



# THE GOOD NEWS

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

**December 2018**

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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 & friends,

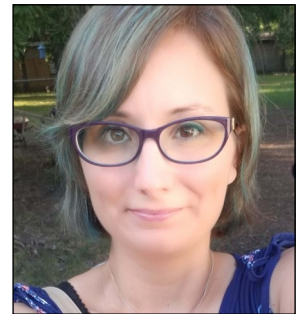
The church season of Advent starts this Sunday, Dec. 2. and goes till Christmas Eve. Advent is the time before Christmas day that we prepare our hearts, souls, and minds for what it means to have Christ come into our world. Each Sunday in Advent, that we focus on a word. Those words are 'Hope', 'Peace', 'Joy', and 'Love'.

Because I am constantly thinking about worship planning and content for my sermons I start thinking about and planning for Advent about the time the stores start putting out their Christmas items. You know how when you start to think about something then you see it everywhere? That has been happening to me.

Sometimes I will see random things that remind me of Advent. For example, I noticed the other day driving through downtown Greenville, a new mural on the side of a building that said 'hope'. It made me wonder about all the other times that these four words (hope, peace, joy and love) come up in the mundane moments of our everyday lives.

Thinking about and living out our Christian faith and lives doesn't just happen on Sunday mornings, or when volunteering or visiting the sick. It is our complete and whole lives that are dedicated to living out our Christian discipleship. We do it even during those mundane, every day occurrences, such as cleaning house, cooking dinner, gardening, driving, and working at our jobs.

How often do we miss the messages sent to remind us of our faith while going through the mundane? I invite you



*Continued on page 8*



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

**Circle Meeting**

The PW Circle will meet on Monday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Nila McQuary is the Bible study leader for Lesson #4, "God with Us When We Seek God," from the current Bible study from *Horizons*. All women are invited to attend. Please bring an item for the Food Pantry; the suggested item is a box of saltine crackers.

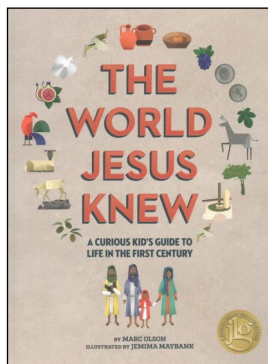
**Baby Caps Project**

This year another 600 fleece baby caps were stitched by our PW group. The PW of FPC-Commerce has been making these caps for the Newborn Nursery at Hunt Regional Medical Center in Greenville since 2013.

**Books Recommended in *Horizons***

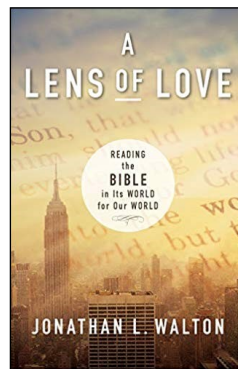
In the November/December 2018 issue of *Horizons*, the magazine for Presbyterian Women, the "Pages Worth Turning" section, page 48, recommends several books.

One is a children's book entitled *The World Jesus Knew: A Curious Kid's Guide to Life in the First Century* by Marc Olson published in 2017. Although the book is written for curious children, the book is also an enjoyable read for curious adults. In this book, Olson thoughtfully explores life in Jesus' time and place in a compelling narrative that also includes diagrams, charts, maps, and drawings by Jem Maybank. This book will help children (and adults) better understand Jesus and his teachings. A wide range of topics is explored including how people dressed, Roman rules and burial practices. The book is highly recommended for all ages.



Another recommended book is *A Lens of Love: Reading the Bible in Its World for Our World* by Jonathan L. Walton, published in 2018. *Horizons* magazine says that Walton provides a meaningful way to examine scripture through the lens of God's

love. A quote from Laura S. Nasrallah, professor of New Testament and theology, Harvard Divinity School, says this book "Sets a model for how to do biblical theology right---how to live faithfully toward justice. It shows how to bring practical theology and social ethics together and inspires its readers to live out a just and faithful Christian identity."



***December Worship Leaders***

**December 2**

Host Elder:.....**Russ Garmon**  
Head Usher:..... **Monty Howard**  
Candle Lighter: ..... **TBD**  
Liturgist:.....**Bart Green**  
Elements:..... **Tina Selvaggi**

**December 9**

Head Usher:.....**Jordan Conner**  
Candle Lighter: ..... **TBD**  
Liturgist:..... **Arlene Allen**

**December 16**

Head Usher:..... **Ric Estes**  
Candle Lighter: ..... **TBD**  
Liturgist:..... **Susan Reeves**

**December 23**

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

**December 30**

Head Usher:..... **Neal Stewart**  
Candle Lighter: ..... **TBD**  
Liturgist:.....**Bart Green**

Thanks to all those who add to FPC's worship experience.



