

Fourth Sunday in Advent
Morning Worship

December 24, 2017
10:30 a.m.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Variations on "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"*
arr. Janet Linker

Call to Worship: Lighting of the Advent Candle –
The Tom Henry family

*Opening Carol: *"Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come"* 146

*Invocation and The Lord's Prayer:

Our father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Ministry of Music: *"Christmas Praise! Medley"* arr. Lari Goss
Sanctuary Choir

Children's Message: Kadie Henry

Registration of Attendance

Giving of God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Offertory: *"O Holy Night"* arr. Mark Hayes
Wade Cummins, piano

Prayer of Dedication of Our Offerings

Reading of the Word: Luke 2:8-20

Pastoral Prayer

Sermon: "Longing for God to Be Real" Rev. Dr. Wayne Paulsen

*Hymn of Invitation: *"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"* 170

Commissioning of the Mission Team to Thailand Tom Henry

Benediction

Postlude: *"Joy to the World"* arr. Michael Bedford

*Congregation stands as able.

Budget receipts through December 17, 2017 - \$299,590.96

Received December 17, 2017 – \$4,553.00

Needed each week - \$5,680.00 Attendance 12/18 – 131

The Christmas Eve services will be live-streamed this evening through the website – www.fbcmiddletown.org.

Please join us Sunday, December 31, for Pastor Scotty Robertson's first service at First Baptist. There will be a light breakfast and social gathering **from 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.** to welcome Pastor Scotty and his wife, Jami, and children Jacob, Chase and Karlee. This past year, God has been preparing the Robertson's as well as our congregation for this wonderful opportunity to serve together. We are beyond thrilled to see where God will lead us. It will be a service you don't want to miss.

The last Sunday of 2017 is December 31st. Your contributions to be credited for 2017 giving should be turned in on that Sunday.

The **Retired Ministers and Missionaries Offering** will be received at the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service—funds not identified for the church budget will go to the RMMO. The RMMO provides an annual "thank you" check to retired American Baptist ministers and missionaries as well as providing emergency funds for retirees in need of assistance. *'But generous people plan to do what is generous, and they stand firm in their generosity'.* Isaiah 32:8

Serving Among Us Today

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Wayne Paulsen
Director of Music/Organist:	Christine Baird
Sanctuary Choir Director:	Brian Shepard
Children's Church Teacher:	Cheryl Basil
Greeters:	Walter and Vonda Barner
Deacons Greeting:	Dave Adams, Bob Welch
Video Technicians:	Mark Dunaway, Tom Henry
Audio Technician:	Ron Cobb
Head Ushers:	Dave Adams

2017 Offering envelopes are available in the narthex. Please take them today. If you would like envelopes and they are not there, please write your name on the paper and Charles Montgomery will get them for you.

Attention Staff, Board and Committee Chairpersons and Sunday School classes: In preparation of the Annual Business Meeting in late January, annual reports will be due in the church office by Tuesday, January 10. Thank you for your thoughtfulness in meeting this deadline.

The Shack: You are invited to come Sunday, January 7th at 5:00pm to watch a special viewing of the movie The Shack. The movie is about a man named Mack, and the misfortunes in his life that have left him feeling stressed and heartbroken. Through his grief, he encounters three strangers who lead him on an encounter with God. Beginning Sunday, January 14th through Sunday, February 11th, Pastor Scotty will be leading a small group study based on the movie. The studies will take place from 6pm-7pm at church. Please sign up in the narthex after service or by calling Kathy in the office to make sure enough books are ordered. Thanks!

Christmas Eve Services – December 24, 2017 – 5 p.m. & 11 p.m.
Family Friendly Christmas Eve Service at 5 p.m. and a Candlelight Eve Service at 11 p.m. with a pre-service concert at 10:40 p.m.

**First Baptist Church, 4500 Riverview Avenue, Middletown, OH
513-423-5721**

This Week at First

Today, December 24

8:45 a.m. Prayer
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship
5 p.m. Family Christmas Eve service
10:40 p.m. Candlelight music
11 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve service

Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Tuesday, December 26

7 p.m. Scouts

Wednesday, December 27

No events scheduled

Thursday, December 28

7 p.m. Youth Overnight
7:30 p.m. AA mtg.

Friday, December 29

8 a.m. Youth overnight ends

Coming Soon

December 31

9:15 a.m. Sunday School
9:30 a.m. Welcome Pastor
Scotty and family -
light breakfast will be
served.
10:30 a.m. Worship service

January 1

Happy New Year!

Church Office and Day
Care Closed.

January 2

Rev It Up aerobics
Scouts

January 3

Sanctuary Choir

January 4

Rev It Up aerobics

January 6

Board Orientation
Put away Christmas
decorations