



Crawford
Road
BAPTIST
CHURCH

THE MESSENGER



December 2025

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

Hey Church Family!

As we celebrate Christmas each year, we are thanking God for fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14 which says, "Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel." To thank God for fulfilling the prophecy about our Savior, we sing songs like "O Come, O Come Immanuel." But why is Immanuel's coming so important?

Immanuel's arrival matters because the fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 is all about the faithfulness of God despite the unfaithfulness of humans. To fully understand why this prophecy, and ultimately Christmas, is about the faithfulness of God, we need to consider the history of this prophecy. Isaiah was a prophet who lived about 100 years before Judah got exiled to Babylon, and his book has a theme that's like 2 sides of 1 coin, God's judgment on Israel for not repenting of their idolatry/sin and hope that salvation would come for Israel.

2 Kings 15-16 and 2 Chronicles 28 describe the history around Isaiah 7:14. The summary is this. During the lifetime of Judah's king Ahaz, Assyria threatened Israel and Judah. Ahaz's dad was a faithful king who looked to the Lord for protection from Assyria, but Ahaz was wicked and did not trust the Lord to deliver him or Judah from Assyria. So, God sent Isaiah to straighten Ahaz out. In chapter 7, Isaiah tells Ahaz to trust God by 1) recognizing God is greater than Ahaz's circumstances (vv.1-9), 2) admitting God is the only one who can save him (vv. 10-16), and

3) remembering that not trusting God comes with grave consequences (vv.15-25). God spared Judah from being destroyed by Assyria, but the ultimate fulfillment of that prophecy did not happen in the Old Testament because 100 years later Judah was exiled by Babylon.

When did the ultimate fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 come? It happened at the first Christmas.

Matthew 1:18-25, "The birth of Jesus Christ came about this way: After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they came together that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. So her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly. But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated "God is with us." When Joseph woke up, he did as the Lord's angel had commanded him. He married her but did not have sexual relations with her until she gave birth to a son. And he named him Jesus."

Thus, Matthew 1:23 tell us that the ultimate fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14 came when Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary. His birth shows that God remains faithful despite the faithlessness of humanity, seen clearly in Ahaz's life and ours. Immanuel, Jesus, came to save us from our sin because, like Ahaz, we too have rebelled against God. Jesus saved us by growing up and bearing our faithless sin on the cross and giving us new hearts that can obey God. Christmas is all about God being faithful to save us despite our sinful rebellion!

Don't forget to...

- Join us at 9:15 am on Sunday Morning for Sunday School and at 10:30 for our Worship Service.
- Join us at 6:00 pm on Sunday nights for Bible Study and Prayer.
- Join us at 7:00 pm on Wednesday nights for Discipleship Training.
- Visit our church YouTube page (<https://www.youtube.com/@CrawfordRoadBaptistChurch>) to see the recordings of past Sunday or Wednesday preaching/teaching.

- Pastor Ethan

Candlelight Service



**Christmas Candlelight
Service**

Sunday, December 21st

6:00 PM

DECEMBER

Birthdays

Brandon Cherry.....	4
Angie Wilson.....	5
Tony Davis.....	6
Evangeline Thornton.....	12
Dana Goodson.....	16
Dewayne Gillis.....	17
Lora Stevens.....	18
Chris Wood.....	25

Happy Anniversary

Ken & Diane Chase.....	12
Mark & Terrah Boisclair.....	20
J.R. & Rhonda Rolen.....	31



Our next Brotherhood Breakfast will be December 14th at 7:00 A.M. All men and young men are invited to join us for some delicious food and a great time of fellowship.

Men, if you haven't been attending, it's not too late to join us. You won't regret it.

STEWARDSHIP NOTES

Operating Offering

Weekly budget needs—**\$4,448.00**

Tithes & Offerings for November
(thru Nov. 23rd)
\$8,880.28

Average per week (thru Nov. 23rd)
\$2,220.07

Restroom Renovations

The two restrooms directly behind the sanctuary are in great need of renovations. We are going to start getting estimates for plumbing, flooring, vanities, etc. If you would like to contribute to this renovation, please mark your contribution "Restroom Renovation Fund".

DISCIPLESHIP

Training

We finished up our study on our Spiritual Gifts. Hopefully everyone enjoyed it and

learned what your spiritual gift is.

We will be taking a little break from Discipleship Training during the holidays. Watch for news about what we will be doing after the first of the year.



