

## a note from the pastor

Dear Church at the Mall Family and Welcomed Guests:

I pray each of you experienced the best Thanksgiving ever! I love Thanksgiving and often feel that the world skips over that holiday and goes directly to Christmas. Thanksgiving provides a wonderful opportunity to count your blessings. I am so thankful that I get to lead such an amazing church! Thank you for loving my family like you do and making us part of your family.

### Advent

As we begin the Advent Season, there are specific and unique programs and events to help us prepare our hearts for the celebration of the birth of Christ. The word "Advent" means "Coming." In our message series we will focus on The Two Comings of Jesus: the first time He came as a baby; the second time He comes as King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Each week as we focus on a specific aspect of Advent, we will compare and contrast the first coming of Jesus with the second coming of Jesus.

Advent gives us a great tradition of intentionally keeping our focus on Christ in what for most of us is the busiest time of the year. This Wednesday evening at 6:15pm we will have our first Wednesday Advent service where we worship together and I share about the meaning and significance of Advent. Please don't miss that as our church gathers together in the Worship Center.

Please take note in the Connection Guide and on Churchatthemall.com for specific events, times, and dates. I love that Advent is becoming a FBC at the Mall tradition.

### Traditional Christmas Worship Next Sunday Evening

Next Sunday evening we are looking forward to our traditional Christmas time of music and focusing on the birth of Christ. You will love hearing from our Adult Choir and Orchestra, Student Ministry, Children's Choir, and Preschool Choir. We begin the service at 6:00pm in the Worship Center. You won't want to miss this significant event. Kristi Brown and her fantastic team are working diligently with our preschool and children's choirs. Kris Ridgley is working with our adults and Trevor Panarello is working with our students. Thank you to all our fantastic volunteers for doing an amazing job.

### Advent Devotionals

This year we have devotionals available for you and your family to use during each week of the Advent season. This provides you an opportunity once a week to focus on specific aspects of the Christmas story. Also, you will be introduced to a method for studying the Bible that is centuries old. Basically this method involves four steps as you study Scripture, Read it, Reflect upon it, Pray it back to God or turn it into a praise to God, and Listen for the voice of the Holy Spirit to speak through God's Word.

### Christmas Eve Service 11pm

It's not too soon to invite someone to our Christmas Eve, 11pm Worship Service! This has become a Lakeland tradition with people packing out our Worship Center to usher in Christmas together. If you have been waiting to get baptized, why not get baptized after that service (it will officially be Christmas)? Let Pastor Walt know you want to get baptized on Christmas! What an incredible memory that will be as you obey Jesus' command to be baptized on the day we celebrate his birth.

### Unique Experiences for Advent

**Sermon Series of Five Advent messages** beginning today with the final message on Christmas Eve, 11pm. (See the cover of this Connection Guide.)

**Advent Devotional**— available in your Connection Guide today and on our website.

**Wednesday, December 2nd at 6:15pm**—Advent Wednesday—a time of worship and a message by Pastor Jay.

**Sunday, December 6th at 6:00pm**—Traditional Christmas Worship

(continued inside)

## ministry staff

### Dr. Jay Dennis Lead Pastor

Virginia Bellucci, Ministry Assistant to Lead Pastor

### Darrin Brown, Associate Lead Pastor for Worship, Discipleship and Administration

Beth Miller, Ministry Assistant for Worship, Discipleship and Administration

#### Worship

Conrad Johnson  
Kristi Brown  
Trevor Panarello  
Kris Ridgley  
Betsy Brown  
Daniel Livingston  
Michael Short

Worship Leader  
Worship Leader  
Worship Leader  
Worship Leader  
Worship Ministry Assistant  
Program Technology Supervisor  
Program Technology Specialist

#### Discipleship

Jerrold Brooks  
Kelly Glogower  
Linda Gundlach  
Michelle Traylor  
Steve Antley  
Katy Imig  
Kim Hill

