



**Blessing Opportunity!** – Andrew & Laura Bennett (& Wynona) will be moving into town this month. As a church family, we would like to bless them with gifts of gift cards or cash to help with setting up their new home. Suggestions for gift cards are for Superstore, Sobey's, Home Depot and Canadian Tire. Please give any contributions to Pam or Sharon **by December 6<sup>th</sup>**.

**Available at the Welcome Centre** – There are copies of the church's December calendar available for pick up at the Welcome Centre, and it is also visible on the church website.

If you would like more invitations for Advent services and events taking place at First this year, those are also available.

And, if you did not receive a Christmas letter from Pastor Dave by e-mail or in the regular mail, please check at the Welcome Centre for one.

**Giving options at First Baptist** – There are several ways to give offerings and tithes to support the ministry here.

- ❖ A weekly collection is received during the service, where you can put cash or cheques in (use your numbered offering envelopes or the envelopes in the pew or from Welcome Centre).
- ❖ We also provide the option of giving through PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) – there are forms to set this up at the Welcome Centre.
- ❖ You may give using your credit card through tithe.ly (accessible on the church webpage or as an app for your phone.)
- ❖ There are also blue slips in the pews to have the church enter your donation from your credit card manually.

**Thank you for your prayers and financial support.**

**Contact Us: (902) 628-2111**

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. David DuBois – [pastordave@bellaliant.net](mailto:pastordave@bellaliant.net)

**Seniors & Outreach:** Rev. Annette Wells – [dietcokeaddict43@hotmail.com](mailto:dietcokeaddict43@hotmail.com)

**Worship:** Sharon MacKenzie – [sharonsry@hotmail.com](mailto:sharonsry@hotmail.com)

**Children's & Family Ministries:** Pam Schut – [amixofsix@gmail.com](mailto:amixofsix@gmail.com)

**Youth, Young Adults & Connection:** Andrew & Laura Bennett – [andrujb@gmail.com](mailto:andrujb@gmail.com);  
[laurasredsky@gmail.com](mailto:laurasredsky@gmail.com)

**Office Administrator:** Annette Wells – [fbcb@pei.aibn.com](mailto:fbcb@pei.aibn.com)

**Custodian** – Rick Myers

**Let's connect online:** Website: [myfbc.ca](http://myfbc.ca)

Facebook: [First Baptist Church](https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurch)

[Childrens Ministry at First Baptist Church](https://www.facebook.com/ChildrensMinistryatFirstBaptistChurch)



235 Prince St.  
Charlottetown  
[myfbc.ca](http://myfbc.ca)

## OUR MISSION

*Sharing the hope of Jesus  
with the world he loves.*



*The Word became flesh and blood,  
and moved into the neighborhood.  
We saw the glory with our own eyes,  
the one-of-a-kind glory,  
like Father, like Son,  
Generous inside and out,  
true from start to finish.*

John 1:14, The Message

**First Sunday in  
Advent**

**December 3,  
2017**

**9:30 & 11:00  
a.m.**

## Welcome to First Baptist Church

*If you are visiting today, we are delighted to have you with us.  
If you need any help at all, please ask one of the hosts at the door or in the foyer.  
There is also information at the Welcome Centre.*

*Children are invited to sit with their parents until  
they are dismissed from the service for the Children's Programs downstairs.  
Sunday morning programs for children include Nursery (ages 0-2)  
and Pre School & Junior Church (ages 3- grade 6).  
Our Sunday services include the 9:30 "Morning Well" and 11:00 "Classic Worship".  
At 10:30 everyone is invited to "Halftime" downstairs in the Caf e  
to enjoy coffee, snacks and conversation.  
Prayer with a pastor or deacon is offered in the chapel  
(area to the left of the sanctuary) following the service.*

Because of Bethlehem Week 1  
"God has a Face"  
John 1:14 (Msg)

### Week at a Glance

<b><u>Monday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup></u></b>	9:00 a.m. – Food Pantry (Phyllis G.; Shelley W.) 6:00 p.m. – WMS (supper meeting at Papa Joe's)
<b><u>Tuesday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup></u></b>	9:30 a.m. – Staff Meeting 1:30 p.m. – Bible Study (Hospitality room) 6:30 p.m. – English Conversation group 7:00 p.m. – Prayer Group (at Neily's)
<b><u>Wednesday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup></u></b>	12:10 p.m. – Prince St. Advent service at Salvation Army 6:00 p.m. – Annual Solid Rock Youth Seniors Dinner 7:00 p.m. – Discipleship Class
<b><u>Thursday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup></u></b>	7:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer 9:00 a.m. – CHANCES (in kitchen) 10:00 a.m. – Mom's Drop In 6:30 p.m. – KICK 6:30 p.m. – Alpha
<b><u>Friday, Dec. 8<sup>th</sup></u></b>	6:00 p.m. – Handbell Choir practice
<b><u>Saturday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup></u></b>	9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – "Journey to Bethlehem" Practice
<b><u>Sunday, Dec. 10<sup>th</sup></u></b>	Second Week of Advent 9:30 a.m. – Morning Well 10:30 a.m. – Halftime 11:00 a.m. – Classic Worship 11:00 a.m. – Cantonese Alpha Closing Celebration (at Fergus & Rose's) 7:00 p.m. – "Journey to Bethlehem" practice

## TODAY

Today is the first Sunday of the Advent season, as we prepare and look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth. As today is also the first Sunday of the month, we will be celebrating communion at both services to remember the command Jesus gave to remember him until He comes again. This is also the traditional week for giving to the benevolent offering.



