

**PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL  
CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**









On Thursday evening, **December 12, 2019**,  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 was full of young disciples from the  
 Presbyterian Day School  
 who, dressed in their finest Christmas pajamas,  
 waived snowflakes,  
 wore happy hats,  
 sang joyous Christmas songs,  
 and faithfully re-enacted the  
 Nativity Scene.

Proud parents, grandparents,  
 siblings, aunts, uncles,  
 family friends, teachers,  
 and members of  
 First Presbyterian Church  
 filled our beautifully restored Sanctuary  
 and captured the  
 Christmas Spirit  
 in their hearts  
 as God's precious children  
 reminded us all that  
 soon we will celebrate the  
 birth of Christ,  
 the newborn king.

Special thanks to  
 Melissa Samudio, Jennifer Short,  
 and all the PDS faculty  
 for their hard work  
 in preparing the PDS students  
 for such an entertaining evening  
 and for their hospitality  
 of milk and Christmas cookies  
 in Fellowship Hall  
 following the program.

To all our PDS students  
 and their families and friends,

Weekly Newsletter  
First Presbyterian Church  
wishes you a  
Merry Christmas  
and a  
Blessed New Year!

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## Angel Tree

The Congregation's response to our  
Angel Tree Christmas Project  
to benefit children in  
the Kinship Program of the  
Texas Department of Family and Protective Services  
was a great success.

When the Session discussed  
the church's participation in the Program,  
our initial estimation was that we  
would be able to assist perhaps  
20 to 24 children in the Program.  
Frances Miller reported, however,  
that the Department of Family and Protective Services  
was proposing 30-35 eligible children  
for our sponsorship.

The Session at first believed that  
"maybe" we could find support for 30 children,  
and then, after prayerful reflection,  
the Rulings Elders decided that  
we would put all 35 names on the  
Angel Tree  
and trust in the Holy Spirit  
to help us reach that goal.

Such trust was not misplaced.  
Thanks to the generosity of this Congregation,  
all 35 names on the tree were taken,  
and thus those 35 children will enjoy  
a happier, brighter Christmas  
than their circumstances  
might otherwise allow.

This is the peace and the joy  
that we, as Christ's followers,

are compelled to share with the world,  
not just at Christmas but  
throughout our journey of faith  
in Christ's service.

May God bless the children  
whom Frances Miller has made it  
possible for us to share the  
Spirit of Christmas,  
and may God bless the members of  
First Presbyterian Church  
as we celebrate the  
Spirit of Christmas  
with family, friends, and loved ones,  
and as we go forward into the  
New Year  
seeking new ways to faithfully  
serve the child who was born in a manger  
so that we might know the  
hope, joy, and peace of  
God's love for us.

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Mr. Elijah Vega will play his trumpet  
during our worship service on  
the fourth Sunday of Advent,

**Sunday, December 22, 2019.**

Mr. Vega, who is now a freshman studying chemical engineering at Texas A&M University, played for us on Easter morning earlier this year, and we are delighted that he is able to return during Advent to share with us his extraordinary musical talents.

We will also celebrate our traditional candle light Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday evening, **December 24, 2019.**

Please plan to join us,  
and bring your friends and family,  
as we enjoy our first Advent Season  
in two years in our newly restored Sanctuary!

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## Advent Wreath

As has been a long-standing tradition at First Presbyterian Church, we will light an advent candle during each Sunday morning worship service during Advent, with the center candle (the Christ Candle) to be lit on Christmas Eve.

We look forward to this being a beautiful and worshipful  
Advent Season  
at First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas.





## Joy Offering

As is our annual tradition,  
we will take a  
“Joy Offering”  
on the Fourth Sunday of Advent  
and on  
Christmas Eve  
for  
Presbyterian Mission.

The Joy Offering  
supports Presbyterian church leaders among us,  
retired, present, and future,  
who pointed us to God.

Fifty percent of our donations  
will assist current and retired church workers  
and their families  
with critical financial needs.

The other fifty percent  
will make it possible for students to learn and grow  
in faith at Presbyterian-related schools.

Please give generously.

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## Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, December 17

5:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting

Sunday, December 22

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

*Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle*

*Guest Musician, Mr. Elijah Vega*

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## SPECIAL NOTICE:

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## OFFICE CLOSURE AND NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

*The church office will be closed from noon, on December 24, 2019 until 9:00 AM January 2, 2020.  
The newsletter will not be published during the weeks of December 23rd and 30th, 2019  
but will resume during the week of January 6, 2020.*

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December 23 - Louise Bierley  
December 26 - Leonard McCameron  
December 27 - C.F. Schneider  
December 31 - Gayla Whitaker  
January 2 - Dolly Stokes

If you, or someone you know, has a birthday this week please contact the church office:

361.575.2441

or

[info@fpcovictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcovictoria.org)

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### Final Notes

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## Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School





Are you interested in joining the Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School?  
 Come join us! All are welcome.  
 We meet before Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 AM.

