

December 24, 2017

First Presbyterian Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Following Jesus, Transforming Life

Mission Statement:

First Presbyterian Church of Arlington is transforming life by glorifying God, following Jesus, and loving our neighbor.

Ask an usher for a large print bulletin, Bible, or hearing enhancement device.

Prayer cards, visitor information cards, and offering envelopes can be found in the pews. Please place them in the offering plate.

Preaching: Rev. Chris Campbell

Liturgist: Rev. Rich McDermott

8:30 Lay Leader: Jonathan Terwilliger

11:00 Lay Leader: Jane Leathem

The Worship of God

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

The poinsettias are given to the glory of God.

Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Prelude From Heaven Above to Earth I Come Friederich Wilhelm Zachau

Lighting of the Advent Wreath The Duncan Family, The Campbell Family

§ Hymn 102 Savior of the Nations, Come NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

O God of compassion, have mercy upon us. You send forth your Spirit, yet we ignore your counsel. Christ dwells among us, yet we fail to obey him. We sing of peace on earth, yet hostility continues. Angels herald good tidings, yet we commit evil deeds.

Forgive our deliberate and indirect misuse of your graciousness, and make us worthy to receive Christ in our lives. Amen.

§ Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel! **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!**

§ The Gloria Patri GREATOREX

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

§ Passing the Peace Greet those around you with, **“The peace of Christ be with you.”**

§ Hymn 83 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus STUTTGART

Community Joys and Events

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading Isaiah 9:6-7 Old Testament page 638

Children’s Time (11:00)

Children (age 3 to fourth grade) are invited to go to Kids For Christ (KFC) in room 216.

Sermon Notes

Prince of Peace Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 2:8-20

Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve service will be in
the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

There will be no Sunday School on December 24 or 31. Adult classes may meet or not, as they wish. Instead, everyone is invited to share in a time of fellowship between the two worship services.

Meet in the Fellowship Hall for light refreshments.

The Mitten Tree

During this season of Advent, you can help your church, plus you can show your Christian love, when you bring nice WARM mittens and hats and gloves to hang on the mitten tree! The Mitten Tree is near the choir room. Your church will give the nice WARM mittens and hats and gloves to children and grown-ups who need them this winter! You can find a 'thank you note' for this gift of your love in your Bible in Matthew 25:34-40! Merry Christmas!

The Dove Tree

The Dove Tree is in the Westminster Hall (outside the choir room). Each dove will have a name and address of one of our home bound members. Advent is a great time for us to spread love to those who cannot get out easily. Please take a dove from the tree and visit one of our home bound. A small gift, a card, a poinsettia, etc. will brighten their holiday season and you will be blessed in return.

Two December Special Offerings

Our church supports two special offerings during the month of December. One is to Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS). The other is Christmas Joy Offering which goes directly to Presbytery. Offering envelopes can be found outside the sanctuary or chapel or designate on your check which offering you are supporting.

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of four special offerings supported by our church. Three of these are designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The receipts from the Joy Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to the National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education. To view a brief video about the Christmas Joy Offering, visit www.pcusa.org/cjoffering.

Our church continually supports PCHAS but especially at Christmas. During the evening Christmas Eve services at our church, the offering will benefit the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS). To find out more about PCHAS, visit www.pchas.org. You could also speak to Marge and Bob Dawson, our PCHAS ambassadors, about this very worthy organization which supports many children and families in a variety of ways in the state of Texas.

PLEASE HELP US FINISH THE YEAR WELL!

FPCA depends on special end-of-year gifts and giving from our friends and members, and the Lord seems always to provide. Each year we budget to take in over twice a normal month's income in December because of the historic pattern of amazing generosity of our congregation at this time of year. Without this extra giving, we face a difficult finish to 2017, and we will need to dramatically revise our hopes for 2018. Will you please consider a generous gift to the Lord's work through FPCA before the end of the year? May God bless you richly for your generosity!

Stewardship 2018

Please help us by turning in a pledge card.

We are sending a second mailing to those from whom we have not yet heard, and there are additional pledge cards in the pews. We ask all of our friends and members to prayerfully consider what you can give to the Lord and his kingdom work through First Presbyterian Church of Arlington in 2018. Please return the two smaller parts of the pledge card, either in worship, or by mail, so we may know that you are committing yourself anew to the Lord's ministry at FPCA. Thank you so very much for your faithfulness to Jesus Christ and his Church!

