



Bryan Sanders, Senior Minister

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Sunday Worship Live Stream

www.sandbornfcc.org/videos or
on YouTube (search "SFCC
Online" & select the date)

Worship & Sunday School

Sundays at 9:15am, WCML

Amplify

Sundays at 10:30am, WCLL

Plugged In

Wednesdays at 6:30pm, WCLL

Faithful Fitness

Wednesdays at 6:30pm, FCLL

Elders Meeting

Sun. 6th at 5:30pm, FCML

Board Meeting

Thurs. 10th at 7:00pm, FCML

Live Nativity

Sun. 20th at 6:00-9:00pm, Rawles'

Christmas Eve Service

Thurs. 24th at 7:00pm, WCML

WC—Worship Center, FC—Fellowship Center,
ML—Main Level, LL—Lower Level

A Different Christmas



Luke 1:46-55, NIV

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name. His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation. He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

No doubt, this will be a different and difficult Christmas for al-

"A Different Christmas" continued...

most all of us. Some will spend it completely alone. Others will not be able to gather with family that they already don't see very often. A lot of travel plans have been scratched. Even many of our familiar church traditions and functions have been canceled. For some of you, having lost someone or even multiple loved ones this year will make this one of the hardest Christmases yet. And, no doubt, it's going to be difficult for many to get in the Christmas spirit this year...because it just isn't the same. Everything is so different.

This year has beaten up on a lot of us, and this particular holiday, due to the family and church traditions that have made it so special, only amplifies the sense of loss and loneliness that you may already be feeling. That feel-good high we used to get from this season of pretty lights, gift-giving, gatherings, delicious meals, and celebrations just doesn't seem like it's going to happen this year.

But the thing we remember, as Jesus followers, is that we don't live our lives just waiting for the next big event to boost us back up to another feel-good high. Our joy comes from something deeper. It's not wrong to look forward to and enjoy the special occasions and relish in the seasons of blessing, such as the beautiful, festive season of Christmas. But we should caution against setting such occasions as our *reason* for joy.

When Mary sang her song that Luke recorded for us, she rejoiced because of her salvation and the fact that she had found favor with the Lord. She knew the challenges that were on the horizon and was getting ready to face intense scrutiny for turning up pregnant and unwed. And never mind the anguish this was going to cause Joseph and their families, who would also face severe shame. And she knew, as well, that pregnancy and childbirth would be no easy assignment. Little did she know at the time that she'd be giving birth next to an animal's feeding trough.

But true praise isn't grounded in our circumstances. The blessings of the Christian life aren't based on jumping from one feel-good event to the next. They are based on a daily relationship with Jesus Christ. We can have the joy of that relationship year round, even after the tree and decorations come down. So, even if this Christmas will be very different than most, don't despair. The Mighty One has still done great things for us.

Bryan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We kindly ask that social distancing be observed if you attend our worship gatherings. Please refrain from any physical contact with those outside of your own family. A collection box is available in the rear of the sanctuary to place your offerings in before or after the service. Face masks are recommended, and if you do not have one, there are some in the foyer. We appreciate your patience and cooperation.

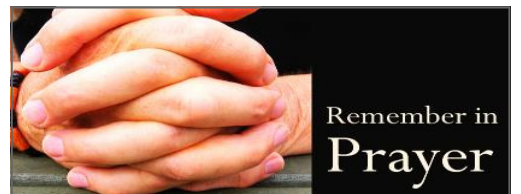
If your child's school shuts down or sends children home temporarily due to a **COVID outbreak**, or if your child stays home because of symptoms of an illness, we request that all children in your household refrain from attending youth activities, including children's church, for the next 2 weeks. With multiple school systems represented in the church, we wish to continue classes as much as possible while minimizing risk to our students and families.

Nominations for elders, deacons, and deaconesses are open through Dec. 6. If you would like to nominate someone, see one our elders: Steve Anderson, Jeff Heuby, J.D. Lynch, Richard Mortland, E.B. Rawles, or Scott Williams.

