

THE PALMER

The latest news and updates from Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS & ART OPENING RECEPTION TODAY

Please join us Sunday, December 14 for a very special Advent gathering highlighting the musical and visual arts, and don't forget to invite your friends. We start at 4 PM in the Nave for Palmer's annual Advent Lessons and Carols, brought to you by the Palmer Adult and Children's Choir. Then Palmer's Visual Artists invite you at 5 for a festive reception and art opening - "Joy to the World! Art for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany" - in Parish Hall.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS BY FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19



The Flower Guild is planning Advent, Christmas flowers, and other holiday decor. If you would like to make a donation in memory of or thanksgiving for a loved one; or to mark a special occasion, visit palmerchurch.org/flowerfund. You can also send your donations to the church or use the flower dedication envelopes in the narthex and bell tower entrances. All flower and campus décor is funded solely by your generous donations.

PALMER NEEDS YOUR PLEDGE NOW

236 Palmer families have pledged \$1.75 million to support Palmer in 2026. Many faithful Palmers have yet to turn in their pledge for 2026, and Palmer needs the pledged support of every Palmer to reach our goal of \$1.9 million in pledges to cover inflation and fully support Palmer's mission to share the love of Christ. The Vestry meets this week to discuss the 2026 budget! Make a pledge now in any of these ways: at <https://palmerchurch.org/stewardship/#Pledge>; on the Palmer App by clicking "Pledging" on the bottom of the start page; return a pledge card found in the pews; or call Palmer's Financial Manager, Jessica Evans, at 713-529-6196, ext. 111, or email her at jevans@palmerchurch.org.

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 AT 7 PM

Palmer's Longest Night Service is Wednesday, December 17 at 7 PM. As many of us have experienced, the holiday season, while full of joy and gaiety, can also bring forth feelings of grief and sadness, and can amplify loneliness we already may be experiencing. In the week leading up to Christmas, Palmer will hold its annual Longest Night liturgy. Please join us for this special service followed by holiday refreshments and fellowship.

Fall 2025



FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

ADULT EDUCATION, 9:00-9:45 AM

- **December 14** - Community Partner: Amazing Place
- **December 21** - Faces of our Faith: Joseph of Arimathea
- **December 28** - Faces of our Faith: The Penitent Thief on the Cross

SUNDAY MORNING PARENTING GROUP

Parenting Group meets from 9-10 AM in the Canterbury Room upstairs in the Autry House Building at Palmer. If you are seeking encouragement and community in your parenting journey, you are welcome here. For info contact [Roger Hutchison](mailto:cym@palmerchurch.org) at cym@palmerchurch.org.

HOLY CROSS CHILDREN'S CHOIR

PreK (with school experience) to 5th grade, Sundays from 9 to 9:50 am in Holy Cross Children's Room. Questions? Contact Courtney Daniell-Knapp at acourtneydaniell@gmail.com.

PALMER YOUTH GROUP

Palmer Youth Group meets Sundays 11:30 AM - 1 PM in the Youth Room. Contact [Roger Hutchison](mailto:cym@palmerchurch.org), Director of Children's and Youth Ministry.

PALMER'S CHRISTMAS DECORATORS INVITE YOU!

Please join our spirited decorating crews on Saturday, December 13, and Tuesday, December 16, and help adorn our beautiful church for Christmas. On Saturday, December 13, we will green the church from 9 AM to 12 Noon and then install poinsettias Tuesday, December 16, from 10 AM to 1 PM. These are great times to join with good friends in the holiday spirit and if you are new to Palmer, a wonderful opportunity to get to know Palmers. Just come to the nave and we will be there to welcome you! Contact Dennis Kutach at DFCBK@aol.com to volunteer.

SUNDAY WORSHIP AND WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Worship Schedule

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM

Tuesday Men's Bible Study

meets at 7 AM in person and on Zoom. Contact The Rev'd Neil Willard rector@palmerchurch.org

Tuesday Women's Bible Studies

meet at 7 AM in person and on Zoom and at 3:30 PM on Zoom. Contact info@palmerchurch.org

Wednesday Bible Study

(open to everyone!) meets at 12 Noon on Zoom and in-person in room A102. Contact The Rev'd Neil Willard at rector@palmerchurch.org

OTHER WEEKLY MEET-UP GROUPS

- Women's Spirituality (Mondays 1 PM in A102)
- Meditation in St. Bede's Chapel (Wednesdays 6:00 PM)
- Meditation on Zoom (Mondays and Wednesdays, palmerchurch.org/meetinglinks)
- Gentle Yoga Every Thursday (except Third Thursday) in St. Bede's at 9:30 AM
- Palmer Writing Group (On Zoom)
- Autry House Rice Student Ministry - Services Monday at 7 PM

For Children's and Youth Ministries

contact [Roger Hutchison](mailto:cym@palmerchurch.org) at cym@palmerchurch.org

MONTHLY EVENTS AND MEET-UP GROUPS

- Parish Potlucks or Community Meals
- Third Thursday Outing Hosted by the Older Adults Ministry (All are invited!)
- Social Hour with the Rector at Valhalla on the Rice Campus at 5 PM (Second Thursday of the month)
- Dinner and Discussion (One Friday of the Month)
- Downtown Lunch, Noon at Treebeard's in the Cloister (Fourth Tuesdays)
- Reel Theology Movie Discussion at 7 PM on Zoom (First Sundays)
- Creative Arts Community
- Photography Group
- Palmers Assisting Reentry (PAR)
- Daughters of the King Prayer Group
- Board Game Group (Last Wednesday of the Month)

Palmer's Nursery is located in the front office at the end of the staff hallway. You can also access it by the door in the breezeway that leads to the offices. It is open Sundays and for special events.