

First Presbyterian Church of McAllen

956-682-2836/fax: 956-664-2711 www.fpcmcallen.org

email: fpchurch@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Tue—closed; Wed-Thurs, 8:00 am—3:00 pm; Fri, 8:00 am—1:00 pm

Church Staff

Rev. Kathryn Escandell Pastor	Cam Henry Treasurer	Lucy Snearley Pianist
Michael A. Pullen Church Administrator	Roberto Garza II Choir Director	Adela Zamora Custodian / Nurse
Dana Friedman Clerk of Session	Beverly Bradburn Organist	

The Session

Rev. Kathryn Escandell — Moderator
Dana Friedman — Clerk

Class of 2018 Spud Brown Mike Hudler Dottie Palmer Dee Treviño	Class of 2019 Kathryn Henry Henry McElmurray Bob Simpson Sher Wilkes	Class of 2020 Tom Ball Maria Colvin-Lopez Dana Friedman Cristina Garfield
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Stated Session meetings are the third Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Parlor.
Session meetings are open unless in Executive Session.

Ministry Chairpersons

Fellowship—Henry McElmurray
Finance/Stewardship—Bob Simpson
Nominating—Dottie Palmer
Personnel—Dee Treviño
Property—Doug Schneider

Calling Chairpersons

Christian Education—Cristina Garfield
Congregational Care—Kathryn Henry /
Mike Hudler

Evang. & Mission—Maria Colvin-Lopez
Worship—Tom Ball

Trustees

Class of 2018—Maria Colvin-Lopez
Class of 2019—Nadine Force-Macey
Class of 2020—Vinson McLeod

All are welcome to join in the ministry of the church.

Children are welcome in worship. Childcare is provided for infants through kindergartners. Preschoolers may leave for an extended children's session in the nursery after "Time with Young Disciples." All children are invited to take advantage of the Children's Worship Bags located in the Narthex.



Like us on Facebook: *First Presbyterian Church, McAllen, TX*

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Kathryn Escandell, preaching
Sher Wilkes, liturgist

Rev. Kathryn Escandell, children's time
Roberto Garza II, choir director

MUSICIANS

Beverly Bradburn, organist
Lucy Snearley, pianist

USHER

Dana Friedman, captain
David Rowland

PLEASE REMEMBER THESE PEOPLE IN PRAYER:

Alice Adams, Emelia Alaniz, Ric Backstrom, Samantha Bailey, Bill & Anna Bohart, Joseph Castellanos, Gretchen Chapa, Carole Collins, Mary Ann Cummings, Bonnie Daniels, Estelle Davenport, Kyler Deveney, Andres Fuentes, Andrew Garcia, Vicki Garcia, Betty Garner, Steve Gonzalez, Tyson Goodenbaur, Elisha Griffith, Laura Hale, Charles & Lou Helt, Lores Hochstetler, Ruth Hodge, Mike Hudler & Family, Rev. O'Quin Kelly, Dick & Gwyn Kozma, Dr. Kenneth & Carolyn Landrum, Andy Lentz, Shannon Leonard, Shirley Leonard, Eric Longoria, William (Bill) Macecevic, Earl & Nadine Force-Macey, Larry & Jean McDonald, Dolores Munoz, Kelly Nicholson, Bernice Norton, Rusty Noser, Daniella Olivarez, John Parks, Cindy Payne, Elpidio Perez, Raymond E. Peterson, Bob Pippin, Robert & Carol Pippin, Rene & Diana Provencio, Marty Pullen, Barry Rock, Laurie Rock, Daniel Salkinder, Ruben Sanchez, Susan Cowie-Serres, The Session of FPC-McAllen, Nancy Shepard, Scott Shipley, Barbara Stevens, Lindsay Terry, Alan & Joy Tittle, Rick Trager, Anthony Treviño, Sopphey Vance, Harry Vorbach, Eric & Lety Walborg, Jessica Watt, Joseph Watt, Addisyn Whitsell, John Wright, Draven Trent Zamora. **CELEBRATION:** Dottie Palmer & Neil Kohl announce their engagement (no date set). **MILITARY/OVERSEAS:** Derek Emter, Nathan & Glenda Mesta, Jason Schneider, Taylor Wimberley, Justin Zeller. **MISSIONARY:** Dre Atkins. **SHUT-INS:** Lois Clark, Gladys Law, Dale Miller, Lupe Weir. (NOTE: If you would like to add a name to the list, please fill out a card located in the "Ritual of Friendship" book or back of the pew and drop it in the offering plate.)

Our Mission Statement

Join the Journey!
Love and Serve God and Others.

Our Vision Statement

Respond to God's grace and build upon the strength of our Reformed tradition through worship, evangelism and leadership training. We will become a church of ministers who carry out the Great Commission and meet the needs of one another. We will build safer communities and glorify the name of Jesus Christ in the city of McAllen, Texas.

We will ...

Proclaim the Good News revealed in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will accomplish this through activities such as festivals and concerts, and through various means of communication as social and international programs.

We will ...

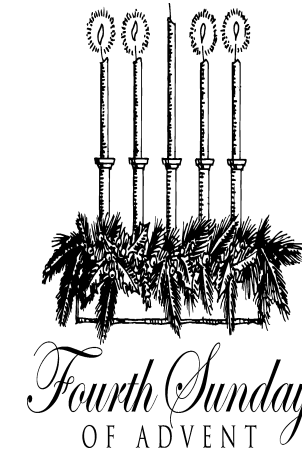
Live as a community of faith in worship, prayer, study and fellowship. This will be done through programs, including Sunday School, Bible Study, Sunday Worship; and activities, including church meals, as well as support for individual worship.

We will ...

