

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

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

TBA - L.I.F.E. Youth Progressive Dinner

Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve "Christ"

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

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas

The Church Office will be closed in celebration of Christmas Day

Sunday, December 29 - One worship service will be offered

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School is optional

11:00 a.m. - Worship Service w/Church Officer Installation and Ordination

Sunday, January 5

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

Tuesday, January 7

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

7:00 p.m. - Presbyterian Women Evening Circle

Wednesday, January 8

7:00 p.m. - Service of Healing and Wholeness

7:30 p.m. - Board of Deacon's Meeting

7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 12

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

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

Tuesday, January 14

7:00 p.m. - Christian Education Committee (*2nd Tuesday)

Wednesday, January 15

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Begins - Dinner

6:30 p.m. - Classes

7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, January 15

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Begins - Dinner

6:30 p.m. - Classes

7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, January 19

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

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

Tuesday, January 21

7:15 p.m. - Session Meeting

Wednesday, January 22

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Begins - Dinner

6:30 p.m. - Classes

7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS - 2024

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

Debbie Aynes in memory of James Aynes

Sue Bohmer in honor of my pew mate, Carol Stephenson

Sue Bohmer in honor of my pew mate, Nelda Williams

Sue Bohmer in honor of my pew mate, Evelyn Parker

Sue Bohmer in honor of my pew mate, Santina DeMartini

Sue Bohmer in honor of my pew mate, Bruce Buswell

Marye Boyce in memory of Tom L. Barnard

Marye Boyce in memory of Mary Elizabeth Barnard

John and Lynda Brown in memory of our daughter, Kelly Brown Jennings

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

Jones and Mary Lee Doughton in honor of Dallas and Lynda Ward, and Lelia Doughton

Jones and Mary Lee Doughton in honor of Bennett Doughton and Mary Claire Doughton

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

Roger Foltz in honor of my children, Scott, Emily, and David

Roger Foltz in memory of my parents, Marshall B and Theresa Marie Foltz

Doug and Jan Fort in memory of our son, Adam Fort.

Linda Fricke in loving memory of Dan Fricke

Linda Fricke in memory of Billie Hill, Carolyn Hill, and Hazel Gates

Carol and Rod Graham in memory of Clifford Graham & Roger Graham

Carol and Rod Graham in memory of Carmen and Frank Bernal

Anne Grills in memory of Guy Smith

Anne Grills in memory of Myrt Smith

Anne Grills in memory of Mike Roark

Anne Grills in memory of Greg Hough

Sheila Hammer in memory of my mom, Christy Portillo

Sheila Hammer in memory of my dad, Roger Rich

David and Joan Hammons in memory of our parents O.K. and Edith Stovall, and Don and Dot Hammons

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 Jones Doughton and Family

Sarah Kitchens in memory of my sister, Martha Dye

John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of our dads, Jerry Woodard and Jim Kusewitt

John and Paula Kusewitt in memory of our grandparents

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our moms and families, with our love

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of our Dr. and Mrs. Tom Wilbanks with love and gratitude for your ministry

John and Paula Kusewitt in honor of Ryoji Shimo and his leadership of our Music Program

Paula Kusewitt in honor of our Safety Team – thank you for your dedication to all of us!

Ann Kyle in honor of our church staff, members, and friends.

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

Michael and Robbie Lee in honor of Michael's mom, Carmelita Acock

Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Edwin and Agnes Carr

Paul and Sue Luce in memory of Robert and Margaret Luce

Brian Neece in honor of Don Neece

Brian Neece in memory of 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 and Mr. and Mrs. Winston Robinson

Eric and Lori Schwartz in memory and honor of our parents, Dan and Linda Fricke and Robert and Shirley Schwartz

Eric and Lori Schwartz in memory of our grandmothers, Billie Hill and Jeanette Schwartz

Ann Smith in honor of our Pastor and his family

Ann Smith in honor of Renee Stormer for all she does

Ann Smith in honor of my children and grandchildren

Ann Smith in honor of Ryoji Shimo for the beautiful music he provides

Ann Smith in memory of my husband, Pat; my parents, and my in-laws

Paul F. Snyder in memory of my mother Lillie Larsen Snyder

Carol Stephenson in memory of Roger Stephenson and Pat Elliott

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in honor of LaQueita Durdin, mother of Celisa

