



First Southern Baptist Church of La Junta

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR BRANDON

When we think of Christmas we think of gifts. Children are hopeful that they will get the things on their list. People agonize endlessly to make sure they have brought just the right thing. Our Heavenly Father has given us the greatest gift that we could ever hope for, better than all the gifts we have ever had.

In Isaiah 9:6 it says that " Unto you a child is born, unto us a son is given." God's gift to the world was His Son Jesus Christ. However the gifts don't stop there, the Son of God also came to give us gifts, He gives us hope, peace, joy, and love. He gives us mercy, grace, forgiveness, and everlasting life to those who believe in Him.

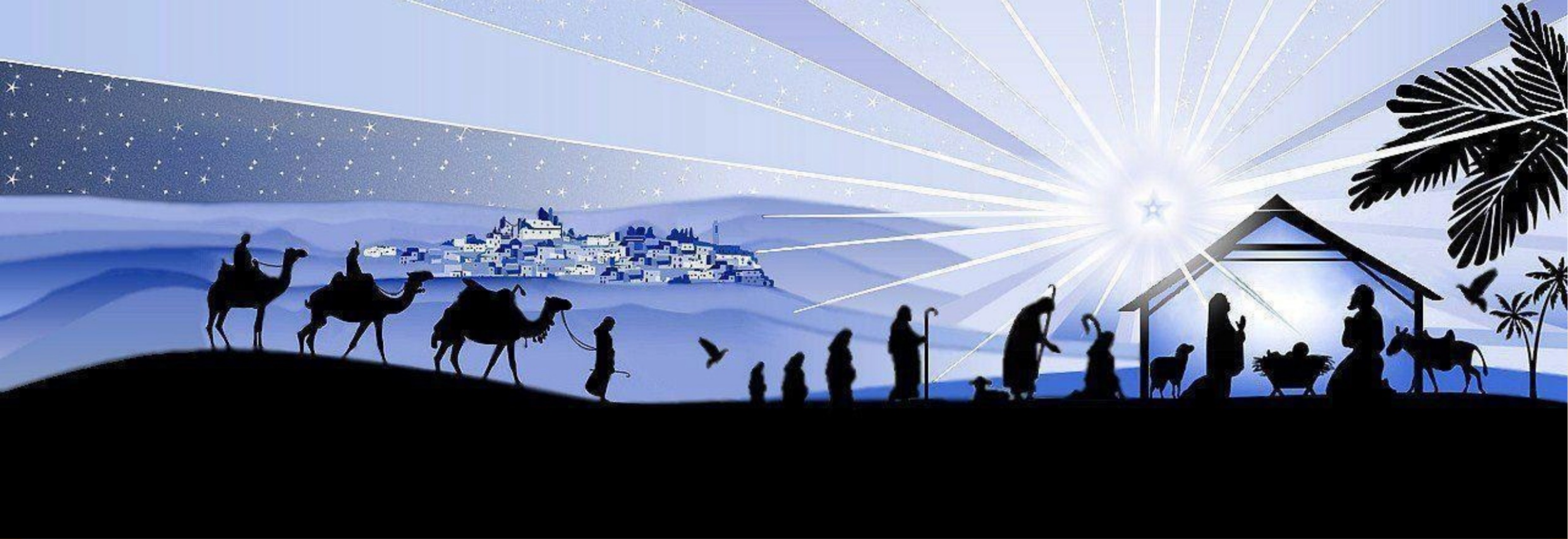
John 1:12 tells us that to those who receive the gift of the Son by placing their faith in Him become the Children of God.

So, this Christmas let us remember that we don't have to search or hope for the perfect gift. It has already been given to us and His name is Jesus.

Galatians 4:4-5 "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."

Merry Christmas
Pastor Brandon





The Gift by Judith Searle

Look beneath your Christmas tree
What is it that you see?
Are there gifts piled up high?
To bring sparkle to your eye?
Or is that space sadly bare
For you have only little to share?
No matter what your answer be
A Christmas gift awaiteth thee,

This gift is one of great worth
And came in the form of the lowly birth
Of the Messiah which was foretold
By the godly phophets of old.
God's own dear Son on earth was born
Upon that first Christmas morn.

Such a birth we now recall
For it is a special gift to all.
This gift which God did give
Provided a way that man might live
For eternity in heaven so far
With the angels singing there.

For each of us deserves Hell's distress
Because of our vile sinfulness
But Christ was born to pay sin's price
By offering His life as a sacrifice.

