



First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE

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

December

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
Youth Director

Nyadia Thorpe,
Choir Director

Brittany Haywood,
Accompanist

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

Ana Ortiz & Tricia Reiman
Nursery

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From our Pastor

At the annual FPCD Thanksgiving Dinner, two girls posed to all of us the following questions:

What are three things you thankful for?

What are you thankful for that you cannot see?

What are you thankful for that tastes bad?

Your answers were creative, truthful, and fun! As we soon will enter Advent, I would like to give you my answers to those questions. Advent is a time of thoughtful waiting and anticipation. To reflect on what we are thankful for is a good spiritual discipline for Advent.

I am thankful for my husband and family. My husband has joined me wholeheartedly in the work of this church. I could not do what I do without him, or the faith of each and every one of my family members.

I am thankful for my church family. Weekly you, along with our staff, lay a strong foundation for our worship here, as well as outreach to the community. People in Duncanville are inspired by your faith and care. Your spiritual growth has led you to risk reaching out, which continues to amaze me and fill me with joy. I am proud to be your pastor.

I am thankful for the stories in the Bible. We imagine what it would have been like to be in those stories, and let them come alive in our lives. That leads to transformation—not just for our spirits, but also our priorities, a much needed asset for a godly life.

I am thankful for the bitter battles in our culture. While the discord is very distressing to say the least, it is also an inroad to new conversations, not to solve our nation's problems, but to talk about God. This was very evident when we embraced "community in unity" over division last fall. The continuing interest of citizens in the Community Conversations shows the hunger for God. God said, "Come let us reason together." He is the one who can transform our sins and overcome division. (Isaiah 1:18)

As we wait during this Advent season, let us grab hold of the good news that Jesus Christ brings. It will certainly make a difference, and that is the greatest hope. Thank God for it!

Pastor Ginger



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SPONSORS

Handel's Messiah

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 6:00 PM

YOU'RE INVITED!



The Christmas Story

Children's Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 10, 10:30 AM





Duncanville Santa Cop and Gifts for Seniors

Once again, this year, FPCD will support **Duncanville Police Department's Santa Cop Program**. They've been doing this program for over 20 years. Last year, the program assisted more than 25 Duncanville families and more than 91 children as a result of the generosity from the public.

While toys are accepted for children of all ages, FPCD is trying to focus mainly on gifts for older children, ages 12-16, because they are often overlooked. Suggested items for this age are:

- * Girls: makeup, craft making items, scarves and jewelry
- * Boys: sports balls, earbuds, college or pro sports apparel

Please bring your new, unwrapped items to the church by **Sunday, December 17** and place in the tubs marked "Santa Cops" in the Narthex.

Gifts for Seniors is a new program being run by Linda Dean Miley through her new non-profit, Help to Heal. She is collecting items to give to bless senior adults who are lonely this Christmas. She will accept any donation that would make a good gift for a senior adult, but suggests stuffed animals, soft blankets, warm socks with non-slip grips on the bottom, and restaurant gift cards. She would also appreciate blank Christmas cards and wrapping paper.

Imagine if each person gave one item to each program – we would fill the bins to overflowing!

Thanks for your generosity. Blessings to your family this Christmas season.

The Epistle 4



Rice Krispy Treats Shared by Anna Murphy

Cook **1 cup Karo Light Corn Syrup & 1 cup sugar** together in a large sauce pan over medium heat, stirring until sugar dissolves.

Bring mixture to a boil and immediately remove from heat. Stir in **1 cup creamy peanut** butter; mix well.

Add **6 cups crispy rice cereal**; stir until evenly coated. Pour into greased 13x9 inch pan and pat into place.

Optional chocolate topping:

Melt 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips and 1 cup butterscotch chips together in saucepan over low heat, stirring constantly. Spread over cereal. Cool at least 45 minutes or until firm.

Cut into bars. Enjoy!



Women's Bible Study

What do you think of angels as God's messengers? The **Agape** Ladies Daytime Bible Study group will read about and discuss this subject at their meeting on December 13 at the home of Connie Steger (960 N. Cedar Hill Rd. Cedar Hill). To prepare, read Lesson 4 from the Horizons publication "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews." and from the Bible read *Genesis 28:10-22; Daniel 3:8-30; Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:5-17, 1:26-38, 2:8-14; and Hebrews 1:3-14, 13:1-2.*

Beforehand, they will gather at 11:30 at the Amore Italian restaurant for lunch (111 S. Cedar Ridge Drive, Duncanville). After the study, there will be a White Elephant Exchange. Only stipulation, the "white elephant" must be just that. It can be funny, nice or ridiculous, but it must be something previously owned that you want to give away, not purchased new for this event.

See, call or email Connie if you have any questions or to RSVP.

Sarah Circle will meet on December 12 at 7 pm in the home of Candice Morris.



