

*Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.*

**Isaiah 7:14**



December  
2022

# The News

## Table of Contents

It's the Most Wonderful Thing in the Most Wonderful Time of the Year .....	2
Finance Update.....	3
Children`s Ministry .....	4
Youth Ministry .....	6
Thanksgiving Basket .....	6
Monthly Food Bank .....	7
Gifts of Hope.....	7
Christmas Poinsettias .....	7
Two Special Offerings in December.....	8
An Advent Festival .....	8
This Month .....	9
Prayer Ministry.....	10

### Newsletter Team

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The News is a publication of  
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# It's the Most Wonderful Thing in the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

I never hesitate to share how baptisms are the favorite thing I get to do as a pastor. Each one is unique. With infants, you never know exactly how they will react. Was the water too cold or just right? Young children show an exuberance and enthusiasm about Jesus most adults are too embarrassed to show publicly. And the times when adults come forward to be baptized is an example of humility and faith we all need to witness and learn from.

The liturgy, the questions to disciples, parents, and the congregation, all of it point to God's action in claiming us as his children. And we get to joyfully respond through baptism to claim God as our own as well. We become part of the church universal, the body of Christ.

Last month, we celebrated the baptism of Mateo and this month we will celebrate three more. And as a little sneak preview, we will have a baby dedication and an adult reaffirm their baptismal covenant after the New Year! I love seeing this movement of the Spirit throughout our congregation and what a joyful time to celebrate these decisions! If able, please be in worship on Decemeber 18th and Christmas Day (how cool is that?!) to be a part of these baptisms at FPCA.

Pastor Chris

[chris@firstprestexas.org](mailto:chris@firstprestexas.org)

# Finance Update

**For the month of October 2022:**

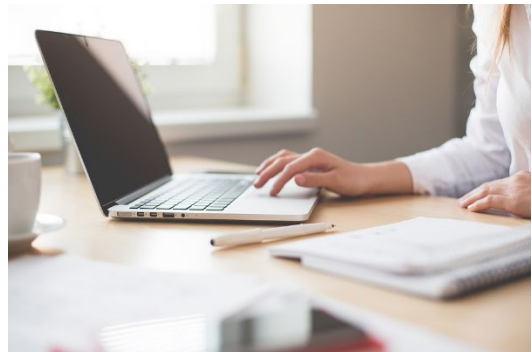
Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$107,244

Expense: (\$84,227)

Income - Expense for month: **\$23,017**

Income - Expense for 2022 Year to Date: **\$60,259**



## Comments:

We are always so grateful for your generous donations. Because of your support we were able to:

- start our new generosity initiative called “BEYOND,” as we move collectively into a season of growth and expansion of our ministry into the community around us.
- enjoy a wonderful Trunk or Treat event along with 500-600 or so children and families from our community.
- learn more about our community and those who serve it with our OneCOP (One Congregation One Precint) partner, Officer Trowbridge, on Faith and Blue Sunday.
- kick off our annual Thanksgiving Basket Drive, partnering with Arlington Charities, to help feed families who are having financial difficulties, so they can celebrate Thanksgiving together at home.
- provide opportunities to serve our community and distribute food at the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.
- As of October, our Capital Campaign fund balance is \$1,332,484.

We are doing well, and, because of you, we are able to carry out the ministries that are calling to our FPCA family. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns, at [jeanne@firstprestexas.org](mailto:jeanne@firstprestexas.org).

# Children`s Ministry

## Preschool



### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

Christmas is about celebrating the most special person . . . Jesus! Jesus is special because Jesus is God’s Son. We don’t have to buy him a gift, and we don’t have to wear fancy clothes to His birthday party. But we can celebrate Him.

So, let’s throw a pajama party to help our preschoolers celebrate and learn that Jesus is God’s Son. We want our preschoolers to know that God loved the world so much that He gave His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever and to make a way for us to always be with Him. It’s our biggest hope that you will create such a memorable month for preschoolers that they will never forget that Jesus is special because Jesus is God’s Son.

