

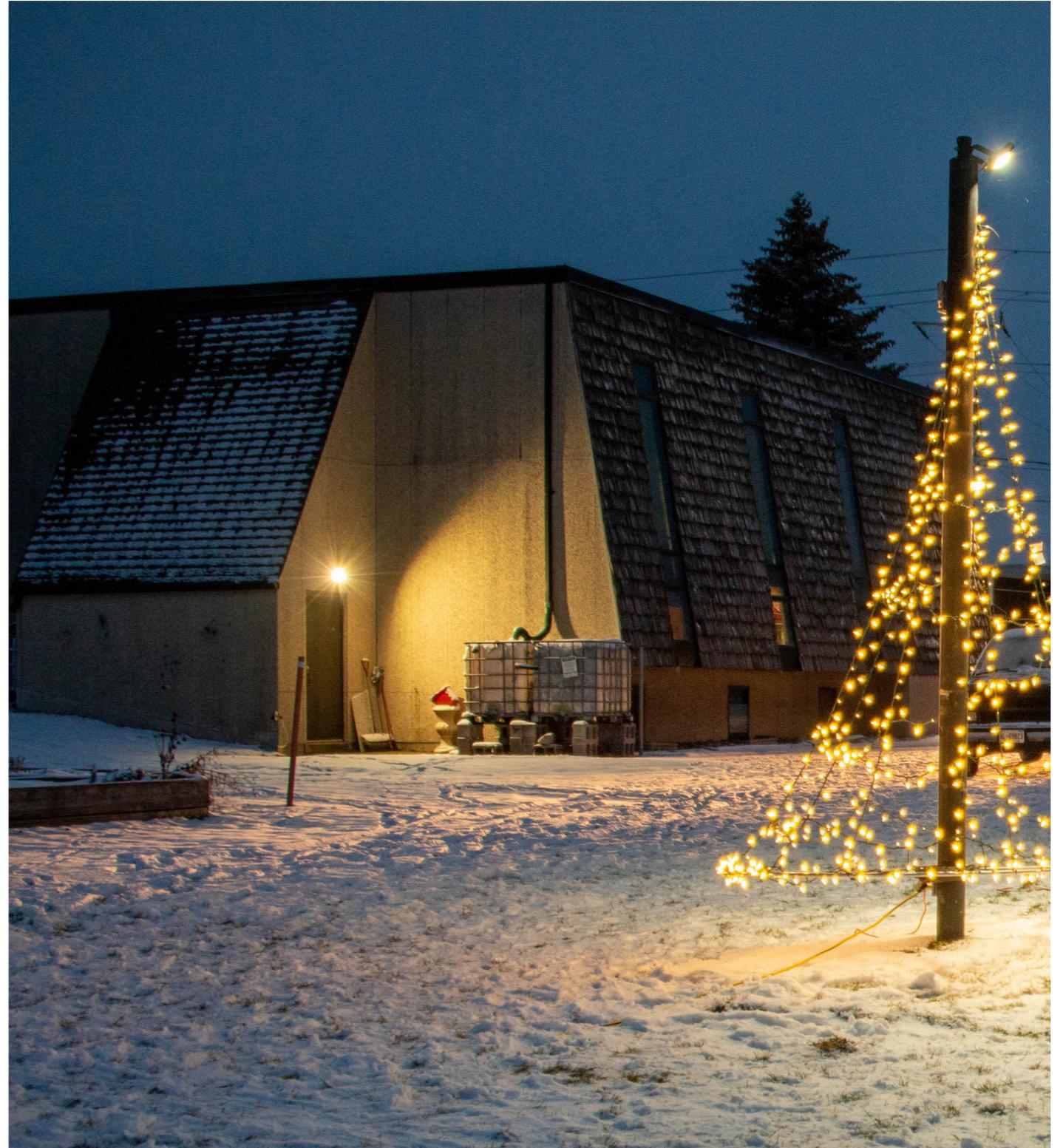
December 2021

FBC Ministry Update

My friends at SCA International, I trust that you have had a Merry Christmas and a blessed holiday season.

For our part, we had a wonderful time considering and celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus. In Matthew 4:16, we read that Jesus' entrance into the world was as the dawning of a great light that overwhelmed the shadow of death. Thanks be to God, that we who were sitting in darkness have seen that light.

December was a shorter month because of the holiday season. Even still, there were some great things that happened. I'm excited to share them with you.





Top: Mary and Joseph and our nativity

Bottom: Sheep in the petting zoo

Next page: Princesses, campfire, and tree from our decorating competition.

For more photos check out: <https://flic.kr/s/>

Joy!

In December, my primary focus was our very first Christmas festival (Dec. 18). The Christmas festival was solely my responsibility. However, with lots of help and volunteers, we were able to put together a special night. We had horse rides, a petting zoo, a food truck, games, lights, a Christmas tree decorating competition, princesses and a living nativity.

The community response was fantastic. Hundreds of people visited from the community and surrounding area. I heard of one person who drove almost an hour to attend.

Last time, I mentioned that we had three goals in mind for this festival. First, we want to create a fun-filled, family-oriented event. Second, we want a space where people from our church can meet and interact with people in our community. And third, we want to share the love of God and the joy of Jesus' Birth. I think, by God's grace, we accomplished all three goals.

Our Christmas Eve service was another great success. We had an outdoor service in sketchy weather, but it was a wonderful time with over 100 in attendance.



Looking forward

The New Year holds lots of exciting opportunities for us. This year we want to have a focus on prayer and disciple-making. So looking forward, we are going to focus on our purpose as church: To glorify God by the fulfillment of the great commission through the great commandment.

Prayer Requests

There are several things that we have on our hearts for FBC. We would appreciate your prayers:

- God would guide us as we set our goals for the year
- For more leaders to be raised out of our congregation
- For effective evangelistic opportunities
- That those hurting within our congregation would find comfort, direction, and healing.
- That we would be faithful to the mission that God called us

A Personal Blessing

This December also marked the end of my Master of Divinity studies at Heritage Seminary. I deeply appreciated and enjoyed my time at the Seminary, but I am overjoyed to be finished my program. Graduation is planned for this spring.

“The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned.”

Matthew 4:15-16