



# THE GOOD NEWS

*The Good News* is published weekly and monthly by  
the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas.

January 2019

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## Worship with us this Sunday!

"A Christian Community of Faith"

9:45 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages

10:50 a.m.

Sunday Worship

**Rev. Krista Rasco – Pastor**

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## A Message From the Pastor

**Dear FPCC and friends,**

As we begin a new year some of us will spend time reviewing the past year and looking forward to what is to come in the year ahead. As we do so for our personal lives, we will do so for the church as well. We will soon have a congregational meeting following worship. This meeting on Jan. 20 will be a chance to review the 2019 budget, vote on the changes of my terms of call (financial), and hear from the committees some of the highlights of 2018 and what we can be looking forward to in 2019.

One of the things I did recently was reread all the notes written to FPCC placed on the bulletin board in the hallway in the fellowship hall.

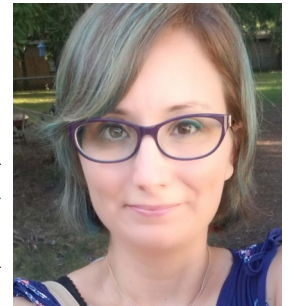
This newsletter includes a thank you letter from Sarah Smith. She is a student who has been singing in our choir and helping with Sunday School as well as helping us on campus. She recently got married and this church has really been appreciative and enhanced by Sarah's presence and recently showed that appreciation through a few gifts. But the reason I'm mentioning all this is because Sarah represents one of the many ministries this church has been a part of. That is the ministry of mentorship, friendship, and being a family away from home, as well as sharing the gospel not only through the work of Bible studies but also through our physical presence and works.

Although we can't always see the effects of the work done here or don't always receive such a wonderful heart-written letter, this is one of the results of such mutual ministry just by being who you are and works in the ways Christ.

I pray for you all constantly and that the good works you do today are multiplied and help spread the gospel y'all share throughout the world.

***Grace and peace be with you all,***

***Rev. Krista Rasco, pastor***





## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The PW Circle will meet for Bible Study on Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, at 10 a.m. (*Note that this is a change from our normal 2nd Monday of the month meeting.*) **Toni Deaton** will lead the lesson which is Chapter 5 in the Horizons Study; **Martha Clevenger** is hostess.

Please bring items for the food pantry such as evaporated or powdered milk. All women are invited to attend.



Presbyterian Women, Inc., is the women's organization in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). We are a community of more than 200,000 women

who participate in Presbyterian Women (PW) and align our ministry and hearts around a shared purpose, the **PW Purpose**.

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

These commitments are lovingly carried out in Presbyterian Women groups in congregations, presbyteries and synods. At the national level, Presbyterian Women provides the resources, direction and opportunities to fulfill the organization's mission and ministry. Presbyterian Women's connectional structure allows you to participate as deeply and/or broadly in the organization and its commitments as you wish.

Source: Website for Presbyterian Women ([www.presbyterianwomen.org/who we are/](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/who we are/))



## Letters

**Pastor Krista and FPCC,**

I wanted to update everyone with the recent big life event! I can say it is the second best decision of my life after accepting Jesus, and that is marrying Jacob Clodfelter.

First, thank you so much for the incredible monetary gift from all of you that has helped us gather essentials for living together, such as cookware and house wear. More importantly, thank you for the encouragement and prayers over the past months that are so appreciated! Thank you for the love and support and wisdom that has been poured into me and thus, our marriage.

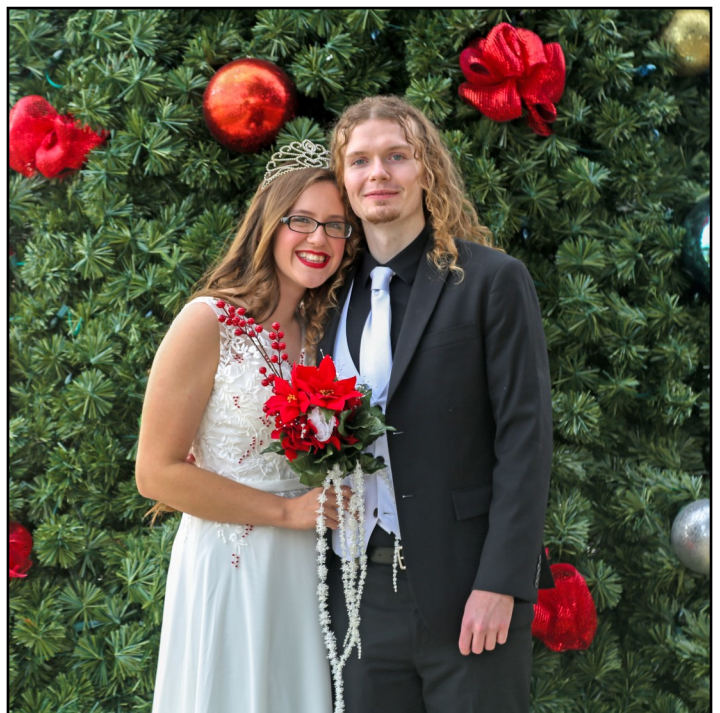
I am honored to be a part of a church that carried so much wisdom and knowledge. Thank you for everything! The wedding was successful and beautiful! I could not have asked for more and God blessed us with so many friends and family!

