



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



December 2024

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast

Session members:

Class of 2024:

Patricia Clark

Class of 2025:

Slade Weaver and Kathy Winn

Class of 2026

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Treasurer:

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Pulpit supply for Dec:

Dec. 1st - Jane Els

Dec. 8th - Natalie Wolf

Dec. 15th - Jane Els

Dec. 22nd - Mitch Thompson

Dec. 29th - Jimmy Chapman

ATTENDANCE:

November 3—15

November 10—15

November 17—12

November 24—15

**December
BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARIES**

28 Chris Holloman

28 Carrie Russell

December 2024 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

[Begin Year C]

First Sunday of Advent—December 1

Jeremiah 33:14–16

Psalms 25:1–10

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

Luke 21:25–36

Second Sunday of Advent—December 8

Malachi 3:1–4

Luke 1:68–79

Philippians 1:3–11

Luke 3:1–6

Third Sunday of Advent—December 15

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Isaiah 12:2–6

Philippians 4:4–7

Luke 3:7–18

Fourth Sunday of Advent—December 22

Micah 5:2–5a

Luke 1:46–55 or Psalm 80:1–7

Hebrews 10:5–10

Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)

Nativity of the Lord / Christmas—December 24

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2–7

Psalms 96:1–13

Titus 2:11–14

Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)

Nativity of the Lord / Christmas—December 25

Christmas Dawn

Isaiah 62:6–12

Psalms 97:1–12

Titus 3:4–7

Luke 2:(1–7) 8–20



Jane's Journey

What some people call the Christmas season the church calls Advent. We celebrated the "coming" of Christ. Each Sunday we celebrate a different concept: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.

The winter is closing around us. The nights are getting longer and the days shorter. The ancients, who were more closely tuned to nature, understood the cycles of the earth and could predict the shortest day of the year. It was December 20 and they celebrated it because they knew it meant the days would then start getting longer. Hope. There is always something to hope for. Even in the darkest time of the year the day after provides us with a new day, a slightly shorter day with just a little more light.

In the 3rd century the Roman emperor Constantine adopted Christianity as a legal religion. On December 25 of 336 the church in Rome formally began celebrating Christmas. This date coincided with the established pagan festival of Saturnalia. Maybe this move was in the hopes of weakening that celebration. It also competed with the solstice usually celebrated around the 20th of December.

Modern folks today have lost touch with the sun's habits. But we do miss the sunlight. We can take comfort that, for all our complaining about daylight savings time, come the 20th of December our days will be getting longer. We'll be able to be outside more, enjoying the warmth, until it comes time for us to complain about how hot it is in Texas.

We will take some time this month to pray for peace in the world. With modern social media, we are more closely connected than ever before. When bombs fall anywhere on earth we are able to witness the effects of its damage-- live on the internet. Sometimes Peace seems almost impossible. Then, in spiritual whiplash, barely a week flies by and we find ourselves back in church celebrating the Joy of Emmanuel, "God with Us. And a week after that we wind up our Advent season with Love.

Each week will bring us a different way to understand Christ and the way God comes to us. May you grow in your relationship with Christ each day, like a present under the tree, unwrapping a gift of understanding and discovery.

December

First Presbyterian, Holidays in United States, Birthdays

Dec 2024 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion	2 2pm - Bible Study	3	4	5 9am - Presbytery mtg.	6	7 12pm - Al-Anon
8	9 2pm - Bible Study	10	11	12	13	14 12pm - Al-Anon
15	16 2pm - Bible Study	17	18	19	20	21 12pm - Al-Anon
22 Joy offering taken	23	24 Christmas Eve Lesson/carols 5PM	25 Christmas Day Office closed	26	27	28 Carmel Russell Chloe Holloman 12pm - Al-Anon
29	30 2pm - Bible Study	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day Office closed	2	3	4 12pm - Al-Anon