

TODAY: December 22

- 8:30a—Elder & Deacon Prayer Time
- 8:45a—Prayer Time (all ages)
- 4:30p—Drama Team Practice
- 7:00p—Cookie Fellowship immediately following the Children’s program in the East Wing—everyone is invited

THE WEEK

- Tues. Dec. 24—5:00p Christmas Eve Service at the church
 - Wed. Dec. 25—E107 Reserved for our Russian families
- [weekly activities listed on the back of bulletin]



- Dec. 30—Jan. 1— Teen Leadership Conference (TLC) for our High School Youth in OR
Departure: 1:30p Sun. Dec. 29 — Return: Jan. 1
- Jan. 3—6:30a Elders Meeting
- Jan. 4—9:00a to Noon New Members Class
- Jan. 7—11:30a J.O.Y. Group Potluck Lunch at the church—Food Assignments: A—F = Dessert; G—M = Main Dish; N—Z = Salad—Program TBA
- Jan. 8—6:30-8:00p AWANA resumes
- Jan. 9-21 Pastor Randy’s Israel Ministry Trip
- Jan. 11—10:00a Women’s Ministries “Kick-Off” Event in the East Wing/Room E107
- Jan. 14—6:30p TVCBS Class (Treasure Valley Center Biblical Studies) start-up meeting in #N126—Cost: \$25
- Jan. 18-20 JR High Winter Blast at Camp Pinewood in McCall
- Jan. 24-25—Couples Retreat—Camp Pinewood—contact Pastor Dave or Beth
- Jan. 25—12:00p Baby Shower for Inna Lavor in the East Wing Room E107—Hosts: Lina & Olga
- Jan. 27-29—Pastor Prayer Summit at Camp Pinewood in McCall
- Jan. 29—AWANA Grand Prix Night—car kits are available now for



Ministry Assignments

December 22:

- Greeters:** Marietta (F) Jim & Carla (B)
- Ushers:** Alan / Lloyd / Jason / Thane
- Nursery:**
 - AM: Olga / Nadia
 - SS: Jean / Gloria
 - PM: Connie / Sara
- Children’s Church:** Kara (Teacher) Christy / Hailey (Helpers)
- Junior Church:** Zack & Kim
- PM Children’s Ministries:** Children’s Program
- Sound Booth: Audio:** Jonathon (AM & PM)
- Video:** Alison (AM & PM)
- Safety Team:** Ray (AM) Elaine (PM)

December 29:

- Greeters:** Ray & Lea (F) Tom & Glenda (B)
- Ushers:** Vio / David / Mike S.
- Nursery:**
 - AM: Brian & Mary Ann
 - SS: Marietta / Robin
 - PM: Joanna / Kathy C.
- Children’s Church:** Kara (Teacher) Angie / Colette (Helpers)
- Junior Church:** Zack & Kim
- PM Children’s Ministries:** Judy B. (Teacher)
- Sound Booth: Audio:** Christopher (AM & PM) **Video:** Scott L. (AM & PM)
- Safety Team:** Mark (AM) Mike M. (PM)

Deposit Report 2019	
December General Fund Budget:	
	\$50,384.62
WEEK: December 15, 2019	
General Fund:	\$5,831.33
Special Offering:	\$4,000.00
Deposit:	\$9,831.33
MONTH: DECEMBER	
General Fund:	\$29,709.32
Special Offerings:	\$170,941.30
Deposits:	\$200,650.62

Please check the mailboxes in the foyer for giving and receiving Christmas cards from your friends at MFBC.

MERIDIAN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Merry Christmas

December 22, 2019

9:30 AM Service

Pianist: Lina

Song Leader: Jim

Welcome/Announcements

Hymn #246—It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Hymn #227—Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn #254— How Great Our Joy

Greetings

Prayer & Offering: Pastor Saltz

•Welcome Guests

•Special Music: Scott

Hymn #242—O Little Town of Bethlehem

Message: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Text: Various Pastor Randy

Closing

6:00 PM Service

Pianist: Lina

Song Leader: Scott

Hymn #238—Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn #242—O Little Town of Bethlehem

Children’s Christmas Program



Paul & Laura Fulks

Baptist Mid-Missions

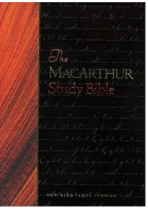
UTAH



Prayerfully consider how you may participate with our Continuing in Faithfulness Building Campaign over the next three years.

Gleanings from our Seasons

Introduction to the Gospels by John MacArthur



Each gospel writer wrote from a unique perspective, for a different audience. As a result, each gospel contains distinctive elements. Taken together, the 4 gospels form a complete testimony about Jesus Christ.

Matthew wrote primarily to a Jewish audience, presenting Jesus of Nazareth as Israel’s long-awaited Messiah and rightful King. His genealogy, unlike **Luke’s**, focuses on Jesus’ royal descent from Israel’s greatest king, David. Interspersed throughout **Matthew** are OT quotes presenting various aspects of Jesus’ life and ministry as the fulfillment of OT messianic prophecy. **Matthew** alone uses the phrase “kingdom of heaven,” avoiding the parallel phrase “kingdom of God” because of the unbiblical connotations it had in first-century Jewish thought. **Matthew** wrote his gospel, then, to strengthen the faith of Jewish Christians, and it provides a useful apologetic tool for Jewish evangelism.

Mark targeted a Gentile audience, especially a Roman one (see Introduction to Mark: Background and Setting). **Mark** is the gospel of action; the frequent use of “immediately” and “then” keeps his narrative moving rapidly along. Jesus appears in Mark as the Servant (cf. **Mark 10:45**) who came to suffer for the sins of many. Mark’s fast-paced approach would especially appeal to the practical, action-oriented Romans.

Luke addressed a broader Gentile audience. As an educated Greek (see Introduction to Luke: Author and Date), **Luke** wrote using the most sophisticated literary Greek of any NT writer. He was a careful researcher (**Luke 1:1-4**) and an accurate historian. Luke portrays Jesus as the Son of Man (a title appearing 26 times), the answer to the needs and hopes of the human race, who came to seek and save lost sinners (**Luke 9:56; 19:10**).

John, the last gospel written, emphasizes the deity of Jesus Christ (e.g., **5:18; 8:58; 10:30-33; 14:9**). **John** wrote to strengthen the faith of believers and to appeal to unbelievers to come to faith in Christ. The apostle clearly stated his purpose for writing in **20:31**: “... these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.”

Taken together, the 4 gospels weave a complete portrait of the God-Man, Jesus of Nazareth. In Him were blended perfect humanity and deity, making Him the only sacrifice for the sins of the world, and the worthy Lord of those who believe.

Take time this Christmas season to savor the riches of Christ found in the Gospels. Maybe purchase a new study Bible from the Book Nook for yourself or for another family member or friend.

Merry Christmas!

-submitted by Pastor Dave