So when you look beneath that tree
Remember the gift offered thee;
Wrapped with mercy and with love,
Presented by the Father above.
Accept God's gift offered you,
And experience life anew.

What better Christmas could one give
Than forever with Christ to live?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his
only begotten Son that whosoever believeth
in him should not perish but have everlasting
life." John 3:16

True
STORY





Services

Sunday School (all ages)	Sunday	9:30am
Morning Worship	Sunday	10:45am
Evening Worship	Sunday	6:00pm
Children's Worship	Sunday	6:00pm
Youth Group	Sunday	6:00pm
Women's Bible Study	Wednesday	6:00pm
Prayer Meeting	Wednesday	6:30pm
Men's Bible Study	Wednesday	7:00pm

Please Note- Sunday Evening Services may be withheld during the month of December, Please call to verify times. This is due to lower attendance because of extra family time happening during this month.

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office number: 719-384-5185

Facebook: First Southern Baptist Church of La Junta





Ministry Leadership



Brandon Mills
Pastor

Tim Knabenshue
Deacon

Jim Collins
Deacon

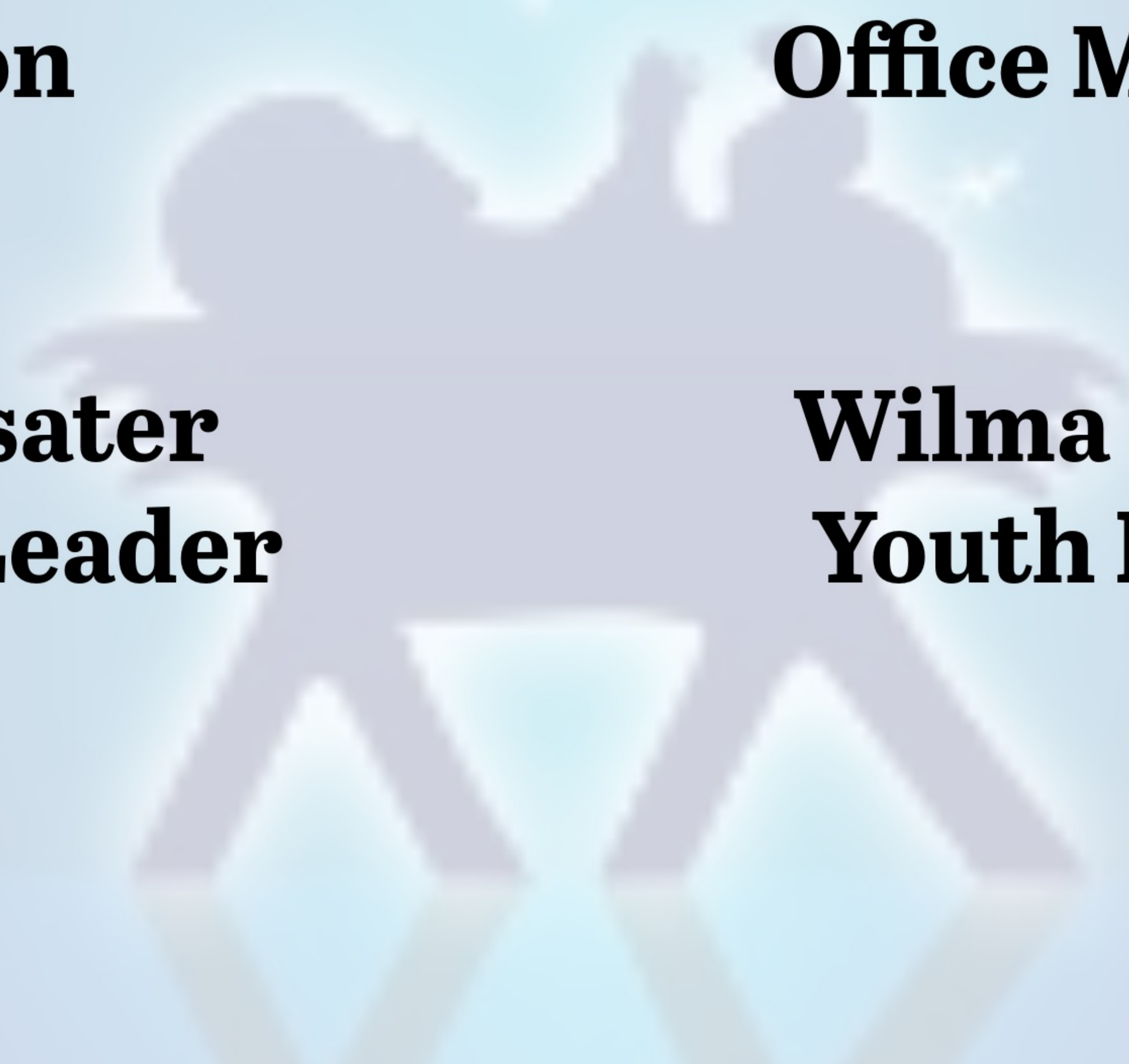
Kathy Butler
Children's Leader/VBS
Coordinator

