

First Presbyterian Church of McAllen

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

email: fpchurch@sbcglobal.net

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am—3:00 pm; Friday, 8:00 am—1:00 pm

Church Staff

Table with 3 columns: Name, Title, and Role. Includes Rev. Kathryn Escandell (Pastor), Cam Henry (Treasurer), Lucy Snearley (Pianist), Michael A. Pullen (Church Administrator), Roberto Garza II (Choir Director), Adela Zamora (Custodian / Nursery), Dana Friedman (Clerk of Session), Beverly Bradburn (Organist).

The Session

Rev. Kathryn Escandell — Moderator
Dana Friedman — Clerk

Table with 3 columns: Class of 2018, Class of 2019, Class of 2020. Lists names of members for each class.

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.



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TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Kathryn Escandell, preaching
Lita Simpson / Nicholas Wright, liturgists
Rev. Kathryn Escandell, children's time
Roberto Garza II, choir director

MUSICIANS

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, 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. 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 ...

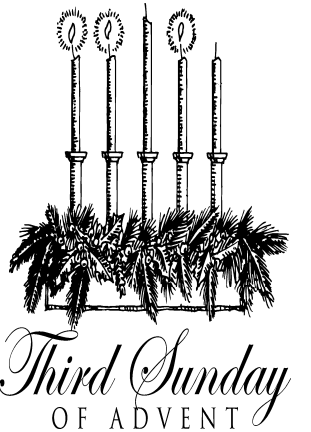
Live as a community of faith in worship, prayer, study and fellowship. This will be done through programs, including Sunday School, Bible Study, Sunday Worship; and activities, including church meals, as well as support for individual worship.

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 17, 2017

10:30 a.m.

3rd Sunday of Advent

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

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Welcome and Announcements / Friendship Book

Prelude

Silent Preparation

What does it mean to testify to the light? John the Witness reminds us of the importance of pointing to even the tiniest light and saying, "Look, behold, the Lamb of God!" In this season of Advent that is typically described as one of preparation, what does it mean to prepare? Maybe, preparation means simply adjusting our eyes to see light when there seems to be none. God calls us to be witnesses like John who point to Jesus and say, "Look!" so that all might know God's pastures of peace. Perhaps pointing and saying, "Look!" can be our preparing the way. — Karoline Lewis, Working Preacher

GATHERING

* Call to Worship / Lighting the Advent Wreath Prayer Quilt Ministry
... God of hope, God of peace, God of joy, you are our salvation;
we trust in you and are not afraid.
Lead us to draw water with rejoicing from the springs of salvation.
God of promise, God of joy, lead us out of darkness into your light.

* Opening Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates* No. 93 (Purple)

Prayer of the Day

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Living God, we hear the words of John the Baptist:

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” –

but we act as if these words were meant for others, not for us;

we hear the plea of the prophet of old:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight” –

**but we ponder these words as if they were merely metaphor,
not a radical call to action.**

**Help us bear fruit worthy of repentance,
that our lives may be transformed in holy fire,
through our baptism in the Holy Spirit.**

Silent Confession

Declaration of Forgiveness

Trust the promises of God – promises of steadfast love and forgiveness.

Trust our inheritance in Christ – an inheritance of life everlasting
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We do trust.

We will rejoice and be glad.

* 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 61:1-4, 8-10a (NRSV)*

Psalms *Psalms 126 (NRSV)*

(This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God!**)

Anthem

Time with Young Disciples

Gospel Reading *John 1:6-8, 19-28 (NRSV)*

(This is the Word of the Lord ... **Thanks be to God!**)

Sermon “*John the Witness*” Rev. Kathryn Escandell

RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

* Reflection Hymn *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 1, 5-7)*
No. 88 (Purple)

Installation of Ruling Elder (Sher Wilkes)

Sentences of Scripture

There are varieties of gifts, but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

**There are different ways of serving God,
but it is the same Lord who is served.**

God works through each person in a unique way,
but it is God’s purpose that is accomplished.

To each is given a gift of the Spirit

to be used for the common good.

Together we are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.

Statement on Installation

Constitutional Questions

Questions to the Congregation

Lord’s Prayer Purple Hymnal, Pg. 35

Declaration of Installation and Charge

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 *While We Are Waiting, Come* No. 92 (Purple)

GO OUT INTO THE WORLD IN GOD’S NAME

* Charge & Benediction

* Congregational Response *While We Are Waiting, Come (refrain)*
No. 92 (Purple)

* Postlude



Announcements & Church Information

The **FLOWERS AT THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY** are presented to the glory of God by *Nadine Force-Macey* in celebration of her great granddaughter, Raylen Remtel’s birthday.

Our annual **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** will take place today in the Fellowship Hall immediately following worship. All are invited to join in the fellowship and spirit of the Christmas season!

The **PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY** will gather here at the church on Tuesday, December 19. The Quilt Ministry meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month from 1:30-3:30 p.m. on the second floor. For more information, contact Shirley Pippin at 956-358-0591.

The sanctuary will be open for **MID-WEEK ADVENT PRAYER** from noon to 1 p.m. during the last Thursday of Advent Season on December 21. If you feel a need for spiritual prayer/meditation in the coming days, a quiet place is available.

Our **CHRISTMAS EVE “CANDLELIGHT SERVICE”** will be celebrated next Sunday in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m.

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

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.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR DECEMBER 17-24, 2017

SUNDAY / 17th

(3rd Sunday of Advent)

10:30 am—**Worship Service**

11:30 am—Christmas Luncheon (Fellowship Hall)

4:30 pm—Youth Christmas party

5:00 pm—**Spanish Worship Service** (Parlor)

MONDAY / 18th

Newsletter deadline

TUESDAY / 19th

1:30 pm—Prayer Quilt Ministry (2nd floor)

6:00 pm—Session (Parlor)

WEDNESDAY / 20th

7:30 pm—Choir practice (Choir room)

THURSDAY / 21st

Noon-1 pm—Mid-Week Advent prayer (Sanctuary)

FRIDAY / 22nd

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

7:00 pm—Pasi3n’s “Sing We All Noel” (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY / 24th

(4th Sunday of Advent / Christmas Eve)

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)

6:00 pm—**Candlelight Service**