



WINDMILL 11.25.18

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Building a community of disciples growing towards

God-centered worship · Christ-centered service · Spirit-led lives



A MASON JAR ADVENT

In December, we are all invited to return to simpler times, to create and nurture space in the chaos of the Advent season.

Make plans to participate in the Mason Jar Advent Themed Daily Devotional that you can make during the Advent Celebration on December 2nd.

PASTOR'S NOTE

In *Celebrating Abundance*, Walter Brueggemann observes that "Advent...is not yet time for Jesus." In Advent, we begin with John, with baptism, and the Holy Spirit. Advent time is "getting ready time," and "getting ready time" is "... mainly abrasive... asking, thinking, pondering and redeciding." Advent is abrasive in that the tasks to which it calls us, go against the grain of what can become normative in this time of year.

For example, Advent time, "getting ready time," is not about "busy activity, entertaining and fatigue."

That is the way of the world. To be sure, this does not mean that we cannot do those activities, but we must be attentive to the spirit in which we do them. In this way, Advent time is being intentional about preparing for the birth and promise of a Savior.

How do we do that at FPC?

Remember your baptism, the point of entry into God's story in Jesus.

Be part of an Advent Study Group, praying and reading your way through N.T. Wright's *Advent for Everyone* during the week.

Plan for the Covenant Bible in January, that's right, look ahead.

Make space in the chaos of this season by planning to attend the All-Adult Sunday School Classes, exploring a simpler spirituality for Advent.

Worship on Sunday mornings, resting in the rich beauty of the symbols of worship, and journeying to the Manger as we consider this disruptive kind of discipleship.

Some move through this season alone. Let's partner with one another to move together where helpful.

Grace and Peace,



Re Elaine

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

WORSHIP & STEWARDSHIP

Connecting to Our College Students

College students around the country are beginning to prepare for the end of the fall semester. The Youth and Young Adult committee would like to remind our college students that we are thinking of and praying for them at this hectic time. In the narthex on Sunday, November 25, we will have individual cards for each student out on a table, and we invite you to take a few minutes and sign the cards. This is a great way to remind our students that they are surrounded by the Body of Christ.

KID'S
DAY
OUT

Saturday, December 1, is Kid's Day Out, from 1:00—7:00 p.m. in Family Life Center. Sign your children up in the church office.

GAMES &
DESSERTS

Sunday, December 9, 3:30 p.m.—5:00 p.m. All ages are invited to **Games and Desserts** with the Youth. Bring your favorite games of all skill levels, and join your church family for an afternoon of fun!



Hikers pause for a quick group photo on a footbridge across the Frio River near Laity Lodge at the H. E. Butt Foundation Camp. Fourteen teenagers and six adults completed the ten mile backpacking trek.

On Saturday, December 1, FPC and the public are invited to "Come Into the Light"—an Advent concert featuring vocalists, instrumentalists, and a multi-media experience. Scriptures that reference LIGHT are inserted throughout the concert to weave the music, narration/drama and multi-media into a spiritual relationship. Tim and Verna are playing duets, members of the congregation are singing solos and guest instrumentalist add to the enjoyment of 'letting their light shine'. There is

no cost to attend the event, but all are invited to give to The Christmas Joy Offering, which provides assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

**SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 1ST,
5PM,
"COME INTO THE
LIGHT" — AN
ADVENT CONCERT
IN THE SANCTUARY**

Poinsettias & Sanctuary Decorating Time

Don't forget you're invited to help decorate our church for Christmas. We'll gather for decorating on Saturday, December 1 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. This is a great opportunity for families, yours and your church family, to join together to celebrate the Advent of Christ's birth. Hope to see you there!

It's also time to order poinsettias in honor of loved ones for placement on the chancel during Advent. Each poinsettia will be \$15 and forms are available in the Narthex.



The church at worship during the Church Picnic on November 10th at Camp Heart of the Hills. This photo was just before the Riverfront baptism of Bailey Petri.

HOSPITALITY & FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship Opportunities during Advent

Throughout this season there are opportunities to gather with friends, neighbors, brothers and sisters in Christ to celebrate the reason for the season.

As you and your bible study groups, Sunday school classes, church friends and more make plans to fellowship this season, use these times as opportunities to invite others into an experience of the community at FPC.

Tuesday, December 4th at 5:30 pm, the annual Downtown Christmas Walk begins at Notre Dame Catholic Church. FPC is the fourth and final stop on the Bethlehem journey and our time

FELLOWSHIP

GATHERINGS

DURING ADVENT:

FELLOWSHIP I: 12/ 7

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:

12/13

of worship will conclude with cookies and fellowship in the FLC. The church office is collecting cookies now to prepare for the 250+ people we expect to be part of the Walk.

Fellowship I (A diverse adult group for folks who are post-college to empty nesters) will celebrate over a potluck dinner at the Lohmeyer Home on Friday, December 7th at 6:30 pm. Childcare provided at FPC from 6-10 pm.

The Presbyterian Women invite all women of the church to The Gathering, Thursday, December 13th from 9:45 to 11:45 am in Ryan Hall.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

MISSION & OUTREACH

Minister to the Flock

The 2019 Diaconate is looking for an ordained deacon not presently serving on the Diaconate to volunteer to minister to one of our flocks. This volunteer would be check in regularly on their 18-21 assigned flock members and some Wednesday evening Diaconate meetings, not communion preparation, extended communion, or other deacon duties---unless, of course, he/she

desires to participate more fully in the Deacon ministry.

Please prayerfully consider this discipleship opportunity and, if interested, call 2018 Diaconate Moderator, Walter Curry-(830) 792-3194 or either of the 2019 Co-Moderators Elect: Joyce Schlechte-(830) 792-7039 or Sally Peterson-(830) 896-7090.



Alternative Gift Market: Many thanks to all who contributed to the over \$21,000 raised so far for our mission partners. If you missed the market but still would like to "shop" the catalog, you can do so online or at the church office.

DECEMBER 1-15 BIRTHDAYS							
Bill Clark	3	Pam Jucknies	6	Gabriel Durand-Hollis	9	Bill Burns	13
Harley Garcia	3	John Mallory	7	Emily Pena	9	Steve Phillips	13
Gena Griffin	3	Donna Brewton	8	Carole Hovde	10	Scott Russell	13
Cheryl Smith	3	Sharon Richardson	8	Mary Orms	11	Beth Gunter	14
Preston Gamble	4	Ben Smith	8	Rufus Hayes	12	Lee Jennings	14
Bill Swart	4	Charles Clark	9	Sue Steele	12	Theo Blue	15
Virginia Wagner	4					Diane Latham	15



First Presbyterian
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 1: Advent Decorating, 10 am, Sanctuary.

December 1: Advent Concert, 5 pm, Sanctuary

December 1: Kid's Day Out, 1:00—7:00 p.m., Family Life Center.

December 2: All Church Advent Celebration, 9:15-10:30 am, FLC

December 4: Downtown Christmas Walk, 5:30pm, begins at Notre Dame, reception at FPC.

December 7: Fellowship I Christmas Party, 6:30 pm, Lohmeyer Home