



First Presbyterian Church

December, 2014

Bringing people to the celebration of Christ

Gospel Lessons for December

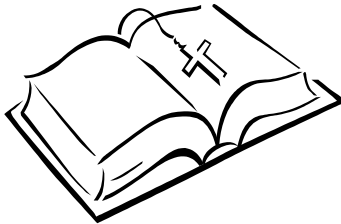
12/7 Esther 4:1-17

12/14 Isaiah 42:1-9

12/21 Matthew 1:18-25

12/24 Luke 2:1-14

12/28 Matthew 2:1-12



Calendar of Events

12/2 Volunteer Day at Food Bank, 8-11 am

12/7 Worship, 9 am (Communion)

12/10 High School Luncheon

12/11 Presbyterian Women, 2 pm

12/14 Worship, 9 am
Birthday & Anniversary Blessing

12/16 Supper & Stories, 6 pm

12/21 Worship, 9 am

12/24 Christmas Eve Service

12/28 Worship, 9 am
Session Meeting, 1 pm



Pastor's Message

Dear Church Family,

This special time of year is marked by Advent and Christmas. Although this tends to be a busy time for most people, in the church we do our best to slow down for four weeks leading up to Christmas and allow Advent to prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ. Each week we will light candles: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and the Christ candle. I invite you to take time this season to reflect and be patient. Try not to rush the holiday season, rather let your heart be reminded daily of the gift God gives us in Jesus Christ.

On Christmas Eve we will have our traditional worship service with the celebration of the Lord's Supper. The two weeks that follow are when we really celebrate Christmas – the 12 days start on Christmas Day and end on Epiphany. We'll be singing Christmas hymns and keep the sanctuary decorations up during that time. Yes, most people take their Christmas tree down before the New Year, but we in the church like to hold on to the ancient tradition of recognizing the full season of Christmas.

Join us for this very special season!

Grace & Peace,
Pastor Becca

Birthdays/Anniversaries

12/2 Jarret Buchholtz
12/7 Heidi Buchholtz
12/8 Charles Weise
12/13 Bert & Mary Reid
12/16 Joanna Glass
12/19 Charles & Etta Weise

A *special blessing* for everyone with a birthday or anniversary will be held on the **second Sunday of each month**. Anyone with a birthday or anniversary during that month will be invited to be recognized with the rest of their month's special folks and will receive a blessing and gift. Join us for a celebration of our church family!

Liturgy/Church Host Schedule

Our thanks to **Etta Weise and Sandy Barnett** for serving as liturgists and church hosts during December.

Session

Session will meet **Sunday, December 28, at 1 pm.**

Special Opportunities

Supper and Storytelling will be **Tuesday, December 16, at 6 pm.** Bring a "potluck" dish to share, and hear the life stories of our members.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will meet at **2 pm Thursday, December 11.** This month's study is **Lesson Four: Carrying in Our Bodies Jesus' Acts of Healing, Reconciliation, and Love.**

Church Estate/Garage Sale

A special thank you to everyone who worked and supported the recent estate/garage sales. Nearly \$2,500 was raised in the two efforts. In addition, \$5 vouchers were distributed at the Food Bank for use at the second sale.

Sympathy Extended

Sympathy is extended to the family of Elizabeth Payne, who passed away on November 20. Services were held at FPC on November 26.

Mission and Outreach

On **Tuesday, December 2**, FPC members will serve as volunteers from 8-11 am at the Food Bank at 402 S. Mulberry. Please join in and volunteer in a much needed service to the community.

The **Food Bank** also needs donations, including rice and beans or canned meat for the month of November.

FPC will host a **luncheon for Luling High School students on Wednesday, December 10, from 11:30 am until 1:30 pm** at the **Episcopal Church of the Annunciation** on Walnut. Please let Bill or Susan Rutherford know if you would like to volunteer for this event.

Prayer List

Congregation:

Nell Brown
Ernestine Harman
Bert & Mary Reid
Tom & Helen Wofford

Friends/Families of the Congregation:

Thr family of Elizabeth Payne

Mary Ann & David Cochran
Marianna's sister, Carolyn
Fred Buchholtz's sister-in-law, Debbie and Ruth Eileen Schlette
Marge Shultz & James Manford's sister, Betsy
Mary Nelson's mother, Frances
Jimmy Manford's wife, Althea
Margie & Dick Hudson
Bill & Becky Slaughter
Alavaro Herrera
Baby Journey
Jennifer, Lynn, Mark Withers, Jerry Kidd,
Dr. Hensly, Keith, Dovie Edwards Brantford, Mike Allen, Janie, Emma, Jack, Bob, Sharron & Gary Adam & Stephanie Mareth

Pastor Becca is on vacation from **November 29-December 6.** If you have a pastoral emergency during that time, please contact Beth Flynn or Etta Weise.

Hanging of the Greens Service



Contributions for November, 2014

Contributions to the Memorial Fund during the month of November the following:

In memory of

A.W. McCrary Sr.: Helen Bassett

Peggy Pierce: Marge Shultz

Peggy Pierce: Helen Bassett

Bill Cardwell: Helen Bassett

Contributions to the Securing Our Next 100 Years Building Campaign made in November included the following Tributes:

In memory of

Raymond Harman: Tom & Helen Wofford

Steve Hodge: Joanna Glass

A.W. McCrary Sr.: Joanna Glass

Peggy Pierce: Joanna Glass, Tad & Dee Families

Elizabeth Payne: Beth & Carrol Flynn

Contact Information

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