



First Presbyterian Church of Waco
Second Sunday of Advent
December 9, 2018
Soli Deo Gloria!



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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 9, 2018 - Second Sunday of Advent

Greetings and Announcements

Prelude *Noel No. 10* Dàquin
+ Hymn 85 *Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah* Tif In Velde
(Sing Verses 1 and 2)

+ Call to Worship and Lighting of the Advent candle 8:30 am Margaret and John Hawes
10:30 am The Benton Family

Leader: We have decided that anger, fear and uncertainty inform us but cannot ground our living.

People: We have decided that kindness, respect and love are the investments we want to make.

Leader: We have decided that cynicism and despair are lonely dwellings.

People: We have decided to rebuild our lives daily with hope, faith and love.

Leader: So, we light two candles and decide to carry God's light forward in our ordinary lives. Amen.

+ Hymn 93 *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* Truro

Prayer of Confession and Aspiration

We confess that we are cautious with our investments. We want a good return. We want a sure thing. And yet, you are the God of radical investments in unlikely circumstances. You are the incarnate one who descends from ideals to dwell among us. You are Emmanuel who arrives into our complex circumstances and persuades us forward from our infancies. You are the Holy One dependent on our hospitality. How we long to make the radical investment and arrive fully into right moments, however unlikely they are. How we long to trust in the good and right return, despite the odds. As it was with Jeremiah and Anathoth, as with Jesus in a manger, so may we invest boldly in your name. This we pray as we anticipate your continual arrival strengthening our lives. 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 32:6-15 - Pew Bible - OT Page 736 (NLT)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem *My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord* Rutter

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

*For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden: For behold, from henceforth:
all generations shall call me blessed.*

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

*He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination
of their hearts.*

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :

As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

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.

+ Gospel Reading: Luke 1:26-38 - Pew Bible - NT Page 56 (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: Who Me? Leslie King, D. Min.

Hymn 104 *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You* Valet Will Ich Dir Geben

+ 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 *Divinum Mysterium* Bock
(Of the Father's Love Begotten)

+ 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 143 *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* Regent Square

+ Charge

+ Benediction

+ Response Hymn *Amen* Hymn 601

Postlude *Wachet Auf* Burkhardt

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 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
Monday, December 10	
Noon	Presbyterian Women - Chapel Parlor/ Foundation Parlor
5:30 pm	Joint Session and Diaconate Meeting - Fellowship Hall
Tuesday, December 11	
6:00 pm	Grief and Loss Seminar - C201 - Adults
Wednesday, December 12	
6:00 pm	Youth Christmas Party - Henderson's Home
	St. Cecilia Bell Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
Thursday, December 13	
11:00 am	Retirees on the Road Christmas Party - Heitmiller Home
Saturday, December 15	
6:00 pm	Young Adult Christmas Party
Sunday, December 16	
	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 - Lisa and Chuck Weaver

Youth Announcements - Don't miss the youth Christmas party on Wednesday, December 12, from 6-8pm, at the Henderson's home, 3824 Chateau Ave., Waco. Bring a silly gift under \$10 for the white elephant gift exchange! High Schoolers attending SHYC in February: Registration and payment of \$125 are due today!! Please turn them in to either Kathryn Delk or Dee Dee Carson in the office.

Children's Announcements - Our annual Children's Christmas Posada is today 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.

Dr. Helen Harris, Baylor School of Social work, will host the following session at 6pm in Room C201: 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! Quarter books are available in the Narthex.

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