We had a great turn out for our Kids Friendsgiving. We had 13 children in attendance. They all had a great time eating, playing games and making crafts.

Our Children's Christmas party will be Saturday, December 20th from 2:00-4:00. All children are invited.

Weekly opportunities for worship:

Sunday — Sunday School 9:15-10:30 am
Children's Church 10:30-11:30 am

Wednesday — Missions Classes for all ages 7:00-8:00 pm.

Angie Wilson, Children's Ministry Director

UNTO
US A Child
IS BORN

ISAIAH 9:6



Nacy headed up our yard sale and we made \$931.60. She did an awesome job!! We met and we invited many people to church. There were some people that just looked around, but made cash donations to our ministry. Many people asked what is Feed My Sheep. Boy they got their ears full. There was this "Dear little ol' man", bless his heart, he couldn't walk too well even with his cane. He was by himself, I asked if I could help him? He had his wallet open. I thought he was checking his money to see if he could buy anything. He kind of laughed and said, no mam. I don't see anything I can't live without. Anyway, the sweet elderly man gave a \$5.00 cash donation to Feed My Sheep. But we were a lot cheaper than "Walmart" for sure. There were donations made from most of our customers. Had a great two days.

We had eight people on November 18th at our meeting. We made up fresh flower arrangements and delivered to our homebound loved ones along with Thanksgiving cards. That was a great day. We will be meeting again December 15th to work on our Christmas for our loved ones. God Is Good! Please continue praying for our church and the health of each one.

GOBBLE, GOBBLE!!

Hope you have a great Thanksgiving!

Janice (JJ)



WMU® God's mission.
Our passion.

**"WEEK OF PRAYER FOR INTERNATIONAL MISSION"
"LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING"**

The Week of Prayer for International Missions and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering emphasis will begin on November 30th. The theme is "Together" and the prayer guide will help as we pray together for our IMB missionaries. It's all about prayer as we join the Great Commission task of finding the lost, giving help to the hurting, sharing the hope of Christ, and witness as God grows His Church around the world. God works through our prayers to change lives. Our church offering goal is \$4,000.00 and the Christmas Star will be a visual with each light representing \$80.00 given.

"LOTTIE MOON POST OFFICE"

The Lottie Moon Post Office is an opportunity to share Christmas greeting cards with each other and it will be open for business on Sunday, November 30th. It is located in the Sunday School class at the end of the hall on the east end of the church building. The postage is \$.10 per card with all proceeds going to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Let's share our love and Christmas joy with each other.

"WOMEN ON MISSION"

Seventeen ladies attended the November "Women on Mission" meeting. We all loved and enjoyed the Bible study presented by Terra Kirkland entitled, "Because He is King Over Us...We have joy." Nacy Wortley shared about the ministry of a hospice chaplain in Maine. Our Christmas party will be on December 16th at 6:00 pm at the

home of Angie Wilson. All ladies are invited to join us and bring your favorite Christmas goodies.

"MISSION FRIENDS" and "CHILDREN IN ACTION"

Pray for the leaders and children as they meet together each week to learn about and pray for missionaries.

"PRAYER FOCUS"

Pray for ALL MISSIONARIES—Lift up missionaries and their extended families who will be apart this holiday season. Pray for peace, comfort, and a very real awareness of His presence with those who feel so far away from their families and friends.

What JOY!

WMU Emphasis for 2024-2026

WMU WATCHWORD...

"Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well." (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

WMU OBJECTIVE...*We are passionate about the lost. We are compelled by love. We are generous in sharing. We serve with great delight (joy).*

WMU MANDATE... "making disciples of Jesus who live on mission"

WMU MISSIONAL CHARACTERISTICS.

** Learn about missions * Pray for missions * Support missions
* Do missions and tell about Jesus*

Judie Goodson, WMU Director

CRAWFORD ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH

2706 US Highway 80 West
Phenix City, AL 36870



Address Label

We're on the web:
crbch.com

CHURCH INFORMATION

Staff Directory...

Ethan Graves, Pastor
Scott Catrett, Music Minister
Cindy Wood, Secretary

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Watch our services on YouTube at

*[https://www.youtube.com/@
CrawfordRoadBaptistChurch](https://www.youtube.com/@CrawfordRoadBaptistChurch)*



Active Deacons...

Scott Catrett
Jonathan Johnston
Josh McPeters
Tom O'Flinn
Nathan Sadler
David Weaver
Hunter Wilson
Jake Wilson
Chris Wood
Jay Wortley