

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. 59, No. 12

December 2022

Editor: Cathy Taylor

Dear FPC Denton Church Family,

Advent is a time of anticipation and joy, but it can also be a time of busyness and stress. The turmoil of the season can distract us from the true message. This season is a special time on the calendar, but it is so much more. It is not only a time to remember a long ago event; it's a time to experience God himself and to ready ourselves for his coming again (even if that is not during our earthly lifetime). This is the time of year when people are most open to the things of God. We are people created in God's image. We have access to his presence and his promises. God invites us to push away the clutter, turn down the noise, and offer him the sacred space in our lives so that the King of Glory may enter, take residence, and radically change us from the inside out. We can race through the holiday season more stressed than blessed, or we can slow down, ponder the reality of Christ within us, and respond to his miraculous work within us. Change your focus, determine your pace, adjust your priorities, and this could be your most life-giving, holiday season yet. Jesus' life will transform ours if we let him. Let's prepare our hearts to encounter Jesus in a life-changing way.

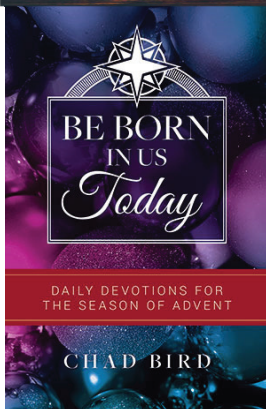
Let earth receive her King!

Blessings!
Debbie



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Advent Devotionals are here **Be Born In Us Today**

Devotions for Advent

As we look toward the physical birth of our Savior, Jesus, we are reminded in these devotionals for Advent by Chad Bird that Christ is born in us spiritually today and every day. He enters into us daily to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence within us as we become more and more like him in the living of our lives.

🌸 The sanctuary **POINSETTIAS** 🌸 are not available quite yet, but we plan to have 15-20 to "adopt", price tba. Look for sign up in narthex.





Love Notes from Pastor Debbie

Advent time is here! Our "special" services include: Lessons and Carols on Tuesday, December 20 at 7 pm which will include the Christmas readings from Scripture and very special music from Jacob, the choir, and some surprise guests! Our traditional Christmas Eve service will be on Saturday, December 24 beginning with a Tamale supper with all the other "treats" at 6 pm (we do need a head count, please!) and the Candlelight and Communion service will begin at 7 pm. We will have services on both Christmas Day (December 25th) and on New Year's Day (January 1st). There are so many opportunities to share the true meaning of Christmas with your family and friends!

Here are the readings for December:

December 4: Advent 2/Communion. Readings: Psalm 72: 1-7, 18-19; Isaiah 11: 1-10; Matthew 3: 1-12; Romans 15: 4-13. Sermon Title: "Prepare" Theme: Prepare. Text: Matthew 3.

December 11: Advent 3. Readings: Isaiah 35: 1-10; Matthew 11: 2-11; Luke 1: 46b-55; James 5: 7-10. Sermon Title: "Praise" Theme: Praise. Text: Luke 1.

December 18: Advent 4. Readings: Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19; Isaiah 7: 10-16; Matthew 1: 18-25; Romans 1: 1-7. Sermon Title: "Prophecy". Theme: Prophecy regarding Jesus. Texts: Isaiah 7 and Matthew 1.

(Lessons and Carols, Tuesday, December 20, 7 pm)

December 24: Communion/Christmas Eve. Readings: Psalm 96; Isaiah 9: 2-7; Luke 2: 1-20; Titus 2: 11-14. Sermon Title: "Glory" Theme: Glory of God. Texts: Luke 2 and Titus 2.

December 25: Christmas Day. Readings: Psalm 98; Isaiah 52: 7-10; John 1: 1-14; Hebrews 1: 1-12. Sermon Title: "The Son" Theme: Jesus Texts: All of them but especially John 1 and Hebrews 1.