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> The Angel and Mary Luke 1:26-33, 38, 46-49	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> God told Mary she would have His Son, Jesus.
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-7	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> Jesus is born.
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> The Shepherds Luke 2:8-22	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> The shepherds run to Jesus.
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Wise Men Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	<b>STORY FOCUS</b> The wise men come to see God’s Son.

MEMORY VERSE	KEY QUESTION	BOTTOM LINE
<p>“GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON.” JOHN 3:16, GNT</p>	<p>WHY IS JESUS SPECIAL?</p>	<p>JESUS IS GOD’S SON.</p>
<p>GOD LOVES ME.</p>		

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## Elementary and KFC



**ELEMENTARY**  
DECEMBER 2022

### MONTHLY OVERVIEW

#### GOD VIEW:

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

James, the brother of Jesus, wrote that every good and perfect gift comes from God, but the best gift God ever gave was Jesus. From the beginning, God has had a plan to rescue the world from the consequences of sin. Jesus is the fulfilment of God's plan. Because of Jesus, it's possible for us to have a relationship with God that will last forever. As we remember the Christmas story, we take time to celebrate the greatest gift the world has ever known.

<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Jesus Is Promised Isaiah 9:6-7	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> God always has a plan.
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Zechariah/Elizabeth and Gabriel/Mary Luke 1:5-66	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Anything is possible with God.
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Jesus Is Born Luke 2:1-7	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> Jesus is the greatest gift.
<b>WEEK FOUR</b>	<b>BIBLE STORY</b> Shepherds and Angels Luke 2:8-20	<b>BOTTOM LINE</b> The good news is for everyone.

<b>MEMORY VERSE</b>	"TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU. HE IS THE MESSIAH, THE LORD." LUKE 2:11, NIRV
<b>CHRISTMAS</b>	CELEBRATING JESUS, GOD'S GREATEST GIFT

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### Save the date:

December 2-Kids Night Out from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

December 11- Christmas Party

# Youth Ministry

## *5 New, Memory-Making Advent Traditions*

By Parent Cue

So much of the holiday season is rushing and waiting. We rush to decorate, buy gifts, attend parties, and see family. We wait for the cookies to bake, Santa to arrive, and a comforting return to normalcy. In the midst of it all, it's easy to forget to help our kids understand what makes this season important: spending time with loved ones and reflecting on the amazing gift of Jesus.

The best present you could ever give is your presence. Here are five ways to make quality memories with your family this season:

1. Turn off the lights and read the Christmas story from Luke 1-2:38 by the light of the Christmas tree. (Have a house with little ones? You could even use characters from a Nativity scene to act it out!)
2. Make a holiday breakfast for dinner. Turn your pancakes into snowmen with chocolate chip faces and bacon scarves.
3. Leave bagged Christmas snacks and drinks at your doorstep for the delivery people showing up all season. Make a festive sign to say "thank you!"
4. Have each family member choose a cookie cutter that represents something good God has done for them this year. Then bake and decorate a batch of cut-out cookies. (There's no shame in ready-made dough!)
5. At bedtime, retell the story of each of your children's birth or arrival in the family. Pray for families who are welcoming children in the midst of unusual or difficult circumstances right now.

Blessings,

Adrian

## Thanksgiving Basket

Because of the generosity of the FPCA congregation, we turned in 161 bags of food and \$3,120 to Arlington Charities to provide food for shut-ins so they could have a Thanksgiving Meal.

Thank you very much. The Mission and Evangelism Team

# Monthly Food Bank

Join us Saturday, December 10, starting at 8:30 a.m. to distribute food, or bring your neighbors to receive food, at the Arlington Charities mobile food bank.

St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

2045 SE Green Oaks Blvd

Arlington, TX 76018

It's just east of New York Ave, so if you're coming from the west, make a U-turn at Sherry St. Volunteer parking is just south of the church and food is distributed on the west side of the church.



# Gifts of Hope

FPCA will once again be offering Gifts of Hope for the 2022 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 4th and ending Sunday, December 18th. 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](mailto:smccoybelize@gmail.com), Laura Farnell at [laura.farnell@gmail.com](mailto:laura.farnell@gmail.com), or contact the church office.

