

December 2, 2018

First Presbyterian Church

The First Sunday of Advent

THE STORY

READ THE STORY
EXPERIENCE THE BIBLE



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. Rich McDermott

Liturgist: Rev. Chris Campbell

Guest Organist: Susan Fuchs

8:30 Lay Leader: Kathi Dailey

11:00 Lay Leader: Jim C Quick

The Worship of God

8:30 and 11:00 a.m.

Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

Gathering

Preparation for Worship

God can and does use people with flaws to carry out his plans and further his Kingdom.

Prelude Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying Johann Walther

Lighting of the Advent Wreath (8:30) The Le Blanc Family, (11:00) The Annen Family

§ Hymn 82 Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL

Voluntary What Child Is This? arr. L. Farnell

Children's Music Ministries Chimes Cassandra Kirby, director

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

God of fierce compassion, you call us to make our ways straight, yet we get lost down crooked roads of selfish concern. We are to prepare the way for your reign of justice, but we choose easier paths of comfort.

Have mercy on us. Forgive us and set us back to work, clearing paths of justice, building highways of peace, and preparing the world for your return. Amen.

§ Assurance of Pardon

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

§ The Gloria Patri

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 647 Give Thanks GIVE THANKS

Community Joys and Events

Anthem (11:00) Lullaby Noel arr. George Strid

Children's Music Ministries Laura Farnell, director Cheryl Harris, piano

Long, long ago on a cold winter day, one little child in a manger did lay.

Mary, his mother, did sing him to sleep while snow was falling so soft and deep.

"Gloria! Gloria!" the angels did tell. "We bear glad tidings this first Noel!"

The first noel the angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, born is the King of Israel.

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading 2 Samuel 11:1–15, 26–27a Old Testament page 284

Children's Time (11:00)

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

The Lord's Prayer



Our Fa - ther who art in heav - en, hal - low - ed be thy name; _____

Thy king - dom come; Thy will be done on Earth as it is in heav - en.

Give us this day our dai - ly bread; for - give us our debts as we for - give our debt - ors;

Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil:

For Thine is the king - dom, and the pow - er, and the glo - ry, for - ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Comments for Contemplation

The Trials of a King: David

2 Samuel 11:1–15, 26-27a; 2 Samuel 11:27b–12:14

1. But as our story begins today, in a time of comfort, ease, and, perhaps, boredom, King David seemed to lose his thankfulness, his gratitude to God, or as Chesterton suggests, his happiness doubled by wonder. The adage about how _____ corrupts seems to apply here.
2. We should learn at least three things from this tragic story. 1) Beware of thinking that you are privileged and entitled; 2) The Lord has given us clear directions on trusting God and living by faith in him in our moral and sexual behavior. We ignore those directions at our own peril; and 3) While all sin separates us from God, and God can forgive us for our sin, the _____ of our sin differs.
3. Like a football coach that wants to lead from a heated press box high above the cold, windswept field, King David would only lead his army from his nice home in Jerusalem. And instead of living that life of gratitude and thankfulness to God, which he had demonstrated in the past, David's life of comfort and ease had weakened his courage, his _____ and his discipline.
4. Third, this is a story for all of us, because all of us have a story like this, a story of sin and our attempts to justify it, or cover it up. We should not look down on David, but we can _____ from his mistakes.
5. We must not think of ourselves as privileged and entitled, but rather as dependent and servants of the living God. That might have saved a lot of heartache for David, if he had lived that out. We need to know what God's word says so that we can know what God _____ of us, and follow.



ONE Worship Service on Sunday, December 9

Next Sunday, December 9, will be the Advent Festival at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

There will be NO 8:30 a.m. service.

Sunday School schedule continues as usual.

An Advent Festival

a service of worship in song

celebrating the coming of the

Savior with choir, organ, and brass

Sunday, December 9, 2018

11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

featuring *Gloria* by John Rutter and

Glory to God by Russell Farnell



Congregational Meeting

This Sunday, December 2, at 12:05 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will be:

- 1) Voting to elect 4 Elders, 7 Deacons, 2 members of the Congregational Nominating Team (CNT) and 1 Trustee; and,
- 2) Approving the Pastors' Terms of Call.

Thank you for joining us!

Christmas Poinsettias!

Please help us prepare our Sanctuary to celebrate the birth of our Savior by ordering a poinsettia. Order forms are in the Narthex, Chapel hall and church office. Please complete the form and place it in the offering plate, the baskets in the Chapel hall and Narthex, or mail/bring them to the church office.

The cost is \$10.00 each and the deadline to order is Sunday, December 9.



