

November 28, 2021

First Presbyterian Church

The First 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.

Preaching: Rev. Chris Campbell
Lay Leader: Jane Leathem
Organist: Shina Heo

The Worship of God

Words in bold are spoken by the congregation.

§ Invites all who are able to stand.

*Please silence all phones and devices.
Please fill out the Friendship pad in your pew.*

Gathering

Prelude

Lord Christ, the Only Son of God

Johann Sebastian Bach

Prayer for Preparation

*Holy God, you have promised us that the day of our salvation is near.
Keep us in faithful love and watchful in prayer,
so that we may stand with confidence and joy
at the coming of Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.*

Lighting the Advent Candles

The Campbell Family

We light the candle of Hope as a sign of the coming light of Christ,
who is called the Son of the Most High;

Of his kingdom there will be no end.

About the hour or Christ's coming no one knows; therefore keep awake,
for you do not know when the time will come.

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the Word of God endures forever.

Welcome

§ Hymn 82

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

§ Prayer of Confession (silently, then said together)

**Lord, have mercy on us. We are not ready for your coming. We live in sin, as though there were
no justice. We live in fear, as though there were no grace.**

**Forgive us, Lord. Show us your mercy and steadfast love. Lead us in your truth, and teach us
your paths, for you are the God of our salvation. 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.

Proclaiming

Children's Time

Children (age 3 to fourth grade) are invited to go to Kids For Christ (KFC) in the Fellowship Hall.

Gospel Reading	Luke 21:25–36	New Testament page 85
Anthem	Call to Advent	Jerome Williams
New Testament Reading	1 Thessalonians 3:9–13	New Testament page 204
The Sermon	Boundless Love	Rev. Campbell

Responding

§ Hymn 93 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates TRURO

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Offering of our Tithes, Gifts, and Lives

Offertory Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Gilbert Martin

§ The Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

§ Affirmation of Faith Colossians 1:15–20

**Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in
heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created
through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he
might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased
to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in
heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.**

Sending

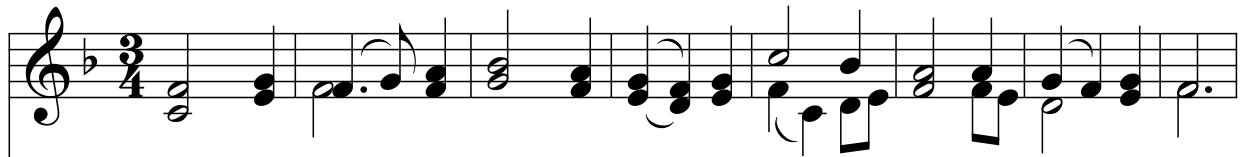
§ Hymn 87 Comfort, Comfort Now My People GENEVAN 42

§ Charge and Benediction

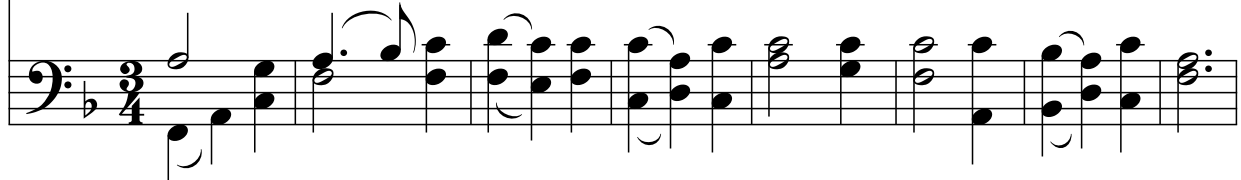
Postlude We Three Kings arr. Diane Bish



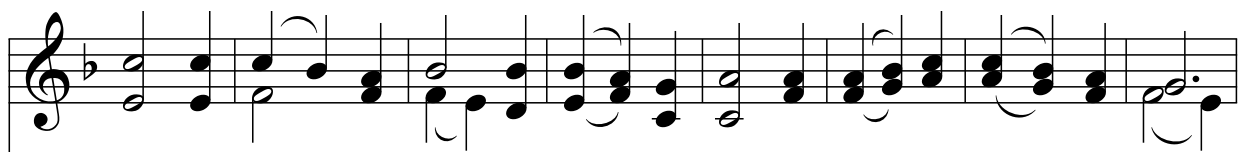
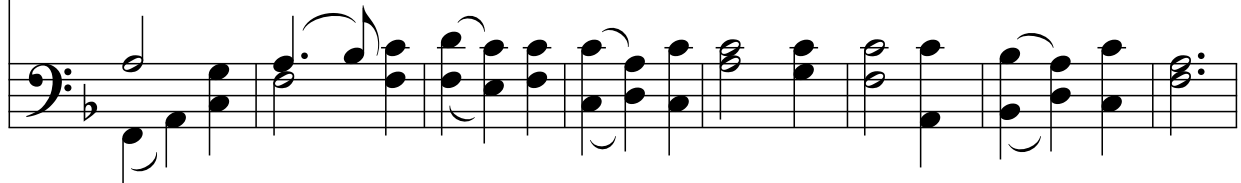
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus 82