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## Prayer Does Work

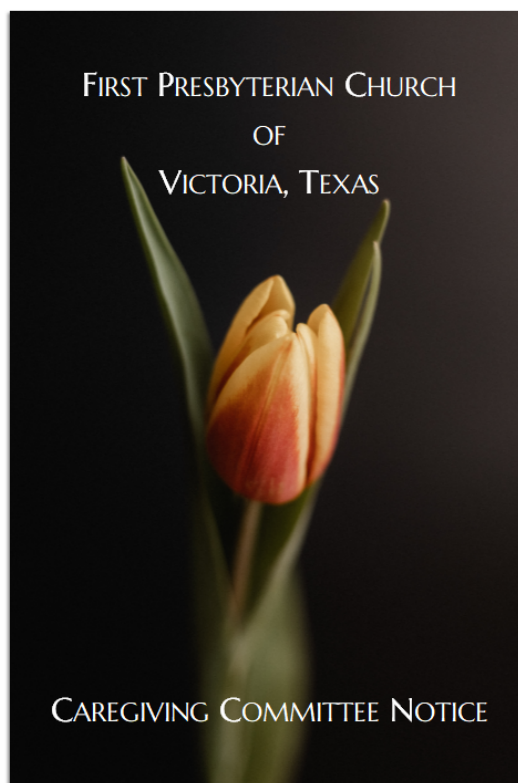
For many months Maury Mendenhall was on our prayer list.  
 In the newest edition of These Days (Winter, J-F-M 2020) is an update by Maury:  
 "My Life Is a Miracle" under the Header "These Times - Spirituality That Meets Today's Challenges".  
 Maury's article details her tragedy and the hard work she has done to recover.  
 It appears to have been written in January 2019, and Maury has continued to make additional progress.  
 In the summer of 2019 she resumed her work with USAID.

Maury worshiped and served among us while her parents, Charles and Laura, were our Co-Pastors, 1987 - 1991.

Your copy of "These Days" is waiting for you on the main hall table in front of the church office.  
Please pick yours up and join others in our community who value this devotional magazine.

Care-Giving Committee

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*When you or a family member is in the hospital, facing illness,  
or simply in need of prayer or care once a loved one has passed,  
please call or email members of the Caregiving Committee.*

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*Also, our team is seeking special people,  
to pray, work, and to aid in the tasks involved.  
Would you like to help? If so, please contact us at the info below.*

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**Rev. Jim DeMent**  
**361.575.2441 (church office)**  
**or**  
***info@fpcofvictoria.org (email)***

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**Henry Hauschild**  
**361.570.2605**  
***henryjhaus@aol.com***  
**or**  
**Lynn McAuley**  
**361.579.9566**  
***lynmca@suddenlink.net***

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*Each of these numbers can take messages,  
or are actively receiving emails.*

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*\* Due to the HIPPA Act, hospitals will no longer release  
any information, unless we know you are there.  
If you are hospitalized, please have a loved one or friend call the  
church office so we may pray for your prompt recovery  
and come visit you if you wish.*

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*Are any among you sick?  
They should call for the elders of the church  
and have them pray over them,  
anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.  
The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up;  
and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.  
Therefore confess your sins to one another,  
and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.  
The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.  
**James 5:14-16***

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**The following publications are now available (free of charge):**

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**Horizon's Magazine**

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**These Days Daily Devotional**

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***Hopes & Expectations***

**Austin Seminary Advent Devotional**

Reserve your copies by calling the church office, or pick yours up in person!  
Located in the hall in front of the church office.

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**Pray For**

Please continue to engage in prayers for our extended church family.  
If someone you know is in need of prayer, please contact the church office.

**Kathryn Amsler  
Gloria Aouelle  
Kay Edwards**



**Doyle & Eileen Fowler & Family**  
**Claire Heger**  
**Leonard "Mac" McCameron**  
**Roland Merrill**  
**Rickey Ramseur**

**Shelly, Jenna, and Ty Hartmann**  
*(Kids of Christ)*

**Angie Longoria**  
*(Kids for Christ Volunteer)*

**Juliana Longoria**  
*(Kids for Christ Disciple)*

**Eric and Kelli Mercer**  
*(Parents of PDS Student)*

**Samantha Skaggs**  
*(Niece of Roxanna and Henry Hauschild)*

**John & Jere Swoboda**  
*(Prior FPC Members)*

**Carol Wisdom**  
*(Lea Lenz's Daughter)*

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**Submissions to the Weekly Calendar**  
**can be sent to [info@fpcofvictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcofvictoria.org)**  
**or by telephone: 361.575.2441**

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**Office Hours**  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Monday - Friday



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