Year-End Reminders

As December 31st quickly approaches, please consider these important reminders. In order for contributions to be deductible for 2017, they must be postmarked on or before December 31, 2017, if mailed. If your year-end contribution is given online, it needs to be completed by Friday, December 28th, since December 31st falls on a weekend. Contributions received on or before December 31st will be treated as 2017 gifts. Contributions received after that will be treated as 2018 gifts. Please contact us for further instructions if you wish to make non-cash gifts of stock. Gifts of this type should be planned well in advance to ensure that any transfer of assets will be completed by December 31.

We at First Presbyterian Church of Arlington know that every gift given to FPCA represents a step of faith and sacrifice. Please know that we are sincerely thankful for you and your support of the ministries here at First Presbyterian Church of Arlington.

FPCA's First Annual Parable of the Talents Show

Please join us February 18, 2018 at 12:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to support our youth as they present to you "FPCA's First Annual Parable of the Talents Show." This will be a talent show where our youth will showcase their biblical knowledge and talents. Lunch will be provided. We look forward to seeing you there.

Financial Peace University

What if you knew where all of your money was going each month? What if you had no house payment? What if your kid(s) college(s) were paid for? What if you could retire with peace? What if you could GIVE more than you've ever been able to give? What if you were debt-free, investing and making wise spending decisions? With Dave Ramsey's class Financial Peace University, you CAN take control of your money and start planning for your future, regardless of where you are in life. If you're interested in learning more about the class, contact Katina or James Gifford: 817-565-3835 or katinap84@aol.com. FPCA is offering it on Saturdays from 10-11:30 am, January 13 to March 10, 2018. If you would like to go ahead and sign up, go to the following link or ask us to help you! Link: <https://fpu.com/1051680>

**Childcare will be available upon request. Classes will be held in the Parlor at FPCA.

This Changed Everything 500 Years of the Reformation - Film Series

What: A 6-week documentary film class

When: 9:45 a.m. on January 7, 14, 21, 28 and February 4, 11

Where: Fellowship Hall

Each Week: 30 minutes of film, 30 minutes of questions and discussion.

Text Giving

FPCA's Text Giving number is: 817-318-7013

Visit us at www.FirstPresTexas.org.

The News – In 2018, you will have choices!

Starting in January 2018, you will have choices on how The NEWS is delivered to you.

*It will continue to be in our church-wide emails with a link to The NEWS.

*You can Opt-In to have the FPCA NEWS mailed to you if you prefer a paper copy. Just call the office to let them know.

*Or you can always go to our website at firstprestexas.org and find the Newsletter under the Media tab.

The bottom line is, we will be relying more on digital ways to get you the newsletter, and we will be saving money on printing costs and paper. But remember, you can always call the church office and let them know if you prefer a paper copy of The NEWS mailed to you.

Also, if you are not receiving our weekly FPCA E-News church-wide emails and you would like to receive them, please call the church office at 817-274-8286.

This week @ FPCA

Sunday 12/24

8:30 a.m. Worship in Chapel
9:45 a.m. Refreshments & Fellowship
11:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
2:00 p.m. PCGRC
5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight
 Service

Monday 12/25

Preschool & Church Office Closed

Tuesday 12/26

Preschool Closed

Wednesday 12/27

Preschool Closed

Thursday 12/28

Preschool Closed

Friday 12/29

Preschool Closed

Information for the January 7 bulletin should be turned in to the church office today, or emailed to kim@firstprestexas.org by this Monday.

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Esther Albright, Yvonne Babb, Elaine Bahn, David Boice, Debbie Boice, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Tommy and Kathryn Copeland and family, Laura and Moses Duffney, Bobbie Fowler, Tom Fowler, Lila Glenn, David Goff, Jack Gray, Andrew Hydock, Claudia Johnson, Tim Karnes, Bob Koch, Pat May, J. Fred Miller, Allen Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Cosme Pacot, John Pittman, Jim L. Quick, Aileigh Rodriguez, Albert Ross, Kyle Terwilliger, Donna Vickers, Karl Winter, Mary Jane Wright

Prayers for family serving in the armed forces:

Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Jack Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Christopher Young, Robbie Wallace

Prayers for our home-bound members

Prayers for those who do not know Christ

If you have any congregational care needs, please contact Pastor Rich McDermott at the church office 817-274-8286.

For questions about specific concerns listed above, please contact Juanice Young at juanicey@gmail.com or 817-794-5626.

Staff Directory

Rich McDermott	Senior Pastor	rich@firstprestexas.org
Chris Campbell	Associate Pastor for Missional Discipleship	chris@firstprestexas.org
Russell Farnell	Minister of Music	russell@firstprestexas.org
Josh Lang	Organist	josh@firstprestexas.org
Gary Lindley	Office Manager	facilities@firstprestexas.org
Adrian Rodriguez	Director of Youth Ministry	adrian@firstprestexas.org
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