Discipleship Minister  
Discipleship Ministry Assistant  
Preschool Director  
Preschool Ministry Assistant  
Children's Minister  
Children's Ministry Assistant  
Volunteer Ministry Coordinator

### Jerry Goodell, Associate Lead Pastor for Pastoral Care, Missions and Outreach

Brenda Rinier, Ministry Assistant for Pastoral Care, Missions and Outreach

#### Pastoral Care

Gene Wells  
Walt Dearie  
Dr. Gerald Bagwell  
Mary Lou Helm  
Susan Cranor

Pastoral Care Minister  
Pastoral Care Minister  
Pastor Emeritus  
Pastoral & Preschool Assistant  
Ministry Assistant  
Event Coordinator  
Director of Counseling  
& Support Groups

Trena Mewborn

Sean Beach  
Luis Ruiz  
Cindy Beaudreault

Lead Student Minister  
Student Ministry Associate  
Student Ministry Assistant

#### Administration

Brian Kelley  
Judy Thomas  
Sabrina Fambrough  
John Pricone  
Ryan Choate  
Casey Taylor  
Steve Holland  
Greg Hieronymus  
Robert Simmons  
Linda Callahan

Accounting Manager  
Administrative Ministry Assistant  
Staff Accountant  
Purchasing, Payroll, Human Resources  
Marketing & Communications Lead  
Marketing & Communications Specialist  
Facilities Director  
Maintenance Supervisor  
Housekeeping Supervisor  
Print Shop Supervisor

#### Missions

David Trivette  
Blessing Mullis  
Lito Lucas

Missions Minister  
Missions Ministry Assistant  
Philippine International Church

#### Outreach

Dr. Mark Bedwell  
Blessing Mullis  
Laura Terry  
Glenn Combee

Outreach Minister  
Outreach Ministry Assistant  
F.A.I.T.H. Riders Ministry Assistant  
Deaf Church Ministry

**Church members, if you have an emergency or crisis** during non-business hours please know there is a pastor on-call. Call (863) 682-0163, and follow the prompts. Your call will go directly to the on-call pastor.

**If you are asked by anyone for clothing, food or financial assistance while on campus,** refer them to the Guest Services Desk on Main Street. Information will be provided about benevolence, Compassion House, Breaking Bread Café, and other opportunities. Thank you for your generosity by supporting these ministries.

**Do you know someone that needs** to hear one of Pastor Jay's sermons or read one of his tracts? Then churchatthemall.com is the place to go. You'll be able to share his messages with your friends on Facebook or buy a tract. Pastor Jay's resources are also available at the Media Desk on Main Street.

### Information for November 22, 2015

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Baptisms Since 10/4/2015	26
New Members Since 10/4/2015	64
Sunday Connect Group Discipleship	1,791
Midweek Discipleship	1,850

#### GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Weekly Budget Needed	\$139,423
Received This Week	\$108,288
YTD Budget Needed	\$6,552,885
Received YTD	\$5,895,777

#### SPECIAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT OFFERING (OLD FFG)

WORSHIP CENTER AUDIO, VIDEO AND LIGHTING	
Received This Week	\$5
Received	\$288,952

#### DEBT REDUCTION ACTIVITY REPORT

Balance as of 11/08/2015	\$3,201,688
Received This Week	\$2,003
Current Balance	\$3,199,685
Balance as of 1/1/2015	\$4,150,936
Debt Reduction YTD	\$951,251

#### SPECIAL OFFERING ACTIVITY REPORT

Debt Reduction 3/29/2015	\$410,975
Seven Missional Causes 4/5/2015	\$300,802
Multi-Site Campuses	\$163,767
Special Offerings YTD	\$875,544

#### MISSIONS GIVING

Year to Date	\$842,952
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First Baptist Church at the Mall | www.churchatthemall.com | (863) 682-0163  
1010 East Memorial Blvd, Lakeland, FL 33801 | P.O. Box 90669, Lakeland, FL 33804



