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*For those that have not heard, it is with great sadness we announce the passing of Pastor David Hawkins on Thursday, December 5. Funeral services will be held on Friday, December 13, at 11:00 a.m. All will be invited to stay following for a joyous time of sharing a meal together. We ask for continued prayers for Karen and Wiley Hawkins and extended family.*

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## Advent and Christmas Activities

### December 1



**BREAKFAST:** Dean and Sherry will cook for us

**ACTIVITY:** Decorate the Christmas tree in the Garden Room & Dress-A-Live Doll gift wrapping. This year we are dressing 8 kids.

Blue Christmas service at 5 pm. Please call the office if you need a ride.

### December 8



**BREAKFAST:** light breakfast – donuts

**ACTIVITY:** Make pinecone birdfeeders  
Christmas Music Sunday with choir

Potluck right after the service

(Annual Meeting postponed until David is feeling better)

*We will collect the Christmas Offering.*

### December 15



**BREAKFAST:** Men's Breakfast will cook for us

**ACTIVITY:** We will make cards

We will collect the Christmas Offering.

### December 22



**BREAKFAST:** Potluck Breakfast

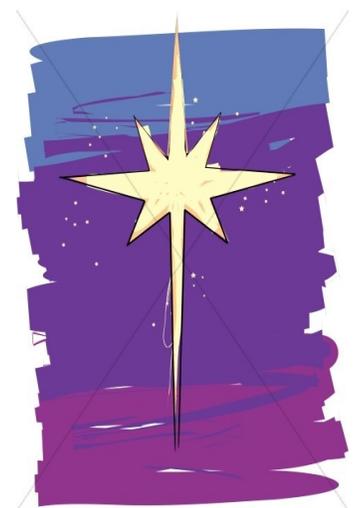
**ACTIVITY:** Act out the Christmas story

We will collect the Christmas Offering.

### December 24



Candlelight Service with Lessons and Carols at 6 pm followed by our Family Homecoming. Please bring a snack to share and visit with people here for the holidays.



# Hanging of the Greens & Chili Cook-off 2019

Sunday evening Nov 24<sup>th</sup> marked the time of celebration of close of harvest and time of preparation for Advent. We had about 30 people for the chili cook-off, and 15 pots of chili! Hannah Bozeman won best chili, Lon Jones took most unusual, and Barbara won "hottest chili", but she said it really wasn't very hot. Our thanks to judge Randy Stutes. Then came the decorating: Brian Adamson (home for Thanksgiving) set up the Chrismon tree with Jim Tirey. Lots of folks hung Chrismons while Jim and Brandy made sure the special symbols were in place. The youth often take a large part in this tradition, and this year was no exception: Graham Tirey and Hannah hung many Chrismons high and low, and Sammy and Sally Strovas got to experience the joy of this tradition, assisted by their parents (Scott and Karen Beth) and both sets of grandparents. Jill Craig and Elise Adamson worked to separate the two white nativity sets, with Jerry Bozeman and Sherry Thompson helping. Chris Lewellen enlisted Sally's help with carrying paraments. Many others (Sue Lewellen, Karen and Wiley Hawkins, Dean Thompson, Whit Hunt, Mike Craig, and Gene Whitfill at least- possibly more) helped as well, either with set-up, clean-up, dragging out boxes or generally providing a friendly atmosphere. Thanks to all for a fun, productive event. For more pictures, please go to our Facebook page.



Our wonderful youth passing on to the next generation how to set up the Chrismon tree.

