

Praise & Prayer

(If you would like a Praise or Prayer Request put on our list, or if you know in advance of a scheduled surgery or extended hospital stay, please let the church office know by filling out a blue Prayer Card and placing it in the offering plate. Please remember to keep us updated.)

ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS:

- *Pray for the Gospel to continue to be shared throughout the world. Pray for the Lord's soon return.
- *Pray for the Global Church to be faithful to God and His Word.
- *Pray for Persecuted Christians, Missionaries, SBFN, our Church Staff, Elected Leaders, Courts, and our Country.
- *Pray for Hannah's House, and other Crisis Pregnancy Centers that are helping mothers who keep their children from abortion.
- *Pray for an end to legal abortion in the U.S.
- *Pray for conflicts to end in Ukraine and other world areas.
- *Pray for U.S. Soldiers, Police, First Responders, and families.
- *Pray for those who have lost loved ones.

SPECIFIC PRAYER CONCERNS: (New is in bold)

- ***Reggie Nicholson** - request prayer for the Lord to be in his life again. He has concerns for his and his children's lives. He prays the Lord will keep him and his kids safe. He asks that we also pray that for him as well.
- ***Len Holt - UPDATE/PRAISE** - is home after Heart Valve Replacement surgery 12/14. Doctors said the surgery went very well. Len & Connie are asking for complete healing.
- ***Robert** - (Liz Radabaugh Son) having heart issues, has to see a cardiologist on 12/18.
- ***Gerry Wood - UPDATE** - (Janet (Dodd) Candler & David Dodd's Mother) passed away from pancreatic cancer recently. Prayers for the family during this time are appreciated.
- ***Norma Reilly** - (Sue Harris' Mother) she has had 3 strokes recently. The strokes have left her unable to speak or eat. She has refused a feeding tube and is now on comfort care. They are providing her only jello and pudding. Praying for her salvation and God's mercy on her.
- ***Cheryl Milligan - UPDATE/PRAISE** - diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis. Praise God she has been approved for the ICares Foundation and they will be paying for her very expensive meds. Needed to treat the Pulmonary Fibrosis. She ask that we also pray as she will be starting Pulmonary Rehab Monday, and also she is still trying to find a better option for her continuous portable oxygen. The meds she is taking are to help slow down the progression of Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis.
- ***Todd** - (Barb Motuelle's son) had a very complex sinus surgery done on 11/20 at Northwestern University Medical Center. PRAISE the doctor's are saying this surgery was a success. Todd is home and resting peacefully. Thank you all for praying him through this. Please pray for pain relief, healing, and no further issues.
- ***Terry - UPDATE** - (Daniel Little's Father-in-Law) kidney transplant on 11/30 was successful. Was able to sit up and move around a little on 12/1. Continued prayers for no complications, or rejection of the kidney, and for complete and full recovery.
- ***Sue Tyler - UPDATE** - (Jim Gilbert's sister) The family believes she

2023 Holiday Services

- December 3 First Sunday of Advent
- December 10 Second Sunday of Advent & Kids' Christmas Program
- December 17 Third Sunday of Advent & Adams Voice Concert
- December 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent & Christmas Eve Service 7pm

A QUICK VIEW OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

DECEMBER

- Today** - Christmas Eve Service - NO CHILDCARE (7 p.m.)
- 25 - 29** - Office Closed: Merry Christmas / Happy New Year
- 27** - Youth & Family Christmas Party (6 p.m. - 8 p.m.)
- 29** - Youth Nerf Wars (6 p.m. - 9 p.m., \$3 for pizza)
- 31** - No Youth Quiz Practice

JANUARY

- 1 - Happy New Year!!**
- 3** - No Youth Group
- 3** - Come to the Water Begins (6 p.m.)
- 12** - Youth Quiz Practice (6 p.m.)
- 13** - Youth Quiz Meet at Highland (TBD)
- 14** - The Annual Chili Cookoff & Children's Family Fun Time (after the morning worship gathering)
- 16** - Church Board Meeting (6:30 p.m.)
- 20** - Parents' Night Out (4 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.)
- 24** - Campos Missionaries coming (6 p.m.)
- 24** - Children's Bible Quizzing Begins (5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.)
- 27** - Men's Breakfast (TBA)



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WELCOME!
December 24, 2023
MERRY CHRISTMAS

We're so glad you worshiped with us today!
Our prayer is that you would experience God's love and truth through Jesus Christ!

*A staffed nursery is available during this morning's worship gathering.

*Aid for the hearing impaired is available.
 Please see an usher for assistance.

*Need Internet? SBFN Guest Password:
SBFNet!10

TODAY'S WORSHIP GATHERING

Angels We Have Heard On High

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/OFFERING

Behold
 O Come O Come Emmanuel
 Emmanuel

MESSAGE FROM GOD'S WORD

"What if...the Shepherds and Wisemen Didn't Go?"

Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:8-20
 Lead Pastor, Andy Lauer

LAST WEEK'S STATISTICS

Sunday a.m. Discipleship	86
Sunday a.m. Worship	143
Midweek Activities	33
On-Line Views	12

SBFN MINISTRY TEAM

Lead Pastor - Andy Lauer
 Children's Pastor - Brenda El-Talabani
 Youth Pastor - Christina Fischer
 Worship Pastor - Rebekah Gilbert
 Missions Director - Sue Harris
 Office Administrator - Carole Snyder

THIS WEEK AT SBFN

Sunday	8-11:15 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.	CHRISTMAS EVE Prayer Room is Open Worship Team Rehearsal S.S./Discipleship: Children, Youth, & Adult Morning Worship Gathering Christmas Eve Service
Monday		MERRY CHRISTMAS Church Office Closed
Tuesday		Church Office Closed
Wednesday	All Day 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Church Office Closed Prayer and Fasting WIRED Youth Group Worship Team Rehearsal
Thursday		Church Office Closed
Friday		Church Office Closed
Next Sunday	8-11:15 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	NEW YEAR'S EVE Prayer Room is Open Worship Team Rehearsal S.S./Discipleship: Children, Youth & Adult Morning Worship Gathering

 Thank you for your faithful & generous giving!

