



First United Methodist Church

BROWNSVILLE

Welcoming... Worshiping... Witnessing...

December 1, 2020

Anticipating Christmas!

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.”

Romans 12:12

December is finally here! We are boldly entering the final month of a year that has brought about uncertainty, anxiety, and tribulation for all of us. We have been anticipating the end of 2020 and hopeful for the new year to come as we hear the vaccine is now on the brink of distribution.

I believe the scripture found in Romans 12:12 is appropriate for where we have been, where we are, and where we are going. “Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” We certainly have been constant in prayer and will continue to be in constant prayer for God to give strength and bring healing. We certainly have been patient. Just in our church alone we have not been able to have in person worship since mid-March. Although we have been connected on-line it is not quite the same as being face to face with the body of Christ. Patience has been a fruit of the Spirit we relied upon on heavily throughout 2020.

Thanks be to God we can also rejoice in hope! We finally can return to in person worship as we have the newly installed technology in place to continue streaming services on-line with people in the sanctuary, we rejoice in hope! The learning curve with the new technology has been high for us as you have seen these last few Sundays. But in the coming weeks we will be ready to have things working right, we rejoice in hope!

Advent is a season of anticipation as we count down the days to the birth of Jesus. God in the flesh, born in a manger, for the salvation of the world! The people of God had to wait close to 1000 years between the promise of a savior given to King David and the birth of Jesus. They were patient through much tribulation and constant in prayer. God delivered on that promise Christmas morning and we have been rejoicing in hope ever since! Thanks be to God, for He is faithful!

As we come to the finish line of 2020, may we be a people of God who continue to be patient through difficult times, be constant in prayer, and rejoice in the hope found through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Phillip

Rev. Phillip Hoeflinger



Advent Devotional and Zoom Bible Study

Pastor Phillip is leading a 4 week devotional series through Advent reading "The Christian New Year" by J.D. Walt. Zoom will be every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. with discussion and a teaching video from the writer. If you would like a book you can find the link on our website's announcements. Contact the church or Pastor Phillip to join the Zoom chat

In-Person Worship Starting Sunday, December 13th!

Pending any severe spikes of coronavirus in Brownsville, our Church covid-team has determined Dec. 13th as the first Sunday we can return to the Sanctuary since mid-March!

We are making some changes for everyone's protection.

- Seating will be every other row.
- We require the wearing of masks.
- Body temperatures will be checked before entrance.

We will not be singing out loud.

These changes will be in effect until further notice to make our time of worship the safest we can possible make it for all involved. Thank you for your patience and your prayers!

Christmas Eve Services

We plan to have three unique services in the sanctuary this year for Christmas Eve.

3:00 p.m. - Daytime Service

5:00 p.m. - Communion Service

7:00 p.m. - Service with Instrumental Brass; Streamed live on-line

We will be cleaning and disinfecting the Sanctuary between each service. Let's come and adore Him, Christ the Lord!

GREENERY SALES



Wonderful news! The greenery has arrived. I will be sorting the greenery orders tomorrow afternoon. If you would like to come pick up your greenery, I will be at the church from 4:00 - 6:00 Tuesday, 12/1. I am also very willing to deliver to you if needed. Please let me know if you want it delivered so we may arrange an evening to do so. My phone number is (956)-455-2922. We also have received some extra greenery that we would be happy to sell. Let me know if you are interested.

Thank you very much for supporting our youth!

Sunday Evening Prayer Service
Every Sunday, 5:00 p.m. in the Church Courtyard

All are invited to come and join us Sunday Evenings for a half-hour, in person, worship service with prayer, special music, and communion. Seating is spaced out, temperatures are checked, and masks are required for the safety of you and others. Services will be canceled if there is bad weather.

Pledge Cards

God has blessed us in many ways and Jesus says it is more blessed to give than receive! When you mail in your pledge card it gives our church the opportunity to plan out how your giving will help with ministry in 2021 extending the message of salvation and service that we have in Jesus Christ! If you still need a pledge card, you can call the church office or download one on our website. Your generosity is appreciated!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



12/5	Rudy de la Garza
12/7	Phillip Kendall
12/10	Ruth Hesterberg
12/16	Michael Garcia
12/17	Morgan B. Turbeville
	Isaac Hoeflinger
12/18	Roberta Albright
12/20	Laverne Robinson

12/21	Emily Rodriguez
	Linda Harvey
12/23	Ken McCleary
12/25	James Pace
12/28	Marilyn Young
	Elizabeth Izaguirre
12/31	Paula P. Hecht