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“Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences”

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P. O. BOX 773
HENDERSON, TEXAS 75653-0773**



THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the Christmas Season?

Is it the iconic tree? Or the colors red and green and gold? Is it shepherds and angels? Perhaps it is the weather, or the frequent re-runs of “National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation” or “A Christmas Story”. It might be more personal, like gatherings of family and friends. Maybe Christmas is a time of shopping, getting caught up in Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday or Giving Tuesday.

Amid the decorations, festivities and gift exchanges it can be easy to lose focus on why we celebrate Christmas at all. We are remembering the birth of Jesus Christ!

The four weeks of Advent, the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, can be a time of renewed hope and joy. If we allow ourselves to be caught up in the mystery of the incarnation, Christmas can be a deeply spiritual time of the year.

When Christ was born, our eternal God became part of human history. The miracle of incarnation deserves pondering. Perhaps this Christmas we can make room - in our busyness and in our hearts - to sit in thankful wonder for the greatest gift ever given.

What if we were to look forward to the birth of Jesus with the same anticipation of a young child longing to unwrap presents under the tree? What if we brought that sense of joyful yearning into our relationship with our Creator?

Each week in Advent, we light one more candle on the wreath, symbolizing the light of God becoming stronger in the presence of humanity. On Christmas, we light the Christ candle as we commemorate the arrival of the infant Jesus.

To tap into these feelings more acutely, it might help to set aside quiet reflection time. An Advent study, like the one the Sunday school groups are doing, may inspire us to stay connected to the greater Love that motivates us to give. Or, try lighting a personal advent wreath on your dinner table or during prayer time.

Being recipients of God’s generous grace and love can indeed motivate us to pass that love along.

Giving that is thoughtful and motivated is the best kind.

Enjoy this Advent season in hopeful anticipation of Christmas. Reflect on what it means that Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, and celebrate the greatest gift of all: God is with us! Merry Christmas!

Rev Michele



"Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us praise His holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim"



Merry Christmas to you from the Finance/Stewardship Committee
Lynn, Carol, Tom and Kelly

Tis the season to tithe: Please remember to turn in your pledge cards by December 15th.

Council Actions

November 21, 2019

- Worshiped and prayed together
- Approved the Audit of 2018 Financial Records
- Approved Proposed Budget pending return of pledges
- Updated the Church Membership Roll
- Elected Commissioner to December 7 Presbytery Meeting in McKinney
- Approved use of Fellowship Hall by Child Protective Services for training of foster parents
- Approved hiring of temporary office help while interviewing applicants
- Set the 2020 Session Training Retreat for January 25, 2020
- Set examination of elders for December 19th Session meeting
- Noted dates of the Dec. 8th Christmas sing at 6 p.m., Christmas luncheon on December 15th, Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m., and Lessons and Carols on December 29th

The Session wishes you all a blessed **Christmas Season!**
Bert, Jan M., Lynn, Claudia, Kelly, Steve, Kathy, and Rev Michele



Memorials received in November were in memory of:

- Jack Gray
- Robert Scoggins



Rev. Michele serving on a Symposium hosted by the Lutheran Church on the Kilgore College campus.



John installing new parking signs in our parking lot. Building & Grounds at work!



HOLIDAY CONCERT

6 PM on December 8, 2019

Hosted by

First Presbyterian Church
311 S High St. Henderson, TX



Merry Christmas from the Communications Team!

Kathy Porter, Kelly Weaver, Claudia Morgan-Gray, & Weldon Gray



The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us -- retired, present and future -- who have pointed us to God.



Philosophy of
Christian Education
*Informing * Transforming * Conforming*



The Seekers Class and the Andrews Class will combine beginning on December 1 for an Advent Study of "While We Wait" by Mary Lou Redding. The study will be led by Jimmy Chapman and Rev. Michele. This is a study in living the questions of Advent by examining our own faith questions and reflecting on Old and New Testament stories. Everyone is invited to come on Sunday mornings at 9:45 and share in this preparation for the coming of the Christ Child.

The Fellowship Committee shares with you

Recipe for Christmas Frosted Punch

1 package of Cherry Kool-Aid
3 quarts of water
 $\frac{3}{4}$ cup sugar
1 can (46 ounces) pineapple juice
1 small can frozen orange juice
1 small can frozen lemonade
1 tablespoon each of vanilla and almond extract
Mix all together and freeze for 4 hours before serving
Before serving, add 2 liters of Sprite or 7-Up - Mix into punch bowl
Enjoy!
(makes about 50 servings)

Happy Holidays from your Fellowship Committee,



HELP US TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WE ARE HERE!
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HENDERSON, TX.



Worship Committee, December, 2019

Happy Holidays!! It's that time of year again where time seems to move even faster than usual as we get to the end of the year. So many activities and things to do, we don't know what to do first or how we can work them all in.

The Advent season begins, Sunday, December 1st. Thanks to helpful members, especially Kathy Porter and Pastor Goff, we will have changed the looks of the Sanctuary and Narthex. The Advent wreath will be set up and hymns and choir offerings will reflect the season.

A special program will take place on Sunday evening, December 8th, at 6 pm. Joshua Allen and special friends, Laurie Cosby, and Stefen Kane, and the choir will present "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year", including Christmas hymns and other favorite and meaningful songs. Look for flyers around the church and remind others in your orbit, inviting them to join us for a great musical treat. A Love Offering will be included to take care of printing, etc.

We are excited and blessed to have Britt Boren, and Wendy Zuech joining our choir for the Advent Season along with our recent addition to the choir, Stefen Kane.

