

Iotla Baptist Church
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Knowing God
Growing in
relationship to Him
Going into the world
in His name and with
his message
Showing others how
they can do the same.

Coming Events:

December 11

Children's Christmas
Program

Baby/Child Dedication

December 14

Wednesday Night
Christmas Supper

December 18

Christmas Cantata

IOTLA BAPTIST CHURCH

Here to Serve

DECEMBER 1, 2022
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Message from Pastor

"On Time. Every Time. All the Time." A quick google search of this often-used slogan seems to indicate that couriers, athletic training groups, fuel companies and food delivery services are just some who make this claim about their products and services. Of course, we know that none of them can guarantee such results "every time".

This time of year, though, we're reminded of many whom we see, and some whom we don't see, doing their part in getting the perfect gifts delivered on time. For example, those familiar brown box trucks are everywhere on the road, delivering with a smile. About now, we see them pulling trailers behind them in order to carry even more "precious" cargo. UPS, I've noticed, employs seasonal help to serve as runners, allowing the drivers to stay behind the wheel and speeding the process. If we're anticipating a gift, we're glad to see these folks coming.

Somewhere around 6—4 B.C., God delivered the greatest Christmas gift of all time, right on time, to the world, in a little town called Bethlehem. Galatians 4:4-5, in the Amplified Bible, says it like this "But when [in God's plan] the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the [regulations of the] Law, so that He might redeem and liberate those who were under the Law, that we [who believe] might be adopted as sons [as God's children with all rights as fully grown members of a family]." That's an amazing gift! It's the gift of forgiveness, redemption, freedom; of belonging and being beloved.

No doubt, some people who lived at the time of Jesus' birth had been anticipating a gift. The people of Jesus' day called it the gift of "The Messiah". But when it (or more accurately, He) actually arrived, perfectly according to God's timing and plan, He didn't appear as much of the world expected. In fact, many of them missed the gift of Jesus. Many people all over the world, in every generation, still do. Thank God, however, that many will receive the gift, including people from every generation and place throughout the world. The book

of Revelation describes the many who receive the gift as "... a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" (Rev. 7:9-10 ESV)

No matter when or where a person may live, God has already delivered the perfect gift for them, right on time. The gift of Jesus. Are you among those who have received the gift? If you are, thank God for so great a gift and tell others about Him.

For His Glory: Pastor Brandon

Ready for Christmas

The decorating committee has the church decorated and ready for the Christmas season. We hope you will be able to come and enjoy as we celebrate the coming of the Messiah. *Iotla Kids* will provide an entertaining program on Sunday, December 11th and there will be a baby/child dedication. The choir will perform the cantata *There's Something About that Name* on Sunday, December 18th. Pastor Brandon will bring the message on Sunday, December 4th and 25th...Christmas morning. On Christmas morning we will not have Sunday School. Worship service will begin at 10:30 AM. We hope you will come and celebrate with us.



*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for,
the evidence of things not seen.*

Hebrews 11:1

Let's Celebrate ! CHRISTMAS TREE PROJECT...for Lottie Moon

ANNIVERSARIES

- ◆ JACK & GLORIA ZIMMERMAN 12/06
- ◆ TOMMY & PAT BENNETT 12/07
- ◆ SAM & LISA SANGREGORY 12/12
- ◆ HUGH & GAYE BLAINE 12/15
- ◆ JIM & SUE HEDDEN 12/24
- ◆ WAYNE & BARBARA LYNCH 12/28

BIRTHDAYS

- ◆ DEBBIE SHULER 12/02
- ◆ MARGARET WILLOUGHBY 12/05
- ◆ NANCY KRAG 12/09
- ◆ CHARLIE LEATHERMAN 12/09
- ◆ STEVE NORTON 12/12
- ◆ SARAH STAMEY 12/14
- ◆ CONNIE WALTON 12/14
- ◆ BENNIE SANDERS 12/18
- ◆ PAT SMITH 12/20
- ◆ DAVID PANGLE 12/23
- ◆ RICHIE ROWLAND 12/26
- ◆ BEVERLY PENLAND 12/27
- ◆ JOHN TIPPETT 12/27
- ◆ TAMMY DILLS 12/31
- ◆ SAM SANGREGORY 12/31
- ◆ GENEVA SHULER 12/31



Remember to visit the Fellowship Hall and see the little Christmas trees our children and youth have been working on so hard. These trees will be auctioned off in a Silent Auction. Place your bid on the Silent Auction sheets in the hallway outside of the Fellowship Hall. The highest bidder of each tree will be notified on December 14th . This money will be given to our Lottie Moon Offering.

Thank you so much for your continued support for missions, missionaries, our church and our children and youth!

What is the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering?

Lottie Moon was sent as a Southern Baptist missionary to China from 1873 to 1912. She saw firsthand the world's greatest problem...LOSTNESS. Meeting so many people who had never heard the gospel compelled her to write letters to American churches describing the need for a greater missionary presence. She pleaded for increased prayer and financial support to send and sustain more missionaries. This challenge became known as the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

As we enter this Christmas season be in prayer for the many international missionaries all over the world. Pray, for the Lottie Moon Offering which supports these missionaries as they carry out God's mission. Pray for your part in this offering. **EVERY GIFT WE GIVE MAKES AN IMPACT.** Our church goal for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering is \$4500.

Information about the offering and missionaries will be on the table in the vestibule .

Submitted by: Melissa Leatherman, Co-chair of the MS?CI Team

Christmas Committee

The Christmas Committee will be sponsoring 11 children (4 families) this holiday season. On Thursday, December 15th at 6 pm we will host a Christmas dinner for the families and they will be given the gifts to take home for their children.

The choir will sing a couple of carols and Pastor Brandon will offer a devotional for the families while the children go downstairs for a Bible story and craft with Debbie & Michelle.

We look forward to this exciting time with these families and the opportunity for outreach.

If you are aware of other needs within our church or community, please let me know ASAP. Thanks!

Submitted by: Tammy Dills, Christmas Committee Chair

Youth

On Saturday, December 3rd the youth and chaperones will be traveling to Atlanta to the Operation Christmas Child processing center to volunteer. We are looking forward to this! Pray for safe travels to and from.

We are also working on a Christmas event/activity for the youth, more details to come.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Submitted by: Youth Leadership



PRAYER LIST

Church Members

- Teresa Ammons
- Mildred Asby
- Sharon Bennett
- Jim Fouts
- Dickie Gibson
- Rose Lillard
- Christy Mathis
- Diane Pangle
- Bethany Reeves
- Charles Swafford
- Margaret Willoughby
- Barbara Wilson
- Janis Wilson

Family and Friends

- Annette Bergman
- Noah Carpenter
- Brenda DeHart
- Sharon Gravett
- Lisa Leatherman
- Kevin Ledford
- Chuck Mallonee
- Jeni Marotta
- Norma Midado
- Carson Rowland
- Evan Smith
- Patsy Stanley
- Jeff Tate
- Josh Tate
- Tommy Watterson
- Terry Wood

