

# FBC TODAY

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## FBC

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
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    YOUTH

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### MAIN SERVICE

| Physical & Youtube |

Sundays 8:45am / 11:15am

### YOUTH SERVICE

| Physical |

Sundays 8:45am

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

For Ages 3 to 12

(Preschool to std 6)

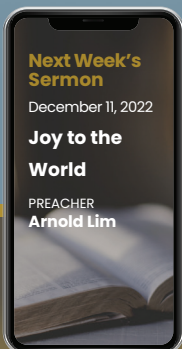
Physical Classes

8:45am / 11:15am

# Encountering The Almighty God Who Pursues Lovingly and Patiently

The Covid 19 pandemic was unprecedented. It caused immense hardship, sorrow, and uncertainty. It brought the whole world to a standstill. There is reason to be anxious, to lose hope, to live in fear of sickness and death, and to have sleepless nights worrying about the uncertain future. But for me, God has used this bleak and

difficult season of lockdown and restricted movement to reveal Himself as the Almighty Creator God who loves me unconditionally and He has good plans and a purpose for my life. He continues to pursue me patiently and never gives up on me. I thank Him for the many priceless lessons learned these past 2 years.



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During the pandemic, I have lots of ME TIME in my little cottage, cut off from my loved ones and close friends. It is amazing how via zoom technology, God keeps me occupied and connected not only to Him but also to loved ones and the church community. There are ample opportunities to know God better through online church services, online sermons, and BSF lessons. In fact, my circle of friends and acquaintances grows as I participate in the Sisters in Christ meetings, Karis worship meetings, prayer meetings, and small group bible studies.

**Praise God for giving me a hunger for His Word and opening my heart to receive His truth.**

The study of the book of Genesis through the FBC pulpit as well as in BSF lessons has been a priceless and awesome journey for me. I am reminded that God has created me for a purpose. He desires to have a personal and intimate relationship with me. He is the Unstoppable God who is in full control. I have a lot of time to reflect on my life journey. My heart is filled with gratitude and thanksgiving for His faithfulness and kindness to me. Indeed He is a God of new beginnings who provided bountifully for me when I moved from Johor to Selangor about 20 years ago. The book of Genesis confirms that God who orchestrated the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph orchestrated mine too. In all the events of my life, God works for my good in order to achieve His purpose. Nothing can thwart His good plans! Like Jacob and Joseph, I have suffered many calamities and difficulties.

**However, as I surrender myself and depend totally on God, I experience His faithfulness as my Shepherd and Provider. God has redeemed and restored me. He has given me a new name "Grace" and a new identity and security in Jesus Christ.**

Following this was the study of the gospel of Matthew through the FBC pulpit as well as in the BSF lessons. Here I encounter afresh Jesus Christ, the Messiah, God's promised Savior who obediently became a man to fulfill the Father's plan to save wretched sinners like me. Words like redemption, justification, and sanctification become more meaningful to me. The Sermon on the

Mount comes alive as I understand Jesus' counter-cultural and counterintuitive teachings. I struggle with an honest self-check regarding true repentance, humility, and self-denial, taking up the cross, and the cost of genuine discipleship.

As I express my desire to live a life pleasing to my Abba Father, He convicted me of my lukewarmness, hypocrisy, self-centredness, and judgmental tendency. I confess my sins and ask Him to transform me to be more like Jesus Christ who is loving, caring, gentle, kind, and compassionate. I also ask God to enlarge my capacity to accept and care for people, to give me eyes to see each person and ears to hear them. The Holy Spirit convicted me of my disobedience to His prompting, leading, and guidance. I was truly repentant of grieving Him. Nowadays I have learned to intentionally set aside time to be quiet and still so that I can hear His small voice.

**My days are more meaningful, joyful, and fulfilling now. I enjoy God's presence and experience His peace and joy even on bad days. I commune with Him throughout the day and tell Him everything big or small, knowing that He hears and cares.**

During the Karis zoom meetings, I enjoy meeting new people and getting to know them, especially in the breakout groups. I am learning to see each person as uniquely created by God in His image and through the lens of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit also convicted me of my selfishness and unwillingness to get out of my comfort zone. I have much time to reflect on the bountiful blessings I have enjoyed. I realize that God has blessed me so that I can be a channel of blessing. I am learning to serve God willingly, cheerfully, and sacrificially.

## I thank God for the opportunity to facilitate the Sisters in Christ sharing and prayer meetings during the pandemic.

A group of ladies met via zoom every Saturday to discuss the Sunday sermons and to pray for one another. God knew what each of us needed and there was an intense hunger for Him and His Word. Attendance every Saturday was very good and after each meeting, we came away very blessed. Initially, I struggled with my inadequacy and incompetence to facilitate the discussions. However, as I humbly asked God for wisdom and guidance, I have learned that I am just His instrument. As I surrender myself to Him, God has taught me that it is only by His Spirit and His power that I can serve Him effectively.

On 14th August 2021, we had the FBC Ladies' Praise & Thanksgiving Gathering via zoom which was attended by 140 ladies. God showed me that He can use anyone who is humble and willing to be used by Him. He also taught me the power of prayer and the importance of waiting on Him. He is faithful and in control. I have learned to be obedient and to trust His perfect timing.

In early August this year, 17 of us went for a four-days three-nights women's retreat in Cameron Highlands. Our objectives were to get away from the distractions of daily life, spend time alone with God, be still and hear His voice, read and meditate on His Word and be transformed by it, and worship, share, pray and fellowship together as sisters in Christ. Once again God is faithful and good. We can see His hand in every single aspect of the retreat. He led us to the Lutheran Mission Bungalow which was exactly what we needed to be

away from all distractions. Despite the weather forecast of heavy thunderstorms, He gave us good weather so that we could travel to and fro safely. Throughout the retreat, God watched over us and blessed us with good health. We enjoyed the amazing presence of our Heavenly Father. In all the sessions, there was authentic and honest sharing because we knew that we were in a safe space. We had an awesome experience of spending 60 minutes "Alone with God" meditating on Colossians 3. Every night we had a blessed time of worship in songs and reading of the psalms followed by a precious prayer session. There was a wonderful sense of bonding, love, and care among all the sisters. The photos taken on the final day of the retreat show the joyful and radiant faces of all the participants. Each of us came away from the retreat grateful and thankful to be chosen by our Heavenly Father for this memorable and priceless experience.

These last few months, life is slowly returning to normal. My prayer is that I will always treasure the knowledge and life lessons that my Abba Father has taught me. May these nuggets of gold be securely and safely engraved in my heart and mind. As I seek intimacy with my Creator God and be transformed by Him, may I exhibit the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Having encountered the Almighty God, may I trust in Him with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding; in all my ways, may I continue to submit to Him, and surely He will make my paths straight.



### By Grace Yap

Grace serves in FBC's Women's Ministry and in the Sisters in Christ LG



## PrayerSpotlight

### Youth Ministry

1. Thanksgiving for a fruitful Youth Leaders' retreat.
2. Pray for the upcoming Youth Camp on 26-29 December.
  - a. There will be at least 80 campers.
  - b. Greater clarity & wonder at the Gospel of Jesus.
  - c. Closer relationships among the youths.
3. Pray for the raising of new group leaders and Youth preachers.
4. Pray for greater love for the lost.
5. Pray for the parents of youths - for wisdom to disciple their children, and comfort & strength in times of struggle and frustration.