



Words from Woodforest

December 2021 Newsletter

A Word From the Pastor

Happy New Year! I said it in my sermon on Sunday. Advent is the start of the Christian year. Every year we hang up a felt Advent calendar that Jon-Paul's mom made for him when he was a baby. Every day in December, leading up to Christmas we put a felt ornament on a felt Christmas tree. It helps us while we wait for Christmas.

In the church we are preparing as well. We are preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus. Yes, we look back in joy to his birth. But we need to remember that Christmas was just the beginning of our story that leads through Easter and on to the future coming of God's kingdom.

So, how do we prepare our hearts? Many people do Advent devotions and read Advent scriptures each day leading up to Christmas. We can pray and sing Christmas songs celebrating Christ's birth. We can also do extra to try to make our world more like God's kingdom by remembering the least of these. Jesus calls us to feed the hungry, care for the homeless, visit those who are sick or in prison. The acts of kindness and compassion we do at Christmas time not only prepares our hearts for Jesus' return, but it also shines the love light of Christ to those who need it so badly.

Have a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!

Love in Christ,

Pastor Karen

Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 12th following worship to vote on a slate of elders for class of 2024. If you are attending online post your vote to comments on Facebook Live.

Worship

We are continuing to wear face masks indoors in an abundance of caution. If you are unable to be in church on Sunday morning, check out the service on Face Book Live. Adult Sunday school class on Exodus is also available as well as the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study.
www.facebook.com/woodforestpc/live

Poinsettias

If you would like to donate a poinsettia in honor or memory of someone the cost is \$10. Fill out the form in person or just mail a check to the church with the information.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Christmas Brunch

December 24th at 7:00 p.m. There will be a Candle light service with communion. For those not able to attend in person, it will be livestreamed on our Facebook page. Share the joy as we celebrate our Savior's birth.

December 26th at 10:00 am we will have our Christmas worship and brunch. Please note that is on the 26th this year, not Christmas Day. We will Celebrate Jesus' birth during the 10 am worship which will be live streamed on our Facebook page. Then, we will break bread together with our annual Pot Luck Christmas Brunch. We will all sit at table together to have a Christmas meal as our church family. We hope by having it after the Sunday morning service that more of our church family will be able to attend.



OH HOLY NIGHT!



Children's Christmas Program

**Sunday, December 19th
at 10 am**

**This program takes place
during the worship service
and will be on Facebook
Live**

**Practices Sunday Dec. 5th
and 12th following worship.**

Live Nativity Saturday, December 18 10 am – 12 pm

This is an outdoors event with photo opportunities.

We will have goodie bags as well as cookies.

We will need workers and a Mary and Joseph on that day and church people to dress as angels and shepherds.

We also need cookies. We will bag up the cookies on Friday, December 17th time TBA

December Presbyterian Women's Study

The PW study in December will be on Ruth. We will meet at **10:30 am, Wednesday, December 15**. We will also be livestreaming on our Facebook page. The book didn't give you any homework for this session, but Pastor Karen has some for you! Bring your spare change and we will take up an offering for our youth program. They will be going to Triennium this year and our gifts help them get there. Following the study we will have a Pot Luck Christmas Lunch. So, bring your favorite holiday dish to share!



Seafarer Boxes Examples of items that can be included.

Body Wash	Band-Aids (fabric)	Socks	Popcorn
Shampoo/Conditioner	Lip Balm	Pocket-sized Notebooks	Gum & Hard Candy
Deodorant	Kleenex	Mechanical Pencils	Needle & Thread
Toothbrush/Toothpaste	Nail Clippers	Pens	2022 Calendar
Dental Floss	Q-Tips	Word Search/Sudoku/Fill-in books	Magnets
Disposable Razors	Gold Bond Powder	USB	Key Chains
Shaving Cream	Gold Bond Cream	Earbuds/Headphones	Playing Cards
Hairbrush/Comb	Baseball Caps (NEW)	Flashlight w/ batteries	Texas Souvenirs
Lotion	T-shirts (NEW)	Gum & Hard Candy	Personal note or card

These gifts of Love should be packed in shoebox size boxes, wrapped securely as one unit in Christmas paper. Please do not wrap lid and box separately or place bows on the boxes. *Plastic shoeboxes become an extra gift for the seafarer!* The Seafarers appreciate these items tremendously. Please be sure your boxes are packed full of items! As there are very few women on board the ships currently, we request that the gifts boxed be packed for male seafarers. Boot sized boxes are hard for the chaplains to carry so standard size shoe boxes are preferred.

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Bring your wrapped box to the church by Sunday, December 12.

Joy offering will be received on December 19th



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

CHURCH CELEBRATION



62 years strong!

It was great to see everyone again!

The food was delicious!



Using our patio space at last!

Check out website for more photos.

www.woodforestpc.org

Property

A Security roll up shutter has been added to the front door. If you are someone who needs to get into the church on off hours see Renee or Johnny to get instructions on how it works.

The rusted stair case that goes to the upstairs has been painted.

Lectionary Readings for December

December 5

Malaki 3:1-4; Luke 1: 68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3: 1-6

December 12

Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

December 19

Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1: 47-55; Psalm 80: 1-7; Hebrews 10: 5-10; Luke 1:39 - 45 (46-55)

December 24

Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14



Keep in Prayer

Healing and comfort for Sandra Horton, Darlienne Powell, Shar Baker, Krista Bartel, Billie Vickery Kathleen Watson, JoAnn Nichols , Johnny Powell, and Alice Morgan,

Last Word

**A thousand times in history did a baby become a king
but only once did a King become a baby**

