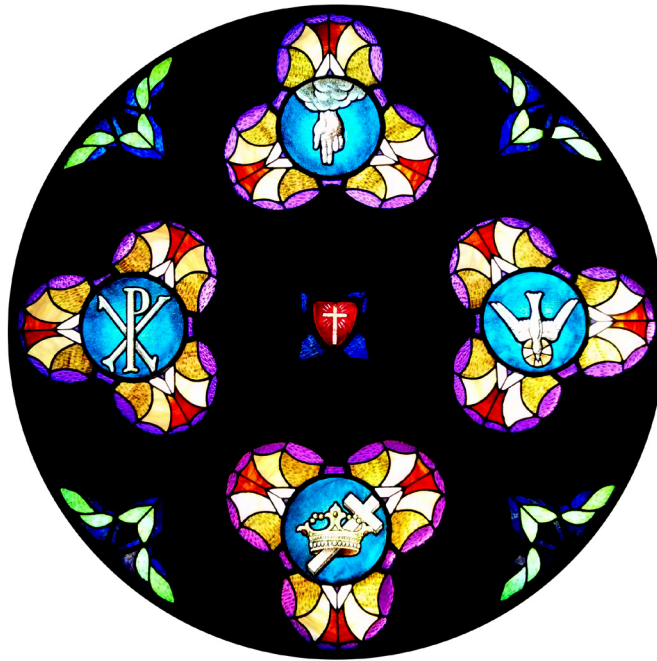


December 15, 2024

First Presbyterian Church

Third 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.

Pastor: Rev. Chris Campbell

Lay Leader: Jane Leathem

Organist: Shina Heo

Weekly Calendar

Sunday 12/15		
Blood Drive with Carter Bloodcare		8:45 am
Sunday School		9:45 am
Worship Service		11:00 am
Ordination Service of Adrian Rodriguez		4:00 pm
Monday 12/16		
Tuesday 12/17		
Senior Flexibility Class		9:30 am
Tuesday Morning Bible Study		10:30 am
Wednesday 12/18		
Men's Bible Study		8:00 am
Quilting		10:30 am
Chancel Choir Rehearsal		7:00 pm
CWF Bible Study		7:00 pm
Thursday 12/19		
Session Meeting		7:00 pm
Friday 12/20		
Senior Flexibility Class		9:30 am
Saturday 12/21		

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns:

Addie Rodriguez, Ann Scarr, Jennifer Meyer, Charles Arnold, Jo Ann Nichols, Bob Hanson and his family, Mia Navarro and her family, Billie Jo Campbell, Carol Browning, Bettye Burdett, Cyprain Engwenyi, Betty Farrell, Ken Floyd, Bobbie Fowler, Ivone Franzolin, Mary Lou Garrison, Joe and Lila Glenn, Pat May and her son Tim Karnes, Graciela Lopez Montero, Mathias Mbeng Ndip, Charlie Nieman, Tina Paulk, Jim and Sheri Quick, Aileigh Rodriguez, Eleanor Schernbeck, Tonya Scrabeck, Lorna Snyder, David Spencer, Larry Spencer, Susie Thurston, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, Patrick Welborne, Sherry and Shelby Wolfe, Danny Womble

Prayers for family in the armed forces:

Colin A. Peden, Christopher Young, Wolfgang Van Wie

Prayers for our home-bound members:

Madge Casselman, Lucy Cleaver, Betty Snowden, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight

Prayers for those who do not know Christ

If you have any congregational care needs, contact Parish Associate, Jim Shroyer at 682-445-0155 or jim@firstprestexas.org

Staff Directory

Chris Campbell	Lead Pastor	chris@firstprestexas.org
Russell Farnell	Minister of Music	russell@firstprestexas.org
Jim Shroyer	Parish Associate	jim@firstprestexas.org
Reggie Manuel	Facilities Manager	reggie@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
Jane Leathem	Finance Assistant	jane@firstprestexas.org



Bennett Royce Williams is 17 years old and was born in Mansfield, Texas, to Eric Williams and Melanie Goodwin. He has attended FPCA for over 10 years. He is a junior at Martin High School and attends the Dan Dipert Career and Technical Center for auto repair training