# Christmas Poinsettias

Help prepare the Sanctuary to celebrate the birth of the Savior by ordering a poinsettia that will decorate the Chancel Sunday, December 18, through the Christmas Season. Poinsettia orders can be dedicated in honor or memory of a loved one. Order forms are available in the Narthex. Place completed forms in the basket or the offering plate, or bring it to the church office. The cost is \$12.00 each, and the deadline is December 11.



# Two Special Offerings in December

## Two Special Offerings in December

Our church supports two special offerings during the month of December. 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.

**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 brief accounts of those who have benefited from the Christmas Joy Offering, visit: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/stories/>

Our church continually supports PCHAS but especially at Christmas. During FPCA's Christmas Eve service, 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, some services you might find helpful. For more about PCHAS, visit: <https://www.pchas.org/who-we-are/pchas-way>

# An Advent Festival

## An Advent Festival

a service of worship in song

celebrating the coming of the Savior with  
choirs of children, youth, adults, and handbells,  
along with readings and congregational carols

**Sunday, December 11, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary**

featuring *Gloria: A Collage*  
including the works of Vivaldi, Rutter,  
Poulenc, Mozart, Schubert, Haydn, and Bass

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

[www.firstprestexas.org](http://www.firstprestexas.org)



# This Month

Some activities are postponed until further notice. Activities marked with \* are happening.



## Bible Studies

### Men's Bible Study \*

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the parlor. Men of all ages meet and enjoy great fellowship and a prayer session. All men are invited to join this study.

### Women's Bible Study\*

The Monday Night Women's Bible Study will resume Monday, September 19. The 2022-2023 study is *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*. Questions? Contact Debbie Richardson at 817.675.2867 or Sheri Quick at shერიq@aol.com.

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study \*

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Brides Room every Tuesday morning at 10:30a.m.

### CWF Women's Bible Study\*

Meet virtually every Wednesday at 7 p.m. EXCEPT the last Wednesday of the month they meet at FPCA in the Parlor.



## Music Ministries

### Chancel Choir \*

This is the primary worship leadership ensemble for the 11:00 service. The choir also sings for special services around Christmas and Holy Week. It is more than just a great choir; it is a caring fellowship. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. *Nursery care is provided if requested.*

### Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble\*

This handbell ensemble every on Wednesday, at 6 p.m.

### Youth Choir\*

The youth choir every Sunday, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

### Children's Music Ministries\*

The children's choirs every Sunday, from 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.



## Church Leadership

### Deacon Meeting \*

Thursday, December 10, the Diaconate meets for the Meal for Police.

### Team Meeting Night \*

Thursday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m., all teams meet for ministry planning and coordination.

### Session Meeting \*

Thursday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets in person in the Parlor to oversee the ministry of the church, indoor worship, budget, Generis, and other matters. The work of the Diaconate, church administration, and all Discipleship, Worship, Facility Management, and Mission and Evangelism ministries will be discussed.



## Fellowship

### Happy Quilters \*

This group meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. to quilt, sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and just enjoy being together. Bring your project and join in!

### Senior Flexibility Class \*

Come get fit with us! The Senior Flexibility Class will meet each week on Tuesday and Friday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

If interested, contact Mary Spencer at 817-689-0526 for more details.

First Presbyterian Church  
1200 S. Collins Street  
Arlington, TX 76010

**Deadline for the January issue of The News is December 15!**

## Prayer Ministry

**Prayers for those with health and other concerns:** The family of Jeanne Malone, Apana Agha, Jack Bos, Carol Browning, Billie Jo Campbell, Vannah Caylor, Frank Coburn, Edna Collins, Cyprian Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Bunny Floyd, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Grady Herzog, the Hydock Family, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Jim L. Quick, Tonya Scrabeck, Esther Teboh, John and Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, and Danny Womble.

**Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces:** Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Amie Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Ryan Powell, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, and Robbie Wallace

**Prayers for our homebound members:** Esther Albright, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Barbara Hughes, Family of Jeanne Malone, Charlene Miller, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, Mary Jane Wright, Polly Baugh, Lucy Cleaver, Madge Casselman, Elizabeth Harris.

Pray for those who do not know Christ!

If you have any congregational care needs, please contact either Pastor Chris Campbell or Parish Pastor Jim Shroyer at 817-274-8286.