A Church Full of Thankfulness

On November 19, FPCD friends and family met for our annual Thanksgiving celebration where two of our youth posed the following three questions to each of us. We got some very interesting and fun answers from young and old; here are some of them.

What are three things you thankful for?

Family	Jesus	My health	God	My faith
Hammocks	Job	Cars that work	Church	Humor
Things to learn	A wonderful loving God		God's watching over us so carefully, day in and day out	
Second chances	Hope	Our gift to God – What we do with our life		Food!
My salvation	Friends / Friendship		God's word	Medicine
Our house	A country free of religious persecution			
Games		Health	Being alive	
People who are kind & forgiving	FPCD	God's gift to us – who we are!		

What are you thankful for that you cannot see?

Heaven	The Holy Spirit	Great-grandchildren	Jesus	Faith
The gifts of the Holy Spirit	My brain	Being saved by Grace	Tomorrow	
God	Air	Giggles	DNA	Music
Forgiveness	Love			
			The love of God	

What are you thankful for that tastes bad?

Eggplant	Protein powder	Sweat	Medicine	Hot water
Ginger tea – it clears the throat but it's tough to swallow				Sweet peas
Compost	Soap	Life's lessons - a hard pill to swallow		Eggplant lasagna
Ibuprofen	Shampoo	Glue	My grandma's cough remedy	Nothing

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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3 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	4 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	5	6 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal/ Messiah Practice	7 6:30 PM Worship Planning Mtg	8 Staff Christmas Dinner	9 Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant 9 AM - 12 PM																																																																																				
10 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Children's Christmas Pageant	11	12 7:00 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship	13 1:00 PM Agape Women's Fellowship 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group 7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal/ Messiah Practice 6:45 PM Finance Meeting	14 8:30 AM Community Prayer Gathering at Ben Franklin 6:30 PM Session/Deacons Christmas Party!	15 Newsletter Articles Due!	16 1:00 PM Choir Caroling at Ben Franklin Messiah Rehearsal 10:30 AM - 12 PM																																																																																				
17 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Church Potluck Messiah Rehearsal 8-5: Performance 6 PM	18 1:00 PM "New Beginnings" Grief Support Small Group	19	20 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23																																																																																				
24 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 The Sandwich Project Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless	26	27 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	28 8:30 AM Community Prayer Gathering at Ben Franklin	29	30																																																																																				
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FPCD *monthly* PRAYER CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1 Jack & Diane Pegues Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	2 Charles Tyer Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant
3 Jaime & Lorraine Cordova Vanessa, Valerie, Jimmy & Jason	4 Connie Steger Joan Brown Christy & Brandon Cowand	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 Carol Orwing	8 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. David Hertenstein & Evelyn	9 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee Pat Sparr Glenn Favors
10 Jeff & Nyadia Thorpe Vincent & Caden Albert Teel	11 David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau & Blake Ana Ortiz	12 Miguel & Fanny Penalzoza Susan Murphy Anna Murphy	13 Doris Metzger Ross Shipman	14 Billie Cowand Gary & Nita Malone Barbara Notari	15 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	16 Bob Harrison Darrell & Sharon Ingram
17 Gary & Linda Simons Dick & Nancy Bergman	18 Paul & Claudia Griffith Jennifer Johnson	19 Roy & Wendy Jensen Gary & Candice Morris	20 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn & Andrew	21 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Sam & Charlotte Fithian	22 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb & Jonathan	23 Brittany & Joseph Haywood Tricia Henderson
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 Julia McConnell Donna To
31 Pray for our Church, and our City.						



Worship Volunteer Schedule
December 2017



December 3	Greeters Ushers Tellers End of Service Ministry Communion Servers	Doris Metzger & Eddie Cowand Dub Guthrie & Eddie Cowand Anna Murphy & Darrell Ingram Dub Guthrie & Joan Brown Jaime Cordova, Lori Glover, Leo Skinner, Sandy Gaskins & Dick Bergman
December 10	Greeters Ushers Tellers End of Service Ministry	Vanessa & Jason Cordova Eugene Jimmerson & Irving Kezar Lori Glover & Brenda Everett Dick & Nancy Bergman
December 17	Greeters Ushers Tellers End of Service Ministry	Jocelyn Bolles & Janet Stahl Jack Pegues & Albert Teel Teresa Reed & Joan Brown Paul Griffith & Jaime Cordova
December 24	Greeters Ushers Tellers End of Service Ministry	Youth Youth Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis Sean Russell & Edelmira Ruiz
December 31	Greeters Ushers Tellers End of Service Ministry	Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz Larry Lewis & Jaime Cordova Darrell Ingram & Anna Murphy Anna Murphy & Doris Metzger



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. 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



2017 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
October	\$36,040	\$15,464
Jan - Oct	\$211,668*	\$199,436

*\$30,550 for roof fund, \$181,118 for budget

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education — 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service — 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Youth Group — 6:00 p.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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