New Officers 2025

ELDERS

Nelson Abam
Ron MacLeod
JoAnn Quick
Jamee Shroyer

DEACONS

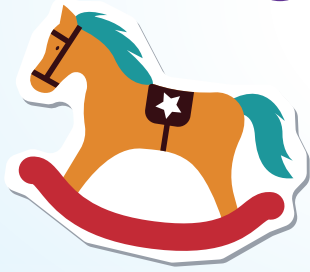
Harley Bixler
Chelsea Campbell
Kim Cathro
Ken Floyd
Scott May
Karen Wiggs

TRUSTEE

Lisa Landolt

CNT

Shawn LeBlanc
Judy Northup



Christmas Giving Tree



Visit giving.pchas.org
to make a gift.



Your gift will provide necessary items and additional services for our children & families such as:

Toiletries for a child for a month	\$10	New Clothing	\$100
One school backpack	\$15	One week of food for a child	\$150
Food for a child for a day	\$20	One semester of college prep tutoring	\$250
Toys for a child	\$50	Six months of counseling	\$500
New bicycle	\$75	One month of daycare for a child	\$1,000

Thank you and merry Christmas *from our homes to yours!*



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM



Maria Shupe
Development Officer
maria.shupe@pchas.org
254.230.4517



PO Box 140888, Austin, TX 78714-9981

pchas.org



SAVE *the* DATE

*to celebrate
the ordination of*

ADRIAN J. RODRIGUEZ

DECEMBER 15, 2024

Ordination Service 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

End-of-Year Giving

As the calendar year draws to a close, we want to thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the ministries of FPCA this year.

Also, we want to share a hopefully, helpful reminder regarding giving as it relates to taxes. We are allowed to give credit to any gift that is received or postmarked on or before December 31, 2024. You can also give online up to 11:59 pm on 12/31/2024 through the link provided in the eNews.

Again, thank you for your prayerful generosity!

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 Presbyterian Church - USA. The other goes to Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS). Special offering envelopes can be found in the narthex or you can designate on a blank envelope or on the memo line of your check which offering you are supporting.

A Presbyterian tradition for over 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 brief accounts of those who have benefited from the Christmas Joy Offering, visit: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/christmas-joy/>.

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 with services you or someone you know might find helpful. To find out more about the many services PCHAS offers, visit: <https://www.pchas.org/who-we-are/pchas-way>.

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 near the Fellowship Hall. 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.

Gifts of Hope

FPCA will again be offering Gifts of Hope, an alternative gift market, with an opportunity for you to participate in this creative and caring way to honor friends and family through donations to a wide range of outreach organizations. Cards are provided to share with honored recipients to indicate the support of outreach organizations that shows God's love around the globe. Gifts of Hope will be available for purchase before and after worship the first three Sundays in December.

For more information contact Suzie McCoy – txt 817-271-5995.

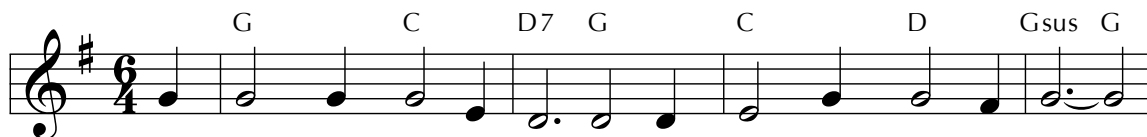
Wednesday Women's Bible Study

The Wednesday Women's Bible Study meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 1 p.m. Currently the meeting location is in the Fellowship Hall. This year's study is the 2024-2025 PE/Horizons Bible Study "Let Justice Roll: God's call to care for Neighbors and All Creation." A light snack is served at each meeting. Members volunteer to lead the discussion and/or to bring a snack. All women are invited.

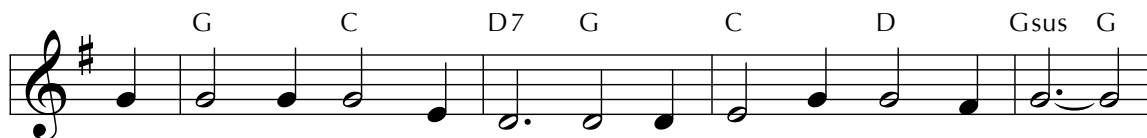
Questions?

