



**December**

# First Presbyterian Church

## EPISTLE

**Our Mission: Connecting with God and sharing the Good News  
of Jesus Christ with the community.**

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

543 East Freeman St.  
Duncanville, TX 75116  
(972) 298-3043  
fax: (972) 298-5312  
info@fpcd.org  
www.fpcd.org

### **CHURCH STAFF:**

**Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein,**  
Pastor

**Jennifer Johnson**  
Administrative Asst

**Ross Shipman**  
Summer Youth Intern

**Nyadia Thorpe,**  
Choir Director

**Brittany Tucker,**  
Accompanist

**Sean Russell,**  
Sound Room Technician

**Ana Ortiz & Tricia Reiman**  
Nursery

## **Thankful**

In 1621, fifty-three Pilgrims set aside a "Thanksgiving Day" to thank God for a bountiful harvest after having struggled to survive as immigrants in this new land. The first Thanksgiving lasted three days and included ninety Native Americans. The Pilgrims could not have survived without their gracious, generous help. Later, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national day of "thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." This holiday recognizes the need to thank God because without God, none of us would have a thing.

We do not want to lose this very special holiday of gratitude. So last week during worship, we wrote out our thanks and hung them on a "thankful tree." Nothing has warmed my heart more than reading your thanksgivings. Here they are:

FPCD gratefully appreciates our loving God. We thank God for God's constant grace and forgiveness, and the gift of faith he gives. We are glad for God's protection, patience, and our good health. Our life in Christ blesses us and we truly are thankful for oneness with the Lord.

We are especially appreciative of each other and our church's mission of sharing God's story. We are grateful for our missionaries, and the Bible. We are also thankful for loving families—wives, brothers, sisters, husbands, and grandchildren. We are filled with gratitude for good friends.

We are indebted to God for this fabulous world in which to live, recognizing the great bounty we have received.

I hope these words encourage you to keep being the active, vocal, living presence of God as we enter the Christmas season. Without each other, we would not survive. I hope you will continue to invite new people in to experience this wonderful relationship with God and each other. In thinking back on my own life, the thing that I am grateful for is the Church, for it has carried me through.

So thankful for our God and for all of you!

*Pastor Ginger*



### *Inside . . .*

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### **Advent Activities**

**Sunday, December 11**, at 10:30 am - Youth present the musical, "Aaron the Allergic Shepherd" during the church worship service.

**Sunday, December 11**, at 5 pm - Food, song and fellowship with other churches in our community at First Baptist Church, Duncanville. Join with other churches to continue our community in unity.

**Saturday, December 17**, at 1 pm, an annual favorite, the FPCD choir sings at Ben Franklin Apothecary on Main Street.

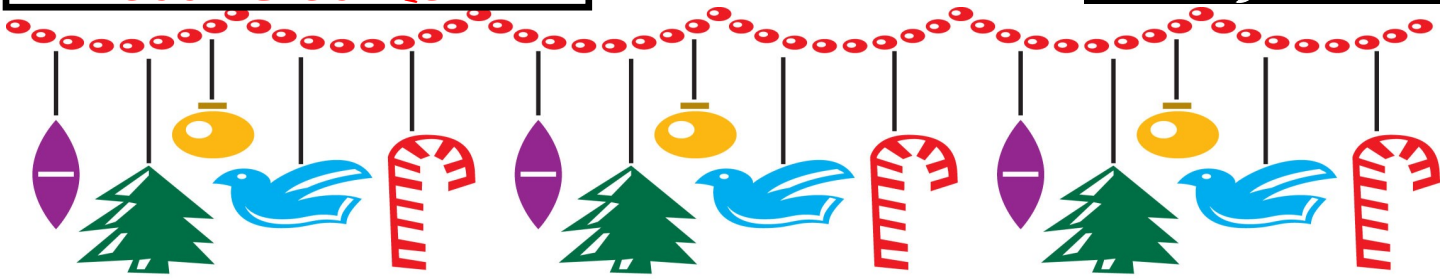
**Sunday, December 18**, at 10:30 am - Christmas Cantata & Potluck - The FPCD choir presents "A Christmas Masterpiece" in the Sanctuary, followed by a potluck luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited! Please bring a covered dish to share.

