

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, December 10 - 2nd Sunday of Advent - *Peace*

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
9:45 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. - Youth Handbells Rehearsal
5:00 p.m. - Children's Christmas Program
6:00 p.m. - Cookies and Punch Reception to follow

Monday, December 11

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringers Rehearsal

Wednesday, December 13

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent - *Love*

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
(Cantata & Jubilate Ringers)
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
TBA - L.I.F.E. Youth go Ice Skating

Sunday, December 24 - 4th Sunday of Advent - *Joy*

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
6:00 p.m. - Candlelight Service - *Christ Candle*

Monday and Tuesday, December 25 & 26

The Church Office will be closed in celebration of Christ's Birth

Wednesday through Friday, December 27 - 29

Office hours will be abbreviated, if you need to make an end of year contribution, please make an appointment.

Sunday, December 31

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
11:00 a.m. - Worship Service (Ordination and Installation Service)

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - 2023

We want to thank the following people who provided Christmas flowers for our services today.

Debbie and Adeline Aynes in honor of Jesus
Debbie and Adeline Aynes in memory of Papa James
Mackenzie Aynes in memory of Papa James Aynes
Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in honor of our mothers – Debbie Aynes and DiAnna Greer and Bonus Mom Brenda Greer
Ronnie and Amanda Aynes in memory of our grandparents, James and Clara Aynes, Hose and Margaret Simpson, Clarence and Mary Greer, and Ernie and Jess Ann Tolle
John and Sue Bohmer in honor of Renee Stormer for all that she does
Mary E Boyce in memory of Tom Lehman Barnard
Mary E Boyce in memory of Mary Elizabeth Barnard
John and Lynda Brown in memory of Kelly Brown Jennings
Edie Brunson in honor and admiration of Hope Sheppard and fond memories of Jim Sheppard
Ross and Sharon Condarco in memory of Sharon's son, Christopher Petton
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in loving memory R.J. Farmer, D.D.S., Karen Dixon and our parents
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in memory of Nickie Wilbanks and Marjorie Akin
Kirk Dixon in honor of my lovely wife, Susan
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of our children and grandchildren
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Tom Wilbanks
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Jones and Mary Lee Doughton and family
Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer in honor of Renee Stormer and FPC staff
Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in honor of Lynda and Dallas Ward, and Lelia Doughton.
Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in honor of our children, Bennett Doughton and Mary Claire Doughton

Mary Lee and Jones Doughton in memory of Erastus B. J. Doughton and Jack MacMillan

Roger Foltz in honor of my children, Scott and Amanda Foltz
Roger Foltz in honor of my children, Emily and Thomas Shoots
Roger Foltz in honor of my children, David and Wendy Foltz
Doug and Jan Fort in memory of our son, Adam D. Fort.
Linda Fricke in loving memory of Dan Fricke and Lisa Fricke
Linda Fricke in memory of Billie Hill, Carolyn Hill, and Hazel Gates
Sheila Hammer in memory of my mom, Christy Portillo
Sheila Hammer in memory of my dad, Roger Rich
Gerald and Cindy Jenkins in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Smith
Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the ministry of Tom and Nicki Wilbanks
Phil and Celeste Johnson in honor of the ministry of the Doughton Family
Phil and Celeste Johnson in memory of Jim Sheppard
Patricia Kim in memory of Stephen K. Kim
Sarah Kitchens in memory of my sister, Martha Dye
John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of Jerry Woodard, Paula's daddy – with love and precious memories
John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of Jim Kusewitt, John's dad – with our love
John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of our Grandparents – with our love
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our mothers – you are a gift from God.
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our Pastor Emeritus, Dr. Tom Wilbanks and in memory of his wife, Nickie – Thank you for your many years of faithful, selfless service.
John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of Ryoji Shimpo and the Music Department
Paula Kusewitt in honor of the FPC Safety Team – thank you for your dedication to us!

