



Words of Faith

Faith United Presbyterian Church

Volume VII, Issue 12

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends of FUPC,



Beginning the first Sunday in December, the church will be in the season of the year we refer to as

Advent. The word Advent comes from the Latin word "Adventus" which means "coming" or "arrival." It is a time of waiting, and watching, and preparing for the arrival of our Lord. It is about looking back in the past to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ child. But it is also a time of looking to the future as we await the second coming of Jesus who will come to make his perfect kingdom of peace, justice, and righteousness complete. Until that time comes, scripture tells us that we are to remain vigilant, watching, and waiting so that we are not caught by surprise.

Most of us prepare for Christmas but the concern I share with most ministers is that we spend most of our time preparing, not for a return of Jesus, but for fulfilling the demands of the season. We have presents to purchase and wrap, parties to attend, and trees to decorate. We have Christmas cards to address and mail, and lots of cookies to bake. Most of our

congregation are well beyond the age of having to put bicycles together, but that doesn't mean we don't have grandchildren to purchase for or even great grandchildren. The focus can be on preparing for Santa Claus rather than for Jesus. Mind you, I have nothing against Santa Claus, but if gifts and parties and baking cookies are the sum total of our Advent preparation, then we've missed the boat on what the Advent season is all about.

On the other hand, there are lots of ways we can prepare for the coming of the Messiah during this Advent season. We can begin by taking a good look at ourselves. Do our attitudes need adjusting? Are there grudges we need to get rid of, or people we need to reconcile with? Have we been too quick to judge certain people? Are there ways in which we can help others either through the church or some other volunteer organization? Can we share what we have so there is less suffering in the world? Can we devote more time to prayer and Bible study?



Rev. Dr. Jim Johns

People of any age can pick up the telephone and call someone who is alone and could use a friendly call.

I have another suggestion concerning how you might be able to prepare yourself for Advent. Consider joining us on Tuesday, November 28th at 11 am and throughout the Advent season for a Bible study that

focuses on Advent Themes in the four gospels.

Specifically, we will look at the origins of Jesus in each gospel; Who is Jesus?

Where did he come from? And how does this affect how we live our Christian life today? Even if you receive this notice late and

only have time to join us for a couple of sessions, this is the kind of Bible study you can join in on by attending any Tuesday in December up until Christmas. You'll only need a Bible and a notebook that you will receive as your curriculum.

Jesus is coming, and Jesus said no one knows the day or the hour of his return. It's OK to prepare for Santa Claus, but let's not forget to prepare for Jesus as well. Have a Merry Christmas!

Joy in Christ, *Pastor Jim*
James@FaithUnited-pc.com

Inside this issue

- From the Pastor's desk
- Presbyterian Women
- FUPC in the community
- ...and more!

Next newsletter is

January 2018.

**Deadline for
articles, Friday,
12/15/17.**

**Contact church
office or Brenda
Swindle via email
to submit articles.**

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Presbyterian Women

FUPC Presbyterian Women Bible studies/Circles meet monthly. Feel free to contact Mary Marxer if you need more information or contact a circle leader. The 2017-2018 Bible study is *Cloud of Witness*, books are available for purchase at \$11 each.

Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd Tuesday, **Dec. only at 10 am.** Next meeting, 12/12. Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle.



Mary Marxer

Thursday Morning Circle-2nd Thursday, *NEW TIME*, 10 am at the church, Next meeting, 12/14. Co-Moderators, Patsy Craig and Sharon Meurer.

Tuesday Evening Circle-3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm in members homes. Next meeting, 12/19, Circle moderator, Irene Simpson.

The Starboard Stitchers will next meet on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 1:00 pm at the church. All are invited to come help them stuff fabric animals. These animals go to toddlers when they get their shots at the North Dallas Shared Ministries clinic.

Outreach & Evangelism

Pancake Breakfast—Our next Community Breakfast is Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 to 10 a.m. Join us as we share food and fellowship with our neighbors and each other.



Metrocrest Services



We continue to collect for the annual Santa Store on Dec. 3, and 10. Bring your donations to church and place them in the narthex by our tree. List of items suggested:

Infants

- ♦ sleepers & toddler clothes; diapers (size 3-6) & wipes
- ♦ push / pull / riding toys
- ♦ play gyms; car seats; educational games

Children

- ♦ large plastic toys; baby dolls & accessories; play dish sets
- ♦ trucks, cars, tools; DVDs & CDs; pajamas
- ♦ scooters/skateboards; hooded sweatshirts
- ♦ tricycles & bicycles; sport helmets & safety equipment
- ♦ remote controlled toys; educational software

Family

- ♦ comforters/blankets sheets/towels/pillows
- ♦ sleeping bags
- ♦ iron/ironing boards
- ♦ pots/pans and silverware
- ♦ boxed glasses and dish sets
- ♦ household cleaning products
- ♦ boom boxes, DVD player

Preteen/Teen

(Preteen/Teen gifts are always in short supply.)