January 1: 1st Sunday after Christmas/New Year's Day/Communion. Readings: Psalm 148; Isaiah 63: 7-9; Matthew 2: 13-23; Hebrews 2: 10-18. Sermon Title: "Trust" Theme: Trust in God. Texts: Matthew 2 and Hebrews 2.



Sunday Dec. 4 at 4PM Handel's *Messiah* with Denton Bach Choir and Orchestra. Christmas section. Soloists include our own Christopher Rodriquez, baritone; Maiya Williams, mezzo soprano; and (me)Beverly Hoch, soprano

Sunday Dec 11 at 4PM Texas Youth Chorale. Ann Smith, former choir director and member of FPC is the director of this lovely group. Bring non-perishable food items or school supplies for the Denton Christian Preschool

Tuesday Dec. 20 Lessons and Carols at 7PM You remember it last year? Jacob Augsten leads our Chancel Choir plus-plus-plus guest singers. You don't want to miss it.

Saturday Dec. 24 Candlelight Christmas Eve. Tamale Supper at 6PM, Service at 7PM. Candy Cane treats
Please let us know how many of your family will want supper (narthex signup)

Sunday Dec. 25 Christmas Morning Hand-Chime Carol singing at 10:30 with hand-chimes in the gathering area with cocoa.
11AM service.



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



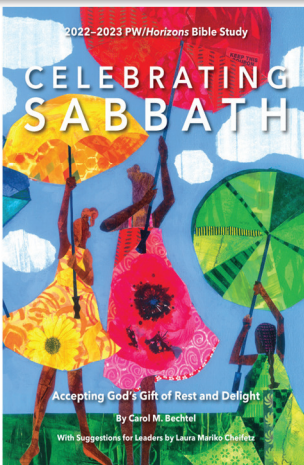
Thank you very
one! Beverly said
this year 41
minutes, followed
by a great lunch.
Thank you!

December 2022

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--------|---|---|--|---|--|
| | | | | 1 Birthday: Instook Melton | 2 Grief Share Support Group 1:00 PM | 3 |
| 4 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM 1:00 PM Sanctuary   | 5 | 6 | 7 Birthday: Esther Igbudu Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM | 8 Birthday: Jim Kirkpatrick Michael Stroud | 9 Grief Share Support Group 1:00 PM | 10 |
| 11 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM  | 12 | 13 Women of the Church 10:00 AM | 14 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM | 15 Birthday: Helen Beck | 16 Grief Share Support Group 1:00 PM | 17 |
| 18 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM  | 19 | 20 Worship - Lessons and Carols 7PM <i>A Festival of 9 Lessons and Carols</i> | 21 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM | 22 Birthday: Sally Callahan | 23 | 24 Christmas Eve Tamale Dinner 6PM Christmas Eve Candle-light Service 7 |
| 25 Hand-Chime Carols:10:30AM Worship 11 AM Celtic Cross  | 26 | 27 | 28 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM | 29 | 30 | 31 <i>Happy New Year!</i> |

All Saints Day

What a beautiful welcoming entry for All Saints Day concert November 21.
Thank you Carol Nance for sharing.



Women of the Church

On **Tuesday, December 13**

Celebrating the Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight, at 10:00 AM in the Conference Room at the church. Study books are available contact. Carol Nance

Lesson Four
Sabbath and Surrender
Exodus 16

Mission Committee News

The Little Free Pantry is being used and filled almost daily. Because of the need for diapers and wipes, the bottom two shelves can be used for baby to adult diapers. DIRECTION 61:3 has established a home for Aged-Out young women from foster care in Denton. This non-profit (formerly Zoe's Place) is in need of gift certificates \$50-\$100 for their Christmas gifts. They would be appreciated. Contact : den-ton@direction613.org for information. Judy Royal and Valorie Federico are volunteers.

Diana Shenberger



NEW Member Charles (Charlie) Bratton and new associate member and Kaityln White

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.