**Saturday, December 24**, at 6 pm - Christmas Eve Service

### **Women's Bible Study Group**

The Agape Women's Bible Circle will hold its December meeting on Wednesday, December the 14th, 2016. Those who wish will meet at M & T China Garden Restaurant, 811 S. Main Street (across from the school administration building) at 11:30 for the annual Christmas lunch. Please let Connie know at 972.741.7932, if you plan to eat there. The meeting will take place at 1 pm at the home of Billie Cowand, 342 Lakeview Circle. Lesson 4 from the PW/ Horizon's study "Who Is Jesus?" is about John's view of Christ. Read all of his gospel or focus on John 9:10. All are welcome.

Sarah Circle will meet on December 13, 2016 at 7 pm in the home of Marna Bayless, 836 Glen Oaks Blvd, Dallas. We will be studying Lesson 3 in our Bible Study, Who is Jesus? We welcome any woman who would like to attend a night circle meeting.



*Hungry for Christmas cookies? Here's an easy recipe from the kitchen of Doris Metzger*

### **FORGOTTEN COOKIES**

(A cookie that will use the egg whites from cookie press cookies. It can also add color to a cookie tray and gives you a chance to be creative with color, flavoring and additions of your own.)

2 egg whites

pinch of salt

1/2 tsp. cream of tartar

3/4 cup sugar

1/2 tsp. vanilla

1 1/2 cup mini chocolate pieces or nuts (optional)

Preheat oven to moderately hot (375) for at least 15 minutes. Beat egg whites until frothy. Add salt and cream of tartar and beat until stiff. Add sugar, a tablespoon at a time, beating constantly. Beat until glossy. Add vanilla and chocolate pieces or nuts.

Drop on greased cookie sheets. Place in oven; turn off oven immediately. Let stand overnight. Do not open oven door for at least five hours after cookies go in.

Meringue can be tinted pink or green for the holidays. Mint flavoring can be substituted for vanilla for variety. Or different flavored chips can be used.





# Monthly Prayer Calendar

## DECEMBER 2016

*"Remember each other in daily prayer"*

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 Jack & Diane Pegues Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	2 Charles Tyer Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Brittany Tucker	3 Jaime & Lorraine Cordova Vanessa, Valerie, Jimmy & Jason
4 Connie Steger Joan Brown Pat Sparr	5 Nadine Daum Ariel, Leah, Aeris & Benjamin Eddie & Darlene Cowand	6 Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle Carol McKinney	7 Larry & Margaret Lewis. Heather, Zephyr, Erin & Christian	8 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. David Hertenstein & Evelyn	9 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee John Alsop	10 Jeff & Nyadia Thorpe Vincent & Caden Wanda Shipman
11 David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau & Blake	12 Miguel & Fanny Penaloza Susan Murphy Anna Murphy	13 Doris Metzger Tom & Lois Harmon	14 Billie Cowand Gary & Nita Malone Barbara Notari	15 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	16 Bob Harrison Darrell & Sharon Ingram Gary & Candice Morris	17 Gary & Linda Simons Dick & Nancy Bergman
18 Paul & Claudia Griffith Dorothy Cleary Jennifer Johnson	19 Roy & Wendy Jensen George & Mary Huttar	20 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn & Andrew	21 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Sam & Charlotte Fithian	22 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb & Jonathan Paul & Helen Barton	23 Eric & Erin McGinnis Ashlee & Michael Mickey & Betty Jespersen	24 Jim & Janet Stahl Leo & Marlene Skinner
25 Paul & Jen Schaefer Caleb, Micah, Josiah, & Sarah	26 Irving & Peggy Kezar Angel, Brandon, Cyleigh, Devon, & Elyssa	27 Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal Bill & Vangie Jackson	28 Jocelyn Bolles Steve & Marna Bayless	29 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan	30 Dudley Austin Julia McConnell Donna To	31 Pray for UNITY For our Church For our Community and our Nation

