



The Newsletter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Kilgore, Texas

December 2021

Volume 38 No. 12

FROM THE PASTOR

Even though we observe the season of advent between Thanksgiving and Christmas, there is never a time, really, when we are not an advent church. Here's what I mean: the church currently exists between Christ's first advent in Bethlehem and Christ's second advent, his second return, in the heavens. As we reflect on Christ's first advent, we also reflect on what it means to wait for His second advent. Just as Israel waited with expectant hope for the birth of the Messiah in the first century, so we also wait with hope that Christ will come again.

While there are similarities between Christ's first and second coming, there are also differences. When Christ came the first time, he came as a humble and lowly servant, born in a messy stable in Bethlehem. When Christ comes again, he will in great power and great glory. When Christ came the first time, "his own received him not." When Christ comes again, every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the father. When Christ came the first time, he came as redeemer and savior. When Christ comes again, he will come as our judge. When Christ came the first time, he hung from the cross. When Christ comes again, he will sit on a throne. When Christ came the first time, he received a crown of thorns. When Christ comes again, he will wear the crown of life.

Why does this matter for us who live between the first and second advent? Given that we know that Christ will come again in ultimate victory, we do not have to be imprisoned by this world's trials and tribulations. We can live with the expectant hope that when Christ comes scarcity will be replaced with abundance, death will be defeated by life, sorrow will be replaced with joy, and hate will be replaced with nothing but love. Indeed, we wait with joyful hope that Christ is coming again to make "all things new."

During this advent season, we will remember Christ's first coming and anticipate his second through prayers, songs, and sermons. Please join us for our advent programming beginning with the Grace Notes Choir on December 1st, the handbell choir in downtown Kilgore on December 11th, and culminating in our Candlelight service on December 19th. In the meantime, be comforted with the good news of advent: Jesus is coming again.

With advent hope,
Will



P W News



The Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team met on November 1, 2021 in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be purchasing Christmas gifts again this year for the 6 ladies in the Evergreen Home.

The poinsettias have been placed in the sanctuary. The list of memorials and honorees are below.

Thanks to all who came to help decorate the Crismon trees.

The combined Morning/Noon Circle will meet for lunch Tuesday, December 7 at 12:00 p.m. The Night Circle will meet for dinner Wednesday, December 8 at 6:00 p.m. Both are in Fellowship Hall.

Saturday Bread Schedule:

December 4 : Maryanne Harris

December 11 : St. Paul's Episcopal

December 18 : Forest Home Baptist

December 25 : Jim Griffin



The poinsettias this Advent Season are given:

In memory of:

Frank Brown
Joel Camp
Winston & June Gardner
Elsie & George Gause
Shirley Florey Green
Bill & Jean Hughes
Gore & Betty Kemp
Lance Harlan Laird
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Lewis
James E. & Virginia Mankins
Richard Martin

Mr. & Mrs. John Mobley
Mr & Mr J A Monroe
Jerry & Shalia Pybas
Martha Rorschach
Caroline Anne Ross
Mr & Mrs Sam Ross
Edwin G. & Justine Stanley
Dr. & Mrs. W. R. Terrell
J B & Dorothy Watson
Linda Watson
David Wylie

In honor of:

Jack & Claire Aboussie
Lila Currin
Avery & Canon Gorman
Joe & Ella Gorman
Burke Green
Camelia Griffin
Grayson & Emma LaCroix
Sophie Leppert
Rett Mauldin's 1st Birthday
Our church musicians
Blake & Katie Wylie Stovall
Graham & Jack Tyra



Tithes and Offerings for Month of October

Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 28,669
Actual Monthly Tithes/Offerings	\$ 38,608
Actual Monthly Expense	\$ 37,813
Overage/ (Deficit)	\$ 795

For the Year 2021

Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 343,669
Actual YTD Tithes/Offerings	\$ 274,057
Actual YTD Expense	\$ 413,081
Overage/ (Deficit)	\$(139,023)

Thank you for your tithes and offerings!
Without your faithful giving, ministry and missions would not be possible.