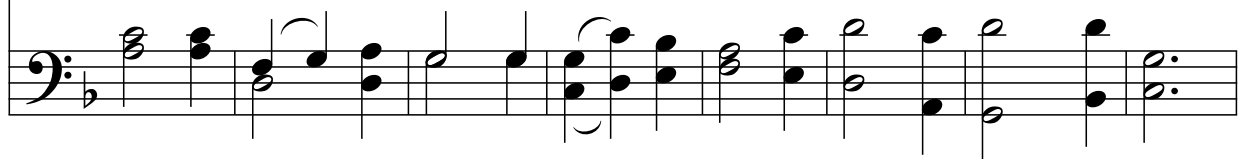
1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
 2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



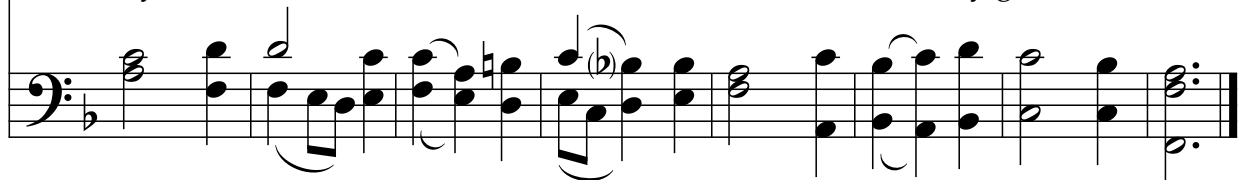
from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
 born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra-cious king-dom bring.



Is-rael's strength and con-so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
 by thine all - suf-fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo-rious throne.



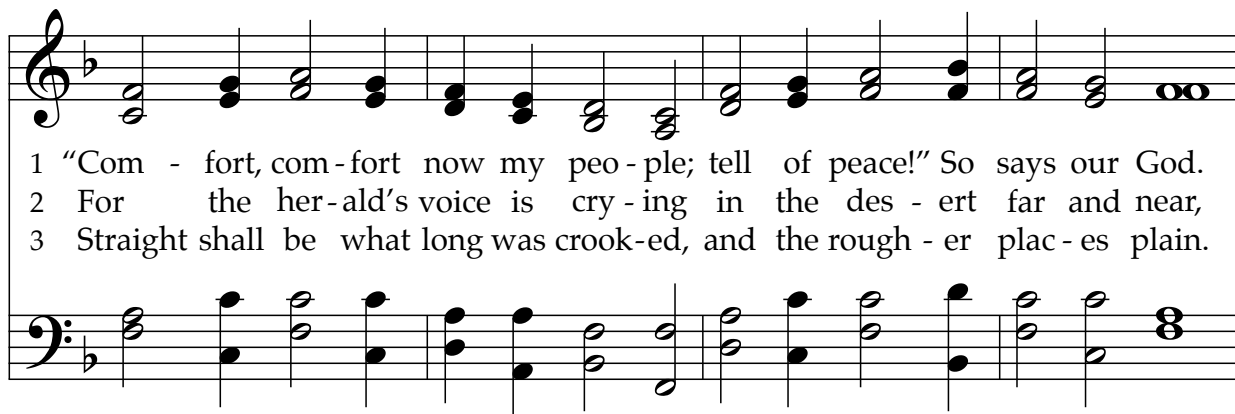
Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates 93

1 Lift up your heads, ye might - y gates; be - hold the
 2 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; make it a
 3 Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to