Jim Gabler
Deacon

Office Manager

Allen Lasater
Worship Leader

Wilma Collins
Youth Leader



Miracles and Praises to God

For November 2024

Kathy Butler reports her scan 2 months ago showed the tumor on her lung grew bigger, but God answered and the follow up scan in November came back all clear...tumor gone. ...Praise God.

Bob Benz completed a year of Keytruda cancer treatments. At time of diagnosis - was given about 3 months to live. God answered and all cancer cleared in 1-year. (Nodular Melanoma Ulcerated) ...Praise God.

Austin Kuhn- accident leaves him near death a few times, Severe internal bleeding from a crush injury, requiring a blood transfusion during the Flight for Life. Five critical surgeries in 18 days. 18 days in hospital, 13 days in ICU, 5 blood transfusions, 6 days on ventilator, Thousands of prayers...Austin has survived, when the risk was high that he wouldn't and he is home! ...Praise God.

Give Praises to God for Wilma Collins, for her dedication to Operation Christmas Child for the last 19 years. For her years of hard work and organizational skills. And for the dedicated helpers, couldn't do it without you...Praise God.

Give Praises to God for all of the Leadership of FSBC, for their dedication, teachings, and support to the church and it's members. Including the Pastor and family, Music, Deacons, Office Support, Audio-Video Media, Church Maintenance & Cleaning, Sunday School, Youth Group, Women's Bible Study, Men's Bible Study, Vacation Bible School, OCC, Social Media and Website maintenance and any others not mentioned.

A church doesn't run by itself, Praise God for sending the people who do ...Praise God.

Jeff Reeder reports Praises for his Dad's recent scan, that shows there is zero evidence of any cancer left in his body...Praise God.

Praises for Pastor Brandon's Father, his surgery was preformed without complications...Praise God

Count Your BLESSINGS.
Name them one by one.

Count your **MANY BLESSINGS...**
See what GOD HAS DONE.





ALL OUR PRAYERS FOR YOU....

**Note: Prayer concerns are removed after 2 weeks, unless you contact the office.
Call 719 384-5185 to add a request or to renew a request.
Or go to fsbclajunta.com and select Prayer Request, to complete a form.**

Prayer list for end of November. See weekly Prayer list during December for changes and new additions.

Austin Kuhn & Family- Serious Ranch Accident- Healing
Joan Abbott- Healing
Hurricane Victims
Ken Pierson
Graham Family- Death in Family
Carolynn Hayes
Ida Mondragon
Jeff Reeder's Father - Healing
Hellen Mc Clure
Amber Mills- Medical, Healing and finding a Dr. with alternative treatments.
Lynn Mills- Medical Healing after surgery
Jerry Cavin
Carolyn Gerhart
Haley Kristine
John George
Amanda Martin
Kristine Lucero
Dr. Shand- Healing
AJ Quick- Healing
Son Buyruk Church
Police Officers
First Responders
Military & their Families
Our Nation
Our Leaders
Israel
Pastor Brandon and Family and all the Leadership of FSBC and their families-
-----God knows their needs.

Operation Christmas Child- Wilma Collins

Wilma Collins started helping with Operation Christmas Child (OCC) with FSBC as far back as 2005 as a member of another Church called First Baptist Church in La Junta.

First Southern Baptist Church (FSBC) became part of OCC as far back as 2005, exact year is not known by me at this time. In the first year that Wilma volunteered 2005, a total of 220 boxes were filled and sent to the children. For the first couple of years, Wilma was an assistant for Mary Jane Maddux with FSBC/OCC. Approximately in 2007, Wilma accepted the role as the new OCC Drop Box Leader for the La Junta area. This means... this year is Wilma's 17th year as Drop Box Leader! And about 19 years volunteering for OCC in total! Around 2015/2016, Wilma choose to join the family at FSBC. And we are glad she did!