On Christmas Eve, we will have a Candlelight Service at 5:30 pm. The annual Lessons and Carols' Service will be held the Sunday following Christmas, December 29th.

Please remember to put these times on your calendars so you will be able to take part in as many activities as possible, because your presence just makes it for all of us.

Your Worship Team members are Kelly Weaver, Kathy Porter, Jan Mims, Cindy Ratliff, Jimmy Chapman, Scott Hurst, Margaret Hillin, Lynn Tieken as Chair, Rev. Michele Goff and Joshua Allen, Organist and Choir Director.



Worship Committee

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that SWEPCO has plans for more clean energy ahead, for improving the environment and saving customers money?

SWEPCO plans to add 810 megawatts of wind energy by 2022 to bring cleaner, affordable energy to its customers. SWEPCO filed applications with the Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas utility commissions on July 15, 2019, and expects decisions in 2020.

SWEPCO's long-term plan calls for more than one-third of the energy required by customers to be generated from wind and solar sources over the next 20 years.

Under this plan for SWEPCO's energy source mix:

- Wind energy increases from 9% to 26%, and solar is introduced and grows to 10%
- Natural gas grows from 7% to 19%
- Coal drops from 83% to 44%

Toward its goal, SWEPCO is proposing to add 810 MW of wind energy:

- Enough wind energy to power 200,000 homes
- Save customers an estimated \$2 billion over the 30-year expected life of the wind facilities
- Further diversify SWEPCO energy source mix – 810 MW moves wind to 21% of the mix
- Help customers meet their own renewable energy and sustainability goals

**Christmas Blessings
from the CE Green Team!**

God's Grace is within our Outreach

Thank you all so much for your generosity in participating in the HIM Thanksgiving Food Drive. While we collect food for HIM on a regular basis with our set collection time being the first Sunday of every month; it should be no surprise that our added participation during this special holiday time makes a tremendous difference for those families that we help have a holiday meal. So again, thank you for continuing to show your generous and Christian heart in such a special way.

We all know that the holiday season provides extraordinary opportunity for all of us to help some of those that might need extra help during this special time. Given that, we want to make you aware of some upcoming Christmas holiday projects we invite you to assist us as you can.

HIM Christmas Food Baskets We have sign-up sheets in the narthex that you can purchase a food basket for \$7.00 per basket. HIM makes it easy for us to participate in this wonderful project as they do the purchasing and they put the boxes together. Your baskets can be designated in **Honor Of** or **In Memory Of** someone special. If participating, please sign-up and make your check to FPC Henderson and in the memo line please add HIM Christmas Basket.

The Rusk State Hospital Angel Adoption We will continue our tradition of adopting angels from the Rusk State Hospital. We have the prepared list of requested and acceptable items for our gifts. This year, we are asking that you just purchase the items and bring them to the church, the Outreach Committee will put the bags together and get them delivered to the facility. To help us get a head start on this project and in an effort to spread out the "asks" for the season, please feel free to go ahead and make your purchases for this project as early as you'd like. We will keep the items until we put the gift bags together. If you'd like to help with putting the bags together or help in delivering them to Rusk State, please let Claudia or Jan P know.

Please plan to join us for the Annual Christmas Potluck after church service **December 15**. The Fellowship Committee will provide the main course entrée and will look forward to sharing all the wonderful side dishes, salads and desserts that you all will bring to complement the meal. Please also note that this is the event where we take up and present a **"Love Offering"** to the staff. It would be very helpful if you would like to participate in the Love Offering to go ahead and give your donation to a member of the Finance Committee (Kelly, Carol or Tom) or the Personnel Committee (Claudia or Kathy) before the luncheon. Thank you.



DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER: Steve Lowe

Liturgists for December:

12/01 Claudia Morgan-Gray
12/08 Tim Wasson
12/15 Kathy Porter
12/22 John Tieken
12/29 Lynn Tieken

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation:

Judy Andrasko, Debbie Castro, Syble DeLoach, Joyce Huggins, Dr. Sue Williams, Lynn's sisters Cathy & Genieva, and John's brother Kenneth.

All who need our prayers, including:

- Pastor of Mount Pleasant Pres
- The Family of Roberto Villareal



December 2019 Merry Christmas!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i>	2 <i>Home Communion Hanging of the Greens FUMC Bill Boren</i>	3 <i>6 PM Choir Rehearsal 6 PM Theology on Tap</i>	4	5	6 <i>Meals on Wheels Scott Hurst</i>	7 <i>Presbyterian Mtg.- McKinney</i>
8 <i>2nd Sunday of Advent 6 PM Holiday Concert James Nicholson</i>	9 <i>Adopt a Block</i>	10 <i>6 PM Choir Rehearsal</i>	11	12	13 <i>Meals on Wheels</i>	14
15 <i>3rd Sunday of Advent Christmas Potluck</i>	16	17 <i>6 PM - Choir Rehearsal</i>	18	19 <i>6:30 PM - Session Syble DeLoach</i>	20 <i>Meals on Wheels 5:30 PM-Blue Christmas First Christian Church Longview, TX</i>	21
22 <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	23 <i>Deadline for Pipeline</i>	24 <i>CHRISTMAS EVE 5:30 PM Christmas Vigil Service</i>	25 <i>CHRISTMAS DAY</i>	26	27 <i>Meals on Wheels</i>	28
29 <i>1st Sunday of Christmas Lessons & Carols Worship</i>	30 <i>Doris Madkins</i>	31 <i>NEW YEAR'S EVE CAROL SCOGGINS</i>		<i>Please note: Church office will be closed on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.</i>		