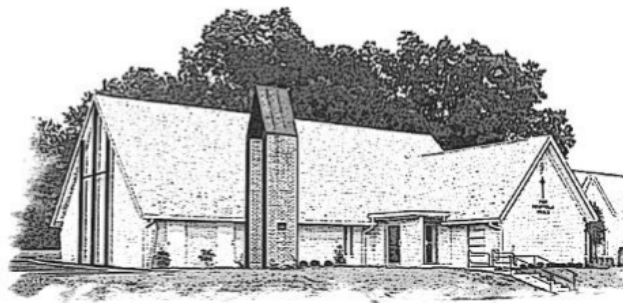




*"Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences"*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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# ***THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE***

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

**Volume 53**

**December 2021**

**Issue Eleven**

*Advent: Lord Jesus, Come Quickly*

Another December is upon us as we marvel, with more than a little disdain, at the ever-earlier beginning to the Christmas marketing season. Forget Thanksgiving, Halloween and All Saints' Day are losing their status on the calendar, too! Merchants are hoping our cheerful planning will translate into big Christmas spending.

It is our thankfulness for each other, declining case counts, and the protection of vaccinations that have us planning our holidays with enthusiasm. This (almost) two years of restricted and limited contact has us hungry for time together with our families and families of choice. Covid is still with us, but we are adjusting and carefully choosing where the risks are worth the rewards. We move eagerly into this Advent and Christmas season with renewed hope and expectations.

During the advent season we walk through the readings and prophecies that lead us to the promise of Christ's birth with fresh eyes and open hearts. We light candles on the advent wreath knowing that each one marks a week closer to the birth of our Savior. We wait with hopeful and even joyful anticipation for the birth that has already happened so many generations before now. In this celebration, we come face to face with the wonder of God who came and lived and grew and walked and taught among us. God chose to be engaged in our humanity in this intimate, incarnational way. Every year we remember these holy stories and ponder anew what it means to follow the God who chooses to be more than a cloud on a high mountain or a mysterious burning bush. God is with us and among us, bringing the kin-dom of heaven to earth bit by bit, step by step, one revelation and one transformed heart at a time.

This advent and Christmas season, I hope we enjoy one another and our time together with renewed thanksgiving. May the thrill of gifting, gadgets, and goodies not distract us from the irreplaceable joy we experience at simply being together. As we lose ourselves in glowing candles and sparkling lights, let us grow closer to the One who is almighty and all powerful. The long-awaited babe in the manger is Emmanuel, God-with-us.

