



First Presbyterian  
Church on the Square  
**DECEMBER 2024 GRAPEVINE**

December 1st, 2024

Dear FPC Members & Friends,

Susan and I look forward to sharing another wonderful Christmas Season with the FPC Church Family. We are so thankful for all the ways you continue to share your faith and friendship through the joyful ministries of FPC.

I'd like to call your attention to several "Christmas Lists" in this December Grapevine Issue.

The first is a Calendar listing FPC Worship, Fellowship, & Outreach dates, times & activities during December 2024. Many of these are for members and friends of all ages.

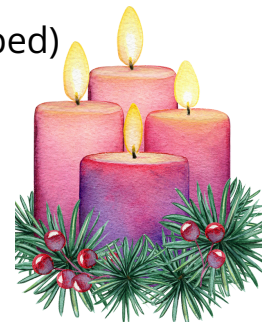
The second list provides Titles and Texts for "Reel Stories of Christmas."

This December Sermon Series celebrates God's amazing gift of the Christ Child, told through timeless Christmas promises and prophecies. As part of the "Reel Stories" Series, five much-loved, classic movies will help highlight the "good news of great joy" that Christmas brings for people everywhere.

With thanks & prayers for God's richest blessings this  
Christmas Season,  
Pastor Karl

# December Events at FPC

- December 1st: Family Resource Center "Christmas Families" gift list available in Rodgers Center  
December 1st: 10am Worship -1st Sunday of Advent  
December 3rd: Presbyterian Women Christmas Luncheon (All women are invited)  
December 8th: 10am Worship -2nd Sunday of Advent  
December 10th: 6pm Session Meets in Revival  
December 15th: FRC " Christmas Families" gifts due in Rodgers Center (wrapped)  
December 15th: 10am Worship- Christmas Cantata- 3rd Sunday of Advent  
December 15th: 11am FPC SHINE Christmas Party in Revival Center  
December 22nd: 9am Children's Christmas Program in Sanctuary  
December 22nd: 10 am Worship 4th Sunday of Advent  
December 24th : Church Office Closed  
December 24th: 6pm- Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service in Sanctuary  
December 25th: Merry Christmas  
December 26th- January 3rd: Church Office closed (staff working remotely)  
December 29th: 10am Worship 1st Sunday of Christmas  
January 5th: 10am Worship 2nd Sunday of Christmas



## CHRISTMAS 2024 SERMON SERIES AT FPC ATHENS

### "REEL STORIES OF CHRISTMAS"



**I: DECEMBER 1ST - "TROUBLE FOR CHRISTMAS"**  
**Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 9:6-7**

**II: DECEMBER 8TH- "A FAMILY CHRISTMAS"**  
**Matthew 1:18-25; Genesis 12:1-3**

**III: DECEMBER 15TH - CANTATA BY FPC CHOIR**

**IV: DECEMBER 22ND - "A HEART FOR CHRISTMAS"**  
**Matthew 2:1-12; Psalm 72:10-11**

**V: DECEMBER 24TH - "A REAL CHRISTMAS"**  
**Luke 2:1-7; Luke 2:8-16**

**VI: DECEMBER 29TH - "CHRISTMAS LIGHTS"**  
**Joh1:1-14; Isaiah 60:1-6**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- All submissions for Grapevine and the monthly calendar should be sent by email (fpcathens@fpcathens.org) or by phone (256-232-0122) by the 20th of the month.
- Directories are now available in the church office!
- Office hours are Monday - Thursday from 9am - 1pm.



*All Women of the Church*  
are invited to join the  
Presbyterian Women for their  
Christmas Luncheon  
at the home of  
Emily Clem  
3902 Ridgedale Street  
on  
Tuesday, December 3rd  
at Noon.



**Another year is almost gone, Thanksgiving is past, and Christmas is just around the corner!**

**In this year, 2024, it is more important than ever that we celebrate the gift of Christ in our lives. As the Advent season begins we can again provide families who are served by our mission partner, the Family Resource Center (FRC), with a wonderful Christmas. This will be one that they wouldn't have if not for your generous spirit.**

**The Rodgers Center Fellowship Hall is set up just like we have done in the past. Family information sheets are out for you to sign up in the Rodgers Center as of today, Sunday, December 1st.**

**All gifts need to be back to the Rodgers Center by Sunday, December 15th (Two weeks from today). Please wrap the gifts and put a tag on each gift with the Family number and first name. We will have tables set up in the Rogers Center Fellowship Hall as of Wednesday December 11th with family numbers on them so you'll know where to place your gifts.**

**We are also providing Hometown Grocery Gift Certificates as we have for the past several years instead of the traditional Christmas food baskets. While the church has budgeted some funds for the baskets and expenses, we will need additional funds to provide adequate food certificates, especially with the increased food prices. As usual we will collect additional donations to fully cover adequate baskets, purchase any needed additional presents, and to help families with other needs such as utility or rent assistance or possibly other bills. If you are able to contribute to that, please send a check made out to the church with a note that it is for the FRC Christmas.**