# December 2016

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div>Nov 2016</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td></tr> <tr><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <div>Jan 2017</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>				S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					1 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	2	3 6:00 PM Christmas Auction & Dinner
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4 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	5 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	6	7 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship	9	10																																																																																				
11 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Musical 5:00 PM Community Christmas Gathering at First Baptist	12	13	14 1:00 PM Agape Women's Fellowship 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 Newsletter Articles Due 6:00 PM Session/Deacons Christmas Dinner	16 Staff Christmas Dinner	17 1:00 PM Choir Performs at Ben Franklin																																																																																				
18 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship and Christmas Cantata  Potluck Sunday	19 1:00 PM "New Beginnings" Grief Support Small Group 6:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	20	21 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group	22	23	24 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service																																																																																				
25 11:00 AM Christmas Service  Merry Christmas!	26 Office CLOSED	27	28 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group	29	30	31																																																																																				

## **Worship Volunteer Schedule December, 2016**

### **December 4**

**Greeters:** Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz  
**Ushers:** Irving Kezar & Albert Teel  
**Nursery Overseer:** Anna Murphy  
**Tellers:** Darrell Ingram & Anna Murphy  
**Communion Servers:** Sean Russell, Sharon Ingram, Dick Bergman,  
Nancy Bergman & Dub Guthrie  
**End of Service Ministry:** Jocelyn Bolles & Jaime Cordova

### **December 11**

**Greeters:** Youth  
**Ushers:** Youth  
**Nursery Overseer:** Jocelyn Bolles  
**Tellers:** Lori Glover & Brenda Everett  
**End of Service Ministry:** Sean Russell & Edelmira Ruiz

### **December 18**

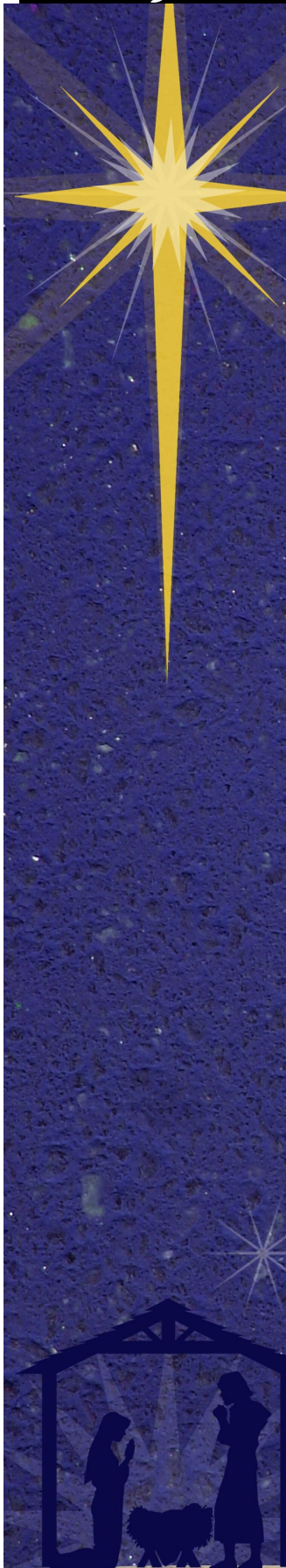
**Greeters:** Leo Skinner & Billie Cowand  
**Ushers:** Albert Teel & Jack Pegues  
**Nursery Overseer:** Susan Murphy  
**Tellers:** Teresa Reed & Joan Brown  
**End of Service Ministry:** Anna Murphy & Doris Metzger

### **December 24 (Christmas Eve)**

**Greeters:** TBD  
**Ushers:** TBD  
**Tellers:** Anna Murphy & Lori Glover

### **December 25**

**Greeters:** Donna To & Wendy Jensen  
**Ushers:** Eddie Cowand & Dub Guthrie  
**Nursery Overseer:** Darlene Cowand  
**Tellers:** Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis  
**End of Service Ministry:** Sharon Ingram & Margaret Lewis



## December Birthdays

If we've missed your birthday and you would like us to include it in this "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact us at (972) 298-3043 or [info@fpcd.org](mailto:info@fpcd.org). Thank you.

Darrell Ingram, December 4	Darlene Cowand, December 25
Eddie Everett, December 21	Joan Brown, December 26
Valerie Cordova, December 22	Lucy Russell, December 26
Dean Hertenstein, December 22	Janet Stahl, December 28



### 2016 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
October	\$23,338	\$22,043
Jan - Oct 2016	\$179,002	\$193,313

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education  
Worship Service

— 9:15 a.m.  
— 10:30 a.m.

### WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Youth Group

— 6:00 p.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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543 EAST FREEMAN STREET  
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