OCC is a missionary gift giving operation, much bigger than the fun items in each box, the main gift in each box is bringing children around the world together for the Message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. OCC is part of Samaritan's Purse Internaional Relief and OCC was started in 1993.

The Message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ starts as a shoebox to be filled with items of love and fun for the kids. After the shoebox is filled, it is "wrapped in Prayer", and then the GREATEST JOURNEY starts. For every child that receives a "shoebox", it's like receiving a ticket for the GREATEST JOURNEY! The journey is a 12-lesson discipleship course designed for OCC. Children who participate in the program and graduate, learn how to follow Christ and share Him with others. The power of this, is as they share with others, entire families and communities are brought to the power of the Gospel, and new churches are started.

Since 1993 to 2023:

More than 220 million children have received a shoebox in over 170 countries and territories.

Since 2009:

40.5 children have enrolled in the 12- lesson program

20.2 million+ have accepted Christ.

1 million + teachers trained.

Volunteers for FSBC/OCC are important! Some of Wilma's go to helpers are Viktoria & Dennis, Diane, Dino, Elizabeth, Arlene, and Tyler. Over the past years, help has come in the form of scout troops, Lion's Club, other churches, as well as many other groups. Wilma welcomes anyone with an interest to assist in this worthy cause. There's no requirement to be a member of a church. Just call the First Southern Baptist Church to learn how to help. Help is welcome in any form, either putting in some hours, making your own boxes or giving a money donations, they all are a great way to help. One essential need for the cash donations, is to help cover the shipping cost for all the shoeboxes to travel to children in other countries.

Wilma is a pro shopper when it comes to finding bargin prices for the goodies in the boxes. Two of her best finds this year where; Eight pencils for .03 cents. And pencil sharpeners at 3.5 cents each! Buying items in bulk can help too.

When does Wilma start collecting items for Christmas 2025? "We have already started collecting," Wilma answers. "Herself and helpers are on the lookout for items year round for our boxes. Some of their finds have already started coming in."

Some items included in this years boxes: combs, dolls, doll clothes, shoes, hats, bracelets, necklaces, balls, paper, coloring books, notebook paper, crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, cups, tools, wash cloth, kids clothing, socer ball with air pump, and more.

Last year, 1,402 boxes were collected from within the La Junta area. This year 534 boxes were filled from FSBC alone, and the total collected from the 9 churches/groups throughout southern Colorado for 2024 is 3,984. This is an increase of 2,582 more boxes from the La Junta area then 2023! The boxes are all loaded on the truck and are on their way to share the message of the Gospel to many special childern.

Just a few of the 306 boxes packaged on Nov 10, 2024 at FSBC. In total, over 534 boxes were filled from FSBC for this year's send off.

Packing the shoeboxes.

We ended our night with some well deserved yummy desserts.





Wilma showing the 12-lesson books that each child receives. The books come in many languages.



Above is FSBC located in La Junta, CO, the 2024 drop-off site for OCC.

It's OCC National Collection Week! Nov 18-25, 2024

The boxes travel by all means, even by elephants and other animals! And the kids help also.



A few of the boxed shoeboxes waiting for pickup from the semi truck. About 16 shoeboxes inside each packing box.





OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD/OCC BOXING PARTY

Every item collected throughout the year...is Prayed over.
Every person that donated items...is Prayed over.
Every shopping trip & shopper...is Prayed over.
Every shoebox collected throughout the year...is Prayed over.
Every volunteer...is Prayed over.
Every box touched...is Prayed over.
The Message being sent in the box...is Prayer over.
Every receiving child... is Prayed over.
Every truck driver transporting the boxes...is Prayed over.
Every flight transporting the boxes...is Prayed over.
Every boat/ship, train, horseback, camelback...is Prayed over.
Every missionary/volunteer passing out the boxes to the child...is Prayed over.

And to all the coordinators organizing the OCC groups, big or small...many Blessings and Prayers lifting you up, throughout the year.

Wilma Collins...Thank you for being our OCC Box Drop Off Leader.



**Touching and praying over
this group of boxes**



Sharing the Gospel

How Do I Get Started?

You have accepted Christ as your Savior, now what? We have personal responsibilities as followers of Christ. One of the many responsibilities, is to spread the good news and make disciples of all within our reach.

On Nov 20, 2024, Wednesday Women of Word (WWOW) Bible Study had a special guest speaker about the subject of sharing the Gospel.

Bob Russler, Owner & Operator of Russler Implement of Rocky Ford, Colorado, who is energetic and truly excited to share the Gospel with all. He shared with us his tips for being prepared at a moments notice to share the Gospel.

