



First Presbyterian Church

Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | 910 N WASHINGTON AVE |
LIVINGSTON, TEXAS
JANUARY 2024

OUR SOURCE OF LIGHT

January 6 marks the day of Epiphany, when the wise men (who were Gentiles) came to worship Jesus and bring him gifts. During the church-year season of Epiphany, we remember that God's Son is the Light of the whole world.

Ponder the gifts of Epiphany with these two reflections, written centuries apart:

Your light, dear God, surpasses all other light, because all light comes from you. Your fire surpasses all fire, because your fire alone burns without destroying. The flames of your fire reach into the soul, consuming the sin and selfishness that lie there. But far from damaging the soul, your fire sets it ablaze with love. What moved you to enlighten me with your truth? The fire of your love was the reason. You loved me so much that you could not bear to see me confused and perplexed. Can I ever repay the burning love which you have

given me? No, because I have nothing of my own to give. Yet you assure me that the love which you put into my soul is repayment enough. You desire only the joy of seeing me receiving your gift. What more perfect Father could there be!

—Catherine of Siena (c. 1347-1380)

Epiphany beckons us to come to the light of Jesus Christ. Epiphany calls us to stare into that light until our inner darkness is fully expunged. Epiphany then sends us out into a dark and weary world as women and men with shining faces, until we say with the apostle Paul, "It is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" [see 2 Corinthians 4:6].

—Jason Gaboury, campus minister in New York City

Special Dates

- Jan 1st - New Year's Day; Church office closed
- Jan 3rd – Administration Meeting, 9 a.m., AB; Mission Meeting, 11:15 a.m., FH, Rm. 2
- Jan 6th – Epiphany of the Lord
- Jan 7th - Baptism of the Lord; Communion Sunday Service, 10 a.m., Sanctuary
- Jan 8th - PW Circle Meeting, 1:30 p.m., FH
- Jan 10th - Session Meeting, 3 p.m., FH, Rm. 2
- Jan 14th - PW Mission Luncheon after the 10 a.m. Worship Service; COSI Event, "End of Life Issues"
- Jan 19th – *Tidings* articles due

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Happy 2024!

After our December meeting, Bonnie and Debbie Purdy hosted a Christmas lunch followed by lots of sweets. Bonnie even had gifts for all the women!

We will be ready to start off 2024 on January 8th, at 1:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall, Rm. 2, with lesson number 5. This lesson is from our study guide, *Sacred Encounters - A Person with Leprosy Encounters Jesus*

January 14th will be our Mission Luncheon, with roast and salads. Reminders will go out early in the month for those who have volunteered to bring a dish.

We are still looking for someone to coordinate refreshments for our remaining meetings. We also need someone to coordinate a sewing project for 2024. Contact Bonnie if you are willing to volunteer.

-Beverly Davidson

Administration Team

The Administration team met on Wednesday, Dec. 6th, with four members present and opened with prayer.

We discussed the budget for next year. The session won't be meeting this month but there will be an overall budget meeting with the elders, who plan to approve a policy investment plan.

Discussion on help in the kitchen for Fellow-

ship dinners, since Chris Longoria can no longer come to help.

Ann Wilkins will be in the nursery for Christmas Eve service at 4 p.m.

Our next meeting is January 3rd in the Activity Building at 9 a.m.

We closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lou Anderson



Presbyterian Women light the candles for second Sunday during Advent – Elizabeth, Debbie Phillips, Debbie Purdy, Bonnie, and Julie. Photo by Beverly Davidson



Photo taken on December 7th shows some of our shoe boxes at the Port of Houston seafarers center. We turned in 71 shoe boxes. Photo by Doug Palmer



Mission Update: 2024

Anyone interested in working with the Mission/ Outreach team this year is invited to the first meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 3rd. We meet in Room 2 of the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 a.m. This will be a planning meeting as we are now involved in Outreach to our community such as the COSI events held at the church, along with our normal support of various organizations.

Our budget request will be reviewed prior to Session's approval of the church budget on Jan. 10th. This will be our final chance to add or modify events and organizations we want to support. We will also consider doing new things, such as participating in Livingston's Annual Christmas Parade.

Our Joy Gift special offering ends at the end of December, and since all special offerings fall under the Mission umbrella, I will be providing an overview of your contributions in 2023. Our church, our members and regular visitors, are awesome in your support for our various areas of ministry: THANK YOU!!

To those who served in 2023 on the Mission Team: Doug and Karen Palmer, Bonnie Laverty, Beverly Davidson, Edna Melton, Debra Purday, Elizabeth Clark, and Susie Nobles: another big Thank You.

Chuck Davidson, Chair

January Luncheon!









The January 14th luncheon will be hosted by members of Presbyterian Women. They will be furnishing the food that Sunday. There will be baskets out to collect money that will be sent to the PW mission projects in Polk County.

If you write a check, it can be made out to the Church with PW on the memo line or a check can, be made directly to PW.

Hope everyone can attend and "Thank" you for helping with our Mission works.

Puzzle!

Use the grid to discover what James 5:13-18 advises when challenges loom.



	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y
					

P


       

Answers: Pray in faith. Pray for each other. Pray earnestly.

The heart of our faith

Christianity affirms that at the heart of reality is a Heart, a loving Father who works through history for the salvation of his children. Man cannot save himself, for man is not the measure of all things and humanity is not God. Bound by the chains of his own sin and finiteness, man needs a Savior.

—Martin Luther King Jr.

Celebrate!

JANUARY

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Larry & Vi Ketterling, 01/07
- Paul & Bonnie Laverty, 01/18
- Leah Vogely, 01/01
- Edna Melton, 01/02
- Vi Ketterling, 01/07
- Cynthia McMahon, 01/16
- Hershel Mackey, 01/18
- Rick Nobles, Jr., 01/19
- Kathy Koman, 01/25
- Nina Dobyns, 01/26
- Lee Jones, 01/30



Bible Quiz

In the book of Judges, the warrior Barak would go to battle only if a certain female leader went with him. Who was she?

- A. Rebekah
- B. Jael
- C. Michal
- D. Deborah



Answer: D (See Judges 4:1-10.)

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Office Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., M-F



Sunday Schedule

Friendship Bible Class - 9 a.m.

Worship - 10 a.m.

Adult Bible Study - 11 a.m.

Wednesdays

Prayer Group - 1 p.m.

Adult Bible Study - 2 p.m.