*Rev Michele*

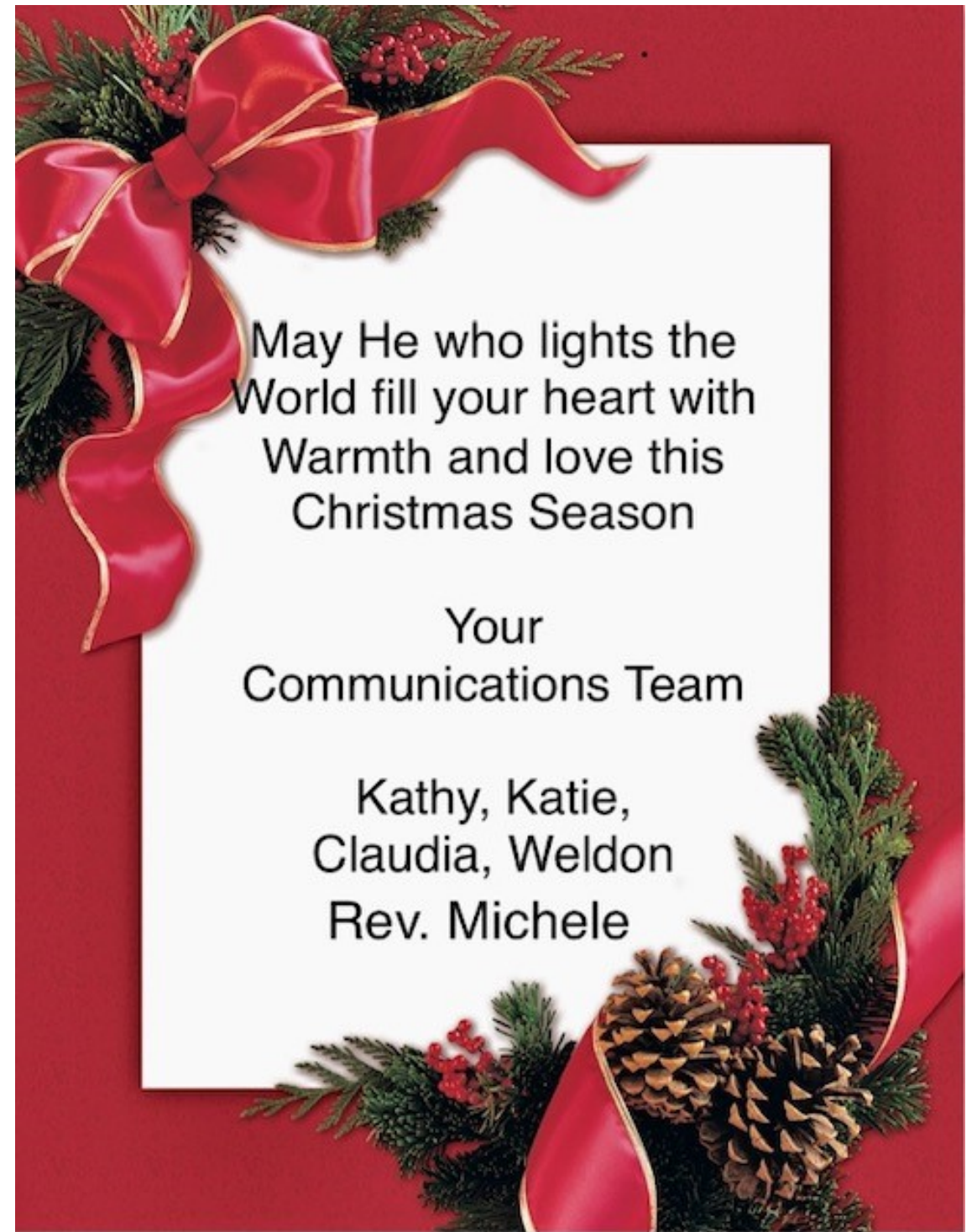
# *We are all Outreach Angels*



Thank you all so much for your generosity in participating in the HIM Thanksgiving Food Drive. We were able to provide the basket of food items collected for Thanksgiving along with a check for over \$400.00 to help them purchase additional Thanksgiving food items for their recipients. Your generosity is helping make a difference for many families. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

We continue our tradition of adopting angels for the **Rusk State Hospital**. This year we will be supporting one of the women's units. We have a prepared list of requested and acceptable items for our gifts. This year again we ask 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. We expect to have 18 women on our angel tree so we hope you will take one or two to help with this worthwhile and traditional outreach ministry with our church. Please plan to have you items to the church no later than Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> so that we can get the bags put together and delivered before Christmas. If you'd like to help with putting the bags together or help in delivering them to Rusk State, please let Claudia know.





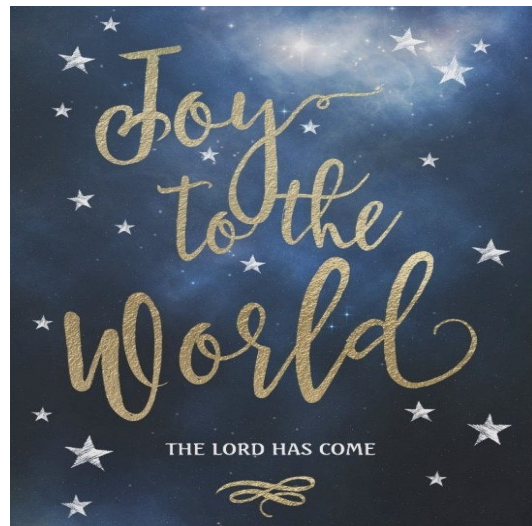
Christmastide is a season of peace, goodwill, and abundance of mercy.