Some of the tips included: (not the complete list)

1. Be prepared- carry with you materials or props that contain Gospel lessons. One handy item is called Gospel Tracts. These are pamphlets that you can leave with a person or at a location for someone to find. When you hand out a Gospel Tract, tell them to be sure to read the last page.
2. Keep Fear out of your sharing of the Gospel- It's easy to fear rejection, to feel to shy or not feel that you are ready. But you are "armed with the truth" and "not alone", God is with you.
3. Positive Reinforcement- Offering kind words is a great way to open a conversation. Casual conversation will follow, until you heard something from the person that is the perfect time to slide the conversation towards God and Salvation.
4. The first few times could be challenging, but keep going, practice will improve your skills.
5. Be Bold- Invite people to your church.
6. Something to think about- if there was a building on fire, would you sit there and not do anything to save the people inside? No, you would do whatever you can to save them. You are doing what God wants you to do, and that is save his people with the sharing of his Salvation.
7. Make yourself available .
8. Not all people will be acceptive to receive the Gospel on your first or even your tenth encounter with them. Don't give up, they aren't "ripe" yet. Hopefully, you are helping them to ripen.
9. Don't put limits on God.
10. Be a Servant - Even when your times are challenging, this may be the best time.
11. Where to share the Gospel?- Your platform is wherever you are.
12. Be eye to eye level with them- People are more receptive if they are not being "looked down" on.
13. Declare Power of your soul- Jesus is the winner
14. Pray for Divine appointment- Pray for God to lead someone to your path, that you could share the Gospel.
15. Satan will tell you... "that you can't share the Gospel, that you don't know enough yet"-- It's true, you can't do it alone, but Jesus can through you.

If you every get a chance to be present at a presentaion from Bob Russler, DO IT, you won't be sorry. This article doesn't reflect half of what he presented, there's so much more.

WWOW's leader is Julie Worley. We meet every Wednesday (unless otherwise stated) at 6pm at First Southern Baptist Church. We would love to have you join us.

Bob Russler showing one of the Gospel Tracts



The Wednesday Women of Word Bible Study members and guest Mary Ann Russler



Char Hosea in a practice scene with Bob Russler.



*A Celebration Of Life,
Are God's Events
IN OUR LIVES*

December 2024

Please share the upcoming events in your life that will happen in January by emailing to benzshirley@ymail.com

Birthdays, Anniversaries, wedding announcements, births, passings or graduations.

Nov 12, 2024

Our condolences to the family of Edith Graham, who went to be with her Lord and Savior on Nov 12, 2024.

Dec 31, 2024-- The 39th Anniversary of Bob and Shirley Benz

IMPORTANT NOTICE

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY TO BEGIN

**WWOW Bible Study Gals
(Wednesday Women of the Word)**

will begin a new study on

**Wednesday January 8, 2025
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Church Fellowship Hall**

**"MOSES" - Discerning God's Active Presence"
by Mindy Ferguson
(10-week, in-depth study)**

**For more information, please contact
Julie Worley
719.468.9297 - julieworley49@gmail.com**



NOTES

▶ **Needed... Birthday, Announcements and Praises for the Jan Newsletter.**

Deadline date is Dec 21st. Please send to benzshirley@gmail.com

▶ **Needed... Any suggestions or ideas for the newsletter.**

▶ **Needed... A person or two to proof read the newsletter.**

▶ **Needed...** Those who would want to received the newsletter in your email, be sure to visit the church website and click on "contact form" to update your email. For now, view the newsletter on the FSBC webpage.

▶ **Please go to www.fsbclajunta.com, click on the new button "Contact Form" and update your email address.**

▶ **Please Note:** to read the newsletter, go to fsbclajunta.com to read the newsletter. Once the email address update is done, newsletter will be emailed.

▶ **Look for the gift tree in the vestibule just inside the front door. You will find tags hanging on the tree with info to buy a gift for a child. Once you select a tag or many tags, purchase and wrap the gift(s) and return to church before Dec 22, 2024.**

Silent night  *The Greatest Gift of All*



IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 08- FSBC Christmas Church Diner at 5PM, Service after meal. Food sign up sheet at church entry way.

Dec 15- The Children's Nacho Party with Movie (earned with learning their Bible verse.) Immediatly after the church service.

Dec 22- @ 6PM the FSBC Kids/Youth Candlelight Service.

