

December

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Sound Room Technician

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Kira Sewell

Nursery

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Advent - God provides

In this past year, we have gone through a lot of change as a church. Our pastor retired, and we began the search for a new pastor. As a congregation we banded together, planned services each week, and church continued! All the while, we prayed and hoped for a new pastor, knowing that in His timing, the Lord would provide. As a member of the staff and the Pastor Nominating Committee, I got a front row seat to this process and to all the things the Lord accomplished in and through our church. It was a hard year, but so full of blessing. Time and again, God has shown up! He has always been at work, and continues to do so.

This year, we have needed to fill the pulpit each Sunday with guest speakers, and at least once a month we needed an ordained Presbyterian minister scheduled so we could have communion together. We also needed an ordained Presbyterian minister to moderate our Session and Congregational meetings, moderate the calling of new elders, and moderate the calling of a new pastor. God provided!

Starting around Easter, we felt the need for a new worker for the nursery, because we had new attenders who had small children. We asked for volunteers to assist Ana in the nursery while we looked for a second worker, and you stepped up and filled in where needed. We prayed and asked around, and by July, we had a new nursery worker. God provided!

In the summer, when our elders rolled off, we worried that it would be hard to find replacements in this season of transition, but the Lord provided new elders!

Now December has come, and Advent is

here. What is Advent? Well, according to the dictionary, advent (with a small "a") is "the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event." It is when something important happens. In the Christian tradition, Advent (with a big "A"), is a time of hopeful waiting and preparing for the birth of Christ – and also for His Second Coming. It is a time of waiting. Waiting – what a familiar word. I'm sure all of you have experienced your own seasons of waiting for the advent of something important, as you sought a spouse, or a career path, or God's guidance in myriad other ways. We have done a lot of that as a church recently too, as we waited on God's timing and choice for a new pastor.

On Sunday, December 3, our Pastor Nominating Committee presented a pastoral candidate to the congregation, and you voted and approved the nomination. Our wait is nearly over. Yet again, God has provided!

The Season of Advent ends with the birth of Christ, which we celebrate on Christmas Day, and which brings Christ's love and hope for the whole world. Christ coming to earth, living a perfect life and dying for our sins so we could have relationship with God was the ultimate way God showed His love for and provided for us.

This season, as we celebrate Advent, let us think about all the ways God has come through for us. What have we waited on Him for that He has provided? What has He done that we didn't even think to pray for, but He knew we needed?

Blessings on your
Waiting,

Jennifer



Annual Christmas Auction

The Christmas auction ends this **Sunday, December 10, at midnight!** If you're interested in seeing the items in-person, call the church office during the week or come see them on Sunday. All bidding takes place online at www.fpcd.org/auction. If you have questions or need help placing a bid, contact the church office!

Katherine & Jennifer



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Next week, December 10, we'll have
our monthly youth-led
service, where the children will
present a Christmas Pageant at
10:30 AM.



STAFF GIFTS

Please consider a special Christmas offering for the staff of FPCD. Designate "staff gift" on your check and place in the offering plate or mail to the church by Dec. 17. Thank you for all your love and support!

PW News

We received this email from the children's home in Belize, Mission of the Good Shepherd. PW provides a small donation (\$300 annually) for which they are most grateful. We should also remember them in our prayers.

Thanks
Jocelyn

Dear Presbyterian Women,

Words can't express how we feel about all that you have done for this Mission through your prayers and help. But we do have a little Christmas Poem as a small thank you for the way that you have been able to help and change our lives in this time of need. We hope that you like it.

There are certain times in one's life when you fully understand the value of true friends. We thank you for being a friend to the children here, and to me as well. I really didn't think that we were going to make it throughout the year with all of the difficulties we faced in caring for everyone here. But your prayers and your help have made it possible for us to get through. I count you among our true friends.

Having such a supporting friend as you is truly a blessing. You don't know how much your friendship means to all of us here.

May God bless you throughout the coming year for all your love and caring. May He bless you always and in all ways, but especially during this holiday season.

In the Service of the Good Shepherd,

Dr. Post
Mission of the Good Shepherd
Mango Creek, Independence Village
Stann Creek District
Belize, Central America

A Christmas Poem For You

Though the presents are shiny and the paper is bright
And it is hard to wait through the long and cold night
To open them all the very next day
And bring out the wonderful new toys to play
It is important that we all remember
Why it is we give gifts at the end of December
Why it is we all gather and joyously sing:
To celebrate the birthday of our Savior and King.
The children here have nothing to give
Nothing that they can share.
Only this little Christmas Poem
Written for you with love and with care.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div>Nov 2023</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></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> <div>Jan 2024</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>31</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	2
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3 Advent 1 9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service 3 PM Messiah Sing-a-Long	4	5	6 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	7  1:00 PM Worship Planning Meeting	8	 Men's Fellowship 9 AM																																																																																				
10 Advent 2 9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service Youth Sunday	11  7:00 PM Member Care Meeting	12 7 PM Women's Fellowship	13 4:00 PM Parking Lot Ministry 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	14 6:30-8:30 PM PACE Graduation in Sanctuary	15 Newsletter Articles Due!	16 11-3 Music Lover's Recital in Sanctuary Men's Fellowship 9 AM																																																																																				
17 Advent 3 9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service Prayer Service 3rd Sunday Potluck	18 <div>The Sandwich Project</div> <div>Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless</div>	19	20 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	21  6:30 PM Session Meeting	22	23																																																																																				
24 Advent 4 + Christmas Eve 9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service 3 PM Candlelight Service	25  (Office Closed)	26 (Office Closed)	27	28	29	30																																																																																				
31 10:30 AM Handbells and Carols 9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages)																																																																																										

Puzzle & Humor Page



Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.



