

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

January 2018

*The mission of our church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ
Our vision is to be an oasis of God's love.*

1311 McCaulley Office hours: M ~ F, 9:00 am ~12:00pm

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Elder of the Month: Dustin Hammit

As we take our first steps into 2018, I want to share this poem by one of my favorite poets, Ann Weems. She reiterates something I strongly believe—Christmas is not over; this is just the beginning of another year to follow the One who calls into this adventure we call faith. I look forward to all that is before us and the opportunity to be in ministry with you. Pastor Marie

January's Song

There is a rumor on the streets
that Christmas is over.
Lights and ornaments are packed away,
trees dragged to the curb,
people back to business as usual.
We're no longer in the party mood;
the humbugging is back in vogue.

This is January....
How can Christmas be over?!
The Child is just newborn,
the song of Peace and Goodwill
still rings in our ears.
The shepherds and sages still kneel
to this One who is born to us....
just born to us!

How can Christmas be over??
The story of the gospel is just beginning.
Who saw the Star
now live in its Light.
We who saw and heard
now believe.

Christmas is not over.
We're just beginning
to follow this One
who calls us now to
Live in the Light of Love.
Christmas is not over.
It's just beginning
and this is January's song!!!

--January's Song by Ann Weems, from the book *From Advent's Alleluia to Easter's Morning Light*

Dates to Remember

- 1 New Year's Day~ Church Office Closed
- 3 Presbyterian Women~ 5:15pm
- 4 Over the Hill Bunch~ 11:30am~ Skeet's
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 7 Hoyt Place Worship ~ 9:00am-9:30am
Sunday School~ 9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am Reverse Offering
Communion Class of 2018
Little Ones & IBKs~ 5pm-6pm
- 8 Bible Study~ Acts 25~ 6:30pm
Alan & Paula's
- 10 Plarning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
Committee Meetings~ 5:30pm
- 11 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Pizza Hut
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 14 Sunday School ~ 9:30am
Worship ~ 10:45am
Middle School & High School~ 5pm-6pm
- 17 Plarning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
Session Meeting~ 5:30pm
- 18 Over the Hill Bunch ~11:30am~ Sandra's
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 21 Sunday School~ 9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am~ Children's Church
Little Ones & IBKs~ 5pm-6pm
- 22 Bible Study~ Acts 25~6:30pm
Loren & Jeannette's
- 24 Plarning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 25 Over the Hill Bunch ~11:30am~Whataburger
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 26-27 Presbytery Meeting~ St. Luke's Amarillo
- 28 Sunday School~9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am~ Noisy Offering
Little Ones & IBKs~ 5pm-6pm
- 31 Plarning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm



- 7 Donella Parker and Keith Brock
14 Paula Carmichael and Alan Carmichael
21 Karen Brown and Gary Brown
28 Patty Gesin and Richard Gesin



- 2 Emerson Jane Gesin
6 Rick LeBleu
7 Karen Brown
10 Laverne Foy
12 Betty Richards
16 Brandon Bennett
17 Seth Maitland
Mason Maxwell
18 Bryson Maitland
20 Willadean Brock
Michelle Maitland
21 Mike Briggs
23 Alex Wiele
26 Aly Moore
31 James Staton

Hoyt Place

*We are excited to lead worship every
first Sunday of the month at Hoyt
Place, from 9:00-9:30 a.m.
We will sing, and
hear the Word of God.
Come join us in this wonderful
Ministry of fellowship.*

**Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday,
January 3rd at 5:15pm. We will review
Chapter 4 of our study book, "Noah Built His
Ark in the Sunshine" by James Moore.**



*Thank you to the adults and children for their
singing at Christmas. They were beautiful.*

*Love,
Dorothy Richards*

~~~~~  
*Thank you to everyone that sent cards and  
to everyone that sent food. It was  
appreciated more than words can say.*

*Jodie and Jack Aycock*

~~~~~  
NOROC Children in Romania

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian

*Thank you for your donation to Big-hearted
Grannies, Teachers & Friends of \$660.00.*

*Your prayers and financial support are
greatly appreciated and truly needed!
Together in Christ's service,*

Carolyn White



~~~~~  
*Thank you for your  
gifts to the Christmas Joy offering. We  
collected \$563.00 this Christmas.*



Happy New Year! We hope you all had a very nice holiday! We will begin our rotations of every other week with the kids starting January 7! We will meet each week from 5:00- 6:00. It was so nice seeing all of the kids in the Christmas program! What a great job you all did! Everyone loves seeing you! We see our Little Ones and IBKS a lot and would sure like to see all of you middle and high schoolers more. We know you are busy, but when you join us, it's a blessing for all! What a great bunch of kids you all are!

January 7: Little Ones and IBKS  
January 14: Middle School & High School  
January 21: Children's Church during worship; Middle School and High School are always welcome to help!

Little Ones and IBKS

January 28: Middle School and High School

### **Alarm System Update**

The alarm system is not activated at this time. There is a chime when you enter any of the doors, but no alarm.

There are several administrative procedures that need to be addressed before using the system. We are planning to begin the end of January. We will definitely let everyone know when it is being used.

### **Session Minutes**

*Jeremy Wilks, representative of Sierra Communications, gave instructions for use of the newly installed alarm system and demonstrated entry through a personal code.*

*Newly elected Elders for 2020 were introduced by Reverend Mickey for examination. Sherie Alldredge, Doug Richards, Peggy Elliott, and Karen Brown each*

*presented their "faith journey" and/or favorite scripture. The motion was made and unanimously approved to recommend the slate of officers for installation.*

**Stewardship and Finance:** *Financial Report was unanimously approved.*

**Building and Grounds:** *The motion was made and approved to replace the East door with a levered bronze colored knob along with bronze colored knobs on the front door and other wooden entrance doors.*

### **Mission and Outreach:**

*\$400.00 has been received from the Resources Ministry of Palo Duro Presbytery to purchase shelving for FPC endorsed Nolan County Food Pantry.*

*FPC congregation has donated \$660 to assist the NOROC Children in Romania Program.*

*Angel Tree donations will be delivered to the Children's Advocacy Center.*

*The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected during the Christmas Eve Service.*

### **Worship Committee:**

*Kirk Stroman will present his annual "Reflections Piano Program" on Sunday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.*

*A motion to approve Communion dates and Elder Classes for 2018 was unanimously approved.*

### **Special Business:**

*Rev. Marie Mickey forwarded an email on November 30, 2017 for purchase of a Synthetic Stucco Monument Sign (5'x10'x 15") to replace the decaying sign on the East front lawn by Creative Graphic Solutions. The motion was unanimously approved.*

*A new Christmas tree was purchased for the Sanctuary. A majority agreed to discard the old Christmas tree.*

*Reverend Mickey reported that she attended the Buffalo Gap Camp Meeting ("Buffalo Gap".) Buffalo Gap currently has funds in the amount of \$29,000. An application for additional funds is being submitted. They are currently seeking ideas for fund raising events. Buffalo Gap is requesting sponsors for children to attend camp.*



*Reverend Mickey announced that she will be taking vacation from December 26, 2017 through January 3, 2018. On December 31, 2017, there will be a service of lessons song appropriate to Epiphany led by Cathy Reed and other volunteers. Stephanie Wiele is providing special music*

## Christmas Program 2017



**McKee McCollom and Annisa McCollom**

## Christmas Caroling 2017

