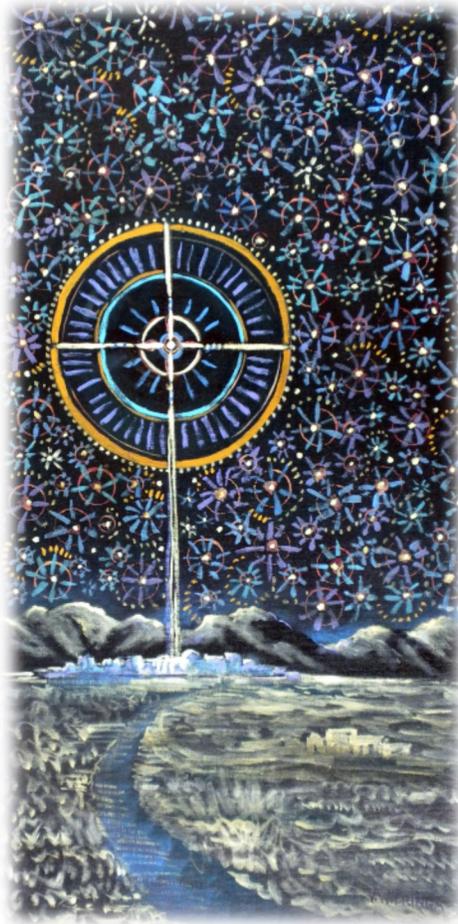


First Presbyterian Church of Waco
First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018
Soli Deo Gloria!



Emerging Star 2 ©2013 Virginia Wieringa

Welcome Home, Children of God

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

The cover of our bulletin declares, **Welcome Home, Children of God!** and we hope you feel this welcome at First Presbyterian Church of Waco. Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are enriched by your presence. We believe that each of us has gathered to do our part to receive God's gifts and to interpret a meaningful life. We examine the human condition, so loved by God, that God sought proximity not just once in Jesus but for always in the Spirit of Christ.

Know that you have arrived to a place that not only welcomes you but also anticipates your distinctiveness and unique experiences in the world.

We all come from different religious and familial backgrounds. We each read the Bible with a unique set of eyes. We bring our questions, doubts and joys with us each Sunday. Welcome to the mix! Step by step, we hope you will allow us to show you more of who we are. If you have questions about First Presbyterian, please reach out to one of our pastors or ushers. We look forward to knowing you better.

Leslie King
Pastor

Statement of Mission

First Presbyterian Church of Waco, Texas, welcomes all as children of God through our worship, outreach, Christian education and congregational life events. By the liberating and compelling grace of God, and in accord with our Reformed theological heritage, we follow Jesus Christ's example by reaching out to seekers and those in need, nurturing disciples, honoring diversity and seeking to reconcile the world to God through ministries of justice and mercy.

If You Are New Here

Stop by our Welcome Center in the Narthex for information and a small gift. When you are seated, please fill out the *Welcome Folder* you will find in the pew. After all in the pew have signed, pass it to the center aisle.

These May Help During the Service

If you would like a large-print bulletin, hymnal or a hearing enhancement device, please ask an usher. We also have worship bags for children on the wall of the narthex. Please return the bag after the service.

Be Our Guest!

Following worship, come to the Foundation Parlor for coffee and fellowship.

If You Are in Need of Prayer

You will find prayer cards in the back of the pew. You may place them in the offering plate or hand to an usher. Your prayers are confidential.

Childcare

Nursery director Chelley Breemes and our First Aid/CPR-certified caregivers are enthusiastic to care for children up to age 3, from 8:30 am to noon each Sunday. There is one-on-one attention given to each child in a nurturing, safe environment. The children's wing is located on the main floor of the church.