# Chamber Singers in Christmas Concert

The **Chamber Singers** of A&M-Commerce will present their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas concert at First Presbyterian Church of Commerce this Sunday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary at FPC. The Chamber Singers are a select group chosen from the top vocal students in the Music Department at A&M-Commerce. Under the direction of Dr. Randall Hooper the Chamber Singers have performed in several foreign countries and also at the prestigious Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The musical selections are designed to appeal to a variety of tastes and include special choral arrangements of period pieces, traditional carols and popular Christmas songs. A reception hosted by FPC's Presbyterian Women to honor the singers will follow the concert. Because of the popularity of this annual event, a large crowd is expected. The Presbyterian Women would appreciate if members of the congregation help out by providing finger foods to help insure the refreshments meet the expected demand during the reception.



# Children's Advent Adventures

All children of the church are invited to a workshop on Wednesday, Dec. 5 to create a Nativity scene for use in their home.

Come to Fellowship Hall at 5 p.m. for this handicraft. Hot chocolate and cookies will be served to all.



## Upcoming December Community Events



- 1 **Saturday, 7:30 a.m.—Oh! Christmas Tree! Dog 5k Run**, at 1119 Alamo Street in Commerce. \$25 registration fee, with all proceeds for construction of a new dog park in Commerce. Runners and dogs will get a t-shirt and bandana, respectively. Race begins at 8 a.m.
- 1 **Saturday, 10 a.m.—Spirit of Giving**, at the New Life Congregational Church, 911 Jernigan. This event is free and it provides Christmas gifts to those who might otherwise have none.
- 1 **Saturday, 1-3 p.m.—FUMC's 6th Annual Merry Marketplace and Lunch**, in its Family Ministry Center. Christmas gifts to purchase and chicken or beef stew served for lunch or to go. Proceeds to benefit missions.
- 1 **Saturday, 1 p.m.—Commerce Bois d'Arc Christmas** in downtown Commerce. There will be music, vendors, a parade (at 6 p.m.) and a visit from Santa.
- 2 **Sunday, 6 p.m.—**The public is invited to enjoy the **TAMUC Chamber Singers** as they present their annual **Christmas Concert** at the First Presbyterian Church (1216 Monroe Street). A reception will follow in the FPC Fellowship Hall.
- 5 **Wednesday, 2:30-4 p.m. p.m.—Alzheimer's Community Forum.** An interactive discussion at Landon Winery in Greenville to understand Hunt County's needs and to address support for residents of Hunt County. Registration required. Call 1-800-272.3900.
- 7,8 **Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.—**The annual **Holiday Gala** presented by the TAMUC Department of Music in Finney Concert Hall. Space is limited. For more information and tickets, call 903-886-5303 as soon as possible.
- 7, 14, 21 **Fridays, 8 p.m.—Mystery of the Christmas Star** at the TAMUC Planetarium, 2201 W. Neal St.

*Next time we'll add your monthly event if you tell us!*

## 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).

## December Calendar

### Worship Schedule

- 2 Morning Worship service 10:50 a.m.  
Christmas Cantata
- 9 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Malachi 3:1-4*
- 16 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Zephaniah 3:14-20a*
- 23 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Micah 5:2-5a*
- 30 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.  
*Sermon focus on Colossians 3:12-17*

### Other December events

- 1 **Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.—**Stated Presbytery Meeting at NorthPark Presbyterian Church 9555 N Central Expwy in Dallas.
- 2 **Sunday, 6 p.m.—**TAMUC Chamber Singers in concert at FPC. Reception follows.
- 5 **Wednesday, 5:30 p.m.—**Advent Adventures in Fellowship Hall. A chance to all children of the church to create a nativity scene for home. Refreshments.
- 10 **Monday, 10 a.m.—**PW Circle meeting
- 12 **Wednesday, 6 p.m.—**Session meeting
- 21 **Friday, 6 p.m.—**Longest Night Service
- 24 **Monday, 5:30 p.m.—**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### DEADLINE FOR MID-DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

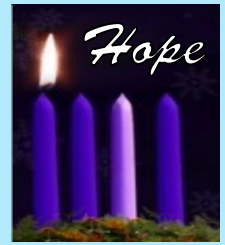
*The Good News* for December will go out Friday, Dec. 20. If you have news, etc. to share, the deadline is Monday, Dec. 17.

## Upcoming Bible Readings

This Sunday (Dec. 2) Is the First Sunday of Advent.  
We will light the first candle of Advent—the Candle of Hope.

Our choir director, Micha Krajca, and the FPC Choir will present a Christmas cantata, “A Song Is Born!” by Douglas Nolan.

Choir members will conduct readings.



Next Sunday (Dec. 9) Is the Second Sunday of Advent

We will light the second candle of Advent—the Candle of Peace.