Tithes & Offering

Received week of (12/17/23)	\$2,277.00
Needed Weekly	\$6,473.33
Average Giving YTD	\$6,652.72

November Missional Giving

World Evangelism Fund	\$1,414.78
Child Sponsorship	\$30.00
Thanksgiving	\$950.00

Church Building & Facilities

Mortgage Balance	\$604,903.79
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UPCOMING EVENTS & INFORMATION

CURRENT SERMON SERIES: "WHAT IF . . . ?"
 Finishing next week. Every year we retell the Christmas accounts - How Jesus' birth was foretold by God through the prophets. How Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. How the shepherds and wise men worshiped the new born King. But have you ever stopped to consider *What if things had turned out differently?* Join us this Advent and Christmas season as we ponder what *could have been* and why we are so blessed that events turned out the way they did.

VISIT THE CONNECTION CENTER TODAY!
 Today after the morning Worship time we're inviting those who are newer to SBFN to visit our Connection Center. The Connection Center is located in our lobby and we do this to better connect with those who are relatively new here at SBFN. This gives you a better chance to meet our pastoral staff one on one and ask questions about SBFN. **We will also have a few special gifts for you and an opportunity for you to choose a free discipleship resource as well.** Our Connection Center is set up every 4th Sunday of each month. We hope to meet you there after the service today!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - Tonight @ 7 p.m.
 It's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. This year, to help us put our focus where it truly belongs - on the birth of Jesus Christ - we'll be having a Christmas Eve Service @ 7 p.m. This is a great opportunity for you, your family & friends to prepare your hearts for Christmas as we retell the story through readings and Christmas carols sung by candlelight. We hope everyone will join us in reflecting on Jesus' birth this year.



CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED 12/25/23 - 1/1/24
The Church Office will be closed Monday, Dec. 25th, 2023 - Monday, Jan. 1st, 2024 for the Christmas and New Year Holidays. If there's something you need that can't wait until the office reopens on Tuesday, Jan. 2, 2024, contact one of the pastors on their cell phone. If they don't answer, leave a message and they will return your call when they're available. Take this time to enjoy some fun and fellowship with family & friends.

YOUTH & FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY - Wed., Dec. 27
 Students in 6th-12th grade and their families are invited to the Youth & Family Christmas Party on Wednesday, December. 27th from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Church. Dress Christmassy and join us for food, fellowship, and fun. RSVP to Pastor Christina with the count for your family.



NERF WARS - Friday, December 29th
 Students in 6th-12th grade as well as our College & Career

class are invited to a NERF battle on Friday, December 29th from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Bring your own NERF guns & your ammo. Make sure it all has your name on them somewhere, as well as we are asking you to bring \$3.00 for pizza. RSVP to Pastor Christina by the 27th if you are planning to attend.

ANNUAL NMI CHILI COOKOFF - Sun., Jan. 14th, 2024
 Attention SBFN family, mark your calendars for Sunday, January 14th! On this Sunday after our morning worship gathering we will be having our Annual NMI Chili Cookoff. We need pots of chili and desserts. If you plan to enter your pot of chili in the "friendly" Chili Cookoff competition contact Sue Harris ASAP. Also if you would like to donate a dessert for the cookoff please contact Sue Harris as well. Also parents, during and after the chili Cookoff there will be some Family Children's games set up in the main foyer area for you and your children to enjoy. Take a few minutes and have some family fun with your children while we all wait for the voting to be completed. Who going to win the Golden Spoon award this year?



SBFN MEMBERS & FRIENDS YEAR END GIVING
 As we are getting very close to the end of the 2023 year, the Stewardship & Finance Committee would like to express its appreciation to our members and friends for your faithful support. Your prayers and your sacrificial giving have allowed us to gather, prepare, and send followers of Jesus. **We would also like to remind you that for tax purposes your year end giving for 2023 must be RECEIVED here at the church office or postmarked on or before Sunday, December 31st, 2023 to be counted for the 2023 year end giving. If your gift is received or postmarked AFTER December 31st, 2023, it will have to be considered as a gift for 2024 year, EVEN IF THE CHECK IS DATED 2023. We thank you for your understanding.**



THANK YOU TO THE SBFNAZ KIDZ VOLUNTEERS!!
 Thank you to our SBFNaz Kidz Volunteers!! You are appreciated! For all the adults and teens who have served during this past year, please visit the Children's Center today & next week to receive a treat. This is just a small token of our generosity for you serving in the SBFNaz Kidz Ministries. Thank you from Pastor Brenda and the CM Council.



SAYING GOODBYE TO THE FISCHER FAMILY
 With in the next couple of weeks the Fischer Family will be moving to Kentucky so Pastor Christina can begin her new adventure at Kentucky Mountain Bible College. She and her family have been such a blessing to our congregation! We are confident that God goes with them as they move from here, but they will for sure be missed! **We are planning a "Going Away" party for Pastor Christina and her family on Sunday, January 7th after our morning worship gathering. More information in next week's bulletin.**