

## **PRESBYTERIAN DAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

On Thursday evening, **December 12, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.**,  
the young disciples of our  
Presbyterian Day School  
will present their Annual Christmas Program.

Family, friends, and all the members of  
First Presbyterian Church, Victoria  
are invited to enjoy the  
Christmas Season  
as celebrated by the children  
whose youth and innocence  
provide us with a heart-warming  
reminder of our dear Savior's birth.

If you are not yet in the Christmas Spirit,  
of even if you are,  
you will not want to miss  
this enthusiastic celebration of Christmas  
by our own PDS students.

A "cookie social" in Fellowship Hall  
will follow immediately after the program.

Come join us.

You will be glad you did!



## Angel Tree

This year First Presbyterian Church is participating in an Angel Tree Christmas project to benefit children in the Kinship Program of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. Children in the Kinship Program have been removed from their homes by Child Protective Services and are being cared for by family members. In most cases, the children are living with grandparents, or extended family members who are raising their own children. Many of these families have limited resources but have "stepped up" to care for additional children who would otherwise be placed in foster care.

The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services Kinship unit has provided the names of approximately 30 – 35 area children from infancy to 17 years of age.

Our amazing congregation has already selected over 30 of the names provided, meaning we only need 4 to 5 more volunteers to fill the reasonable "wish lists" of children who find themselves in difficult circumstances.

The deadline for contributions is this Sunday,  
**December 15, 2019.**

If you have not already done so,  
please stop by the Church Office to select the name  
of one of the remaining children in need.

Church members can also participate by providing  
wrapping paper, tape, etc.;  
by wrapping and labeling gifts; or by purchasing gift cards  
which will be used to assist the families who are providing care.

Donations can be delivered to the church office  
or to Frances Miller (361)578.4679.



Mr. David Faskas returns to play his guitar during our worship service on the third Sunday of Advent, **Sunday, December 15, 2019.**

Many will remember, with joy, Mr. Faskas assisting us in worship earlier in September this year. Please join us as we continue to emphasize our music ministry during the joyful Season of Advent.

Mr. Elijah Vega will play his trumpet during our worship service on the fourth Sunday of Advent, **Sunday, December 22, 2019.**

Mr. Vega, who is now a freshman at Texas A&M University, played for us on Easter morning earlier this year,



and we are delighted that he is able to  
return during Advent to  
share with us his extraordinary  
musical talents.

We will also celebrate our traditional  
candle light Christmas Eve Service  
on Tuesday evening, **December 24, 2019.**

Please plan to join us,  
and bring your friends and family,  
as we enjoy our first Advent Season  
in two years in our newly restored Sanctuary!

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## Advent Wreath

As has been a long-standing tradition at First Presbyterian Church,  
we will light an advent candle during each Sunday morning worship  
service during Advent, with the center candle (the Christ Candle)  
to be lit on Christmas Eve.

We look forward to this being a beautiful and worshipful  
Advent Season  
at First Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Texas.

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## Weekly Calendar

Tuesday, December 10

9:00 AM PDS Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 11

6:00 PM Kids for Christ

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 12

9:30 AM Adele Carsner Young Circle

11:00 AM PWC Christmas Luncheon at Sky Restaurant

6:30 PM PDS Christmas Program

Sunday, December 15

9:30 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Worship

*Lighting of the Third Advent Candle*

*Guest Musician, Mr. David Faskas*



If you, or someone you know, has a birthday this week please contact the church office:

361.575.2441

or

[info@fpcofvictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcofvictoria.org)

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**Final Notes**

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# Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School



Are you interested in joining the Nellie Hudson Adult Sunday School?  
Come join us! All are welcome.  
We meet before Sunday Worship Service at 9:30 AM.

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## A Note of Understanding, Comfort, and Encouragement

The decorations in the stores and in the public squares, the worship services in our church,  
the opportunities for family reunions and good times together—  
all of these sensations and memories of happy occasions, past and present,  
speak to a season of joy and celebration.  
With all my heart, I hope this is true for you  
as we enter the Advent Season and celebrate Christmas.

Alas, however, this is not always so for all. For many, the holidays are a difficult time,

and the pressure to be festive and meet what are, or what we perceive to be,  
the expectations of others can be overwhelming.

For those who find themselves in places of sadness, pain, loneliness, or darkness,  
I pray that you understand you are not alone.  
Common sense, personal experience, and mental health  
professionals make us aware that the Christmas Holidays  
do not automatically banish reasons for feeling sad or lonely.

