



## FROM THE PASTOR

*Church family,*

*Due to the rise of coronavirus in Saint Louis County and City, Sunday, November 22, 29 and December 6 worship is available exclusively through Facebook and YouTube. Sunday, December 13 is target date for public worship to return.*

### **From Lebanon to Saint Louis A Global Christmas offering...**

August 4, 2020 a massive explosion destroyed the *Port of Beirut*—killing 200, injuring 6,000 and displacing 80,000 children. The tragedy occurred during a time of social and economic challenges—1.5 million refugees and Covid-19 leading to 50% living below poverty line.

*Lebanon's brothers and sisters in Christ need our prayers and support.*

Third's *Global Christmas Offering* is specifically directed toward assisting *The Lebanese Society for Educational and Social Development*—which functions under the umbrella of *American Baptists*.

The offering will assist LSESD's distribution of "Camp-In-A-Box" which caters to children ages 6-15. The box contains spiritual and educational worksheets, crafts, books, snacks and devotionals for various BCYM camps (Baptist Children & Youth Camps).

The boxes are distributed throughout churches in Lebanon— a particular focus is given to children displaced by last summer’s tragic explosion and Syrian refugees.

Here’s the plan:

- The third Sunday of Advent (December 13<sup>th</sup>) through Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, Third will collect an offering directed toward purchasing boxes for BCYM camps. The total cost of each Camp-In-A-Box is \$35.
- Please place in a *Global Missions Offering Envelope* (available upon our hopeful return December 13<sup>th</sup>) or mail checks specifically marked for “*BCYM Lebanon*” c/o Christine McCarthy, Third Baptist Church, 620 North Grand Blvd, Saint Louis, MO 63103.

*Turning our attention toward Saint Louis:*

Community Ministries, in the midst of coronavirus, continues to plan for a distanced implementation of the annual Christmas Basket Ministry. Distribution day is scheduled for Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Pledges and finances:***

Third’s response and generosity: pledging for the 2021 budget was superb. As of early November—total pledge numbers are over 317,400.

And as of October’s final report—finances are solid.

### ***Administration of our church:***

Third’s proposed 2021 Budget is unanimously endorsed by the *Executive Committee* and *Church Council*. The budget will be emailed for your review and hard copies mailed to those without access to social media.

Our next Business Meeting will be facilitated through Zoom on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. The planned agenda:

- 2021 Budget Vote
- Vote on slate of names presented by Nominating Committee
- Update from Jerry Bryan, chair of Innovations

An invitation including meeting details for Zoom access will be emailed to all.

### ***A final word from Hebrews 10:24 (The Voice)***

*Let us consider how to inspire each other to greater love and righteous deeds...*

Dear Ones, we’ve plowed some hard fields in 2020—yet it has been a year of hope and *inspiration*. Be strong and courageous. All will be well.

Tommy

# Family Ministries

Advent is about preparation.

Advent is about waiting.

Usually I would say, “Advent is a season ready made to embrace and experiment with and incorporate new disciplines, Advent interrupts time, Advent recalibrates all of our senses....”

But all that sounds redundant in 2020, the year of disruption and interruption, anxiety and new norms. What is the normal for Advent to interrupt?

And yet God is among us and with us and we get to celebrate God’s “always-invitation” to us.

So families of our youth and children will receive Advent Prayer boxes that contain:

- Seasonal, situational, and daily prayers for family quiet time
- Finger labyrinths to aid in praying
- Weekly at home service projects
- An abbreviated Advent Calendar (with chocolate of course!)

Several weeks ago Pastor Tommy told us in a sermon that our question is not “How do we survive?” rather, “How do we serve?” May we find who we are, how loved we are, and experience Advent in profound ways because we love and serve.

