

NEW TO BIBLE CENTER?

Welcome!

If you have any questions, see Jane at the Connect Table beside the fireplace after services.



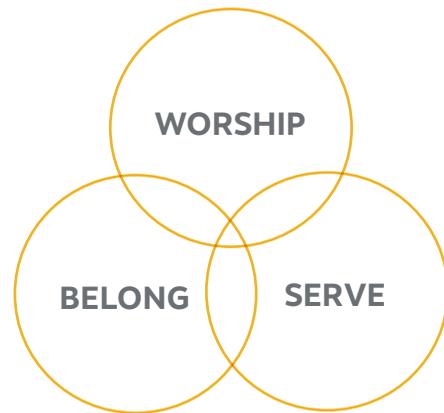
We'd Love to Pray With You!

Men and women are available in the prayer room for anyone wanting prayer or counsel at the end of services. Located at the back right of the Auditorium.

Sign Up for the Weekly Newsletter

Enter your email at the bottom of our website, BibleCenterChurch.com.

Sunday Morning Services	Times
• Multigenerational Service	9
• Modern Service	11
• High School, Rm. 2104	9
• Middle School, Rm. 1105	9, 11
• Special Needs Ministry, Rm. 1106	9, 11
• Nursery & Kids (Up to 5th Grade, Level 1)	9, 11



Find your fit in a group!

For prayer, study, or just doing life together. BibleCenterChurch.com/groups

Middle & High School Teens:

BibleCenterChurch.com/students

Find your fit on a volunteer team!

Opportunities for people of all ages to make an impact for eternity!

BibleCenterChurch.com/serve

6 WAYS TO GIVE

to advance the gospel and impact our city:

- Text **BCCWV** to 77977
- On the BCC app
- Boxes beside the fireplace
- Online
- Offering basket
- By mail

Jesus is a Gift to Searching People

MATTHEW 2:1-12

Second in a 4-part series titled: *The Gift of Christmas*

Pastor Matt Friend – December 8, 2019

What myths have we heard about the wise men?

Myth #1 – There were three.

(They brought three kinds of gifts, but, most likely, there were many more than three in their huge entourage.)

Myth #2 – They came to the manger where Jesus was born.

(No, they came days, months, or even two years later to a Bethlehem home. *Matt. 2:13-23; Lk. 2:22, 39*)

Myth #3 – They were kings.

(No, they were magi—wealthy, educated, Babylonian or Persian scholars whose expertise ranged from astronomy, mathematics, magic, medicine, philosophy, and prophecy. Most likely, they were influenced by Daniel's teaching. *Num. 24:17; 2 Sam. 5:2; Isa. 49:6; Jer. 39:3; Dan. 1:4, 20; 2:2, 44, 48; 4:7; 5:7, 11; 9:2, 20-27; Mic. 5:2*)

Myth #4 – They rode camels.

(Though camels would've been in their entourage, these nobles most likely rode Nisean or Arabian horses.)

Myth #5 – Their names were Caspar, Balthasar, and Melchior.

(This myth came later. Neither the Bible nor credible history names them.)

Myth #6 – The star was a natural, astronomical event.

(It's possible that Daniel had passed along divine details about a planetary or constellation alignment; but this was mostly supernatural. *Ex. 13:21; Matt. 2:9, 12; Lk. 2:9, 13-14*)

What does this true story call us to do today?

#1 – Realize that God is working out everything for His glory.

#2 – Believe that God wants all kinds of people, including people like you.

#3 – Come to Jesus for the right reasons.

#4 – Be prepared: Following Jesus will cost you something.

#5 – Look to Jesus to fulfill all your longings and desires.

THE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

BIBLE CENTER | CHURCH

Glorifying God by producing more maturing followers of Jesus

100 BIBLE CENTER DR. | CHARLESTON, WV 25309
(304) 346-0431 | BIBLECENTERCHURCH.COM

Dear Friends,

Welcome to church! I'm so glad you're here. I pray that everything about the service—from the decorations to the children's choir to the Scripture readings—draws your heart upward in appreciation for the Christ of Christmas.