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and I am excited to start 2019 with FPCC. Love you all!

**Blessings!**

**Sarah Smith**

*Editor's note: This message to the congregation was sent by Sarah via email to Rev. Rasco.*





**In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian**

Our Troops	Gordon Hunter	Sara Grace Pullen
Melba Blount	Amy Lopez	Joe Yeakley
Grace Byrd	Gayle Shumate	Gladys Gray
Mildred Miller	Gaye Furry	Preston Helton
	Catherine King Robertson	
Bennie Neve	Ron Davis	Jan Burns
Audrey Hucks	Larry Ratliff	Jack Gray
Jean Angotti		
Jim Calvert	Tammi Fucci	Adele Reeves
Bob Wilkins	Joe Dipiazza	Deryl McKenzie
Danny Spruel		Kristen Anderson
Family of Freda Lambert		Nancy Smith
Gary and Melba Strobel		Pat Skauge
Joe Tincher		Layne Rylander

**January Dates to Remember**

*Happy Birthday to:*

- 1 – Linda Shatney
- 7 – Tara Pierce
- 14- Christine Byrd
- 16 - Janet Duncan
- 17 -Katlynn Rasco
- 19 - Caden James Costa
- 21 - Joel McIntier
- 22 - Kimberly Stewart
- 24 - Jim Deaton
- 27 - Blake Madewell

*Happy Anniversary to:*

- 16 – Brenda & Ric Estes

*If we forgot you or got a date wrong, contact the church secretary.*

**Food Pantry Donation Items**

The Commerce Food Pantry typically serves between 30-40 different families in need each week—over 120 families each month. Donations remain an important source of its ability to help these people. Remember to help out the food pantry with a donation of food each Sunday.

Here are suggested donations. There is a box just inside the sanctuary for your donation.

- 1st Sunday**—Instant Oatmeal
- 2nd Sunday**—Ranch Style Beans
- 3rd Sunday**—Spaghetti sauce (in cans)
- 4th Sunday**—Chili without beans
- 5th Sunday**—Canned pineapple

In addition to the above, the Commerce Food Pantry is always in need of grocery paper bags with handles (Braum’s paper bags are perfect). If you have any spare paper bags, please consider donating them at any time.

**Got a picture for *The Good News* that you would like to share?**

**Email it to [fpc-commerce](mailto:fpc-commerce)**

**Deadline for Next Newsletter**

Our mid-January newsletter will go out on Thursday, Jan. 14. Deadline for articles, pictures, and other news is Monday, Jan. 14.

## Another Way to Celebrate Epiphany

January 6 marks 12 days after Christmas and is the date of Epiphany, a time to remember the Wise Men who searched out the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. It is observed this Sunday, but especially for Latinos (and Catholics and Orthodox Christians) throughout the world, this special day is much bigger celebration than for protestants. This special celebration is centuries old.

*Presbyterians Today* writer Magdalena I. Garcia describes how many people observe “Dia de los Reyes,” or “Three Kings Day.”

Click on the following link to read the whole story: [Latino tradition enriches Epiphany.](#)



### Upcoming Bible Readings

#### Sunday (Jan. 6) Is Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

**Old Testament: Isaiah 60:1-9** *The Ingathering of the Dispersed*

**Psalter: Psalm 72:1-7, 10-20** *Prayer for Guidance and Support for the King*

**Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12** *Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles*

**Gospel (and sermon focus): Matthew 2:1-12**  
*The Visit of the Wise Men*

#### Sunday (Jan. 13) Is Baptism of the Lord Sunday

**Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21** *The Proclamation of John the Baptist / The Baptism of Jesus*

**Psalter: Psalm 29** *The Voice of God in a Great Storm*

**Old Testament (and sermon focus): Isaiah 43:1-7** *Restoration and Protection Promised*

## FPC Is Online!

[www.facebook.com/fpccommerce](http://www.facebook.com/fpccommerce)

[www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce](http://www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce).