Grateful to serve with you,  
Drew



Rev. Drew Phillips  
Minister to Families





## Find a Need and Fill It Peggy Pittenger

While I volunteer at Gateway 180 every week, I discovered a need beyond what I could do. Gateway 180 is a homeless shelter originally called Christian Services Center. It has grown to provide so much more than just emergency housing, as it provides a support system, counseling services and programs that address the root cause of homelessness. Recently I learned that a generous donor had provided 10 locker systems with 6 small lockers in each system. Of course, each was in a long, heavy box and required assembly.....a lot of assembly.

Judy Parham came to our rescue and began calling a team. Thanks to all our volunteers: Judy Parham, Harold and Maggie Jackson, Drew Phillips, Tom Kurtz, and Joel Pittenger who donated time on three Tuesday afternoons to complete 8 lockers (2 were already complete). Mission accomplished.

From Jordan Giljum, Volunteer Coordinator:

“All 10 of the lockers are officially up and running in the shelter thanks to the help of Third Baptist. Judy Parham did an amazing job organizing groups to come to the shelter on two different occasions to build our lockers from the ground up. I opened the boxes initially to discover many pieces, lots of nuts and screws, and that the process would not be as easy as we had initially thought it would be. It was at this time that Third Baptist stepped in, embraced the challenge, and helped us complete the build so all of our families have a safe place to lock up their personal belongings. Without your help, this tedious task would have taken much longer to finish, limiting our ability to provide adequate means for safely storing valuables. We at Gateway180 greatly appreciate all the hard work and many hours put into this project. “

--Jordan Giljum  
Volunteer Coordinator



# Music in Worship

Philip Barnes, Director of Music

The Advent season that begins after Thanksgiving offers us an opportunity to prepare ourselves for the joyous birth of the Holy Child, and so on each of the four Sundays preceding Christmas our anticipation will grow as we proceed through the verses of the traditional Processional, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. The finale to this sequence falls on December 20 when our Carol Service will feature some beloved verses of the season, in song and spoken word. Although the pandemic prevents us from a choral Christmas, we are blessed to welcome the Perseid String Quartet who will perform – with pianist Lansin Lim Kimler – a new Christmas suite written specially for Third Baptist by the British composer, Sasha Johnson Manning. Also over the holiday season, we will welcome back Nathan Brown (tenor) to sing in worship some of our favorite carols. And we'll round out the month (December 27) in a different musical vein when our own Gene Dobbs Bradford will bless our worship with his unmistakable sounds.

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December marks the final month when we can enjoy the fine singing of our Alto section leader, Rebecca Margolis. In the New Year she will be leaving St. Louis for Pasadena, where her beautiful voice and effortless musicianship will be in great demand throughout Southern California. Our loss is definitely their gain! God speed, Becca, and be sure to visit us when you're back in town.



Each Wednesday of Advent:  
Zoom Gatherings with the Pastor  
at 6 p.m.



## Birthdays in December

- 10 • Candace Owen
- 11 • Karen King
- 13 • Herman Leroy
- 14 • Kelly King
- 20 • Carson Wright
- 21 • Johnny Jay
- 21 • James Robbins
- 23 • Timothy Harrison
- 29 • Gabi Moore
- 29 • Bill Pearson
- 30 • Connie Vohsen



**In the city for good!**

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## Third Baptist Church Staff

**Dr. Tommy Simons**  
PASTOR

**Michael Ellison**  
FACILITIES MANAGER

**Tom Kurtz**  
BUSINESS MANAGER

**Rev. Drew Phillips**  
MINISTER TO FAMILIES

**Timothy Harrison**  
CUSTODIAN

**Lansin Lim Kimler**  
PIANIST

**Dr. Philip Barnes**  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

**Karen Stewart & Linda  
Freiburghaus**  
CHURCH HISTORIANS

**Christine McCarthy**  
FINANCE

**Ella Banks**  
RECEPTIONIST/OFFICE  
ASSISTANT

**Brent Johnson**  
ORGANIST

**Sally Stevenson**  
PARISH NURSE