December 2, 2018 - First Sunday of Advent

Greetings and Announcements

- Prelude *E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come* Paul Manz
- + Hymn 85 Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah Tif In Velde
(Sing Verse 1)
- + Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent candle 8:30 am Lauren and Michael Poor
10:30 am Sarah and Jordan Ochel
- Leader: This morning we decided to rise out of our warm beds into various degrees of headwinds.
- People: There is so much to do, but we decided to arrive to Sunday school, worship and church.**
- Leader: This morning we decided to stave off isolation or loneliness, arriving into community and relationship.
- People: Anxiety plagues the public sphere, but we are resolved to move past anxiety and commune with God and one another in sanctuary.**
- Leader: So, we decide to light the first candle and follow God's light as we move forward into the living of our days. Amen.
- + Hymn 88 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Veni Emmanuel
(Verses 1-4)

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

God of our lives, we confess our fascination with imperial strength. The power of the nations and the political trends can radically influence our decision making. We may find ourselves going with the flow even when our own hearts cry out a different truth. We pause to remember that you are the God above all empires and principalities. You are the God who promises to invest in what is vulnerable but full of potential. You are the God who comes alongside shaky moments and promises a strong foundation and cornerstone. You are the God who remains curious about our decisions and the power we retain amidst the high rising empire. How we long to find our right decisions even when all things seem decided. May we decide for more than ourselves. May our decisions be gifts into your holy season. Amen.

(Silent Prayers)

Response to the Confession (10:30)

*O God, show mercy to us, and bless us with your grace;
and cause to shine upon us the brightness of your face.*

Declaration of Pardon

- + Sharing of the Peace of Christ

+ Invitation to Our Children *Christ Before Me* St. Patrick's Breastplate
*Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ beside me, Christ within me,
Christ in the face of those who love me.*

Spirit Box

Younger children, first grade and below, are invited to the Nursery wing room S201, for Children's church, and C309 for Children's Choir. Older children are asked to help themselves to an activity bag and a children's bulletin from the Narthex, then return to their seats for worship.

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 32:1-5 - Pew Bible - OT Page 736 (NLT)
Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *"And the Glory of the Lord"* from *Messiah* by G.F. Handel
And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

+ Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8 - Pew Bible - NT Page 34 (NLT)
Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

+ Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, Is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Sermon Decisions, Our Gifts to God: Why Untie? Leslie King, D. Min.

Hymn 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Hyfrydol

+ Affirmation of Faith

We believe in God, Our Creator, whose arrival into our specific moments can soften our minds, hearts and wills.
We believe in Christ who arrives to the world fragile and in need of care. He abides with compassion and triumphs despite threat or fear.
We believe in the Holy Spirit who gives us stamina for our journey and who illumines our understanding, seaming the transcendent and empirical.
We believe in the living waters of baptism and the cornerstone of God's communion table.
We believe in the depth and mystery of scripture that holds the old, old story with a readiness to release it in continuously relevant ways.
This Advent season, we affirm our faith in the journey as we hope to host God with faith, hope and love. Amen.

Offertory *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* David Cherwien

+ Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion (8:30)

Great prayer of Thanksgiving and the Lord's Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Prayer continues, concluding with the Lord's Prayer

+ Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession and the Lord's Prayer (10:30)

As followers of the Risen Lord, we are bold to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

+ Hymn 88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Verses 5-7)

Veni Emmanuel

+ Charge

+ Benediction

+ Response Hymn

Amen

Hymn 601

Postlude

Fantasia on "Hyfrydol"

Robert Hobby

+ Please rise in body or in spirit

Thank you to Charles Stern for his gift of music this morning.

Worship Notes: The prelude this morning, is a Christmas hymn written by Paul Manz. It was composed during a life and death struggle of his 3-year-old son who did survive the ordeal. The text is "Peace be to you and grace from Him who freed us from our sins. Sing holy, holy, holy to our Lord, who was and is and is to come." These words from Revelation 22 were written by Ruth Manz, the child's mother.

Sanctuary Flowers

are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the one who gave so much.