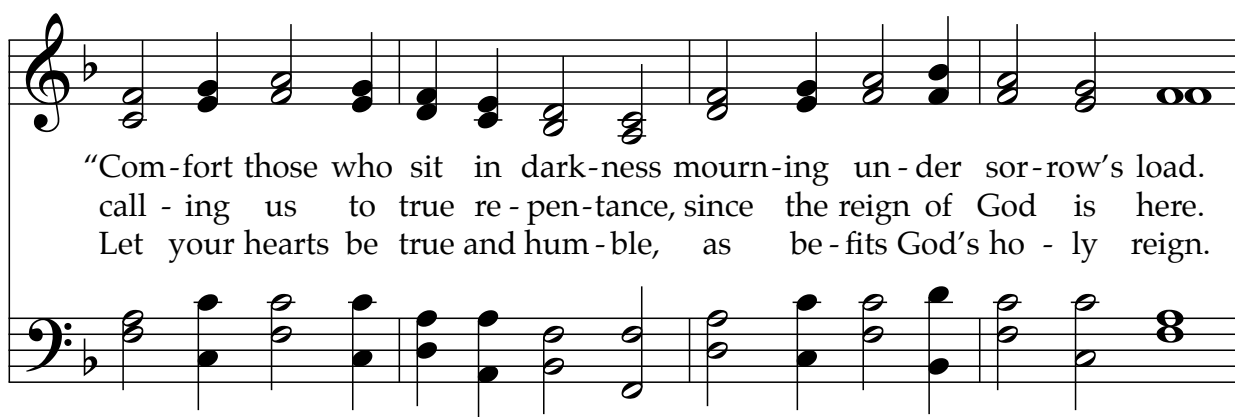
King of glo - ry waits; the King of kings is
 tem - ple, set a - part from earth - ly use for
 thee; here, Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner

draw - ing near; the Sav - ior of the world is here.
 heaven's em - ploy, a - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 pres - ence feel; thy grace and love in me re - veal.

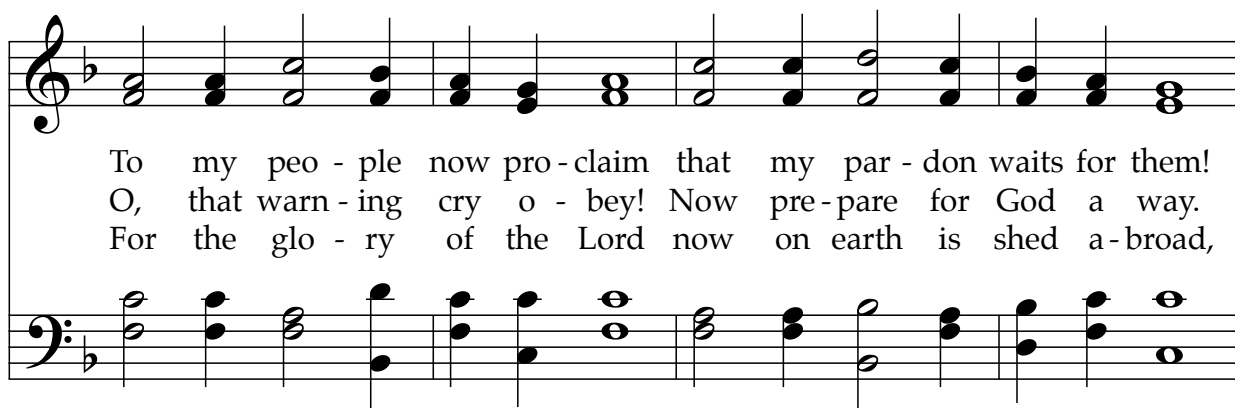
Comfort, Comfort Now My People 87



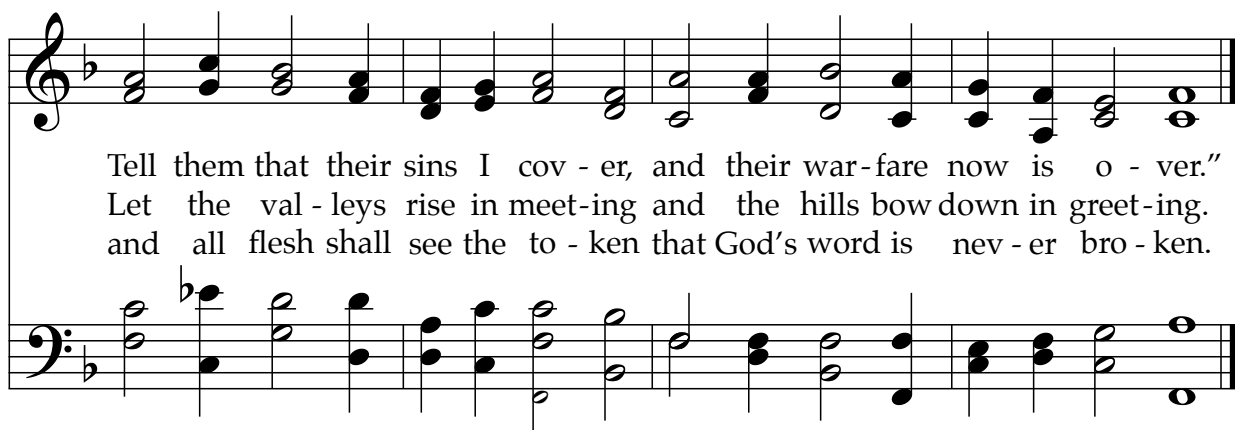
1 "Com - fort, com - fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



"Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn - ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits God's ho - ly reign.



To my peo - ple now pro - claim that my par - don waits for them!
O, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war - fare now is o - ver."
Let the val - leys rise in meet - ing and the hills bow down in greet - ing.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Sermon Notes

Boundless Love

Luke 21:25–36; 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

“For it is never allowable for us to congratulate men, while they live in this world, in such unqualified terms as not always to desire something better for them. Hence, whatever progress we may have made, let us always keep in view our deficiencies, that we may not be reluctant to aim at something farther.” - John Calvin

Four Aspects of Faith that Needed Completing:

1) Adoration of Jesus

“We need a fresh emphasis on the lordship of Christ, delivered without apology or equivocation. Before he is our teacher, healer, leader, or exemplar, he is our sovereign Lord. That is what he considered himself first of all to be... Too often Christ is made one among many saviors, and this is supposed to be an evidence of tolerance and magnanimity. We actually labor to show how much he has in common with Buddha, Mohammed, and Confucius, and continually emphasize his likeness to other good men... We give the impression that the difference between him and others is after all a difference in degree, not in nature... So we rob him of his uniqueness and sovereignty. We respect but do not worship him; we praise but do not obey him; we admire but do not follow him. He is a fluctuating emotion, not a ruling passion.” - The Interpreter’s Bible Commentary

2) Humility

3) Brotherhood

4) Holiness of Heart

“I’ll never give up on a player regardless of his ability as long as he never gives up on himself. In time he will develop.” - Bear Bryant

This week @ FPCA

Sunday 11/28	9:45 a.m.	Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
Monday 11/29	6:30 p.m.	HOPE Tutoring
Tuesday 11/30	9:30 a.m.	Senior Flexibility Class
	10:30 a.m.	Tues. Morning Women's Bible Study
Wednesday 12/1	8:30 a.m.	Men's Bible Study
	10:00 a.m.	Quilting
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Thursday 12/2	7:00 p.m.	Team Meeting Night
Friday 12/3	9:30 a.m.	Senior Flexibility Class
	6:00 p.m.	Kids Night Out

Information for the December 5 bulletin should be turned in to Kim at the church office by this Monday.

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Apana Agha, Sandra Boice, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Carol Browning, Vannah Caylor, John Clements, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Lloyd Counts, the Ellis Family, the Farnell Family, Don Farrell, Yvette Fielder, the Formusoh Family, the Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, the Gottmann Family, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Barbara Mooers, Jim L. Quick, Jillian Reynolds, Joan Reynolds, Beth Rotert, Kathy Rotert, John and Donna Vickers, and Nancy Welborne.

Prayers for family serving in the armed forces:

Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Amie Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, Robbie Wallace

Prayers for our home-bound members:

Esther Albright, Suzette Armstrong, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Barbara Hughes, Jeanne Malone, Charlene Miller, Cary Moore, Carrie Pacot, Ann Pitstick, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, Mary Jane Wright.

Prayers for those who do not know Christ

If you have any congregational care needs, please contact Pastor Chris Campbell at 817-274-8286.

Staff Directory

Chris Campbell	Lead Pastor	chris@firstprestexas.org
Russell Farnell	Minister of Music	russell@firstprestexas.org
Shina Heo	Organist	shina@firstprestexas.org
Adrian Rodriguez	Director of Youth Ministry	adrian@firstprestexas.org
Kyle Terwilliger	Director of Children's Ministry	kyle@firstprestexas.org
Eric Gottmann	Director of Social Media	eric@firstprestexas.org
Cheryl Harris	Music Ministry Associate	cheryl@firstprestexas.org
Jeanne Chin	Finance Manager	jeanne@firstprestexas.org
Kim Lewis	Administrative Ministry Assistant	kim@firstprestexas.org
Jane Leathem	Finance Assistant	jane@firstprestexas.org



An Advent Festival

a service of worship in song

celebrating the coming of the
Savior with choir, organ, and brass

Sunday, December 12, 2021

11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary

featuring *Gloria* by John Rutter and
Glory to God by Russell Farnell

First Presbyterian Church
1200 S. Collins St
Arlington, TX 76010
www.FirstPresTexas.org

Congregational Meeting with Election of Officers

The Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, December 5 at 12:05 p.m. in the Sanctuary for the purpose of Election of Officers.