Thoughts and prayers

For our Members

* Avery Gorman * Burke Green * Tom Waldo

Family and friends of FPC

* Raymond Bazinet	* Sylvia Bolding
* Chantal Braly	* Patrick Braly
* Joe Brown	* E J Chowdhury
* Elizabeth Collins	* Van Craddock
* Lynda Crittenden	* Linda Curkan
* John Fout	* Ashley Haden
* Kenzie Hyatt	* Rose Janke
* Shirley G Latham	* Donna Marshall
* Heather Martin	* Rex McCubbin
* David McElroy	* Dayne Neal
* Larry Perkins	* Bill Pybas
* Nancy Pybas	* Charlotte Reed
* Glenda Reid	* Shari Solomon
* Butch Squier	* John Squier
* Larry & Linda Willis	* Carley Wimberley

In Service to our Country

* Jacob Conner	* Brent Duvall
* Robert Gray	* Gavin Jackson
* Stone Smith	

It's Pledge Time

Reminder to turn in your pledge card for 2022.

Stop by or call the church office if you need a new card.

Monthly Missions

**for
December**



Check the sign up sheet in the church office to see what items are needed to help fill the Christmas Baskets for our Saturday Bread recipients.



Session Highlights

The Session held it's Regular Stated Meeting November 17, at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall.

The meeting began with a devotion and prayer.

Will read a letter from the Camp Gilmont director, Kenny Rigoulot.

Stewardship-Budget committee reported on the number of pledges that had been received, and encouraged all officers to consider raising their pledge this year by 10 percent.

Worship-Fellowship committee reported that a Soup Lunch would be held after worship on November 14, and that Jimmy Chapman would be preaching November 28 in Will's absence.

Session members were given a copy of the Church Manual of Operations in advance of the meeting, which includes By-laws, Guidelines and Policies. Corrections and suggestions were approved.

A Congregational Meeting was approved by the Session for December 5, to hear and act on a recommendation for the new Associate Pastor Search Committee.

The Session shared joys and concerns, and prayed together for those on the prayer list, and members of our congregation.

Sarah Camp
Clerk of Session

Welcome New Members!

The Visitation-Evangelism Committee hosted the New Member Dinner November 3, honoring the new members who have joined our church family in 2020 and 2021.



Richard, Missy & Sophie Leppert
Jeff & Sharon Nestleroad
Carolyn Wimberley
Gene & Nancy Smith
Don Myer & Duchess



Ross & Connie Field



Notes from Gala

Mark your calendars. The choirs have been busily preparing for Advent/Christmas!

Grace Notes will tell the Christmas story at our Christmas Covered Dish Dinner on December 1. Make plans to attend!

Handbells will be busy this Christmas season! We will ring in the downtown event "Christmas Bell Ring" on December 11.

On December 12, handbells will ring the Prelude for the 10:30 worship service.

Make a
Joyful
Noise!



Then, on December 19, they will be outside (weather permitting) on the front steps of the church, ringing as you enter for worship.

Chancel Choir is preparing for our December 19 "Carols and Candles" service.

This talented group works diligently to bless us with beautiful music each week.



Join Us

At Tis The Season

DECEMBER 11 , 12:00 PM
IN FRONT OF THE CRIM THEATER
FOR A

Christmas Bell Ring

Featuring Local Church Bell Choirs



84th Annual
Service of Carols
and Candles
December 19, 2021
5:00 p.m.



Christmas Joy Offering



Christmas Eve
Communion
in the Sanctuary
5:00 p.m.



YOUTH MINISTRY

Schedule of Events

December 5: Christmas Lights

December 12: Rangerette Christmas Show

December 19: Candlelight

December 26: No youth

Looking Ahead

In January we will begin preparing for Youth Sunday and handbell performance!

Thankful for our Parents!



We had a lot of fun preparing and serving dinner!



Call for Helpers!

Provide Dinner – December 5

If you are willing to help with youth activities, contact Cheyenne Kirkpatrick.
903-399-5810

ckirkpatrick@kisd.org



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December



December Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Michael Long | 20 Gail Grisham |
| 2 Taylor Nixon | 21 Coleen Clower |
| 4 Lyndsay Richard | 23 Kristina Galvan
Robert Lightfoot |
| 9 Trey Crim | 26 Alice Laird |
| 10 Lacy Hull
Sylvia Nelson | 27 Andy Bates
Tonya Brown |
| 12 Lila Currin | 29 Alice Lowery
Jimi Mankins
Carolyn Wimberley |
| 14 John Ingersoll | 30 Canon Gorman |
| 15 Lori Russell | |
| 16 John Dickerson
Stephen Phillips | |
| 17 Terry Stembridge, Sr. | |