# The Two Comings of Jesus

## An Advent Series by Pastor Jay Dennis

The Two Comings for HOPE  
Sunday, November 29

The Two Comings for JOY  
Sunday, December 13

The Two Comings for PEACE  
Sunday, December 6

The Two Comings for LOVE  
Sunday, December 20

The Two Comings for YOU  
Christmas Eve and Lord's Supper  
Thursday, December 24



**first baptist church**  
at the mall  
Connecting People to God, Growth, and Ministry

connection guide || November 29, 2015

## pastor's article continued

*Wednesday, December 9th at 6:15pm*—Advent Wednesday a time of worship, a message by Pastor Jay and a special Benevolence Offering

*Wednesday, December 16th at 6:15pm*—a time of worship and a message by Pastor Jay.

*Thursday, December 24th at 11:00pm*—Our annual, traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. There will be a children's time and the final Advent message, both by Pastor Jay. We will share in the Lord's Supper, and at the end of the service, we will have a special Christmas baptism. (Let Pastor Walt Dearie know if you would like to be baptized on Christmas!) And kids, feel free to wear your Pajamas!

I have heard such fantastic reports of last Sunday's message by Pastor Darrin. I am so proud of his willingness to be transparent. God so used him!

Church, I love you and thank God I get to be your Lead Pastor.

Many Blessings,



Pastor Jay



## more happenings

**Compassion House needs** Men's pants (all sizes), men's shirts (small and medium), men's socks, ladies' pants (size 16 and up), and toothpaste.

**Sign-up for Salvation Army's "Red Kettle Campaign"** at the North Sam's Club Nov. 27, through Dec. 24 with no collections on Sundays, in 2-hour shifts beginning at 10am and ending at 8pm. To prevent duplicate sign ups, all sign ups are done online at <http://catm.info/UeQND>. If you are unable to access the link, reply to [beth.miller@fbclakeland.org](mailto:beth.miller@fbclakeland.org) or call 682-0163 ext. 314.

**Paid nursery positions are available** on Tuesday mornings and/or Wednesday evenings and/or Sunday mornings. To apply, contact Linda Gundlach at [Linda.Gundlach@fbclakeland.org](mailto:Linda.Gundlach@fbclakeland.org) or (863) 682-0163 x363.

**This Wednesday, December 2nd**, Hope Givers will meet in the Hospitality Room at 6:15 pm to hear Linda Houghton, Lead Detention Counselor and who also, oversees volunteers at the Polk County Sheriff's Office. Linda is a strong believer with a

## coming soon



**NOVEMBER 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
Pastor Jay Begins Advent Sermon Series in all three morning services

**DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>**  
Advent Wednesday | 6:15pm

**DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**  
Traditional Christmas Worship Sunday | 6:00pm

**DECEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup>**  
Advent Wednesday | 6:15pm  
Special Benevolence Offering

**DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**  
Advent Wednesday | 6:15pm

**DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>**  
Annual Christmas Eve Celebration 11:00pm in the Worship Center

Childcare available for birth - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade.  
Register at [churchatthemall.com/advent](http://churchatthemall.com/advent)

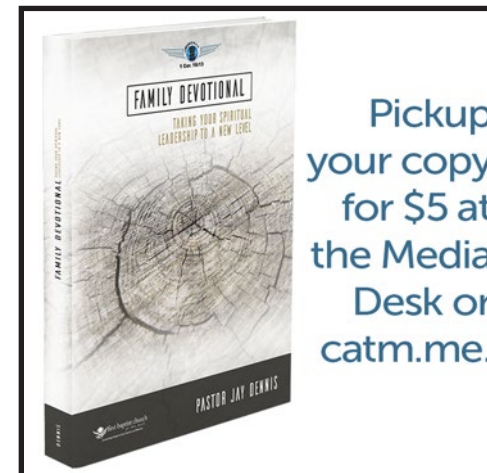
compassionate heart. She will discuss needs of those incarcerated and ways to help as they re-enter society. She has a wealth of experience to draw from and will also, be willing to answer questions. There will be a light meal provided and all are welcome to attend this warm and supportive group; a place where you can share freely with others who understand!

