



DECEMBER 10, 2023

FRANKLIN ROAD

BAPTIST CHURCH

Think on These Things

This week begins our third week of Advent with the candle representing Joy. In seeking out definitions for the word "joy", I found that many of them had to do with "deep feelings of elation" and seemed to be related to an individual's circumstances. However, I submit to you that true joy is something that only a relationship with Jesus Christ can bring and that we can have that joy in spite of our circumstances. In the Upper Room, Jesus shared with His disciples these words: *"As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love. If you keep My commandments, you will abide (dwell) in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you, that My **joy** may remain in you, and that your **joy** may be full. This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."* (John 15:9-12) Jesus promised His disciples that He would send His Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18, 26; 16:7-15) and that while they would lament and sorrow for a time (due to Jesus' death), their *"sorrow (would) be turned into **joy** (due to His Resurrection; John 16:21)*. He further promised that *"...your **joy** no one will take from you."* (John 16:22) Friends, Jesus, and only Jesus, can give true joy that no one or nothing can ever take away! In fact, Galatians 5:22 tells us: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace..."*, meaning that an evidence of our relationship with Jesus Christ is that our lives will be permeated with a joy that cannot be taken away because His Spirit dwells within us.

As one Christian thinker wrote, "Joy is the surest sign of the presence of God." and as William Barclay also wrote, "We are chosen for joy. However hard the Christian way, it is both in the travelling and in the goal, the way of joy...The Christian is a (person) of joy...A gloomy Christian is a contradiction in terms, and nothing in all religious history has done Christianity more harm than its connection with black clothes and long faces."

I am fully aware that tragedy and hardship can cause pain, sadness, depression, and can make one think that "I'll never be able to love, laugh, or feel joy again", but I also know that in the midst of our circumstances, Jesus can bring joy that is deeper than all the things we may be experiencing.

This Christmas, I pray that you will know the joy that Jesus gives and that it will shine brightly for all to see.

"Joy is the flag that flies over the castle of our hearts announcing that the King is in residence today."

(Walter B. Knight)

Is the flag of joy flying over the castle of your heart today?

Something to think about as we go about our week.

Love, prayers, and blessings,

Trace

this week at FRBC

SUNDAY (DEC 10)

Sunday School.....9:30a
Worship.....10:45a
Children's Church

Deacon's Meeting.....12:15p

GriefShare.....5:00p
H.O.P.E ESL Christmas Party.....5:00p
Senior Christmas Gathering @ Chris Wyke's...6:00p

WEDNESDAY (DEC 06)

Adult Bible Study.....6:30p
i220 Youth Bible Study
Journey Kids - Bible Alive!



SUNSHINE PROJECT

FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF DECEMBER WE WILL BE
COLLECTING CARDS/LETTERS FOR
ALL OF OUR SUNSHINE PROJECT MEMBERS.

GO TO THE TABLE IN THE FOYER FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE.

December Birthdays

12/08 Margaret Forcier
12/20 Andy Buchanan
12/20 Walter Capes
12/23 Sean Shirey
12/24 Dale Simmons
12/26 W.J. Webb
12/27 Jeff Simmons

December Anniversaries

12/22 Walter & Joanne Capes
12/29 Jeff & Deena Simmons

*There will be a brief Deacon's meeting
next Sunday (Dec. 17) immediately
following the worship service.*

*Please mark your calendars and plan
to attend.*

Senior Gathering 6:00pm Tonight

@ Chris Wyke's - 120 Jandale Dr.

CONNECT WITH FRBC

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www.facebook.com/frbclagrange

To receive FRBC phone/text alerts: text ALERT to 22300

of the week
DEACON

Dec 10 Chris Wyke
Dec 17 Ernest McCurry
Dec 24 Bill Forcier