

300 Burleson, Smithville, Texas 78957
Phone 512.360.5231

Pastor's Remarks:

From Rev. Kris Brown



I hope you are planning lots of ways to celebrate during the next several weeks. Of course, join us any and every Sunday. We'll be having a Christmas pageant service on the 12th (I've got some good costumes), and our Christmas Eve service will return this year with caroling, for anyone who'd like to do a little more singing, afterwards. Around our house, we are decorating and cooking and watching Christmas movies (my three favorites are the Albert Finney musical, *Scrooge*, *It's a Wonderful Life*, and *the Bishop's Wife*; what are yours?). I can almost taste the sticky toffee pudding I make once a year on Christmas Day.

Yet, in the midst of all the possibilities, the quiet and loud ones, for us to bring Christmas closer, we may sometimes find we cannot quite participate. We carry griefs that weigh us down; sometimes we are ashamed or angry or just plain tired. Festivity seems like too much. We are not altogether sure that we will be able to spend time with the same old people, the same old wounds.

Now, I don't know who ought to be in and who ought to be out on your Christmas lists. It's ok to receive the present of a little Christmas space for yourself. What I do know is that Christmas, when we sink down into it, can especially gift those of us not "feeling it." In that dusty town, in a horse trough, during a season of intense tax collecting, God makes God's presence known to us. In the shape of the baby of two poor people. Who have a long, long walk to take before they get home.

Christmas comes in the middle of our joys and into the middle of our difficulties so that we might make our way, with God's help, to a better place. The kingdom of God is there and here. Christmas would have us, as much as we are able, reach toward it. God will take care of the rest.

Church Leadership

Pastor - Rev. Kris Brown - 512.608.4293 Email - kribrown1001@gmail.com

Clerk of Session - Barbara Maresh - Email - bvmaresh@yahoo.com

Pastoral Assistant - Susan Guedry - Email - sguedry85@gmail.com

Music Director - Lisa Maresh - Email - lisamaresh@yahoo.com

- Piano/Organ/Harp - Monica Miller
- Trumpet - Alan Ford/Wayne King

Session Members: Harleigh Altmeyer, Jane Istre, Kathy Ford, Lilly Willenberg, Lisa Maresh, Monica Miller, Barbara Maresh

Worship & Christian Formation - Lisa Maresh/Monica Miller

Church Administration - Jane Istre

Mission Outreach & Fellowship - Kathy Ford/Lilly Willenberg

150th Anniversary - Harleigh Altmeyer/Monica Miller

Web site - www.fpcsmithville.org, Facebook, Newsletter - Kathy Ford - kathrynford@austin.rr.com

Sunday Schedules

We are open for 11 am worship, masks are now optional for all fully vaccinated attendees. We will continue our Face Book Live option also. Masks are required in the room above the Narthex where we have some children too young to be vaccinated.

The Following are Now Meeting:

Sunday School -10 am Advent Study starts Dec 5th

Women's Bible Study – 2nd Tuesday from Sept to May at 10 a.m.

Next meeting Dec. 14th

Please check the website for changes in schedule

Beginning Soon:

Coffee Hour 9:45



December Birthdays

- 12-01 - Penelope Saunders
- 12-10 - Henry Brown
- 12/11 - Jake Gosselink, Jr.
- 12/14 - Dylan Jenkins
- 12/15 - Alan Ford
- 12/19 - Jordan Bell
- 12/31 - Kathryn Ford
- 12/31 - Kristi Koch



December Anniversary

Monica & Mark Miller

Cookbook Info

The new cookbooks are here and ready to purchase for \$20. They are available at the church and the Smithville Library. Contact Monica Miller for additional info. There is one correction: pg. 105, Pistachio Pudding Cake - add- 1 sm. pkg. pistachio pudding mix to the CAKE ingredients list. This is in addition to the package in the FROSTING ingredients. The correction is being made to the unsold books. The cookbook is a fundraiser for our 150th Anniversary. Proceeds will go to building repair and maintenance. It makes a great gift!

CHRISTMAS WREATH AUCTION

Thank you to everyone that participated in our wreath silent auction! Winners have been contacted.
harleighbellott@gmail.com

December 5th Communion Schedule

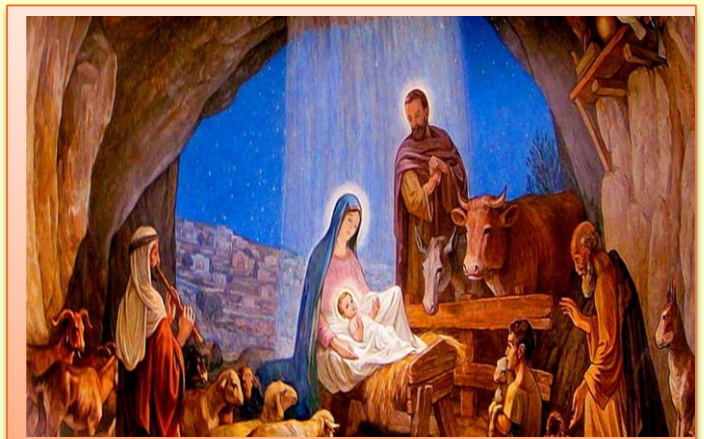
Barbara Maresh is in charge of Communion for December. She will prepare the communion table, pick up the glasses at the end of the service, wash and put away the service trays.

Monica Miller has volunteered to bring the bread and juice for ALL communion services. Thank you, Monica! If you cannot be at church when it is your turn to be in charge of the preparation for communion, please ask one of the other Elders to serve in your place.

Food Pantry Report - November 2021

Date	Families	Fam.Mem.	New Clients
11/03	92	219	0
11/10	127	316	1
11/17	118	286	1
11/23	125	296	2

Remember to bring your donations for the food pantry on First Sunday. There are envelopes if you prefer to give money. Actually, The Food Pantry can purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank more economically than you can purchase it at the store.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday School Advent Study, Dec. 5th-19th, 10 a.m.

Bell Choir - Sunday Dec. 5 & 12 - Special Hours 9-10 a.m.

Covered Dish Lunch - Noon, Sunday, Dec 5th

Christmas Pageant - 11 a.m., Sunday, Dec 12th,

Women's Bible Study -10 a.m., Tuesday, Dec 14th- bring a snack/drink if you want to!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:00 p.m., Friday, Dec 24th

with caroling afterwards for those who want to do more singing.

BAE open Friday and Saturday from 9-2. Donations are taken only on Friday and Saturday from 9-2. BAE will be closed December 19-January 2.

PICTURES FROM THE "MEN LIVING FOR CHRIST" THANKSGIVING MEAL DONATION AT MLK

The Smithville Community Clinic provided free flu shots and vaccinations.



FPC was represented by Hoyt, Jane, Kathy and Alan Hoyt and Alan loaded meals into cars.



December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
			1 <i>World AIDS Day Presbyterian HIV & AIDS Awareness</i>	2	3	4
5 2nd Sunday of Advent Worship Service 11 a.m - In the building and Facebook Live Communion Covered Dish Luncheon	6	7	8	9	10 <i>Human Rights Day</i>	11
12 3rd Sunday of Advent Worship Service 11 a.m.-In the building and Facebook Live Christmas Pageant	13	14 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study	15	16	17	18
19 4th Sunday of Advent Worship Service 11 a.m.- In the building and Facebook Live <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i>	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6pm	25 Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day
26 1st Sunday of Christmas Worship Service 11 a.m. - In the building and Facebook Live	27	28	29	30	31	