<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>

[www.fpc-commerce.com](http://www.fpc-commerce.com).

### January Calendar

#### Worship Schedule

- 6 Epiphany of the Lord Sunday**  
Morning Worship service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Matthew 2:1-12*
- 13 Baptism of the Lord Sunday**  
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Isaiah 43:1-7*
- 20** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on 1 Corinthians 12:1-11*
- 27** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a*

#### Other January events

- 7 Monday, 10 a.m.—PW Circle meeting**
- 8 Tuesdays, 9 a.m.—Tai Chi class resumes in FH.** All are invited to participate.
- 9 Wednesday, 6 p.m.—Session meeting**
- 13 Sunday, during worship—Installation and ordination of Elders.**
- 20 Sunday, after worship (noon).—** Congregational meeting

*If we didn't list your meeting, it's probably because we didn't know about it. Please let the church secretary know of your meeting so he can list it here.*

Tomorrow, you'll have to  
live with the words you  
speak today. ”



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Staff, Session, and Committees**

Staff

Pastor ..... Rev. Krista Rasco  
 Clerk of Session ..... Wally Tucker  
 Music Director ..... Micah Krajca  
 Pianist ..... David Vergara  
 Nursery Attendant ..... Carolyn McFarland  
 Secretary ..... Roger McKenzie

Session Members

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Martha Clevenger	Brenda Estes	Nancy Green
Jordan Conner	Tina Fletcher	Bob Johnson
Wally Tucker	Russ Garmon	Neal Stewart
Bettina Zvanut		

Session Committees

**Worship:**  
 Chair ..... Martha Clevenger  
 Co-Chair ..... Nancy Green

**Christian Education:**  
 Chair ..... Bettina Zvanut  
 Co-Chair ..... Nancy Green

**Membership and Pastoral Care:**  
 Chair ..... Brenda Estes  
 Co-Chair ..... Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

**Mission/Evangelism:**  
 Chair ..... Bob Johnson  
 Co-Chair ..... Bettina Zvanut

**Buildings and Grounds:**  
 Chair ..... Russ Garmon  
 Co-Chair ..... Neal Stewart

**Stewardship and Finance:**  
 Chair ..... Jordan Conner

**Personnel:**  
 Chair ..... Wally Tucker

*Note: Some committees do not have co-chairs.*

**January Worship Leaders**

January 6

Host Elder: ..... Neal Stewart  
 Head Usher: ..... Bob Johnson  
 Candle Lighter: ..... TBD  
 Liturgist: ..... Walt Davis  
 Elements: ..... Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

January 13

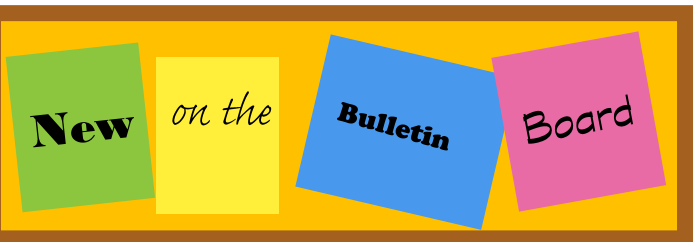
Head Usher: ..... Scott Stewart  
 Candle Lighter: ..... TBD  
 Liturgist: ..... Toni Deaton

January 20

Head Usher: ..... Monty Howard  
 Candle Lighter: ..... TBD  
 Liturgist: ..... Susan Reeves

January 27

Head Usher: ..... Ric Estes  
 Candle Lighter: ..... TBD  
 Liturgist: ..... Brenda Estes



- ♦ A Christmas card and note of thanks from **Ron and Kay Davis** for “coming to our home” and gifts from FPC.
- ♦ A postcard from **Westminster College** in **Pennsylvania** reminding of the Feb. 1 nomination deadline and Feb. 15 application deadline for its Young Presbyterian Scholarship for students.
- ♦ A copy of the email and picture sent to Rev. Rasco from **Sarah Smith Clodfelter** following her wedding to **Jacob Clodfelter**.



**Don't forget!** Please keep us informed and let us know about news items we can use for our next newsletter. Call or email (we prefer email) the church office with your news.