Contact Debbie Richardson (der817@gmail.com) or Sheri Quick (sheriq@aol.com).

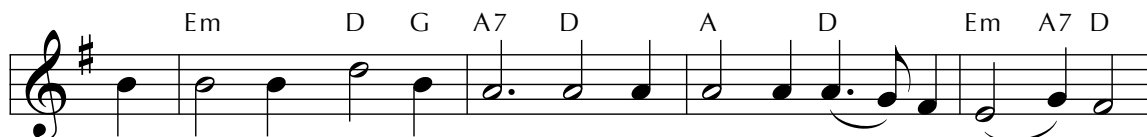
Prepare the Way, O Zion 106



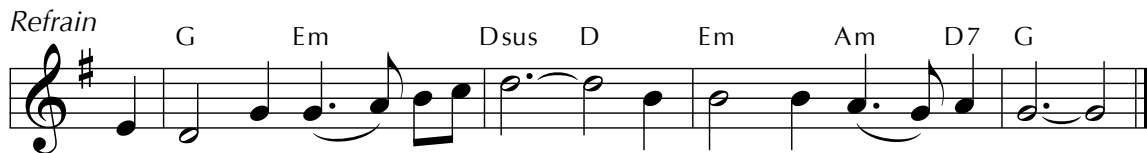
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sav - ior's rule em - brace,



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 and ti - dings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow re - joic - ing, their ad - o - ra - tion voic - ing.



O blest is Christ who came in God's most ho - ly name.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This engaging Advent text based on Isaiah 40:3–5 and Psalm 24:7–10 has been in use in the Church of Sweden for almost two hundred years. It is set to a version of an even older Swedish tune, which in turn seems to be derived from a German folktune that spread to Scandinavia.

TEXT: Frans Mikael Franzen, 1812, rev. 1819; trans. Augustus Nelson, 1958;
 adapt. Charles P. Price, 1980, alt.
 MUSIC: *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697; arr. *American Lutheran Hymnal*, 1930
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
 7.6.7.6.7.7 with refrain

94 Now the Heavens Start to Whisper

1 Now the heav - ens start to whis - per, as the veil is
 2 Heav - y clouds that block the moon - light now be - gin to
 3 Christ, e - ter - nal Sun of jus - tice, Christ, the rose of

grow - ing thin. Earth from slum - ber wakes to lis - ten
 drift a - way. Dia - mond bril - liance through the dark - ness
 wis - dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra - grance

to the stir - ring, faint with - in: seed of prom - ise, deep - ly
 shines the hope of com - ing day. Christ, the morn - ing star of
 hours of yearn - ing, hurt, and need. In the lone - ly, in the

This Advent text artfully interweaves what is hidden and what is revealed, primarily in the coming of the long-awaited Messiah. But Christ himself taught us about another hidden truth, his presence in the "least of these" (Matthew 25:40, 45), whom we are also called to welcome.

JESUS CHRIST: ADVENT

plant - ed, child to spring from Jes - se's stem! Like the soil be -
splen - dor, gleams with - in a world grown dim. Heav - en's em - ber
strang - er, in the out - cast, hid from view: child who comes to

neath the frost - line, hearts grow soft to wel - come him.
fans to full - ness; hearts grow warm to wel - come him.
grace the man - ger, teach our hearts to wel - come you.

Savior of the Nations, Come 102

1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; vir - gin's
 2 From God's heart the Sav - ior speeds; back to
 3 Now your man - ger, shin - ing bright, hal - lows
 4 Praise we sing to Christ the Lord, vir - gin's

son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 God his path - way leads; out to van - quish
 night with new - born light. Night can - not this
 son, in - car - nate Word! To the ho - ly

heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.
 death's com - mand, back to reign at God's right hand.
 light sub - due; let our faith shine ev - er new.
 Trin - i - ty praise we sing e - ter - nal - ly.

Though some hymns attributed to Ambrose are doubtful, this one seems rather surely to be by him. Luther's German version (commemorated in the tune name) dropped one syllable from each line of the Latin text, giving the hymn its characteristically declarative Lutheran form.