**The OneBlood Bloodmobile will be here on Wed., Dec. 2** from 5:00pm to 7:30pm by the outdoor stairs in front of the worship center. All blood donors will receive a FREE Long Sleeve T-shirt and a wellness checkup of blood pressure, temperature, iron count, and cholesterol screening! Bring your photo ID. Appointments are not required, however, you may make an appointment online at [OneBloodDonor.org](http://OneBloodDonor.org) use sponsor code #19868.



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## ministry schedule

### Sunday Worship Services

8:00am Traditional Worship \ \ 9:30am and 11:00am Progressive Worship

### Adult Connect Groups

Attending a large church can be overwhelming and make it hard to connect with others. That's why we created Connect Groups. Consider them small churches within our big church and the center of our ministry universe. Let us help you find a Connect Group by filling out the My Connections Card or stopping by the Connect to Growth Booth on Main Street.

### Español Ministerio

El servicio de adoración será traducido al Español los Domingos a las 11 de la mañana. Invite a un familiar o amigo. Les esperamos.

Domingos \ \ Estudio Bíblico \ \ 9:30am \ \ Aula 665

Miércoles \ \ Aprendiendo de la biblia \ \ 6:30pm \ \ Aula 665

### New Members' Connection

New Members' Connection is mandatory for all those desiring church membership, and is also open to anyone desiring more information on the history, beliefs, mission and vision of our church. The next New Members' Connection is **December 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am to noon in Rm 680.**

### November Committee Meetings

There are no scheduled committee meetings during the month of November.

### Preschool Ministry (Birth - 5 Years Old)

Sun. \ \ 8:00am Wee Worship \ \ 9:30am Connect Groups \ \ 11:00am Preschool Praise  
Wed. \ \ 6:00pm

### Children's Ministry (1st - 5th grade Children's Area)

Sun. \ \ 8:00am Worship \ \ 9:30am Children's Bible Study \ \ 11:00am Jam \ \ Wed. \ \ 6:00pm

### Remedy Student Ministries (6th - 12th grade)

Sun. \ \ Connect Groups \ \ 11:00am \ \ MS: Rm 460 \ \ HS: Rm 450  
Wed. \ \ Participating in *Advent Wednesdays* in the Worship Center through December

### College and Young Career (CYC)

Sun. \ \ 11:00am \ \ Connect Group \ \ Theatre 2 \ \ Wed. \ \ 6:15pm \ \ Mid.Point \ \ Theatre 2

### Midweek Opportunities

Midweek opportunities are the perfect place to find love, support, spiritual and emotional growth, and teaching that will help you build a closer relationship with God.

More information is available at [churchatthemall.com/midweek](http://churchatthemall.com/midweek) or at the Information Desk.

### Support Groups

We're all working through something. That's why we offer Support Groups that will help you better your marriage, walk through cancer or the death of a loved one, break addictions, recover from depression or assist with other hurts, habits and hangups.

For complete details, go to [churchatthemall.com/supportgroups](http://churchatthemall.com/supportgroups) or pick up a brochure at the Information Desk.

### Wingman Men's Ministry

Sun. \ \ 11:00am \ \ Connect Group \ \ Room 690 \ \ Wed. \ \ 6:15pm \ \ NOW Center

### Worship Ministry

Choir Rehearsal \ \ Wed. \ \ 6:30-8:00pm \ \ Choir Room

### Other Ministries/Classes

The Chapel Service \ \ Wednesday \ \ 6:15pm \ \ The Chapel  
Compassion House \ \ Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 7:00am-12pm (Deliveries), 8:30-11am (Serving)  
Deaf Church \ \ Sunday, 11:00am & Wednesday, 6:30pm  
Hope for the Heart Bible Study \ \ 2nd/4th Tuesday, Rm 191, 11:30am  
F.A.I.T.H. Riders Bike Night \ \ 3rd Thursday of even month, Pit Stop, 6:30pm