Gospel: Luke 3-1-6 *The Proclamation of John the Baptist*

Gospel: Luke 1:68-79 *Zechariah's Prophecy*

Old Testament (and Sermon Focus): Malachi 3:1-4 *The Coming Messenger*

The Third Sunday of December (Dec. 16) Is the Third Sunday of Advent

We will light the third candle of Advent—the Candle of Joy.

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18 *The Proclamation of John the Baptist*

Old Testament: Isaiah 12:2-6 *Thanksgiving and Praise*

Old Testament (and Sermon Focus): Zephaniah 3:14-20a *A Song of Joy*



## Additions to the Prayer List

No one has been added to the FPC Prayer List in a while. That is good news. But if you have someone in your life that is in need of prayers, contact the church office and we will add them to our list.

### 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		

If you have anyone you would like to add to the Prayer List, please contact the church office.



## 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**—Saltine crackers

**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 (Braun's paper bags are perfect). If you have any spare paper bags, please consider donating them at any time.



### Holiday Pictures Wanted

Send us yours, along with information, so we can share with our readers!

# FPC in Action



Friday (Nov. 30) was a day for decorating. At left, **Wally Tucker, Jim Deaton, Helon Raziak, and Martha Clevenger** decorated the sanctuary, including putting up and decorating this Christmas tree with Chrismons. Below, and at a different time of day, **Toni Deaton, Nila McQuary and Nancy McFarland** decorated Fellowship Hall, including this tree. Puts you in the Christmas spirit, doesn't it

## December Dates to Remember

### *Happy Birthday to:*

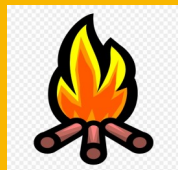
- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 – Barbara Tucker   | 19 – Petra Strassberg   |
| 2 – Martha Clevenger | 19 – Sherry Johnson     |
| 2 – Nancy Green      | 23 – Steve Costa        |
| 4 – Charles Elliott  | 24 – Sharon Sanders     |
| 8 – Susan White      | 28 – Beverly Murphy     |
| 10 – Isabel Davis    | 28 – Jack Duncan Pierce |
| 10 – Ken Miller      | 29 – Kathy Miller       |
| 12 – Mark Pullen     | 30 – Jane Cox           |
| 14 – Nancy McFarland |                         |

### *Happy Anniversary to:*

- 14 – Debbie & Monty Howard
- 19 – Christy & Chris Jenson

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





# Camp News from Camp Gilmont and Mo-Ranch

There are few things more exciting than Christmas morning and the start of summer camp season! Is there a child you know who would love the Mo-Ranch Summer Camp experience?

New campers who register with the "Camp for Christmas" discount will receive a gift wrapped box in the mail with a certificate letting them know they're registered for camp and the following six exclusive Mo-Ranch items including a duffle bag, fleece blanket and beach towel.

Register by calling 800-460-4401 and request \$100 "Camp for Christmas discount." Offer expires on Sunday, December 9, 2018. Camp boxes will be mailed by Friday, Dec. 14, in time for Christmas.



- ♦ A flyer about an upcoming **Alzheimer's Community Forum** in Greenville on Dec. 5 for Hunt County residents. Registration is required. Call 1-800-272-3900 to register and get more information.
- ♦ A card from Westminster College giving information on how to submit a nomination for the Young Presbyterian Scholarship, worth up to \$19,000 a year (\$76,000 max) to attend the Pennsylvania College. Up to two students at FPC can be nominated. Deadline for submitting the nomination is Feb. 1.
- ♦ A flyer detailing information about 2019 Kidquake, a series of camps for children in grades one through six in March and April sponsored by Grace Presbytery.
- ♦ A poster (look on the wall in the hallway leading to the sanctuary) giving information about TAMUC's annual Holiday Gala Concert on Friday and Saturday, Dec. 7-8, at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Building's Finney Concert Hall.

**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.*

## A Message From the Pastor Continued from page 1

this advent season to be on the lookout for these messages of hope, peace, joy and love. If you can, snap a picture of what reminded you of hope, peace, love, and/or joy. (Safely! I was parked at a red light when I took the photo of the mural.) Then send it to me through e-mail, text message, or tell me about it on Sunday morning and I will then share these with the congregation and friends through social media and in the next newsletter.

I pray that you have a season of advent full of anticipation and full of messages of hope, peace, joy, and love. May you see where Christ is being born in the world, whether that be in the spectacular and miraculous, or in the mundane tasks of your everyday lives.

*Grace and peace be with you all,*

*Rev. Krista Rasco, pastor*

*May the hope, peace,  
joy, and love of*

*Christ's birth*

*Be with you now and in the days ahead.*



### **Did We Forget Something?**

**Maybe we forgot an event you are organizing for FPC or a committee report you wanted to get in The Good News. Whatever it is, let us know. If you forgot, remember to remember next time!**