

First Presbyterian Church Smithville Newsletter

December
2022

300 Burleson, Smithville, Texas 78957
Phone 512.360.5231



Pastor's Remarks:

From Rev. Kris Brown

Why is it so much fun to put up our trees and lights, buy presents, sing songs, bake, hope for a visit or two, maybe a party or two, watch the same Christmas movies again? I suppose we have to admit that sometimes we get tired at Christmas; sometimes, we are sick, lonely or just plain cranky. Yet even in our worst years, during our approach to December 25th, we notice the presence of joy in the air, the promise that things can get better, the possibilities, miracles even, that rise up out of our invitation to once again meet in the stable out back, a precious baby sleeping in a manger.

The work and play of the Christmas season catch us up in remembering an old story so that we might live more into it, so that we might really taste it this time, so that we might better carry it with us as we enter into another year. God loves us so much God chooses to become one of us in order to help us remember who we are, to help us become God's very own children. We've been distracted; we've done all sorts of foolish things, but the help we need is here.

The help we celebrate as we make our way to Christmas Eve.
Hallelujah!
We have carols to sing, cookies to bake, people to see, laughter to share. Of course, it's fine if we also need to rest and be quiet for a time. But Christmas swirls around us to pull us up out of ourselves then put us down refreshed, ready to love our neighbors, better able to see God in our world. When we come to the other side of Christmas this year, I hope spending time with that baby will make things new for us.

Church Leadership

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

Clerk of Session - Lilly Willenberg - lillypcs@gmail.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/Harleigh Altmeyer

Fundraising Committee - Harleigh Altmeyer/Lilly Willenberg

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

Sunday Schedules

The Following are Now Open

Sunday School -10 am

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

Communion on the First Sunday of each month

Covered dish lunch on First Sunday following Service

Resuming soon:

Coffee Hour 9:45

SPECIAL NOTE REGARDING FACEBOOK LIVE VIDEOS:

There have been on-going problems with the videos - including poor sound and picture quality. We continue to work on this!!

We are still videoing and using Facebook Live. Watch for more information and thank you for your patience!

December BIRTHDAYS



- 12/01 - Penelope Jane Saunders
- 12/10 - Henry Brown
- 12/11 - Jake Gosselink, Jr.
- 12/14 - Dylan Jenkins
- 12/14 - Jake Stinson
- 12/15 - Alan Ford
- 12/19 - Jordan Bell
- 12/22 - Chandler Parsons
- 12/27 - Garrett Cangemi
- 12/31 - Kathryn Ford
- 12/31 - Kristi Koch

December Communion Schedule

Jane 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.

December ANNIVERSARY:

Happy Anniversary



12/30 - Monica & Mark Miller



NEWS FROM LISA MARESH

Bell choir at 9:00 a.m. Adult choir will continue at 9:30. Both on Sundays.



FOOD PANTRY - November

Remember to bring your donations for the food pantry. 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. NOTE that totals were up in again in November.

Date	Families Served	Number of Family Members	New Clients And Family
11/02/22	148	352	0
11/09/22	144	335	0
11/16/22	148	339	0
<u>11/22/22</u>	140	222	0
11/30/22	125	281	5/12
TOTALS – November	705	1529	5/12
Last MONTH -October	557	1367	10



FROM SUSAN GUEDRY

The Women’s Bible study meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. The study this year is Celebrating Sabbath. The next meeting is Tuesday, December 13 at 10:00.

Sunday school is studying Charles Dickens “A Christmas Carol” during Advent. We meet Sunday at 10:00.

BAE is EXPANDING AGAIN!

Construction has already begun. The Store will be open Dec. 2 & 3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17. Donations will be accepted Dec.2 & 3, 9 &10 only. No donations accepted after Dec. 10.

The Store will close Dec. 18 and reopen when construction is complete - hopefully March 2023. No Donations will be accepted during our time of construction. We will keep you posted on our progress.

If the store is open, we are scheduled to work Jan 9-14 and Feb 20-25 We work Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 9-2. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.



Pictures from the Parent's Night Out, Friday, Dec 2, 2022

These are just a few of the things they enjoyed:

The kids (and adults) had a Twist Off.

A scavenger hunt (above right) here looking for flowers.

Finding familiar objects in the church. (below left)

They made Christmas ornaments, brownies and ate pizza!

is retained December 2022						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 <i>World AIDS Day: Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Awareness</i>	2 <i>Parent's Night Out 5:30-9 pm</i>	3
4 2nd Sunday of Advent - Communion Worship Service 11 a.m - In the building <i>Lunch in the Fellowship Hall After the service</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10 <i>Human Rights Day</i>
11 3rd Sunday of Advent - Worship Service 11 a.m - In the building	12	13 <i>Women's Bible Study 10 am</i>	14	15	16	17
18 4th Sunday of Advent - Worship Service 11 a.m - In the building Christmas Pageant <i>Christmas Joy Offering</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:30</i>
25 Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas Day Worship Service 11 a.m - In the building (a musical service)	26	27	28	29	30	31