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 and church office. Please complete the form and place it in the offering plate, the basket in the Narthex, or mail/bring them to the church office. The cost is \$10.00 each and the deadline to order is Sunday, December 19.

Friendship Pads

Please take the time to fill out the Friendship Pad in your pew. Whether you're a guest or a member, we would love to have your contact information so we can keep in touch with you.

Comfort and Joy
Tuesday, December 7, 2021
7:00 p.m. Zoom

The FPCA Women's Ministry Team invites you to a special Christmas event. Russell Farnell, our Minister of Music, will show us how the meaning of cherished Christmas carols can help us anticipate the birth of our Savior. Join us online as we prepare our hearts to celebrate Christmas and embrace the comfort and joy of the season.

Please feel free to continue giving as you have during this time whether that is mailing checks or giving online. We are most thankful for your generous support!

To register:

- * Visit the FPCA website (www.firstprestexas.org)
- * Select the "Get Connected" Menu
- * Choose "Adult"
- * Scroll down to the "Women's Ministry" section and fill out the registration form

FPCA's Two Special Offerings in December

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). Special offering envelopes can be found outside the sanctuary or chapel or you can designate on a blank envelope or your check which offering you are supporting.



A Presbyterian tradition for seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to provide congregations a direct way 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 read a brief account of how one family benefited from the Christmas Joy Offering, visit: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/story/arms-church-around-us/>.



PCHAS Our church continually supports PCHAS but especially at Christmas. During FPCA's Christmas Eve services, the undesignated offerings will benefit PCHAS. 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. To find out more about PCHAS, visit: <https://www.pchas.org/who-we-are/pchas-way>.

Gifts of Hope

FPCA will once again be offering Gifts of Hope for the 2021 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 on Sundays before and after the 11AM worship service starting Sunday, December 5th and ending Sunday, December 19th. They are also available for sale in the church office during the week. 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 Suzie McCoy at smccoybelize@gmail.com, Laura Farnell at laura.farnell@gmail.com, or contact the church office.

The Mitten Tree 2021

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 in the red hall. Please stop by and make someone's Christmas happy...and WARM!

The Dove Tree 2021

The Dove tree is up in the Narthex. Each dove has a name of one of our home bound members. Please take a dove and make a visit to one of our senior members. A small gift, a visit, poinsettia, etc. will brighten their Christmas season and you will be blessed in return.

Offering

If you would like to give your tithes and offerings in person today, please use the envelope provided in the pews. You can drop the envelope during the offering time or in the offering basket in the Narthex while departing the sanctuary when the service is completed.

Please feel free to continue giving as you have during this time whether that is mailing checks or giving online. We are most thankful for your generous support!

Children's Ministry Upcoming Activities

Kids Night Out is a great time for kids to have fun playing, eating pizza, connecting with one another and having a short Bible lesson. It is also a chance for parents to have a couple of hours without the kids to connect, relax, and have fun. Kids Night Out is on Friday from 6:00-8:00 p.m. about twice a month during the school year for children in 6th grade or younger. Kids can be dropped off, signed-in, and picked-up by the Fellowship Hall. Below is the date for the next Kids Night Out:

December 3

FPCA Newsletter

The Newsletter is available in the Narthex and outside the Chapel. The News continues to be in the church-wide email each month. The Newsletter is also on our church website at firstprestexas.org.

By using this digital method to send the Newsletter, the church is saving with both printing and mailing costs. If you prefer to have a copy mailed to you, please give the church office a call and let them know. Ex nocute dem ia orest contere dentri in deo, nim sil utum popte tereo, quamquo diisum conum tem, fuit? Ratamdi, querius et ommo

Offering Envelopes - Reminder

Please remember to pick up your offering envelopes in the Narthex before or after the service. During the week the offering envelopes will be in the church office. If you would like them mailed to you, please call the church office .

SUPPORT THE CHURCH'S ONLINE PRESENCE

MAKE SURE TO LIKE OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!

GO TO

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTPRESTEXAS

