

Celtic Cross

The *Celtic Cross* is published once a month. News items intended for a specific issue should be submitted by noon on the Sunday prior to the last Wednesday of each month.

Vol. 58, No. 12

December 2021

Editor: Cathy Taylor

Dear FPC Denton Church Family,

Your prayers have been diligent---keep them up! The Holy Spirit is on the move at FPC Denton! Mission will soon see its Little Free Pantry up and running to provide food to those in need and we have been collecting needed items for Our Daily Bread to distribute. Our new Music Director Jacob, Organist Catherine and all the Chancel Choir are enhancing our worship with their talents. Despite our few numbers, I feel our church is on the move and has much to offer all those who are drawn to our doors. People need a church home especially in these chaotic times and in this season---so invite friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family to join us at worship and at any of the activities this month—and anytime! We need Door Greeters! Can anyone come early to open our church doors and greet visitors? Let us celebrate this Christmas season and rejoice that we are together!

Here is some “food for thought” on Advent which I have “borrowed” from a devotional. Jesus’ coming was a search-and-save mission. Luke 19:10 says, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” Advent is a time to think about the mission of God to seek and to save lost people from the wrath to come. Jesus is the one who delivers us from the wrath to come. Advent is a season to worship this characteristic of God—the One who seeks and saves. He is a God on a mission. He is not aloof or passive or indecisive. He is sending, pursuing, searching, saving. Jesus came into the world at the first Advent, and every Advent is a reminder of his continual coming into more and more lives. And it is our Advent—our coming, our moving into the lives of those around us. Join in God’s mission!

Have a very blessed Christmas!



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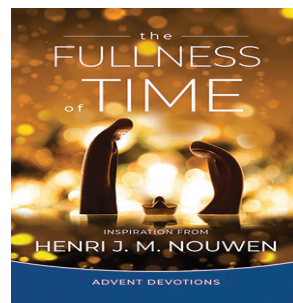
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Advent Devotionals are here—"The Fullness of Time"

Celebrate Advent and draw closer to our Savior through the daily reflections and prayers inspired by Scripture and the spiritual writings of Henri J. M. Nouwen.

Rich, warm and encouraging reflections invite readers to pray each day and encounter Emmanuel, God-with-us. Each devotion begins with a Scripture verse, followed by the words of beloved theological master Henri Nouwen and a reflection from contemporary writer and retreat leader Amy Ekeh. A prayer closes each daily reflection, leading readers to experience a fullness of faith in Christ. Jesus.

Free copies of this devotional are available in the Nar-thex.



Advent Children's Devotional—Countdown to Christmas, also available

Love Notes from Pastor Debbie



The sanctuary now glows with the lights of Christmas! December will be filled with many wonderful opportunities to enjoy worship and music, fellowship and mission this month. Also, please note that I have office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 -2:00!

Here are the readings for December:

December 5: 2nd Sunday of Advent. Communion. Readings: Malachi 3: 1-4; Luke 1: 68-79 (in place of Psalm); Luke 3: 1-6; Philippians 1: 3-11. Theme: Hope! Sermon Title: "The Hope of Salvation" Sermon Text: Luke 3: 1-6.

December 12: 3rd Sunday of Advent. Readings: Zephaniah 3: 14-20; Isaiah 12: 2-6 (in place of Psalm); Luke 3: 7-18; Philippians 4: 4-7. Theme: Joy! Sermon Title: "Joy! The Lord is in Our Midst" Sermon Text: Zephaniah 3: 14-20.

December 19: 4th Sunday of Advent. Nicene Creed. Readings: Micah 5: 2-5a; Luke 1: 46b-55 (in place of Psalm); Luke 1: 39-45; Hebrews 10: 5-10. Theme: Blessed! Sermon Title: "Blessed!" Sermon Text: Luke 1: 39-45

December 24: Christmas Eve Service. Readings: Isaiah 9: 2-7; Psalm 96; Luke 2: 1-20; Titus 2: 11-14. Theme: Glory to God! Sermon Title: "Glory to God!" Sermon Text: Luke 2: 1-20.

December 26: 1st Sunday after Christmas Day. Nicene Creed. Readings: 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Luke 2: 41-52; Colossians 3: 12-17. Theme: New Year's Resolutions. Sermon Title: "The Perfect New Year's Resolution" Sermon Text: Colossians 3: 12-17.

*May the peace and hope of
Christ's birth
be with you now and in the days ahead...*

December 2021 Church Calendar

Dec. 5: Advent 2. Pot Luck Luncheon after church for all Three Churches to celebrate the renovations to date of Erwin Hall, noon to 2:30 PM. If anyone would like to bring food, please bring to Erwin Hall before 10:30.

Denton Bach Society Christmas Concert—Sanctuary 4—5 PM

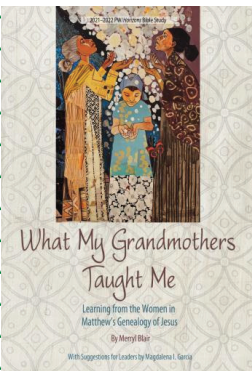
Dec. 11: Saturday, 5-7. - Join us in the sanctuary to sing carols and enjoy fellowship. Denton Presbyterian Church and The Greater International Healing & Deliverance Center (Collins' church has invited us, the PCA church, First Baptist of Kruger-ville and maybe one or two others) Join together to sing Christmas music and to fellowship. The Carol Sing will be followed by a reception with refreshments.

Dec. 12: Advent 3.

Dec. 19: Advent 4. At 6:00 pm, there will be a Lessons and Carols program at our church. Jacob Augsten and Pastor Debbie are working on this—stay tuned!

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service

Dec. 26: First Sunday after Christmas



Ladies 2021-2022 Circle Bible Study
Sybil Hopper Room
Tuesday, December 7 10-11:30 Am
Lesson Four "Ruth and Loyal Love"
Scripture: Ruth 1-2

January Meeting 4th

Session
Meeting
Tuesday
December 21
2021
at 7:00 PM
(third Tuesday)

*Hanging of the greens—many hands
make the work go fast*



**And
lunch!**



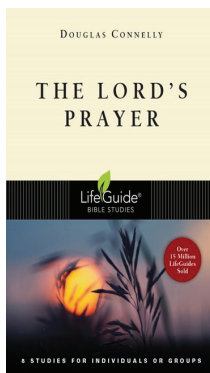
December 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			¹ Birthday: Insook Melton	²	³	⁴
⁵ Disciple's Class 9:30AM Worship 11 AM Three Church Pot Luck Bach Society Christmas Concert 	⁶	⁷ Birthday: Esther Igbudu Ladies Bible Study 10AM	⁸ Birthday: Jim Kirkpatrick Michael Stroud	⁹ Ladies Breakfast 9AM	¹⁰	¹¹ Three Church Carol Sing Sanctuary 5—7:00 PM
¹² Disciple's Class 9:30AM Worship 11 AM 	¹³	¹⁴	¹⁵ Birthday: Helen Beck Simeon Choi	¹⁶	¹⁷	¹⁸
¹⁹ Disciple's Class 9:30AM Worship 11 AM Lessons and Carols 6PM 	²⁰ Birthday: Simeon Choi Simonette Choi Anniversary: Simeon and Isatu Choi	²¹ Session 7PM	²²	²³	²⁴ Christmas Eve Candle- light Service 7 Joy	²⁵ Anniversary: Charles and Joan Hubbard
²⁶ Disciple's Class 9:30AM Deacon's 10:30AM Worship 11 AM Celtic Cross Deadline	²⁷	²⁸	²⁹	³⁰	³¹	

Dorothy Martin, Jim Welborn's mother, loved the cards sent to her by the mission committee. She proudly displayed them on her wall for all to see. She also had become very close friends with Mary Louise Harris. Mary knew that Dorothy was a big fan of Elvis Presley and drew a picture of Elvis for Dorothy. Dorothy also proudly displayed this drawing. These photos were taken as we emptied Dorothy's room after her death.



Linn and I want to thank all of you in our church family for your heart felt prayers, cards and thoughts as we have dealt with the loss of my mother, Dorothy Martin. We want to thank all those who have pitched in to help with the memorial service and reception that followed. Although she was not a member, she felt a connection to the church as she was well aware of the prayers of the church and visitors from time to time. She loved the Christmas Caroling and would join us in Mary Harris' room. She also joined in communion in Mary's room on occasion. Jim Welborn



Disciples Class 9:30 AM

Bible Study

The Disciple's Class are studying "The Lord's Prayer" using the Life Guide Bible Study series books. In this eight-session study, author Douglas Connelly unpacks the Lord's Prayer section by section with additional texts that help you dig deeper into Jesus' teaching about how to pray. Study guides will be available. Please Join Us.

Mission News

We are finishing up our winter collection for Our Daily Bread. We invited the other two churches that meet in our building to join us in this collection. These churches are Denton Presbyterian Church and the Greater International Healing & Deliverance Center. We've been making this collection in the fall for several years. These items are distributed by Our Daily Bread to those in need.

The Little Free Food Pantry project is underway. We've received confirmation from the builder that he is ready to build the pantry and we've contacted the State of Texas to check for underground utilities where we want to place the pantry. It will be placed in the northwest corner of the church property near the Denton Center parking lot and Hinkle Dr. This pantry will be available to everyone to either place non perishable food items in the pantry, or to take food items from the pantry. Our sign will say "Take what you need, leave what you can." Hopefully we can help make an impact in the hunger needs of our community. We anticipate completion of the project by mid December. This is a new mission for our church and we will be talking about it more in the future as we learn the ins and outs of managing the pantry.

Praise God for allowing us the opportunities to serve our community in his Son Jesus' name.

In the Kitchen

In 2002, Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church published the revised edition of "In the Kitchen," their favorite recipes. The first edition was published in 1993. The ladies of the church, and some men, provided their favorite recipes.

I hope you enjoy looking back at these glimpses of times past.
Jim Welborn

Cucumber Spread

(page 79)

- 2 medium size cucumbers
- 1 large (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 3-4 drops Tabasco sauce (to taste)
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ½ pod garlic



Chop cucumbers into fine pieces (almost pulp - do not put in blender). Cream into cheese with remainder of ingredients. Spread on rye bread or crackers.

Pat Harberson

Households for Prayer

Let us continue to uphold our households in prayer with these members for

December 2021

Simeon, Isatu, Simeon, Darlene, Simonette Choi and Jimmy Odihiri
Eunice Curry
Pat Edell
Erin Erickson
Lynda Erickson
Gene Finlay
Valorie Frederico
Larry and Pat Harberson

Prayer Group meets the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 9 AM (this month only the 9th) - Burger King, West University



Sunday, December 5
Denton Bach Society
Christmas Concert
Sanctuary 4:00 PM

Ladies Breakfast
9AM



Friend us on Facebook

FPC: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FPCDentonTX/>

FPC Presbyterian Women: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PWDentonFPC/>

Find us on the web: <http://www.fpcdenton.org>

facebook





Prayer Concerns

Health Concerns: Protection for all healthcare workers, especially Val-orie F, Ashley H, Kim T and Becky J. Continuing Prayers for Pam A, Hel-en B, Gerald B, Riley B, Price and Margaret B, Eunice C, Pat H, Nadine Hoch, Louise K, Pat M, Bob N, Don N, Pat R, Don R, Judy R, Buzz F and family, Kathy K, Karen B, Annemarie V, Sam C, Noble C, Sara L, Rev. Tim Keller, Dick and Eleanor W.

Sympathy: Families of Dorothy Martin, Delia Lozano, Dustin Morgan

Safety, Strength, Wisdom and Courage: every one of us the world-over as we navigate this extraordinarily unprecedented time. Those impacted by recent natural disasters and civil unrest; rescue teams, fire fighters, first responders, police officers and other peacemakers; those who seek a spiritual connection, may they find it.

Our Church: Leadership - Pastor Spangler, Deacons, staff and all who give their time, talent and treasure to further God's purpose in the church, the community and the world. God's grace upon the works and projects of the Mission Committee, and wisdom for good stewardship of all our many blessings, past, present and future.

December Birthdays

Anniversaries

- 1 Insook Melton
- 7 Esther Igbudu
- 8 Jim Kirkpatrick
- 8 Michael Stroud
- 15 Helen Beck
- 15 Simeon Choi
- 20 Simeon Choi
- 20 Simonette Choi

- 20 Simeon and Isatu Choi
- 25 Charles and Joan Hubbard



From the FPC Staff and newsletter editor. We wish all of you a safe and Happy New Year.



Communion
December 5th
2nd Sunday of
Advent

Celtic Cross deadline is December 26 for publication on December 29th. Please send your news and articles to "Newsletter@fpcdenton.org"

Bible Readings
December 2021

- 1 Matt. 21:23–32
- 2 Matt. 21:33–46
- 3 Matt. 22:1–14
- 4 Matt. 22:15–22
- 5 Luke 1:57–68
- 6 Matt. 22:23–33
- 7 Matt. 22:34–46
- 8 Matt. 23:1–12
- 9 Matt. 23:13–26
- 10 Matt. 23:27–39
- 11 Matt. 24:1–14
- 12 John 5:30–47
- 13 Matt. 24:15–31
- 14 Matt. 24:32–44
- 15 Matt. 24:45–51
- 16 Matt. 25:1–13
- 17 Matt. 25:14–30
- 18 John 3:16–21
- 19 Luke 1:1–25
- 20 Luke 1:26–36
- 21 Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)
- 22 Luke 1:57–66
- 23 Luke 1:67–80 or Matt.1:1–17
- 24 Matt. 1:18–25
- 25 John 3:31–36
- 26 Luke 2:22–40
- 27 John 13:20–35
- 28 Matt. 18:1–14
- 29 John 2:1–11
- 30 John 4:46–54
- 31 John 5:1–15

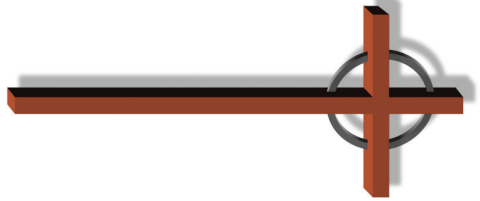
Source: PC(USA) Common Lectionary

Aerobics

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Erwin Hall - 8:30 am

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