

First Presbyterian Church

Tidings



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 2021 | 910 N WASHINGTON AVE | LIVINGSTON, TEXAS, 77351

The Magi's story — and ours



The story of the Magi is our story. God has used his supernatural means to draw us unto himself. ... On one glorious day, when we were exhausted and wearied in our sin, God led us to gaze upon Jesus just as the Magi did. We see the glory of God manifested through Jesus Christ in the internal work of the Holy Spirit. We see our utter sinfulness and God's abounding

grace offered in the Messiah. We are filled with joy as this grace sinks into our hearts.

We fall down on our knees and confess our need of this Messiah. We worship him and offer up our lives as our greatest offering to him. Then we continue on in our lives, carrying the truth about the Messiah.

—Travis Cunningham,
tvresources.net

Truth + love

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become reality.

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Special Dates

- Jan 1st - New Year's Day
- Jan 3rd - Communion Sunday; Congregational Meeting after the Service
- Jan 6th – Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan 10th – Baptism of the Lord
- Jan 14th - Session Meeting, 5 p.m., FH
- Jan 16th – Religious Freedom Day
- Jan 18th – Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 18th – 25th – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Jan 20th – Inauguration Day



A word for the year

Every January, some people pray and ask God to provide a word for their year ahead. Friends have shared theirs with me, but I was hesitant to embrace the practice myself. I'd love to receive a word like flourish; then again, I might be like the friend who heard health and then faced many physical challenges that year.

But I tried it for 2020 and heard prepare. My first reaction was that the word wasn't very exciting, which possibly confirmed I hadn't orchestrated it. Indeed, 2020 ended up full of significant, unexpected change for our family, with careers, school, church and friends. Prepare reminded me that amid chaos, God had prepared me for

each moment and continues to prepare me for what's next.

Give it a try! Regardless of the word you receive or what lies ahead, you can trust that God loves you and is ultimately in control for 2021 and beyond.

—Janna Firestone



Why all life is sacred

Scripture does not know of any human life which is so commonplace that it is not valuable enough to become eternal, and this is its high optimism. Nothing is too much for Scripture. Since every person is known by God by name, and since eve-

ry person exists in time in the presence of the God who is judgment and salvation, every person is a person of eternity, and not just the noble spirits of history.

—Karl Rahner

Epiphany Epiphanies

"If we approach with faith, we too will see Jesus ... for the Eucharistic table takes the place of the crib. Here, the Body of the Lord is present, wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in the rays of the Holy Spirit."

—St. John Chrysostom (347-407)

"So that we might also have the means to go, the one we were longing to go to came here from there. And what did he make? A wooden raft for us to cross the sea on. For no one can cross the sea of this world unless carried over it on the cross of Christ."

—St. Augustine (354-430)

"You wish to see; listen. Hearing is a step toward vision."

—St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

An ongoing goal


Still searching for a New Year's resolution? None is more worthy than becoming Christ-like. In fact, 19th-century evangelist Henry Drummond calls it "the only thing in the whole world worth caring for."

Two modern-day authors offer more insights. Stormie Omartian points out that we're either making progress or backsliding on this goal. "There is no neutral position in the Lord," she writes. "You are either becoming more like Christ every day or you're becoming less like him." And followers of Jesus must keep the goal always in focus. Christ-likeness is our "eventual destination," writes Rick Warren, but the "journey will last a lifetime."

Bible Quiz

In the story of the Magi, what word is used to give a sense of Jesus' age when the wise men visited? What does it tell us?

- A. "baby"; Jesus was still a newborn in a manger
- B. "child"; when the wise men visited, Jesus had grown past infancy
- C. "youth"; Jesus was probably between 10 and 14
- D. No word is used to suggest Jesus' age at the time of the wise men's visit.



Answer: B (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

Puzzle!

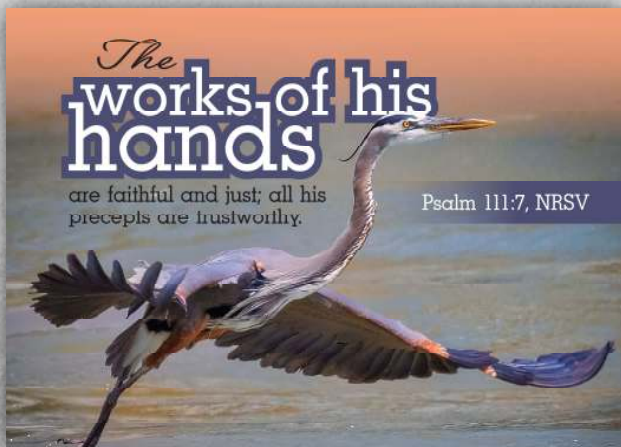
Complete each saying below. Then place the words from those blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

1. When the going gets tough, the tough _____ going.
2. People who live in glass houses should _____ throw stones.
3. If the shoe fits, _____ it.
4. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is _____ to enter the kingdom of God."
5. Good things come _____ those who wait.
6. When in Rome, _____ as the Romans do.
7. Don't wear _____ your welcome.
8. If you want something done right, do it _____.

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

PROVERBS 23:4

Answer: Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Proverbs 23:4



Lord Give Me Patience

by Tommy Fluker

Lord give me patience it's not an easy thing I know
Traveling down a narrow highway behind someone
driving slow

They never give a signal - a cell phone in their ear
I always grit my teeth and think of someone dear
When I'm at Walmart and baskets block the aisle

Lord give me patience to turn around and smile
Ahead of me at check out someone's got coupons
by the score

Then they send a boy to price check at the far end
of the store

I rush to the doctors office so as never to be late
Only to pass the time away reading magazines out
of date

At last in an exam room I'm happy as can be
Just to find I wait some more - Doc's got a lot of
folks to see

Lord give me patience as I sit and watch TV
I can't keep up with movies for all the commercials
I must see

There's countless pills I'm told to ask my doctor
should I take

Someone has the real thing - the competition is a
fake

Lord give me patience I promise not to swear
When a passing boom box is more than I can bear
Their music choice will change I hope as they start
to age

To something with a melody not one that's filled
with rage

So I say don't get angry and call someone a liar
Won't do any good just make your blood pressure
higher

I'm trying harder now - I know I'm getting stronger
Lord give me patience - I'll live a whole lot longer.

Celebrate!

- Larry & Vi Ketterling, 01/07
- Paul & Bonnie Laverty, 01/18



- Leah Vogely, 01/01
- Edna Melton, 01/02
- Rick Nobles, 01/03
- Vi Ketterling, 01/07
- Tabatha Cooper, 01/08
- Braylon Heredia, 01/15
- Hershel Mackey, 01/18
- Rick Nobles, Jr., 01/19
- Kathy Koman, 01/25
- Nina Dobyns, 01/26
- Lee Jones, 01/30



"For last year's words belong to last year's language and next year's words await another voice." —T.S. Eliot

* * *

"Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future." —Paul Boese

* * *

"The earth has music for those who listen." —Unknown

* * *

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." —Mahatma Gandhi



Website:
www.fpclivingston.com
Email:
fpc@fpclivingston.com
Phone: (936) 327-8381
Fax: (936) 327-4719

Our Sunday Schedule

Adult Bible Study - 9 a.m.
Sundays - 10:00 a.m.