

The Challenger

Ministerial Staff

Fred Harris, Pastor • Ted Pate, Associate Pastor

411 N. Warren Ave., Winslow, AZ 86047 • 928-289-2484 • Visit our website www.fbcwinslow.org

“Like” us on our Facebook page at First Baptist Church Winslow

• **Connect** - With God & His Family • **Grow** - In God's Word • **Serve** - God by Serving Others • **Share** - God's Message

Volume 55

December 2020

NO. 9

I'm reading through the book of Judges right now in my personal devotion times. If you've gone through Judges, you'll remember some of its stories are very inspiring, "God, lead me to have this kind of faith," some of them are encouraging with the happy reminder, "Well, at least America isn't THIS whackadoodle yet!" and some are convicting, "Ooh, America isn't as far different from this culture as I would like!" This morning, I was reading the story of Gideon. Most people remember Gideon either as the guy who had to test God twice with a fleece before he was convinced God was really calling him or as the warrior who eventually had so much faith in God's power, he was willing to attack 132,000 Midianites with only 300 men at his back.

The passage I was reading this morning, however, spoke about how before God used Gideon to make any forays against the enemy, He wanted Gideon to address the issues in his own household – namely the community shrine to Baal that his dad was in charge of. God wanted Gideon to cut it down and make an altar to Him using the destroyed idol as firewood. Know that normally, God was emphatically against the Israelites using any other place of worship outside of the bronze altar at the Tabernacle. The prohibition was a way of keeping their doctrine pure and their worshippers unified. This time was an exception because God wanted to make a point. "Gideon, I want as part of your offering to Me your destroyed idol-worship!"

Jen commented to me the other day, "I think God is using 2020 to get rid of a lot of our American idols." I started thinking about that statement. What had Christians in our culture been using to replace their reliance upon God? A false sense of immortality? Healthy economy? Sports programs? Extra-curricular activities? Unhealthy reliance upon political figures? Unbalanced desire for public acceptance and approval? Hollywood entertainment? (Goodness, we even lost our movie theaters for most of 2020!) Perhaps Jesus was taking Gideon's spot and smashing some of our idols for us during this last year's tumultuous events. Now it's up to us, though, to not only enjoy the freedom brought by our newly smashed idols, but to use their destruction as forms of worship and rededication. In other words, rather than spend our time begging God to give us our idolatrous culture back in this upcoming new year, maybe we should find ways to utilize what we've lost to rearrange our priorities, allegiances, and pursuits in order to dedicate ourselves more deeply to Him! If we did that, wouldn't it be interesting to see how He decided to use us in this upcoming year's adventure?

In His Grip,
Pastor Fred

First Baptist **Church**
411 N. Warren Ave.
Winslow, AZ 86047

Adult Christmas Party and Potluck on 12/11 at 6:00 pm in the Activity Center. There will be a SOCK EXCHANGE - please bring a fun pair wrapped up to play along. Please bring a gift for the Bread of Life Mission. They can use socks and underwear, both men's and women's.

Dec 16th – Youth Caroling. EVERYONE is invited. We will meet at the church at 6PM. Pastor Ted will drive the bus. If you would like to follow in your vehicle and join us that would be great. Pastor Ted has a list of about 10 homes we will visit (we will not enter any of the homes). Hot chocolate following in the Activity Center.

Dec 20th – Youth Christmas Party at Pastor Ted and Patty's house. 6PM. Please bring a gift to exchange. Max amount you may spend is \$6.00. We will have pizza, games, and gift exchange.

Christmas Eve Service 12/24 5:00pm and 6:30pm - Church Members need to make reservations in advance for which service they plan on attending. There will be space saved for the General Public.

Dec 23rd and 30th – NO WEDNESDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES. No Family Bible Connection or Youth

Dec 31st – Vintage (Our local Christian band) in Concert in the Worship Center – 7 – 8:30 PM

Mark your calendar!!

- 12/01 Hope Pregnancy Center 2-5pm
- 12/02 Family Bible Connection 6pm
- 12/07 Men's Potluck 6pm
- 12/08 Hope Pregnancy Center 2-5pm
- 12/09 Family Bible Connection 6pm
- 12/10 Food Box Distribution 3-5pm
- 12/10 Church Council Meeting
- 12/11 Adult Christmas Party 6pm
- 12/13 Deacon Meeting 4pm
- 12/15 Hope Pregnancy Center 2-5pm
- 12/16 Youth Caroling and Christmas Party 6pm
- 12/17 **DATE CHANGE FOR DECEMBER**
Food Box Distribution 3-5pm
- 12/20 Youth Christmas Party 6pm
- 12/22 Hope Pregnancy Center 2-5pm
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Service 5:00pm & 6:30pm
- 12/24-12/25 Church Office Closed for Christmas
- 12/25 Community Christmas Dinner 12-2pm
- 12/29 Hope Pregnancy Center 2-5pm
- 12/31 Vintage Concert 7-8:30 pm
- 12/31-1/1 Church Office Closed for New Years
- 12/21-1/3 Schools Closed for Christmas



Family Bible Connection
Wednesday Nights
6-7 pm
In the Activity Center
Everyone is welcome!

Hope Pregnancy Center's Christmas Store
Will be open Tuesdays, December 8th & 15th
from 2:00-5:00 pm

They will have new and gently used items for ages newborn-5 available to any family in need of a little extra help.

Gift wrapping is available upon request.
Blessings!



Community Christmas Dinner

Noon-2:00pm Friday, December 25th

Donations welcome: Canned Goods, Frozen Pies, or Cash Donations. Please no cooked food. Please see Freddie for further details or if you would like to volunteer to help serve and/or sanitize tables in between guests.



Bell Ringers Needed!!!

Starting Nov. 20th – 21st Salvation Army will have a red kettle at Wal-Mart. Due to the limited number of volunteers we had last year, we are going to ring the bell on Fridays and Saturdays only.

Call or text Ted Pate to sign up at 928-587-0897. The slots will be 10 AM – Noon, Noon – 2 PM, and 2 PM – 4 PM. Remember all the money raised will stay here in Winslow to help those less fortunate.

Food Box Distribution DATE CHANGE FOR DECEMBER is the 2nd and the 3rd Thursday from 3:00pm - 5:00pm. If you are in need or know of someone who may be helped by receiving a box, please share this information. For more information please see Freddie Campbell.