**We again have 10 families from the FRC. As usual, these families are ones that are not being served by any of the other traditional Christmas charities and are typically families who find themselves in need of short-term help or through the FRC are working to improve their family and financial situation.**

**Please call someone on the Mission Committee if you have any questions or need help shopping.**

**What a wonderful way to celebrate the coming of Advent!  
May God bless each of you as you so generously bless these families.**



# CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

This Christmas, we will be placing poinsettias in our Sanctuary on Sunday, December 15th and 22nd. It is our hope to offer 3-quart poinsettias in Pink, White, or Red (based on availability.) Those who wish to purchase a poinsettia (or more than one) for placement in the Sanctuary may drop the attached form in the offering plate or call the church office. Please take your poinsettia home at the end of the December 22nd Worship Service. Poinsettias left after 12/22 will be donated to shut-ins (unless other arrangements have been made with Jane Gossett). Please complete the form below and drop it in the offering plate or mail/bring it to the church office with your payment of \$18.00 per plant. Please turn in orders by Tuesday, December 10th.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Color of poinsettia:  White  Pink  Red  No Preference

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Payment Amount Enclosed (\$18 per poinsettia): \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_



## FPC Children and Youth



Join us for the SHINE Christmas gathering  
Sunday December 15th following the church service

Please mark your calendar this event will be  
December 15th in the Revival building after church

Shine is for all children K-5th grade.

Please contact DeAnna McNeill for additional information at  
deannahmcneill@gmail.com or 256-497-5020.

# PRAYER REQUESTS

## CHURCH FAMILY

Marv & Elizabeth Price (Health)	Duane Counter (Health & Healing)
Larry and Cynthia Ugarte` (Healing)	Suzanne Weeks (Healing)
Doris Welch (Home)	Stephen Toney (Home)
Dean Steele	Jac Catlett
Susie Fogg (Home)	Diane Lynn (Health)
Sharon Massey	Gale Cottles (Healing)
Melvin & Ruth Clem (Health)	Christy Arnett (Healing)
Debbi O'Neill (Healing)	Ken (Healing) and Connie Brown

## THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

Brandon Noel - Army	Sean Miller - Army
Adam Naves - Marines	Damien Williams - Army
Kevin O'Neill-Army Nat. Guard	Michael Ress - USAF -AZ
Joshua Hargrove - Deployed	Jay Tulley- Middle East
Justin Ruf- Army Air Guard	

## FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Bob Defour (Doyle & Suzanne Weeks son-in-law)  
Brent Harris (Friend of Chris Hilgeman)  
Larry Harris, ( Healing, friend of Chris Hilgeman)  
Sue Guyer (Health & Healing, Bonny Noel's sister)  
Gerry Smith(loss of Spouse cousin of Jan Ruth)  
Alex Noel (Nephew of John & Bonny Noel)  
Bill Grisham (Health, Pam Gregg's dad)  
Hazel Ruf (Mason Ruf's mother, home)  
Gary Kilgo (Health, Kay Baugher & Carol Quillen's family member)  
Karen Ferguson (Potter's Hand)  
Sherry Thompson (Healing, sister of Christy Arnett)  
Keith Clem (Healing, cousin of Chris Paysinger)  
Silvana Smith (Loss of Spouse cousins of Jan Ruth)  
Amy Cotten (Potter's Hand)  
John Cotten (Healing, Potter's Hand)  
Telula Thornton (Healing and Comfort, mother of Karan Baker)  
Phyllis Ramshur (Health, mother- in - law of Sean Harbin)  
Mike Frehner (Support, friend of David Lyle)  
Dawn (Healing, mother of Brittney Hicks)  
Cindy Newman (Healing, cousin of Chris Hilgeman)  
Jesse Saunders (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)  
Rick Monroe (Healing, friend of Jan Ruth)  
Candee & Blair Berger (Loss of a spouse & father damage from  
the hurricanes, friend of Jan Ruth)  
Martha Taylor(Healing, mother of John Cagle)  
Shane Cramer (Healing, neighbor of Jan Ruth)

# December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship Communion	2	5 PW Circle @ the home of Emily Clem 12:00 PM	4 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	5	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 OFFICE CLOSED
8 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	9	10 Mission Shower Day Stated Session Meeting 6:00 pm Revival	11 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	12	15 OFFICE CLOSED	14 OFFICE CLOSED
15 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship/ Cantata SHINE Christmas Gathering 11am in Revival	16	17	18 9:00-1:00 PM The Potters Hand Pottery Studio	19	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 OFFICE CLOSED
22 Children's Christmas Program 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	25	21 OFFICE CLOSED 6 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service	25 OFFICE CLOSED Merry Christmas	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 9am Sunday School 9:30 Fellowship 10 am Worship	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 OFFICE CLOSED				



# Happy Birthday

December 2024

1st Elizabeth Price

4th John Noel

6th Harley Baugher

13th John Cagle

19th Susie Fogg

21st Regina Greene

23rd Matt Copeland

23rd Julie McNeese

23rd Kristin King

26th Duane Counter

28th Charley Greene

30th Brittany Mallette

31th Stephen Ware