

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, December 1 - 1st Sunday of Advent "Hope"

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at both worship services

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Carter BloodCare Mobile Collection Unit

4:00 p.m. - Decorate the Church for Advent and Christmas



Monday, December 2

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringer Rehearsal

Last Day to Sponsor a Wreath for the graves of the fallen Soldiers

Tuesday, December 3

9:15 a.m. - Presbyterian Women Morning Circle Christmas Gathering

Wednesday, December 4

7:00 p.m. - Joint Officer Meeting in Wilbanks Hall

7:00 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 6

5:00 p.m. - L.I.F.E. Youth and Faith Builders go to Bethlehem Revisited

Sunday, December 8 - 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

5:00 p.m. - Children's Pageant

6:00 p.m. - Soup with Santa and cookies too.



Monday, December 9

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringer Rehearsal

Tuesday, December 10

7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women Night Circle Xmas Party @ Susan Farmer's

Wednesday, December 11

6:30 p.m. - L.I.F.E. Youth and Faith Builders Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14

Time TBA - Wreaths Across America

Sunday, December 15 - 3rd Sunday of Advent "Love"

Chancel Choir will present to God their Christmas Cantata at both services

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Monday, December 16

7:00 p.m. - Jubilate Ringer Rehearsal

Sunday, December 22 - 4th Sunday of Advent "Joy"

Jubilate Ringers will present to God their musical praise at both services

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

T/B/A - L.I.F.E. Youth Progressive Dinner

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve "Christ"

6:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

All Are Welcome, Bring a Friend Sunday, December 8

Plan to spend the day in Worship, Fellowship and Outreach!! Begin this Sunday as you usually do in Worship and Sunday School. Spend your afternoon relaxing or napping, though...rest up for the evening's activities.

This is definitely an All-Church Event!

5:00PM - Children's Program

6:00PM - Soup Supper in Wilbanks Hall with a Visit from Santa



Children's
Christmas Program



We need volunteers to bring Soup in a Crockpot. Rod Graham is preparing the sides, drinks, and cookies.



The Women's Retreat Committee will be starting registration for the Women's Retreat on Sunday, December 1 and December 8, 2024 after both services. Our Women's Retreat will be next year on March 28-30, 2025, Friday thru Sunday at the Prothro Center at Lake Texoma and our speaker will be Rev. Judy Fletcher. Please register as soon as you can so we'll have a good headcount and can plan accordingly. Our committee has been busy planning a lot of exciting activities and we're very excited about it.

Hope to see you there! ~ Gracy Thomas and Committee



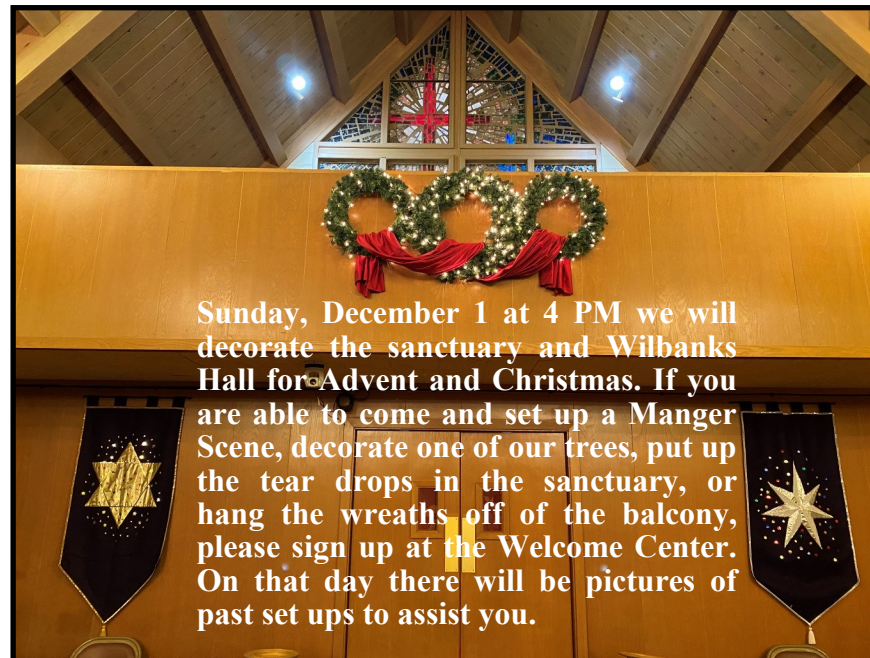
wreathscrossamerica.org

Please help us Remember, Honor, and Teach on Saturday, December 14, by sponsoring a wreath today. Each Wreath is \$17 and \$5 will be returned to our L.I.F.E. Youth to be used for their next Mission Trip.