Dec 24- Christmas Eve

Dec 25 Christmas Day

Dec 31- New Year's Eve

O, STAR OF WONDER, STAR OF NIGHT,
STAR WITH ROYAL BEAUTY BRIGHT
WESTWARD LEADING, STILL
PROCEEDING,
GUIDE US TO THE PERFECT LIGHT.





JUST FOR A SMILE



What did Adam say to Eve on the day before Christmas?

A: It's Christmas, Eve!



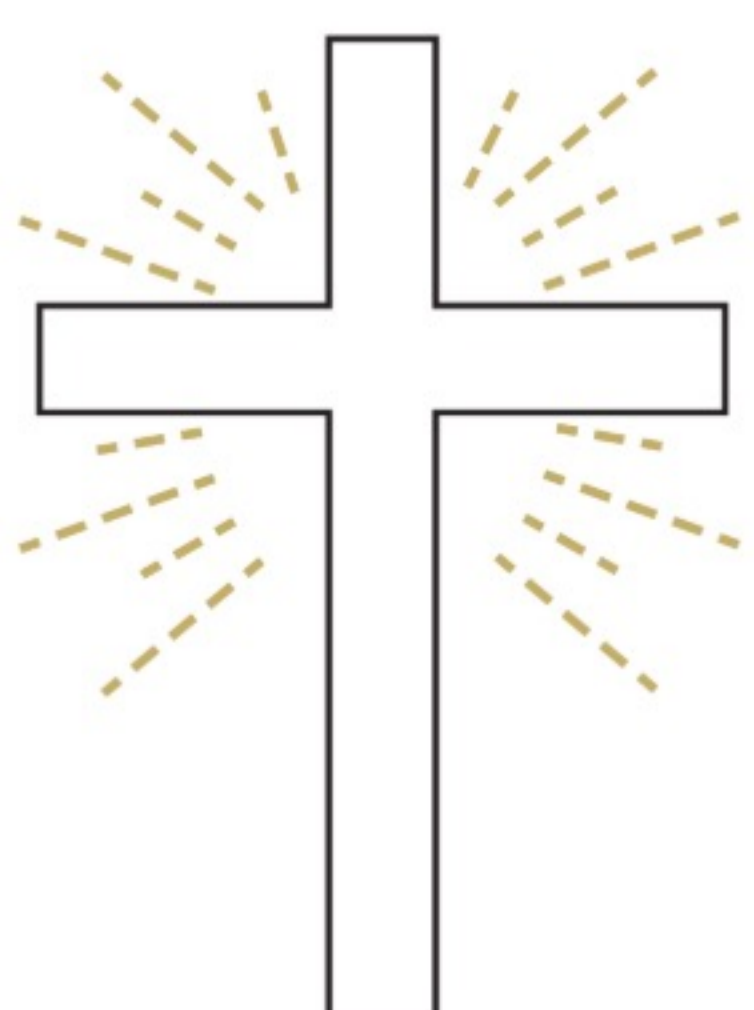
12-19-1997

I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN

Mother and baby are doing well... Both are in a stable condition.



THE GIFT RECEIVED EVER DAY OF THE YEAR.



KIDS K O R N E R

Christmas Word Scramble

OYJ OT ETH LDORW

NLSEIT GTHNI

HO LHOY HNTIG

EHT STIRF OELN

KAHR EHT LDRHEA ALNEGS NSIG

HO CMEO LAL EY FUTHAIFL

DKEC ETH LSHAL

YWAA NI A GRMNAE

www.ChristianCampPro.com



Nativity Word Search

C A N O I T A V L A S D N S H S
 Q S H E P H E R D S R F A L L U
 R A T S A M T S I R H C T E J S
 N E M E S I W S H E E P I G O E
 J G N I K M A R Y G I U V N S J
 M O S Y I H X Q U R Q W I A E T
 D O N K E Y R E G N A M T D P M
 Z I L I N N K E E P E R Y O H F



angels
 Christmas
 donkey
 innkeeper
 Jesus
 Joseph
 king
 manger
 Mary
 nativity
 salvation
 sheep
 shepherds
 star
 wisemen

Start a Gift Journal

During the Christmas season, every year make two detailed lists, one of all the gifts that you have received, along with who they were from and the other a list of all the gifts that you gave and to whom.

Be sure to include not only gifts of material things, but also include gifts of the heart or acts of kindness.

Many years from now, it will be fun to read the list of all the past years and see how you grew over the years in Christ.

Hint: a good gift for someone would be a new Journal to start this Gift Journal! Don't forget to date the list and even add your age.
 It's okay for adults to do this as well.