- ♦ college logo sweats
- ♦ boom boxes/radios
- ♦ cameras/watches
- ♦ fleece stadium blankets
- ♦ gym bags/sports equip.
- ♦ wallets/silver jewelry sets
- ♦ DVDs & CDs
- ♦ personal hair, nail, and cosmetic product sets
- ♦ Walmart, Target gift cards



You can sign up to volunteer on the Metrocrest website.

www.metrocrestservices.org

North Dallas Shared Ministries

The Clothes Closet at North Dallas Shared Ministries is in need of volunteers on Tuesday and Thursday. Volunteers sort, label and assist clients. If you are willing to help, contact Ruth Ann Janson, our volunteer coordinator either by phone or email at volunteer.coordinator@ndsm.org.



Happy Birthday!

December 1

* Steve Laclede

December 4

* Emily Hinely

December 8

* Bob Hinkle

December 12

* Jerry Dunaway

December 13

* Miranda Rodriguez

* Marilyn Rose

December 16

* Gail Dunaway

December 20

* Annette Shepard

December 21

* Ray Butler

December 22

* Ruth Yost

December 26

* Bob Howell

December 30

* Nick Norman

December 31

* Dottie Cogar



Prayer Concerns

Prayers for:

- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Elizabeth Hendricks
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Ray Kirchmeyer
(David's brother)
- ♥ Lilas Kinch
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Sherrard Family
- ♥ Glen Sparks
- ♥ Alan Swope
- ♥ Dennis Van Deventer

Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Bobbie & J.R. Jones
- ♥ Margaret Jones
- ♥ Joanne McKnight
- ♥ Anne Mobley
- ♥ Wanda Mosher
- ♥ Freddie Simmons
- ♥ Jack Walden (*Austin with daughter, Morgan McFall, 401 W. Liveoak Street, Austin, TX 78704*)



Notes & News from the Pews

Dear Faith United family,

Some of you may remember my son, Thomas Pentecost. He retired in March, 2017, from the Army with the rank of Colonel. He and his wife, Paula, began hiking the Appalachian Trail on April 1, 2017 starting in Georgia as thru hikers.

This means they were going to hike the entire distance at one time. On October 23, 2017, they completed this adventure of 2190 miles ending in Maine.

To quote Thomas, "It was the best consecutive six months, three weeks and two days of my life." He is now job hunting!

Christine Walker

Adult Sunday School

The **Searchers** class meets in the Resource Room/Library at 9:30 each Sunday morning. Alison Meier is leading the class.

The **Weekly Bible Study**, taught by Rich Lewis. They are studying the Gospel of Matthew. This study will continue through Advent and into January. They meet at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in Double Classroom #4. December schedule: will meet Dec. 3, will **NOT meet Dec. 10 or 17**, will meet Dec. 24 and continue through January.



Christmas Celebration, 12/17!

Faith United Presbyterian Church will gather for a Christmas celebration on Sunday, 12/17.



The FUPC choir is preparing "Tapestry of Light," a cantata for worship on the 17th. Please extend an invitation to your family and friends. We hope to share a morning of worship, music, food and fellowship with many on the 17th as we continue through Advent.

Look for the sign up sheets in the Narthex for the luncheon following worship on the 17th. The church will provide turkey, dressing, gravy, and green beans for the lunch and will gladly accept donations either beforehand or at the lunch. You can sign up to bring items to share or sign up to donate \$5-\$10 toward the cost of the meal. The items to share will be salads, desserts, & rolls/butter.



We wait . . .



Advent Bible Study with Pastor Jim

Tuesdays, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12, 12/18, 11 am to 12 Noon

A Season of Hope and Anticipation:

Advent Themes in the Four Gospels

1st Sunday of Advent, December 3

- Prayer, Sunday School, & Worship, beginning @ 9 am ☩

2nd Sunday of Advent, December 10

- Prayer, Sunday School, & Worship, beginning @ 9 am ☩
- FUPC Session Meeting, 12:30 pm

3rd Sunday of Advent, December 17

- Prayer & Sunday School beginning @ 9 am ☩
- "Tapestry of Light" Worship @ 11 am ☩
- we prepare our hearts with music
- Christmas Celebration Lunch immediately following
- 11 am worship guests welcome

4th Sunday of Advent, December 24

- Prayer, Sunday School, & Worship, beginning @ 9 am ☩

Sunday, December 24

- Christmas Eve Communion Worship, 5 pm ☩

- ☩ Childcare available beginning at 10 am Sunday mornings & 5 pm on Christmas Eve evening

Complete calendar of events may be found on the website—www.FaithUnited-pc.com

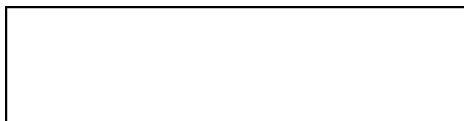


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On the Web!

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