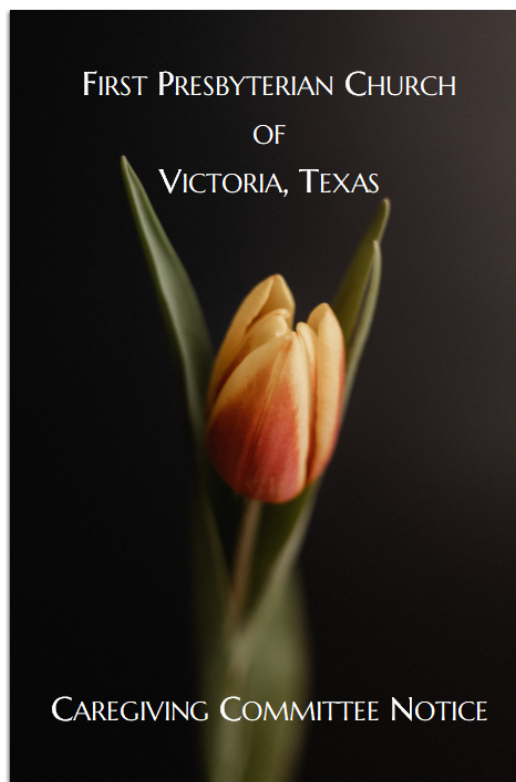
If you are feeling this way, then, as you read this note,  
I hope you also sense that you are surrounded by a church family  
that is supportive and caring about you as a child of God.  
And may we, as members of that church family, be sensitive and understanding towards  
our sisters and brothers who may be experiencing their first Christmas  
without a loved one or for whom Christmas does not always hold  
the happy memories that are stereotyped in  
the merchandising and advertising of the culture that surrounds us.

For all of us, I pray we find time for ourselves  
rather than trying to be what others expect us to be.  
I pray we do not try to pretend to have emotions we believe we are "supposed to be feeling"  
rather than relying on our sovereign God to comfort and support us  
as we experience our emotions as they are.

If this season becomes challenging for you, or if you just need a sympathetic ear  
or a sincere word of encouragement, please feel free to call on me at any time.  
Speak to me after church, in the halls, or in my office, or simply call me to arrange a visit.

Let us all share our love for one another as God has shared, in Jesus Christ, his love for us.

Grace, mercy, and peace,  
Pastor Jim



*When you or a family member is in the hospital, facing illness,  
or simply in need of prayer or care once a loved one has passed,  
please call or email members of the Caregiving Committee.*

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*Also, our team is seeking special people,  
to pray, work, and to aid in the tasks involved.  
Would you like to help? If so, please contact us at the info below.*

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**Rev. Jim DeMent**  
**361.575.2441 (church office)**  
**or**  
***info@fpcofvictoria.org (email)***

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**Henry Hauschild**  
361.570.2605  
*henryjhaus@aol.com*  
**or**  
**Lynn McAuley**  
361.579.9566  
*lynmca@suddenlink.net*

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*Each of these numbers can take messages,  
or are actively receiving emails.*

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*\* Due to the HIPPA Act, hospitals will no longer release  
any information, unless we know you are there.*



*If you are hospitalized, please have a loved one or friend call the church office so we may pray for your prompt recovery and come visit you if you wish.*

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*Are any among you sick?  
They should call for the elders of the church  
and have them pray over them,  
anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.  
The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up;  
and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.  
Therefore confess your sins to one another,  
and pray for one another, so that you may be healed.  
The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.*  
**James 5:14-16**



The following publications are now available (free of charge):

—  
**Horizon's Magazine**

—  
**These Days Daily Devotional**

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**Hopes & Expectations**  
**Austin Seminary Advent Devotional**

Reserve your copies by calling the church office, or pick yours up in person!  
Located in the hall in front of the church office.

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**Pray For**

Please continue to engage in prayers for our extended church family.  
If someone you know is in need of prayer, please contact the church office.

**Kathryn Amsler**  
**Gloria Aouelle**  
**Kay Edwards**  
**Doyle & Eileen Fowler & Family**  
**Claire Heger**  
**Leonard "Mac" McCameron**  
**Roland Merrill**  
**Rickey Ramseur**

**Shelly, Jenna, and Ty Hartmann**  
(Kids of Christ)

**Angie Longoria**  
(Kids for Christ Volunteer)

**Juliana Longoria**  
(Kids for Christ Disciple)

**Eric and Kelli Mercer**  
(Parents of PDS Student)

**Samantha Skaggs**  
(Niece of Roxanna and Henry Hauschild)

**John & Jere Swoboda**  
(Prior FPC Members)

**Carol Wisdom**  
(Lea Lenz's Daughter)

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**Submissions to the Weekly Calendar  
can be sent to [info@fpcfvictoria.org](mailto:info@fpcfvictoria.org)  
or by telephone: 361.575.2441**

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**Office Hours**  
8:30 AM - 5:00 PM  
Monday - Friday



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