May the joy of Christ's birth ignite your heart with gladness and laughter.

Merry Christmas!!

### Your Member Care Team

Carolyn, Claudia, Mary, Chris, Kathy, Lynn, John, and Rev. Michele



May you all have a Merry Christmas!

### Building and Grounds Committee

Steve, Tom, Claudia, Weldon, Kathy, Elizabeth, John T.



Wishing the best for Judy as she begins a new chapter of her life in Georgia.

### Council Actions

- ◇ **Worshiped and prayed together**
- ◇ **Moved contractors from Personnel Committee to appropriate committees**
- ◇ **Approved 2022 Budget**
- ◇ **Reviewed and approved Pastor's Terms of Call**
- ◇ **Heard and approved the Church Officer Nominating Committee's Report**
- ◇ **Reviewed Operations Manual of the Church**
- ◇ **Approved Covid Task Force Suggestions**
- ◇ **Reviewed Building Usage Policies**

### Christian Education

Advent is here!! Advent is the beginning of the Christian year, focusing on the birth of Christ, but also looking forward to the return of Christ. Four Sundays prior to Christmas Day, we celebrate, remembering Biblical passages that we have heard many times preparing us for Christ. As we light the candles on the Advent Wreath, we realize that Christ is the Light of the World and each Sunday, the light grows. The circular wreath reminds us that God is eternal, no beginning or end; God's unending love for us. Three blue candles...each has an emphasis; Hope, Peace, Love. The pink candle represents Joy, and the center white candle, which is lit on Christmas Eve, is the Christ candle. We await Christ's coming again, the fulfillment of his promise to us!



I hope each of you will be able to share this time with us.

Our Sunday School class has begun the new study, Advent in Plain Sight. Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:45 am in the Parlor. This is a devotional book. By connecting everyday objects with biblical texts, Advent in Plain Sight prompts readers to see the near kingdom of heaven on earth and ponder what that divine proximity enables and asks them to do and be. In 2022, coming soon, we hope to start a weekly study, possibly in the evening, either in person or on ZOOM. If you might be interested, please confer with our pastor, Rev. Michele, or Lynn Tieken, or any member of the Christian Education team: Kathy, Jimmy, or Claudia.

Perhaps you might be interested in a Small Group discussion on More Light. We can arrange for that in the near future, if there is interest. Would you like to join the CE team? We would welcome you with open arms!!

May the good times and treasures of the present become the golden memories of tomorrow.

May your Christmas Season sparkle with moments of love, laughter and goodwill.

Merry Christmas!