Our **election of officers** will be Sun. morning the 13th by secret ballot. All members of SFCC who are 18 years of age and older are welcome to cast a ballot to approve candidates.

This year, since we are unable to have our annual children's Christmas program nor our Christmas potluck and caroling night, we have opted to hold a **Live Nativity** at E.B. & Janelle Rawles' barn on Sun., Dec. 20th from 6:00-9:00pm. There will be live animals and live Christmas music as well. If you would like to help out, see E.B. Please wear a mask as you pass through the barn, and maintain a 6' distance from other families in line.

Our annual **Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** will be from 7:00-8:00pm. Masks and social distancing from those outside of your household are recommended.



Mike & Nancy Alexander, Rick Baker, Shirley Baumert, Lilly Cleghorn, Mark Dillon, Sherry Ervin, Randy Greentree, Mike Heshelman, Randy Hill, Valerie Johnson, Floyd & Jean Kamplain, Jean Lisman, Jack Luck, DeeDee Morrison, Brionna Myers, Karl Newell, Andrea Pactor, Tim Poole, John Rawles, Scott Utt, Nick Weber, Ray Worland, Kim Wilz

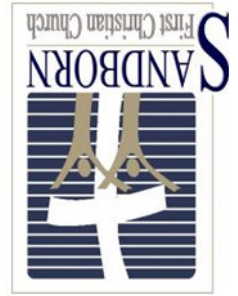
*Names above will be left on for 4 weeks and then removed unless otherwise requested.

Nursing Home: Doris Bledsoe, Jack Heuby

Our Military, SFCC Youth

Our Missions/Ministries:

Camp Illiana, Ivory Coast Christian Mission, Helping His Hands, Matthew 25 Ministries, Delhi Outreach, Open Arms Christian Ministries, V.U. Christian Campus Fellowship, Pregnancy Choices



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| Dec. Serving Schedule | 6 | 13 | 20 | Christmas Eve Serv. | 27 |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bulletin & Communion Distribution | Kenny & Janice Sanders | Scott & Becky Williams | Steve & Alisa Anderson | Richard Mortland | Forrest & Sharon Lynch |
| Communion Meditation | Forrest Lynch | Scott Williams | J.D. Lynch | N/A | Richard Mortland |
| Offering Prayer | Richard Mortland | E.B. Rawles | Steve Anderson | N/A | Forrest Lynch |
| Media Booth | Luke Powers | Debbie Mason | Madison Burress | Ralph Heshelman | Luke Powers |
| Worship Team | Barb, Troy, Amanda, Janelle, Jeff | Janice, Karen, Amanda, Janelle, Jeff | Barb, Troy, Amanda, Janelle, Jeff | Janice, Karen, Amanda, Janelle, Jeff | Troy, Amanda, Janelle, Jeff |
| Decision Guide | Karen Heuby | Troy Stoll | Renee Schopmeyer | N/A | Becky Williams |
| Nursery | TBD | Tyler & Alexis Van Deventer | Becky Williams | N/A | Jes Fry & Lexi Ferree |
| Preschool Teachers | TBD | Janelle Rawles | Larry Tennant | N/A | Dana Wright |
| Elementary Teachers | Julie Sanders | Jeff Heuby | Jes Fry | N/A | Troy Stoll |

Happy Birthday **Happy Anniversary** to... to...

- 7 Amber Kaiser
- 9 Ronda Roberts
- 10 Brenda Lash
- 11 Joan Heshelman
- 14 Marilyn Grigsby
- 14 Aubrey Stoll

23 John & Lisa Gregg

If your name was left off, please fill out an Anniversary/Birthday info sheet found on the table in the foyer and submit it to the minister.



In partnership with Helping His Hands, we will be hosting a **Mobile Food Pantry** at SFCC on Fri., Dec. 18, 10a–12p and 4:30p–6:30p. Help us spread the word! Recipients need to pick up an application at the Sandborn Water Dept., Mon.-Fri., 9a-4:30p. Applications due back to the Water Dept. by Dec. 11. Only those filling out applications are eligible to receive food at the pantry. For more info, call John at 812-890-8365 or Becky at 812-890-3755.