



First Presbyterian Church of Waco
Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018
Soli Deo Gloria!



Star of Wonder 1 ©2014 Virginia Wieringa, viriniawieringa.com

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 23, 2018 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude *Cold December Flies Away* Arr. Hart Morris
+ Hymn 85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* Tif In Velde
(Sing Verse 4)

+ Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent candle 8:30 am Sandra and Larry LeFevre
10:30 am Patterson Family

Leader: We are still deciding if we will follow the North star's light into the unlikely places of our lives.

People: We are still deciding if we will listen to the transcendent songs instead of the noise of the world.

Leader: We are still deciding if we will speak the Good News into a vulnerable moment.

People: We are still deciding. And so, we light four candles to give us courage, faith and hope that we will not delay our decisions too long.

+ Hymn 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* Gloria

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

We confess the temptation to domesticate your Christmas story. We may be tempted to understand it as long ago and far away. We may be tempted to look romantically and nostalgically over the creches within our home and hearth. We confess that sometimes we wonder how your Christmas story could possibly live in our own lives. Who holds power and fear like Herod? What would the shepherds whisper today? From where would wisdom travel? What sort of space is available, in our lives for incarnation and salvation? How we long to understand the role we play around the manger. How we long to see your advent at work in our lives today. How we long to host you, O God, with faith, hope and love. 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 32:40-44 - Pew Bible - OT Page 737

(NLT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt

Craig Courtney

*Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word,
I come in half-belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred;
But there is room and welcome there for me,
But there is room and welcome there for me.*

*In that unlikely place I find him as they said:
Sweet newborn Babe, how frail! And in a manger bed:
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.*

*How should I not have known Isaiah would be there,
His prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart I stare:
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.*

*Can I, will I forget how Love was born, and burned
It's way into my heart—unasked, unforced, unearned,
To die, to live, and not alone for me,
To die, to live, and not alone for me?*

+ Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 8-14 - Pew Bible - NT Page 58

(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: What Truth to Tell?

Leslie King, D. Min.

Hymn 110

Love Has Come

Bring a Torch

+ 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
illuminates 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 *Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella* Uehlein
- + 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 147 *The First Noel* The First Noel
- + Charge
- + Benediction
- + Response Hymn *Amen* Hymn 601
- Postlude *Hark, The Herald Angels Sing* Fedak
- + Please rise in body or in spirit

<p style="text-align: center;">Sanctuary Flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the one who gave so much.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Parlor Flowers are given in memory of Beth and Edgar Jablonowski by Kay and Brent Standefer.</p>
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 23	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 - Gina Hiraoka and Tom Fergus
Monday, December 24	Christmas Eve / Staff Holiday
5:30 pm	Candlelight and Communion Service
7:00 pm	Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 25	Christmas Day / Staff Holiday
9:00 am	Christmas Morning Service
Wednesday, December 26	Staff Holiday
Sunday, December 30	Leslie King preaching
8:30 am	Chapel Service - streamlined and weekly communion
9:15 am	Sunday School Holiday
10:30 am	Traditional Presbyterian Service
11:30 am	Coffee Fellowship - Foundation Parlor - Diane and Dana Williams

Youth Announcements - Don't forget to bring your quarters and quarter books to church! At either Christmas Eve service, you can present your decorated quarter books to the Christ child in the manger. The books and all coins collected through the fall and Advent season will be given as an offering to Presbyterian Children's Homes.

Children's Announcements - Be on the lookout for camp dates and details coming in January!

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services will be the recipient of our 2018 Christmas Offering. PCHAS serves 5,000 children across three states (Texas, Missouri and Louisiana) each year. They offer Christ-centered support for families struggling with complex problems. We encourage you to visit their website at <https://www.pchas.org>. Thanks for prayerfully considering a generous gift to our Christmas offering this year.

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.

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! Quarter books are available in the Narthex.

On Saturday, January 26, our youth will be doing a **rib and pork loin sale** as a fundraiser to get ready for summer of 2019! Doug Heitmiller will be smoking racks of ribs and pork loins for purchase. Order forms are available in the Narthex or on Realm. A rack of ribs is \$25 and a 3 pound pork loin is \$25. We will also offer rib plates with two sides for \$10. Orders are due by January 20, and pick up times for the food are Saturday, January 26, from 4-5pm or Sunday, January 27, from 11:30am-12:30pm. Payment is due when you pick up the food. All food will come with reheating instructions, and would make great options to freeze and pull out the next weekend for Super Bowl Sunday! Thanks for supporting our youth as they cook with Doug and anticipate an exciting summer!

Prayers for a season of decision making:

1. When we are struggling with how to fix it all or be all things to all people, we may pray: "I have some power and may it grow but there is a power greater than I know."
2. When we are struggling with confirmation bias we may pray: "I have come to understand a great deal but appropriate curiosity can heal."

Christmas Worship Services:

December 24 - 5:30 pm Candlelight and Communion Service
December 24 - 7:00 pm Candlelight Service
December 25 - 9:00 am Christmas Morning Service

Our 2018 Christmas Eve offering will go to Presbyterian Children's Homes.
Envelopes can be found in the pew attendance folder.



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