**Your Christian Education Team**

Jimmy Chapman, Kathy Porter, Lynn Tieken, Claudia Morgan-Gray, Rev. Michele



Making a quiet entrance in a dark and uninviting shack

Just one star shone anew as a handful of people were brought

Led by angelic voices, and open hearts

A young mother

A faith-filled father

Men of wisdom who searched for truth

And a group of humble herdsmen

They came to bow before a new life

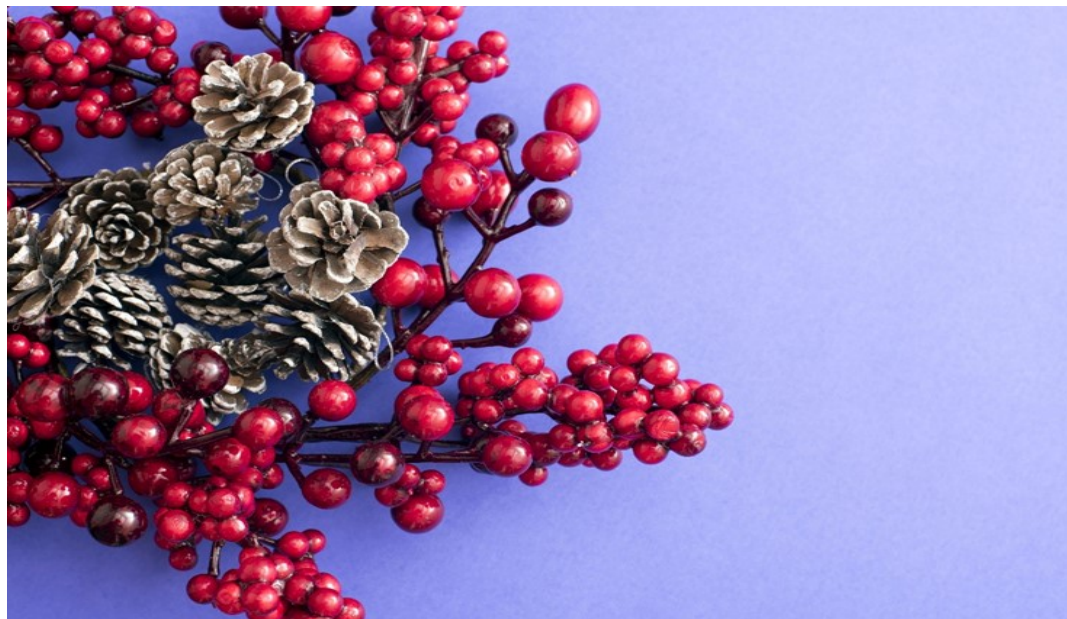
And acknowledge that the rescuer had arrived