Parlor Flowers

Kay and Brent Standefer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 2	Leslie King preaching
8:30 am	Chapel Service - streamlined and weekly communion
9:15 am	Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am	Traditional Presbyterian Service
11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship - Foundation Parlor - Sue and Mike Jacobson
5:00 pm	Soup and Caroling - Fellowship Hall
Monday, December 3	
6:00 pm	Grief and Loss Seminar - C201
Tuesday, December 4	
10:00 am	Baylor Lifelong Learning - C201
6:00 pm	Complex Grief and Suicide with Teens - C201
Wednesday, December 5	
6:00 pm	Youth Study Hall - Fellowship Hall St. Cecilia Bell Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
Thursday, December 6	Tower Deadline
6:30 pm	Community Race & Relations Meeting - Fellowship Hall Presbyterian Women Evening - 321 Crye Circle, Robinson
Saturday, December 8	
9:30 am	Alta Vista Tutor Gathering - Fellowship Hall
10:00 am - 8:00 pm	Salvation Army Bell Ringing
Sunday, December 9	Leslie King preaching , SHYC payments are due
8:30 am	Chapel Service - streamlined and weekly communion
9:15 am	Sunday School for all ages
10:30 am	Traditional Presbyterian Service
11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship - Foundation Parlor - Frank Drew
5:00 pm	Children's Christmas Posada

Youth Announcements - Don't miss the youth Christmas party on Wednesday, December 12, from 6-8pm, at the Hendersons' home. Bring a silly gift under \$10 for the white elephant gift exchange! High Schoolers attending SHYC in February: Don't forget that the deadline for registration and payment of \$125 is due on December 9.

Children's Announcements - Our annual Children's Christmas Posada is coming up on Sunday, December 9, at 5pm. We will gather in Fellowship Hall for a taco dinner, then get dressed into costumes as shepherds, wise men, angels, and animals, and follow Mary and Joseph on their journey as they anticipate baby Jesus' arrival. All are invited to join us for dinner and for the journey that ends with communion in the Sanctuary. Parents, please help your children think of ways they can make an offering to the Christ child during the season.

FIRST PRES NEWS

Upcoming:

Give us a Text! Simply text 73256 and in the body of the message type fpc1855. You can also click on the give tab on our website at www.firstpreswaco.org. For those giving online, you may now choose to offset the cost (1%-3%) incurred by the church when using your credit card to make a pledge or donation.

We will ring the bell at the red kettle for the Salvation Army on Saturday December 8, 10am-8pm. You are invited to sign up for a 1 hour slot and help us support the work Salvation Army does in our community to serve the homeless. Sign up in the Narthex.

There will be a **tutor meeting** on December 8 at 9:30. in room C201. Liz Ligawa, Family Support Specialist at Waco ISD and Alta Vista Elementary, will lead a conversation on understanding our children, their context and their potential. It's a time for mentors and/or pen pals to touch base with one another and reflect on the experience of volunteering at Alta Vista.

Each year, we are privileged to share gifts with the residents of the **Family Abuse Center** at Christmas time. You may have already noticed the **gift tree** in the hallway near the Atrium. Take a tag from the tree and return your gift by Sunday, December 9, to help those families celebrate Christmas in a time of transition.

Dr. Helen Harris, Baylor School of Social work, will host the following session at 6pm in Room C201:

December 3 - Grief and Loss

December 4 - Youth of Middle and High School - Complex Grief and Suicide

December 11 - Parents / Adult Session - Complex Grief and Suicide

Join the **Retirees on the Road** for a Christmas party hosted by Doug and Joanne Heitmiller on Thursday, December 13. Anyone who would like to carpool can meet at the church at 10:40am, or you can go directly to the Heitmiller home at 11am. Their address is 1017 E. Tours Road, West, Texas. Please bring a side or dessert to share. We will also do a silly white elephant gift exchange, so bring a wrapped gift worth \$10 or under! Sign up in the Narthex .

There are First Pres **decals**, \$5, and Church **ornaments**, \$20, for sale at the Welcome Center. These will make nice Christmas gifts or stocking stuffers. Please take a look.

