copies will be provided in the Welcome Center. If you would like to receive the Newsletter via email, please sign up in the foyer or contact the church office to ensure we have your correct email address.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

	November	Sunday School	
	Average	Attendance	
Preschool	13	Nov 3	199
Children	21	Nov 10	201
Youth	26	Nov 17	197
Adults	138	Nov 24	139
Total	199		

Deacons/Yokefellows on Call

December 1 – December 7

Primary: Trevor Whitworth 536-5001

Alternate: Martin Williams 405-829-0168

December 8 – December 14

Primary: Jerry Wood 284-5003

Alternate: Dwain Baxter 591-6071

December 15 – December 21

Primary: Ron Callen 704-8014

Alternate: Jim Green 483-9751

December 22 – December 28

Primary: David King 595-1026

Alternate : Quinton Murr 305-0784

December 29 – January 4

Primary: Ed Petersen 536-3510

Alternate: Craig Shelton 583-6693

To qualify for 2024 tax-deduction, contributions must be dated and postmarked by Dec. 31 or hand delivered to the church before midnight. Any check or donation received after this date must be credited to the next year, regardless of the date on the check. (IRS guidelines)

We have decided to separate the Preschool and Children's Director positions moving forward. We are seeking someone to fill the position of Children's Ministry Director. Contact the church office for an application.



FIRST BAPTIST WEST
7302 NW Cache Road
Lawton, OK 73505

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Love God, Love People, See Lives Change.

FIRST BAPTIST WEST WEEKLY SERVICES

SUNDAY

- 8:30 A.M.** EARLY WORSHIP SERVICE
CHILDREN'S CHURCH
- 9:45 A.M.** SUNDAY SCHOOL
- 11:00 A.M.** WORSHIP SERVICE (Livestreamed)
CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Go to firstbaptistwest.com AND click on "WATCH ONLINE" or First Baptist West on Facebook. Archived services are available by clicking on "Videos" on the "WATCH ONLINE" page.



Spanish Services

Sundays, 11:00 a.m., Spanish Church Room
Thursdays, 6:00 p.m., Spanish Home Bible Study
(twice a month)

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

- WEDNESDAY 5:45 P.M.** PRESCHOOL
- 6:00-7:00 P.M.** CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
STUDENT ACTIVITIES
PRAYER MEETING
ADULT BIBLE STUDIES
- 7:00-8:30 P.M.** CHOIR REHEARSAL

CHURCH STAFF

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pastor | Harold Gaches |
| Facilities Administrator | Barry Cornish |
| Executive Administrator | Randy Murphy |
| Worship Pastor | Brent Bennight |
| Spanish Pastor | Bruno Rojas |
| Student Pastor | Keith Sahr |
| Preschool/Kid's Director | Melissa Burke |
| Financial Administrator | Rexane Geis |
| Admin. Asst./Receptionist | Kaylee Sahr |
| Custodian | Kevin Hill |
| Custodian | Jim Green |
| Organist | Sandy Sharkey |
| Pianist | |