### Family Christmas Party

Join us on **December 3rd at 2:00 p.m.** for our Family Christmas Party. We will open with a Christmas presentation from the children and then enjoy an afternoon of Christmas games, crafts and snacks. Contact Pam for information.

**2018 Offering Envelopes** are available for pick up in the foyer this morning. If there are any changes to your giving (either you would like to get envelopes, or don't need them because you give electronically), please notify the church office or the Accounting Technician at [fbcfinance@pei.aibn.com](mailto:fbcfinance@pei.aibn.com).

The December meeting of the WMS group is meeting on Monday, **December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.** at Papa Joe's Restaurant. Attendees are responsible for buying their own meal, and there will be a short devotional as well. Contact Jean Hender with any questions.

Solid Rock Youth  
Presents

### **The Annual Seniors Christmas Dinner Wednesday, December 6, 6:00 p.m.**

'Enjoy an evening of wonderful food, music, festivities and fellowship with us this season'

Looking for something to give that person who really doesn't need anything new? **Canadian Baptist Ministries Gift Catalogues, "Hopeful Gifts for Change"** are available in the foyer. You can choose from many different items (prices range from \$10 to \$1,000 and cover many different needs and regions.) The funds go to CBM projects and the person you are giving on behalf of also receives a blessing.

## Preparing the Heart for Advent

*Adapted from the Because of Bethlehem Study Guide*

“Let every heart prepare him room,” writes Isaac Watts in the beloved Christmas hymn “Joy to the World.” And that is what Advent is intended to help us do. It is a season of preparation and anticipation, a time to ready our hearts and lives for the arrival of the King. But too often, the time and attention required for spiritual preparation gets lost in the busyness and pressures of the holiday season.

Author Ronald Rolheiser writes:

Our time of preparation is generally more a time to prepare our houses than a time to prepare our souls, more a time of shopping than of prayer, and more a time of already feasting than a time of fasting as a preparation for a feast. Today, Advent is perhaps more about already celebrating Christmas than it is about preparing for it. And the end result is that, like the biblical innkeepers who had no room for Mary and Joseph at the first Christmas, we generally arrive at Christmas with “no room at the inn,” no space in our lives for a spiritual rebirth.

If we want to arrive at Christmas with a heart wide open for the Christ child, we need to be intentional about making room for him now. The question Advent invites us to consider is this:

*How ready am I for the arrival of the King?*

Here are some ways we can be more intentional about preparing our hearts.

1. Take some time to reflect on what the weeks ahead might be like for you. Use the statements that follow to briefly assess how these weeks leading up to Christmas typically impact you. For each statement, rate yourself from 1 to 10, where 1 is “Not true at all of me” and 10 is “Completely true of me”.

Begin each statement with: *During the weeks leading up to Christmas ...*

Focus	Statement	Rate 1 to 10
Physical	I am consistently able to meet my body's needs for rest, exercise, nutrition, hygiene, etc.	
Relational	I am consistently able to give and receive love, maintain healthy boundaries, be attentive to the needs and concerns of others, and to allow others to care for me.	
Emotional	I am consistently able to express feelings, manage stress, and maintain perspective when things don't go my way.	
Pace of life	I am consistently able to maintain a reasonable pace of life. I have adequate time to accomplish tasks, sufficient margins to be flexible with changing demands, and time to enjoy people and activities that give me life.	

Financial	I am consistently able to avoid debt, be intentional with spending, generous in giving, and wise in saving.	
Spiritual	I am consistently able to rest in God, spend time with him, respond to his leading, trust him with unknowns, grow in my love for him and receive love from him.	

2. In a journal, reflect on these questions:

- Which of the six areas of life listed above, if any, tend to suffer or be diminished during the weeks leading up to Christmas? Which, if any, tend to thrive or be strengthened?
- Consider the impact these weeks typically have on your ability to prepare yourself spiritually for Christmas. In what ways is this season your *ally*, a partner that helps you to draw closer to God and others?
- In what ways is this season your *adversary*, an opponent that makes it harder for you to draw closer to God and others?
- What kinds of things would you say have the greatest potential to crowd your heart and life in the weeks to come? What might you have to let go of in order to make space for Christ, to prepare him room?

3. Set aside 15 minutes at the beginning or end of five days this week to do a “room” review – to notice the ways you are or are not making room for Christ. Just as a coach and athletes sometimes watch game-day videos to see what worked and what needs more practice, imagine you and Jesus together are watching a video replay of the previous 24 hours.

Divide your day into three parts: morning, afternoon, and evening. As you reflect on each part of the day, prayerfully consider two questions:

- *Lord, in what ways did I make room for you in my life or in my heart?*
- *Lord, in what ways did I fail to make room for you?*

We make room for Christ when we choose him and welcome him into every moment, no matter how small. We fail to make room for Christ when we choose something else over him, or when he is not made welcome in any way. Here are some examples of small ways we might welcome or not welcome Christ into our lives and into our hearts:

- We can choose to limit commitments in order to get adequate sleep and avoid feeling frantic or run down, or choose not to limit commitments.
- We can choose to set aside the to-do list in order to be with and enjoy another person, or choose not to set aside the to-do list.
- We can choose to believe the best when we could dwell on the worst, or choose not to believe the best.

Each day, record at least two or three observations about what you notice in a journal. At the end of the week, review your daily observations. What stands out most to you about the ways in which you routinely make room or fail to make room for Christ? Prayerfully surrender what you’ve written, inviting Jesus to help you make room for him in the days ahead.