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in honor of Dorothy VanSickle, mother of Rodney

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in memory of Dewey Durdin, father of Celisa

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in memory of Bill VanSickle, father of Rodney

Rodney and Celisa VanSickle in memory of Ron Bartel, stepfather of Rodney

George Venner in memory of Pat Venner

Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of our parents, the Wards

Lynda and Dallas Ward in memory of our parents, the Carlsons

Diane Weatherford in honor of Amy Surls

Diane Weatherford in memory of Scott, Muriel, and Scott Weatherford, Jr.

Terri White in memory of Verlie Bowling and Martha Bowling

Nelda Williams in honor of David and Renee Stormer

Beverlee Witty in memory of Mel Witty

Beverlee Witty in honor of Jack and Hannah

Beverlee Witty in honor of David and Arista Witty

Beverlee Witty in honor of Ryan and July Witty

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

December 22, 2024

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

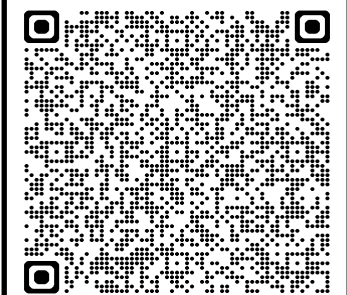
About the Cover Picture

This picture of the Madonna and Child greets the pilgrim as he or she descends to the Grotto of the Nativity. Typically the Madonna has a look of sadness, that implies she knows what is coming. However, in this portrait the Madonna has a smile. It is as if we see her as a new mother, proud to show off her baby.



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

1028 SOUTH BELT LINE RD

MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

972-285-5602

www.fpcmesquite.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* arr. Kevin McChesney
Jubilate Ringers

INTROIT 147 (vs.1) *The First Nowell* English Carol
The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

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 - JOY
(8:45) Kirk Dixon and Susan Farmer
(11:00) Dallas and Lynda Ward, and Mary St. Claire Doughton

*HYMN 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*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) *Every Valley,* Joseph M. Martin
from 'The Winter Rose'
Chancel Choir
Chorus: Every valley shall be lifted,
Every mountain be made low.
Every valley shall be lifted,
And the crooked be made whole.
Sound the Trumpet, sound the Trumpet
For the glory of the Lord shall be revealed.
(continued)

Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Every valley shall be lifted, Every mountain be made low)
And ransom captive Israel,
(Come, O Come, Emmanuel)
That mourns in lowly exile here,
(Come, O Come, Emmanuel)
Until the Son of God appear.
(Come, O Come, Emmanuel)
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Rejoice, give thanks and sing!
Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel,
Shall come to Thee. Rejoice! [Chorus]

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

Almighty and All-Knowing God-as we seek Your light at this time of Advent, align our strength to Your Will that we may find Your joy as Your Word is read and preached in Jesus Name, Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Isaiah 50:4-7*

The Lord God has given Me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning He awakens— awakens My ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened My ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide My face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps Me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set My face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; He Who vindicates Me is near.

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON # *Luke 2:8-14*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a Child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom He favors!"

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 119 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

SERMON *Song of the Angels* Rev. Doughton

*HYMN 143 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory*

*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 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* arr. Kevin McChesney
Jubilate Ringers

*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 134 *Joy to the World*

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*RESPONSE 147 (vs.6) *The First Nowell* English Carol
Then let us all with one accord sing praise to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with His blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

POSTLUDE *Angels We Have Heard on High* arr. Chip Davis
Following the Response we will have our Postlude. Please be seated.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Dr. Carol Stephenson (8:45); Eric Schwartz (11:00)
Deacon/Ushers † - David Stormer, Debra Ford, and Renee Stormer (8:45)
David Stormer, Debra Ford, Renee Stormer, and Linda Fricke (11:00)

THOSE WHO SERVE

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