Ann Kyle as a gift to the church
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Pat Smith
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Loncy and Bettye Leake
Stephen and Susan Leake in memory of Leroy and Pauline Tanner
Michael and Robbie Lee in honor of Robbie's mom, Estalene Marshall
Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Edwin and Agnes Carr
Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Robert and Peg Luce
Michael McGee in memory of Aileen and James Tucker
Brian Neece in honor of my dad, Don Neece
Brian Neece in memory of my mom, Sue Neece
Evelyn Parker in memory of Toliver Jordan Hutchinson
William and Gail Richardson as a gift to the Church
Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Hanby
Bob and Maurine Robinson in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Winston Robinson
Bob and Maurine Robinson in honor of Robbie, Janice and Ben Robinson
Roger Samuels in loving memory of Joy
John and Susan Scholl in memory of our parents
Hope L. Sheppard in loving memory of my beloved husband and dearest friend for 70 years, the Rev. James "Jim" R. Sheppard, Jr.
Hope L. Sheppard in honor of the Faith and Life Sunday School Class
Hope L. Sheppard in honor of my church family, for your outreach, prayers and cards
Hope L. Sheppard in memory of a beautiful lady, Sheila Bauer
Hope L. Sheppard in honor of My family, Psalm 133:1
Ann Smith in honor of my children, Brianne and Jeremy Davis, and Megan and Justin Rains
Ann Smith in honor of my grandchildren, Smith & Dylan Rains
Ann Smith in honor of those who teach here at FPC
Ann Smith in memory of Pat Smith
Ann Smith in memory of Nick Seth
Paul F. Snyder in memory of my mother and father
Carol Stephenson in memory of Roger Stephenson, Ray and Kathryn Stephenson
George Venner in memory of Pat Venner
Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of Dallas' parents, the Wards
Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of Lynda's parents, the Carlsons
Nelda Williams in honor of Carol Stephenson
Beverlee Witty in memory of Mel Witty
Beverlee Witty in honor of Jack and Hannah

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 10, 2023

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

This church, built in the 1970s, is over the traditional site of the home of Peter's mother-in-law in Capernaum. The foundations seen in this picture date from that period. Today we will see how Jesus ministered to those in the extended family.



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We hope you find a welcome here worthy of the gracious God we serve. Conventions in this bulletin include: an asterisk () invites you to stand, as health allows, material printed in **bold** is for the congregation to sing or say, and material printed in italics may provide some helpful information. Let us worship God!*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

972-285-5602

www.fpcmesquite.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Still, Still, Still* arr. Chip Davis

INTROIT 118 (vs1) *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks*
arr. Lowell Mason

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around, and glory shown around.**

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2*
Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also to you.

A voice cries: In the Wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. For the days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise: I will cause a righteous branch to spring up for David; and He shall execute justice and righteousness.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE - PEACE

(8:45) Evelyn Parker and Bruce Buswell
(11:00) Karen Carboni and Gracy Thomas

HYMN 85 (vs 2) *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah*

**Light two candles to watch for Messiah:
let the light banish darkness.
He shall feed the flock like a shepherd,
gently lead them homeward.**

*HYMN 129 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, You sent a star to guide the wise men to the child Jesus. We confess that we have not searched for signs of Your love in the world, or trusted Your Good News to be good. We have failed to praise Your Son's birth, and refused His peace on earth. We have expected little, and hoped for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew in us all fine desires, that we may watch and wait and once more hear the glad story of our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Lord. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE (Hymn 581)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. A—men. A—men.**

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS #

ANTHEM *A Tiny Child will Come* Don Besig
Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

Almighty and All-Knowing God-as we seek Your light at this time of Advent, guide our wills that we may seek Your peace as Your Word is read and preached in Jesus Name, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON ♦ *Malachi 3:2-3*

But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON ♦ *Mark 1:29-31*

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

The Children and Youth are asked to come forward at this time.

*HYMN 146 *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

SERMON *Christmas Family* Rev. Doughton

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Good King Wenceslas* arr. Norden Lienhard
Ryoji Shimpo, pianist

*DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION †

*HYMN 115 *Away in a Manger*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 136 *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* arr. John W Work III

**Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!
While shepherds keep their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

POSTLUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Steve Calderone
O Thou Joyful Day

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Paula Kusewitt (8:45); Gina Villafana (11:00)

Deacon/Ushers † - Debra Ford, David and Renee Stormer (8:45);
Debra Ford, David and Renee Stormer, and Paul Luce (11:00)

Youth Readers ♦ - Zoe Futrell; (8:45); Mackenzie Davila (11:00)



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women are collecting gift cards for women who are escaping "Trafficking." An organization, *New Friends, New Life*, assist them with counseling and financial help. Thru them the gift cards can be distributed. Please purchase them redeemable to Wal-Mart, Target, Amazon and/or Dollar Store.

There will be a basket for them in the Welcome Center. The amount should not exceed \$25. Please write the amount on the back of the card.

The last day to contribution will be Sunday, January 14, 2024.

Budget and Stewardship

Our 2023 budget is \$350,000

Your contributions to the church are so important. Please don't forget your pledge. NOVEMBER 2023

	BUDGET Y-T-D	ACTUAL Y-T-D
Income	320,838.35	302,837.42
Expenses	320,833.35	316,372.67

As of November 30, 2023, our expenses exceed our income by \$13,535.25. Also, remember that your pledge to the church includes your time and talents, as well as, your treasures.