



**WORSHIP SERVICE (WITH COMMUNION),  
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT,  
DECEMBER 5, 2021, 10:30 A.M.**

Our next worship service, December 5, 2021 (the Second Sunday of Advent), falls on the first Sunday in the month, and so by tradition, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. Please plan to join us in person as we take the elements of communion in remembrance of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Why not also invite a friend to enjoy our beautifully decorated Sanctuary and the sacred music of the season as led by our choir and incomparable Choirmaster?

Our Scripture readings this Sunday morning are: Malachi 3:1-4; and Luke

3:1-6. The title of the sermon is “Anticipation and Preparation,” and a copy of the Bulletin for this worship service can be found here:

<https://fpcofvictoria.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/12-5-2021-Bulletin-PDF.pdf>.

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**FPC ONCE AGAIN SUPPORTS  
ANGEL TREE PROJECT  
TO BENEFIT CHILDREN IN THE  
KINSHIP PROGRAM OF THE  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND PROTECTIVE SERVICE**

This Advent Season, First Presbyterian Church will joyfully renew its participation in an Angel Tree Christmas project to benefit children in the Kinship Program of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Children in the Kinship Program have been removed from their homes by Child Protective Services, and are being cared for by relatives. In most cases, the children are living with grandparents or extended family members who are also raising their own children. Many of these families have limited resources but have nevertheless “stepped up” to care for additional children who would otherwise be placed in foster care.

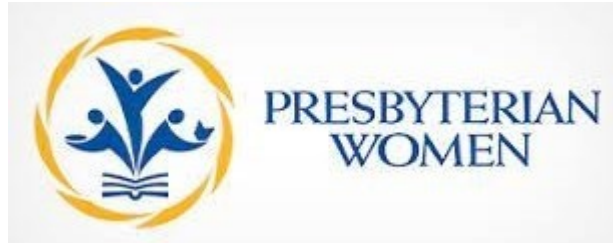
The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Kinship Unit initially provided FPC with the names of 20 children (from one to 16 years of age) in the Crossroads area. As the Angel Tree project got underway, however, Child Protective Services contacted us about 8 more children who have recently been placed in care. These children are in urgent need, and so of course we have added them to our Angel Tree project. These additional children range from 6 to 17 years of age.

Opportunities to participate in the Angel Tree project are available to all interested FPC members and their families and friends. Anyone may select a child’s name from the Angel Tree located in the Narthex, and purchase appropriate Christmas gifts for the child. They will be provided with the child’s first name and age. Clothes and shoe size, reasonable “wish list” items, and any special needs that the child’s family or CPS worker feels is appropriate, are provided if available. A decorative box is also located by the Angel Tree display for monetary donations which will be used to purchase gifts and gift cards.

Generous folks can further participate by providing “in kind” wrapping paper, tape, gift boxes, and holiday decorated gift boxes. Help is also needed to wrap and label gifts. Angel Tree gifts must be received by Sunday, December 12. Gifts will be delivered to the local Department of Family and Protective Services office on December 13.

For further information, please contact the church office (361.575.2441) or Frances Miller (361.578.4679).

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The Presbyterian Women have cautiously resumed their regular in-person activities. Here is a schedule of those activities in the coming weeks:

- Tuesday, December 7: Coordinating Council meeting.
  - Thursday, December 9: The Adele Carsner Young Circle meeting at 9:30 a.m., with a salad luncheon to follow to celebrate the Christmas season. Please bring your favorite salad! Dessert will be provided.
  - Monday, December 13: Mary and Martha Circle meeting at 2:00 p.m.
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### **VCAM**

Thank you, dear FPC members, for so generously donating Thanksgiving food during November. As we celebrate this blessed season of Advent and Christmas and the birth of our Savior, please help us again fill the VCAM pantry with ingredients for tasty holiday treats—

- Baking powder, baking soda
- Brown sugar, granulated sugar
- Cake and cupcake mixes

- Flour
- Ground cinnamon, ginger, salt, spices
- Ready-made icing
- Sprinkles for decorating

Collection baskets are in the Narthex and the hallway outside the church office.

### A SPECIAL VCAM NEED

Marc Hinojosa, VCAM executive director, adds a special request this month for beanies, gloves, hoodies/jackets, towels, and underwear, saying, “Let’s help our homeless population stay warm during the cooler months.”





**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021, 6:30 PM**

What would Christmas be without a PDS Christmas Program?! Last year our hearts were lonely as the pandemic prevented our young disciples at the Presbyterian Day School from singing and celebrating the Christmas Season with all the joy and abandon with which they are blessed.

Cautiously this year, however, the children will perform the happy songs of Christmas in our Sanctuary for their extended families and FPC members. If you need an overflowing dose of Christmas cheer, if your heart needs to be reminded of the special season that Christmas becomes for children, please join us on Thursday evening, December 9th, at 6:30 p.m., for the joy and delight of the annual PDS Christmas Program.

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**WITNESS TO THE RESURRECTION SERVICE,  
Lorraine Guedin Carpenter,  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2021, 11:00 A.M.**

On Saturday, December 4th, at 11:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary, we will celebrate a Service of Witness to the Resurrection in Celebration of the Life of Lorraine Guedin Carpenter (1924-2021). The Service will be immediately followed by a reception, hosted by the Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church, in our Fellowship Hall.

Lorraine's obituary can be found here: <https://www.gracefuneralhome.net/memorials/lorraine-carpenter/4791089/obituary.php>.

Please be in prayer for Lorraine and her family.

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Under Linda Patterson's talented direction, we will once again create the traditional-- and always spectacular-- poinsettia Christmas tree to decorate our chancel during this Advent Season. As is our custom, members and friends of FPC are being offered the opportunity to purchase a poinsettia for \$15 per plant. You can take your poinsettia(s) home, or you can designate your payment to be used to support VCAM or another local charity. In each instance, your gift can also be designated in honor or in memory of one or more people who are special to you. A list of all the names thus designated will be acknowledged in our Christmas bulletin.

For more information, look for the "Christmas Poinsettias" leaflet which will be inserted in our worship service bulletins during the coming Sundays, or [click here](#) to be able to read and, if you wish, print the form: abcde

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### **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021**

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we celebrate with joy the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The **Christmas Joy Offering** has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. This special annual offering provides critical financial support to church workers in need and their families, while also supporting Presbyterian-related schools and colleges in education and leadership development. This year we will be collecting the **Joy Offering** on **Sunday**,

**Dec. 19.** Please look for special offering envelopes included with your bulletin for our worship service that Sunday.

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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 in 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.

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### **SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION CALLED FOR DECEMBER 5, 2021**

The Session has called a Special Meeting of the Congregation to be held at the conclusion of the worship service on Sunday, December 5, 2021.

During this brief meeting, the Chair of the Congregation Nominating Committee, Billy Leske, will report on the recommendations of the CNC, specifically that Francie Byrne, Patrick Patterson, and Becky Richter be elected to serve on the Session for a three-year term (the Class of 2024) commencing January 1, 2022.

The Moderator will invite additional nominations from the floor, if there be any. Before submitting someone to be considered for election to the Session, however, please be sure and confirm with that individual that he or she would be willing to serve if elected.

At the end of such discussion as the congregation may desire, a vote will be taken to elect the members of the Session Class of 2024. May God grant us and our new leaders strength, wisdom, and perseverance as First Presbyterian Church enters the coming calendar year with hope, promise, and continued service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Peace, grace, and mercy,

Pastor Jim

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