WORD BANK

Shepherds
Child
Nazareth
Census
Baby
David
Mary
Travel
Town
Register
Born
Night

T	B	W	Y	A	Z	K	E	S	H	N	G	D	J	K
Q	O	Y	A	P	R	A	L	B	F	P	I	C	Q	L
N	R	W	X	B	E	Y	R	M	B	D	M	O	E	E
S	N	O	N	W	G	A	I	B	A	C	D	O	T	D
R	G	X	J	F	I	W	M	V	B	R	R	C	E	O
P	S	C	E	N	S	U	S	H	Y	U	Y	F	P	N
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A	T	B	A	U	R	W	H	G	F	V	A	B	U	M
T	R	A	V	E	L	J	C	H	V	O	Z	G	N	H
F	B	Q	I	W	D	X	P	T	E	N	A	O	L	Q
Z	C	R	D	Q	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	V
R	U	V	Y	K	N	I	R	T	K	G	E	Y	I	R
K	V	A	Z	X	L	S	H	Y	T	P	T	J	S	K
L	L	E	S	M	J	Z	L	Q	R	U	H	V	W	X

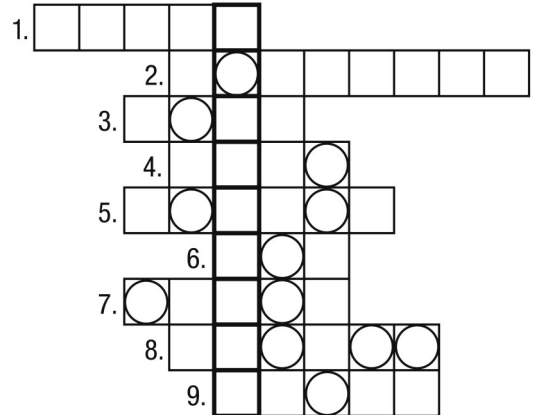
"Today in the town of David a _____
has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior

Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the word from the boldface vertical column. Also unscramble the circled letters to reveal a seasonal phrase.

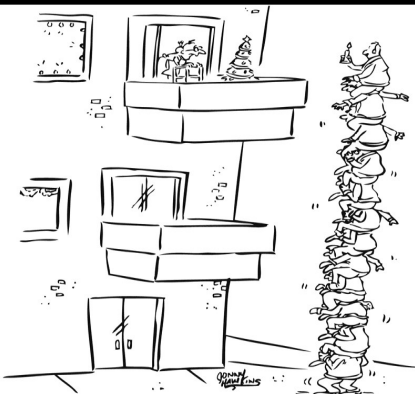


1. Carolers and instrumentalists make this
2. What happens at malls
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to her
4. You'll find this under a Christmas tree
5. He was a carpenter
6. Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem
7. The "ship of the desert"
8. Cattle eat out of this
9. Shepherds tend this

Bold word: _____

Seasonal phrase: _____

Answers: music, shopping, Mary, gift, Joseph, tax, camel, manger, sheep, Christmas, peace on earth



Cass Park Church's carolers were always ready to make necessary adjustments.




Glory
to God

in the
highest, and
on earth
peace, good
will toward
men.

Luke 2:14, KJV

December Worship Volunteer Schedule

December 3	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer Communion Service	Sharon Ingram Darlene Cowand & Teresa Reed Brittany Haywood & Dudley Austin Sharon Ingram (sub) & Dub Guthrie
December 10	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer	Dudley Austin Lori Glover & Jaime Cordova Lori Glover & Brenda Everett
December 17	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer	Jocelyn Bolles Brenda Everett & Linda Simons Brittany Haywood & Dudley Austin
December 24	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer	Connie Steger Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis Sharon Ingram
December 31	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer	Sharon Ingram Darlene Cowand & Teresa Reed Jimmy Cordova & Diane Pegues



“I bring you
good news of great joy that
will be for all the people.”

Luke 2:10


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
James Barton, December 14
Caryn Benitez, December 15
Eddie Everett, December 21
Valerie Bibeau, December 22
Christian Laurent, December 24

Darlene Cowand, December 25
Christiana Barton, December 25
Lucy Russell, December 26
Janet Stahl, December 28
Caris Thorpe, December 29
Dameron Growe, December 30

		
2023 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE		
	Receipts	Expenditures
Oct	\$ 42,716	\$ 16,182
Jan - Oct	\$216,596	\$ 231,263

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education
Worship Service

— 9:15 a.m.
— 10:30 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
543 EAST FREEMAN STREET
DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116
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