

# 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](http://www.fbcwinslow.org)

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NO. 1

How sweet to hold a newborn baby,  
And feel the pride and joy he gives.  
But greater still the calm assurance  
This child can face uncertain days  
Because He lives!

Because He lives –  
I can face tomorrow.  
Because He lives –  
All fear is gone!  
Because I know He holds the future,  
And life is worth the living just because He lives!

For personal reasons, this song has been one of my theme songs ever since I was ten years old, but I can't help but wonder if we haven't forgotten its message today. Are we looking forward to 2021, ready to embrace the adventure that God has for us because Jesus lives and has been granted all authority in heaven, on earth, and under the earth, or are we absolutely terrified of what the future holds?

Let's look at this another way. If for all of 2020, you had somehow been locked in your home with no access to TV, radio, or internet, and all you had accessible to you was your knowledge of your own personal circumstances as well as the life circumstances of the people in your circle who also for some inexplicable reason had spent the year without any TV, radio, or internet, would you find yourself dreading 2021 as much as most of us are dreading it now? See my point? For the vast majority of the people who have endured such misery in 2020, they're not despairing because of what actually happened to them, most have been driven to their level of hopelessness and fear because of what power-grabbers have told them could have happened to them if the worst-case scenario had coincidentally come their way.

But wait. Don't we Christians believe that there really is no such thing as “coincidentally” or “could have happened”? All we have is a divinely-orchestrated meticulously ordained plan designed by the only One Who holds the future! Subsequently, His plan is the only reality we have to work with and consider. If we add that to His promise that He works all things together for the good of those who love Him, what do we have to fear? According to Him, He preplanned the number of our days (Job 14:5), He determined our steps (Pr. 16:9), He places people in their powerful positions over us (Romans 13:1-5), He takes care of our everyday needs (Matt. 6:25-34), and He determined ahead of time to adopt us in such a way as to secure for us a glorious future in the heavenly realms (Eph. 1:3-8). It's understandable to me why an unbeliever would be terrified of 2021. Their world and everything that is important to them has been shown for what it is – temporary and unreliable. But us? We know Who holds the future. Our life is worth the living just because He lives!

In His Grip,  
Pastor Fred

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

**Quarterly Update has been rescheduled.**  
Please join us Sunday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, after the morning worship service. Lunch will be provided.



**Mark your calendar!!**

- 01/01 Church Office Closed for New Years Day
- 01/03 5:30 PM Bible Study/Movie in Sanctuary
- 01/04 6:00 PM Men's Potluck
- 01/04 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
- 01/05 9:00 PM Men's Fellowship
- 01/05 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study & Fellowship
- 01/05 2:00-5:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 01/06 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection
- 01/06 7:15 PM Youth
- 01/08 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 01/10 5:30 PM Teachers Bible School Resumes
- 01/11 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
- 01/12 9:00 PM Men's Fellowship
- 01/12 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study & Fellowship
- 01/12 2:00-5:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 01/13 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection
- 01/13 7:15 PM Youth
- 01/14 3:00-5:00 PM Food Box Distribution
- 01/14 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting
- 01/15 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 01/17 5:30 PM Teachers Bible School
- 01/18 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
- 01/18 Church Office Closed for Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 01/19 9:00 PM Men's Fellowship
- 01/19 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study & Fellowship
- 01/19 2:00-5:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 01/20 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection
- 01/20 7:15 PM Youth
- 01/22 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 01/22 12:00 PM Senior Adult Lunch
- 01/24 5:30 PM Teachers Bible School
- 01/25 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study
- 01/26 9:00 PM Men's Fellowship
- 01/26 9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study & Fellowship
- 01/26 2:00-5:00 PM Hope Pregnancy Center
- 01/27 6:00 PM Family Bible Connection
- 01/27 7:15 PM Youth
- 01/28 3:00-5:00 PM Food Box Distribution
- 01/29 8:30 AM Men's Bible Study
- 01/31 5:30 PM Teachers Bible School
- 02/07 12:00 PM Quarterly Update and Luncheon



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

**Hope Pregnancy Center** Will resume Jan 5<sup>th</sup> and will be Tuesdays from 2:00-5:00 pm

**Ladies Bible Study & Fellowship** resumes 01/05/2021

**Men's Friday Bible Study** resumes 01/08/2021

**Youth Group** resumes 01/06/2021

**Twice Fed** resumes in February

**Coming in January:** January 10th, we will resume Teachers Bible School: *The Story of the Bible: Plotlines and Themes*, by making it a part of our regularly scheduled Sunday evening Bible Study from 5:30pm-7:00pm. Returning students, new students, Twice Fed attenders, and guests are all welcome as we discover together the overall message of Scripture!

**Senior Adult Lunch** will be Friday, Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Activity Center 12:00-2:00 PM. This will be a potluck. Please bring a main dish and side/dessert to share.



**Food Box Distribution** is the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