Actively serve our community with love, compassion, respect, mercy and justice. We will accomplish through peace, unity and purity through Christ-like behavior, corporate and personal responsibility, and hospitality toward all.

May God empower us by the Holy Spirit to fulfill our call to be God's people.

First Presbyterian Church
of McAllen



104 SOUTH 12TH STREET
MCALLEN, TEXAS 78501
Serving this community since 1908

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

December 24, 2017

10:30 a.m.

4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve

(* - please rise in body or spirit. Congregation parts in **bold.**)

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements / Friendship Book

Prelude

Silent Preparation

Luke wants to make sure we know why she (Mary) is favored and blessed. Her kinswoman Elizabeth says, "blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken by the Lord" (1:45). Notably, she is not blessed because she is going to be the physical mother of Jesus, but because she believed God's word. So, whatever blessing accrues to Mary is one we all can share, if we emulate her. We cannot all be physical parents of Jesus, but we can believe God's word will be fulfilled.

— Mark Allen Powell, Working Preacher

GATHERING

* Call to Worship / Lighting the Advent Wreath Fellowship Team

... God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, God of love,
you are love, and those who abide in love abide in you.
Teach us how to love one another
as reflections of your light in the world.

God of promise, God of love, lead us out of darkness into your light.

* Opening Hymn *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* No. 82 (Purple)

Prayer of the Day

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**Faithful God, we know that you are always there to guide us,
yet we often make plans without listening to you
and discover that our human agendas
can drown out our ability to hear your will for us.
We repent of these faults and turn to you in love.
Forgive our offenses and pardon our sins,
that our lives may magnify your holy name forever.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Sisters and brothers, by the faith of Christ, our sins are forgiven.
Blessed be the God of our salvation, whose mercy is everlasting.

* Gloria Patri *Glory Be to the Father* No. 581 (Purple)

* Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

[In the same manner, turn and pass the peace of Christ to your neighbors.]

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading *Isaiah 9:2-7 (NRSV)*

Psalms *Psalms 96:1-4, 11-13 (Inclusive Bible)*
(This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God!**)

Anthem

Time with Young Disciples

Gospel Reading *Luke 1:26-38 (William Barclay translation)*
(This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God!**)

Sermon "Favored by God" Rev. Kathryn Escandell

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Affirmation of Faith (based on *Psalms 89*)

**O God, whose Name is wonderful,
we will sing of your love for ever,
and declare your faithfulness to all generations.
The universe is yours, and so is the earth.
You established them and all that they contain.
Your judgment seat is built on righteousness and justice.
Love and fidelity stand in your presence.
Happy are those who know how to praise you,
who walk in the light of your presence.
Hallelujah! Amen! ***

* Reflection Hymn *Jesus, Light of Joy* No. 673 (Purple)

Prayers of the People / *Lord's Prayer* Purple Hymnal, Pg. 35

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

* Doxology *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*
No. 606 (Purple)

* Offertory Prayer

* Closing Hymn *In the Bulb There is a Flower* (vs. 1-2) No. 250 (Purple)

GO OUT INTO THE WORLD IN GOD'S NAME

* Charge & Benediction

* Congregational Response *In the Bulb There is a Flower* (vs. 3)
No. 250 (Purple)

* Postlude

(* The Affirmation of Faith, "We Will Sing of Your Love," is from Brian Wren, *Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany: Liturgies and Prayers for Public Worship* [Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008] and is reproduced by permission. Copyright © 2007 by Brian Wren)



Announcements & Church Information

The **FLOWERS AT THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY** are presented to the glory of God by *Lucy Snearley* in memory of Ted Becker.

Our **CHRISTMAS EVE "CANDLELIGHT SERVICE"** will be celebrated this evening in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m.

Please note: the **CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** December 25-26 and January 1-2, 2018.

2018 FLOWER SIGN-UP SHEETS ... If you wish to donate flowers for a particular Sunday Worship Service in 2018, please write in the information on the appropriate sheet located next to the church office. A reminder notice for your particular Sunday contribution will be mailed the week before. You can either mail a check to the church office for \$35 per arrangement or drop your check in the offering plate, designating "Flower Arrangement(s)" on the memo line.

The **2018 DISCIPLINES**, a book of daily devotionals for the entire year, is available in the church office at a cost of \$10 each. Please come by the office during regular business hours if you would like to purchase a copy.

ESPAÑOL WORSHIP SERVICES are offered each Sunday at 5 p.m. in the Parlor.

For prayer requests, complete a **PRAYER CARD** located in the Friendship Register. Place in the offering plate or give to an Usher.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS and **SHAWLS AVAILABLE** ... Please ask an Usher to provide one for you should you so desire.

A WEEKLY PRAYER BREAKFAST GROUP meets every Friday at 7:00 a.m. at Denny's on 401 E. Nolana in McAllen.

The **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** invites you to join its study of the "Present Word" curriculum in the Parlor at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER 24-31, 2017

SUNDAY / 24th

(4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve)

10:30 am—Worship Service

5:00 pm—Spanish Worship Service (Parlor)

6:00 pm—Candlelight Service

MONDAY / 25th

(Christmas Day)

Church Office closed

TUESDAY / 26th

Church Office closed

WEDNESDAY / 27th

7:30 pm—Choir practice (Choir room)

FRIDAY / 29th

7:00 am—Prayer Breakfast meeting (@ Denny's, 401 E. Nolana, McAllen)

SUNDAY / 31st

(1st Sunday after Christmas Day)

9:00 am—Sunday School

10:00 am—Choir Practice (Choir room) / "The Gathering" (Parlor)

10:30 am—Worship Service

5:00 pm—Spanish Worship Service (Parlor)