That the Word of God had come alive

And that the extraordinary transformation of heaven and earth

Had begun

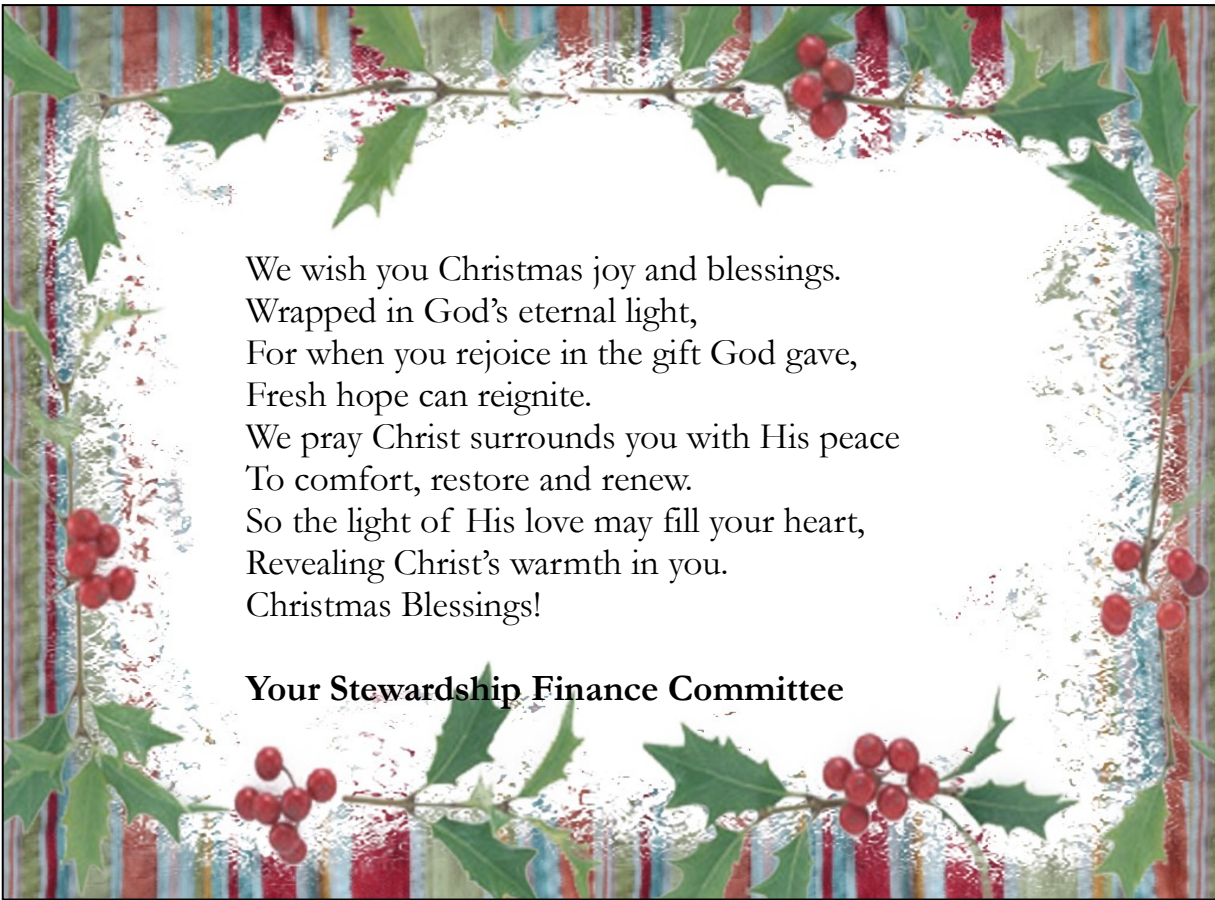
-Julie Palmer



*Wishing all the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and  
the peace of love this holiday season and always,*

*Merry Christmas from the Personnel Committee & Staff,  
Claudia, Lynn, Kathy & Kelly  
Debbi, Joshua & Rev. Michele*





We wish you Christmas joy and blessings.  
Wrapped in God's eternal light,  
For when you rejoice in the gift God gave,  
Fresh hope can reignite.  
We pray Christ surrounds you with His peace  
To comfort, restore and renew.  
So the light of His love may fill your heart,  
Revealing Christ's warmth in you.  
Christmas Blessings!

**Your Stewardship Finance Committee**

We are very excited about this Advent season.  
Joshua will have lots of festive and  
meaningful music.

We will also have a Cantata on December 19.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Vigil will be  
at 5:30 pm.

Please join us as we celebrate the birth of our  
Savior, Jesus Christ.

Peace be with you all,

**The Worship Committee**



May the magic of the Christmas season remain with you always

Blessings & Grace,

The Outreach Committee

Claudia, Tom, Lynn, John, Kathy, Jimmy, Elizabeth, & Rev. Michele

# December 2021



**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**



1

2

6:00 Christmas Parade &  
Tree Lighting

3

Meals on Wheels

4

5

9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Sanctuary/FB Live  
Worship /Communion  
**HIM Donation Day**

6

**Home Communion**

7

**6:00 Theology on Tap  
Beer and Carols!**

8

9

10

Meals on Wheels

11

12

9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Sanctuary/FB Live  
Worship  
**3:00 Walk with a Doc**

13

**4:00 Adopt-a-Block**

14

15

16

6:00 Session Meeting

17

Meals on Wheels

**Outreach Angel Tree**

18

19

9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Sanctuary/FB Live  
Worship / **Cantata !  
and Joy Offering**

20

21

22

23

24

Meals on Wheels

**5:30 Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Vigil**

25



**Christmas Day**

26

9:45 Sunday School  
11:00 Sanctuary/FB Live  
**Worship and Song**

27

28

29

30

31

Meals on Wheels

**New Year's Eve**

**Duty Elder for  
December**

Steve L.

**Liturgists for December**

12/5 John H.

12/12 Jimmy C.

12/19 Claudia M.

12/26 Kelly W.

**December Birthdays**

12/2 Bill B.

12/6 Scott H.

12/8 James N.

12/19 Syble D.

12/30 Doris M.

12/31 Carol S.