We're in the middle of a series titled, *The Gift of Christmas*. What kind of people did Jesus come to rescue? Who found Him to be a gift?

Last week we saw that Jesus is a gift to *good* people—men and women (like Joseph) who are trying to do their best and are considered to be “good people” but who still need a Savior. Today we'll see that Jesus is a gift to *searching* people, just like the magi. In the coming weeks we'll see that Jesus is also a gift to *ordinary* people (the shepherds' story), and *broken* people (our story).

In addition to each Sunday morning service, you'll want to mark your calendar for the many Christmas events listed in this bulletin. I especially anticipate *Christmas in Charleston*, two special evenings of identical concerts, celebrating the birth of Jesus (6 PM on Saturday the 14th and Sunday the 15th). Invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy the sounds of the season with our musicians, choir, and band.

Join us each Sunday morning this month to get lost in the Christmas story and discover Jesus, the gift of Christmas, afresh and anew.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Matt



Matt Friend, Senior Pastor

**EVENT
REGISTRATION**

- Go to BibleCenterChurch.com/events
- Use the Bible Center app
- Call (304) 346-0431



@biblecenter | @pastormattbcc



New Member Candidates

- Bruce & Kemi King
- Carrie Miller
- Terri Smoot
- Cheryl Stuart

Christmas Parade Helpers

Thursday, December 12 • BCC will participate in the Christmas Parade again! Opportunities are available to hand out candy along the route or be a parade walker. Register or contact Jane (jjackson@BibleCenterChurch.com).

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24 • 3 PM & 5 PM • Auditorium • Child care (for children up to 2 years old) and the Lodge (special needs room for people of any age) available at the 3 PM service.

BCS Annual Gala

January 31, 2020 • 6 PM • Be our guest and plan to join us for dinner, a silent auction, and stories of impact from BCS students and alumni. Tickets (\$35) on sale now. They are available on the app or BibleCenterSchool.com.

Our Sympathies to...

- Rhonda Hall, whose mother, Reva Findley, passed away. Mrs Findley was also John Hall's grandmother

BELONG

GEMS: Cookies, Cupcakes & Christmas Music

(Widows)

Friday, December 20 • 5:30-7:30 PM • Gathering Space • RSVP to the church office (304-346-0431) by Dec 10.

FAMILY

Pajama Party

(Grades K-5)

Sunday, December 29 • 9 & 11 AM • Base Camp • Come dressed in your PJs!

Wednesday Night Time Change

(Preschool-High School)

AWANA and Student Ministries (which resumes Jan. 8) will slightly shift times to 6:15-7:30 PM.

Dodgeball Tournament

(Grades 3-5)

Saturdays, January 18-February 8 • 9-11 AM • Bible Center School, Gym • Break the winter blues with our annual Dodgeball Tournament. Not only is it tons of fun, but it's a great way to introduce your friends and family to Bible Center. Gather your team of 4-8, and register to play. Cost: \$5 for food.



2019
Christmas
OFFERING

Through the years, the Bible Center family has creatively given in various ways during the holidays. This year we are designating all December giving as the “Christmas Offering” to ensure we end the year strong and look forward to all that God will do next year. You may give on Sundays, or anytime online, on the app, or through the mail.

All December giving focuses on two goals:

- 1) Fund the ministry
- 2) Catch up on our budget shortfall so far this year

Your December giving will catch up our budgeted expenses, allowing us to:

- Reach people who may never step foot inside a church by hosting conferences and training events.
- Partner with local organizations like Union Mission
- Repair and maintain our parking lot
- Serve families affected by special needs
- Teach the Bible to hundreds of children weekly, and reach teens with the gospel
- Lead approximately 1500 people in worship each Sunday
- Support missionaries worldwide