Stewardship Highlights - Children's Stewardship includes the collection of coins for the Presbyterian Children's Homes offering on Christmas Eve. We are collecting quarters during the month of December and will have our children present quarter booklets they have decorated and filled at the Christmas Eve services. Help our children feel the power of joy and giving to God and the world! There is a container in the Narthex to help our children along, and it's ready for your quarters, dollars or checks!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - WACO, TEXAS

1100 Austin Ave. - Waco, TX 76701 - 254.752.1665 - www.firstpreswaco.org

Church Office Hours: 9:00 -12:00 and 1:00 - 5:00

Sunday Services 8:30 AM (Weekly Communion) and 10:30 AM (Morning Worship)

Pastor - Leslie King

Associate Pastor - Dee Dee Carson

Staff

Pastor	Leslie King, D. Min. (lking@firstpreswaco.org)
Associate Pastor	Dee Dee Carson, M. Div. (dcarson@firstpreswaco.org)
Part-time Director of Christian Education	Kathryn Delk (dce@firstpreswaco.org)
Director of Music	Jan Bodine, M.M. (music@firstpreswaco.org)
Chancel Choir Director	Randy Umstead, D.M.A. (chancelchoir@firstpreswaco.org)
Organist	Becky Ward, M.M. (music@firstpreswaco.org)
Accompanist (8:30 am service)	Jessica Assink
Children Music Educator	Austin Rabon
Bookkeeper and Data Coordinator	Laura Streetman (office@firstpreswaco.org)
Administrative Assistant	Lucinda Peebles (officeassist@firstpreswaco.org)
Nursery Coordinator	Chelley Breemes (bigcatz2000@yahoo.com)
Parish Assoc. for Gerontology	Jim Ellor, D. Min. Ph. D. (james_ellor@baylor.edu)
Parish Nurse	Ginger Green, R.N. (greenthumb4u@yahoo.com)
Audio Team	Jason Dalrymple, Ryan Joyner, Jamie Karney, Amanda Lassetter
Church Historian	T. Bradford Willis, D.D.S., M.S.D.
Care to the Building	Cristina Gutierrez de Garcia

Organizational Officers

Clerk of Session	Marsha Alvarado, Eric Robinson
Church Treasurer, Asst. Treasurer	Mark Harren (treasurer@firstpreswaco.org), Donna Black
First Presbyterian Church Foundation	Chuck Weaver, President, Charles Stern Carol Miller, Mike Morrison, Beth Drew Laura Munn
Sanctuary Guild	Elinor Davis, Margaret Hawes, Cynthia Perry
Sanctuary Flowers	

Session Committee Members

Personnel Committee	Steve Driese, LaRaine DuPuy, Joe Sudderth, Doug Waddill, Lisa Weaver
Administration Committee	Patsy Norman, Steve Swenke, Melanie Millar
Christian Education Committee	Wes Field, Holly Joyner, Charlotte Henderson, Olivia Henderson
Congregational Life Committee	Doug Heitmiller, Joe Sudderth, Eric Coffman, Karl Stottlemire
Facilities Committee	Larry LeFevre, George Holmes, Doug Heitmiller
Investment Committee	Bill Beaty, Roane Lacy
Worship Committee	Chuck Weaver, Sharon Stern, James Switzer
Outreach Committee	Kellie Clarkson, Dwana Nesbitt, Chris Chance, Melanie Millar, Sara Odajima

Diaconate Committee Members

Diaconate Moderator, Vice Moderator	Beth Drew, Jamie Delk
Diaconate Secretary	Tom Fergus
Prayer Committee Co-chairs	Monica Anderson, Emily Bohn
Agape Committee Co-chairs	Lee Ann Priebe, Ginger Green
Ushering Coordinator	Monica Anderson
Power of the Pen Co-chairs	Jordan Ochel, Emily Bohn
Stork Committee Chair	Lauren Olivarez, Dana Williams
Connect 4 Us Committee Co-chairs	Jeremy Goodman, Anita Karney
Welcome Committee Chair	Paul Hoffman, Rob Bradfield