Tomato Salad (page 48)

- 1 box lemon jello
- ½ pt. boiling water
- ½ pt. tomato soup
- 1 c, celery, chopped
- 1 doz. Stuffed olives, sliced
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ pod garlic

Dissolve jello in boiling water. Add tomato soup; let cool, then add celery, olives, and salt. Chill until firm. Serve with salad dressing.

Martha Brown

Households for Prayer

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

December 2022

Eunice Curry
Pat Edell
Erin Erickson
Lynda Erickson
Gene Finlay
Valorie Frederico
Chandler Hall
Larry and Pat Harberson



Celtic Cross deadline is December 25 for publication on December 28th.
Please send your news and articles to "Newsletter@fpcdenton.org"

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: Jim Adams, Pam A, Betty, Gerald B, Helen B, Mike C, Eunice C, Pat E, Lynda E, Gene F, Bob H, Nadine H, Pat H, Louise K, Dave M, Don R, Pat R, Joanna, Tami, Irene R, Diana S, Michael S; Price and Margaret B, Brenda C, Sam C, Sherman C, Kathy K, Judy R, Rev. Tim Keller. Robin and Alana, Linda and Laura L, Annemarie V. Lydia W.

Sympathy Family of Eleanor Welde (Carolyn Smith's Mother)

Family of Dave Mentink

Safety DCP Children, military personnel and first responders

December Birthdays

- 1 Instook Melton
- 7 Esther Igbudu
- 8 Jim Kirkpatruck
- 8 Michael Stroud
- 15 Helen Beck
- 22 Sally Callahan



Anniversaries

No Anniversaries

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



Communion
December 4th
2nd Sunday of Advent



In As Much Fund

What do we know about the In As Much Fund. It was started in the 1970's as a discretionary fund to have money available to help members of our church and others, in a time of need.

There have been many times when church members, or their families have needed help meeting a rent payment, paying a utility bill or just putting food on their table. The fund is also used to help people in the community who are in need. Often Pastor Debbie is approached to pay for a night or two at the Clayton House Motel across the street. Usually the pastor or deacons designate the distribution of these funds.

This fund is supported totally by donations from our church family and others, and is becoming depleted. The current amount in this fund is \$674.00. Donations to this fund are accepted at anytime through the church office.

Linn Welborn

**Bible Readings
December 2022**

- 1 Luke 20:27–40
- 2 Luke 20:41–21:4
- 3 Luke 21:5–19
- 4 Luke 7:28–35
- 5 Luke 21:20–28
- 6 Luke 21:29–38
- 7 John 7:53–8:11
- 8 Luke 22:1–13
- 9 Luke 22:14–30
- 10 Luke 22:31–38
- 11 John 3:22–30
- 12 Luke 22:39–53
- 13 Luke 22:54–69
- 14 Mark 1:1–8
- 15 Matt. 3:1–12
- 16 Matt. 11:2–15
- 17 Luke 3:1–9
- 18 John 3:16–21
- 19 John 5:30–47
- 20 Luke 1:5–25
- 21 Luke 1:26–38
- 22 Luke 1:39–48a (48b–56)
- 23 Luke 1:57–66
- 24 Luke 1:67–80
- 25 John 3:31–36
- 26 Acts 7:59–8:8
- 27 John 13:20–35
- 28 Matt. 18:1–14
- 29 John 7:37–52
- 30 John 7:53–8:11
- 31 John 8:12–19

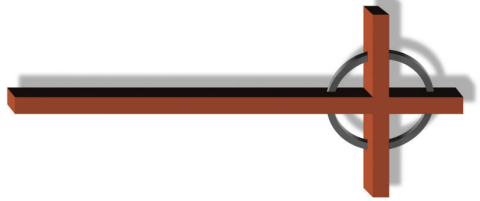
Source: PC(USA) Common
Lectionary

Aerobics

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

Office Hours

Secretary M/W/F - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Pastor T/Th 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
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