FIGHT BACK WITH JOY: Celebrate More, Regret Less, Stare Down Your Greatest Fears

FIGHT BACK WITH JOY, a Bible Study by Margaret Feinberg will be our Sunday School topic for five weeks during Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30 and Jan. 6. This will be a great opportunity for friends and family who struggle during the holidays at this time of year. Margaret will be our teacher through an excellent DVD series.

She will teach us on six topics in five weeks:

Dec. 9: Secrets of Joyful People; The Hidden Treasure of Joy;

Dec. 16: Poke Holes in the Darkness;

Dec. 23: A Side of Joy No One Talks About;

Dec. 30: The Holy Mess of Joy;

Jan. 6: What to Do When Those You Love Are Hurting.

While no books are necessary for this study, a Bible Study book (yellow) and Margaret's book (green) on the topic are available to be purchased online through LifeWay.com, Christianbook.com, and Amazon.com.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 AM Sundays, and bring a friend or family member.

Gifts of Hope returns!

FPCA will once again be offering Gifts of Hope for the 2018 Advent Season. Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift market that offers a creative and caring way to honor friends, family members, colleagues, etc. through donations to a wide range of outreach organizations. "Shoppers" choose an organization, donate the amount specified, and then receive a card to give as a gift to friends or family. This program not only supports outreach organizations, but also seeks to offer a less materialistic option for gift giving.

Gifts of Hope will be available for sale after both worship services between Sunday, December 2nd and Sunday, December 16th. If you have any questions or are available to help with the program (by selling Gifts of Hope before/after worship services, etc.), please email Laura Farnell at Laura.Farnell@gmail.com or call or text (682) 478-5676.

Preschool Christmas Program

The Preschool will have the Christmas Program on Thursday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Following the program will be photos and cookies with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Fellowship Hall.

We hope you all will join us!

The Mitten Tree

Please help families during this Christmas season and during the cold winter months by bringing new warm gloves, hats, and scarves and hang them on the Mitten Tree! These will be given to Arlington Charities for children and adults in time for Christmas. The Mitten Tree is located by the choir room. Please stop by and make someone's Christmas happy...and WARM!

The Dove Tree

The Dove Tree will be up December 1 in the Westminster Hall. 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.

Festival of Tables

*Tuesday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall*

Come Celebrate the Season!

Members of the Chancel Choir will present the program.

- Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Arlington Life Shelter.
- Guests are welcome to bring an unwrapped toy. All toys will be donated to the Salvation Army.
- Childcare is available upon request at time of ticket purchase.

Festival of Tables Tickets

Remember! The Festival of Tables is next Tuesday, December 4, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

A few tickets remain. If you would like to buy one (or more), Jamie Mickelson will be glad to help you.

You can contact her at jabm13@yahoo.com. First come, first served. Come enjoy a delightful evening!

December's Two Special Offerings

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

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 <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/christmasjoy>.

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

Submitted by Sheri Quick and Bob Dawson, Mission and Evangelism Team

This week @ FPCA

Sunday 12/2

8:30 a.m. Worship in Chapel
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 9:45 a.m. Confirmation Class
 11:00 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
 12:15 p.m. Children's Music Lunch
 12:45 p.m. Children's Music Ministries
 2:00 p.m. PCGRC

Monday 12/3

3:30 p.m. Blanton Kids Beach Club

Tuesday 12/4

9:00 a.m. Senior Flexibility Class
 10:00 a.m. Ladies Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. HOPE Tutoring

Wednesday 12/5

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
 10:00 a.m. Quilting Group
 6:00 p.m. Ring of Praise Handbells
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday 12/6

2:45 p.m. Mentoring Program
 6:30 p.m. HOPE Tutoring
 7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

Friday 12/7

9:00 a.m. Senior Flexibility Class

Saturday 12/9

9:00 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Information for the December 16 bulletin should be turned into Kim at the church office by this Monday.

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Esther Albright, Richard Ankele, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, Shirley Bragg, James (Andrew) Bridges, Kevin Chin, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Mike Copeland, Michael Deardorff, Laura, Moses and Abe Duffney, Neal Estes, Don Farrell, Bobbie Fowler, Tom Fowler, Joe and Lila Glenn, Jack Gray, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes, Pat May, J. Fred Miller, Allen Miller, Barbara Mooers, Ruth Moore, Cosme Pacot, J.D. Paulk, Bill and Sue Perry, John Pittman, Nita Price, Jim L. Quick, Sarah Rabb, Joanna Rabourn, Al Smithson, Kyle Terwilliger, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Richard Whitenight, Jake Winkler, Karl Winter, Mary Jane Wright, Bob Zakrzewski

Prayers for family serving in the armed forces:

Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, James Dailey, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Amie Murtha, 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 Marge Dawson at mdawsonarltx@att.net or 817-980-6825.