Thank you,

TX0524P FPC Mesquite L.I.F.E. Youth Group

Deadline is: December 2, 2024



Sunday, December 1 at 4 PM we will decorate the sanctuary and Wilbanks Hall for Advent and Christmas. If you are able to come and set up a Manger Scene, decorate one of our trees, put up the tear drops in the sanctuary, or hang the wreaths off of the balcony, please sign up at the Welcome Center. On that day there will be pictures of past set ups to assist you.

The Presbyterian Women, along with the Ladies Who Love the Lord, will be participating in Sharing Life's "Warm Campaign" through **January 17th**. We will be collecting **coats, hats, scarves, gloves, long underwear, and blankets**. These can be gently used. If you would like to donate to our mission, you may place your items in the basket in the front hall. Many people need assistance at this time of year. We can make a difference in someone's life. Thank you for your involvement in our community. ~ Susan Farmer, Moderator

THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor
Ryoji Shimpo, Director of Music Ministries/Organist & Pianist
Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant
Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 1, 2024

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

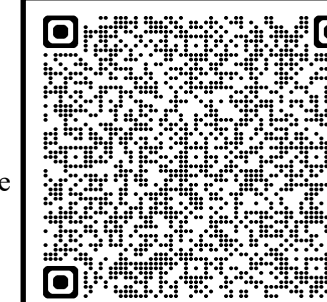
About the Cover Picture

This view comes from the entry to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. From this view we are at a distance approaching the altar. Below the altar is the Grotto of the Nativity. This Sunday, the first Sunday of Advent, we begin our approach to Christmas.



ONLINE GIVING OPTION

Have you ever thought of giving online? If you would like to give online you may scan the QR Code, this will take you to the giving button on our website.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

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www.fpcmesquite.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne* arr. Lani Smith

INTROIT 106 (vs.1) *Prepare the Way, O Zion* Hope Publishing
Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
Greet One who come in glory, foretold in sacred story.
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.

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 - HOPE

(8:45) Roger Foltz & George Venner
(11:00) Meg GarverHamilton & Mari Straub

*HYMN 88 (vs. 1-3) *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*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 (11:00) *Advent Prayer* William Sisson
Chancel Choir

Chorus: How will we know Him, Lord?
How will we know, how will we know?
We will seek in the night, We will watch for a sign,
But how will we know Him, Lord?
Seek in the radiance of hope and of peace,
Seek in the bright flame of joy,
Seek in the light of goodness and light,
But Seek Him first in your heart. [Chorus]
Know Him in the radiance of Hope and of peace,
Know Him in the bright flame of joy.
Know Him in the light and the goodness of love,
But know Him first in your heart. [Chorus]

(continued)

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, Joy of every longing heart.
O Come to my heart, Lord Jesus:
There's room in my heart for Thee.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Isaiah 49:1-6*

Listen to Me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called Me before I was born, while I was in My mother's womb He named me. He made My mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of His hand He hid me; He made me a polished arrow, in His quiver He hid me away. And He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in Whom I will be glorified." But I said, "I have labored in vain, I have spent My strength for nothing and vanity; yet surely My cause is with the Lord, and My reward with My God." And now the Lord says, Who formed Me in the womb to be His servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, and that Israel might be gathered to Him, for I am honored in the sight of the Lord, and My God has become my strength—He says, "It is too light a thing that You should be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel; I will give You as a light to the nations, that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Luke 1:24-25,39-45, 68-71*

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, "This is what the Lord has done for me when He looked favorably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people."

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MOMENT FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES (11:00)

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

*HYMN 82 *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

SERMON *The Song of Elizabeth and Zechariah* Rev. Doughton

*HYMN 109 *Blest Be the God of Israel*

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *What Child Is This* arr. Preston Keys
Ryoji Shimpō, 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 †

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the Lord's Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving and The 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.**

Words of Institution

Reception of the Sacrament

Prayer after Communion

*HYMN 88 (vs.4-6) *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 88 (vs.7) *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* James Clemens

POSTLUDE *Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens Adore Him* arr. Lani Smith

Following the Response we will have our Postlude. Please be seated.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Phil Johnson (8:45); Meg GarverHamilton (11:00)

Deacon/Ushers † - Rod Graham, Dallas Ward,

Michael Lee, and Robbie Lee (8:45);

Rod Graham, Dallas Ward, Mary Claire Doughton, and Zoe Futrell (11:00)



THE CHALLENGE

The 100 Can Challenge continues as we collect can goods and other non-perishable items. The donated items will be given to Sharing Life, as they feed those in need in our community. In November we collected **124 items. Thank You!**

Today, December 1, 2024 is our next Blood Drive.

Please use this QR Code to sign-up.

This drive will have 30 slots for donors, our goal is to have at least 20 or more successful donors.

The need for donors right now is important, and our drive will help the community.

Let's be mission-minded and save lives through our donation of blood.