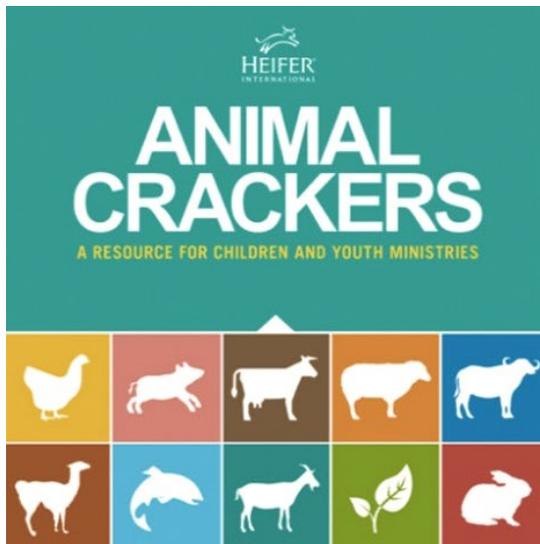


# December 2019

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat



<b>1</b> 9:15 am – Advent Breakfast 10:30 am – Worship 5 pm – Blue Christmas service	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts	<b>4</b> 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF Groovy Grillers 6:45 pm – Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 am – Advent Breakfast 10:30 am – Worship/Potluck 7–9 pm – Pizza & Profs @ WBU	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts	<b>11</b> 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF Disciples?? 6:45 pm – Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 11 am – Funeral Service. Following will be a Joyful Church Potluck for all in attendance.	<b>14</b> 8 am – Men’s Breakfast 1 pm – Youth bell ringing/ Ranching Heritage Center
<b>15</b> 9:15 am – Advent Breakfast 10:30 am – Worship	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 5:30 pm – SnackPak4Kids 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts	<b>18</b> 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF T-Bones 6:45 pm – Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6 pm – Christmas Open House @ the Craigs, 1403 Jefferson
← Karen out of office →						
<b>22</b> 9:15 am – Advent Breakfast 10:30 am – Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6 pm – Candlelight Service & Family Homecoming	<b>25</b> Office closed 	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
← Karen out of office →						
<b>29</b> 10:30 am – Worship	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 	← Karen out of office →			



By Sherry Thompson

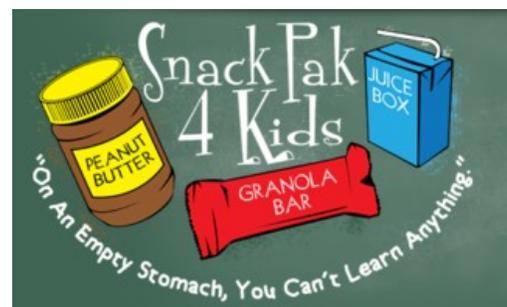
The last eleven weeks has been interesting to say the least. It has also been a craft bonanza, a learning experience (the difference between a bison and a water buffalo), and a time to have some serious discussions with the children of this church. As their teacher and guide through Animal Crackers, I feel that these children have an understanding of animals and plants around the world that are part God's creations. We have learned how families and communities use the gifts of Heifer International to improve their income, nutrition and standard of living. The important part of Heifer that I tried to stress each week is Passing the Gift. The children would talk about how each animal, tree seedling or irrigation project would allow the families

to begin to end hunger and poverty and pass the gift. Because of the Congregations generous donations to our Piggy Banks around the church \$1,615.91 was raised. The children have made a priority list of how to spend the money. They felt the most important animal they learned about was the cow followed very closely by chickens! I was surprised by their third item, irrigation. They all felt the impact of fresh drinking water was very important. These three are followed by rabbits, a pig, a llama and tree seedlings. If they had more money, which thanks to you they did, they would buy chickens. For \$20 Heifer provides a family with a starter flock of 10 to 50 chicks and since a good hen can lay up to 200 eggs a year it will provide a family with plenty of nutritious eggs to eat, share or sell. Because chickens require little space and can thrive on readily available food scraps, families can make money from the birds with out spending much. And chicken help control insects and fertilize gardens, add 3 more flocks of chickens! But because of your generous donations First Presbyterian Church will be donating a mating pair of cattle instead of a heifer. This will provide more than just nutritious milk to drink. Extra milk can be sold or made into cheese and yogurt. It will provide a valuable offspring, which can be raised or sold at market. Manure is also used to fertilize their crops and improve their harvests.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts to each and everyone of you that has helped with Animal Crackers and the Heifer's 75<sup>th</sup> year Mission Project. Because our order for the animals was placed on #GivingTuesday our gift will be tripled!!

Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> will be the last packing day for the semester. It should be a busy night because the packing for the holidays will be done that night. Let's plan to go to dinner afterwards, place to be determined by popular vote that night!

The dates for the spring semester Snack Pak packing have been set. Mark your calendars for these Tuesdays. January 28<sup>th</sup>, February 25<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup>, April 21<sup>st</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup>.



# December Birthdays

Hanna Bozeman	Dec 1
Robin Sweeney	Dec 2
Bryan Walter	Dec 4
Jerry Bozeman	Dec 7
Tammy Coleman	Dec 8
Melinda Silvas	Dec 8
Travis Rushing	Dec 9
Bill Coleman	Dec 11
JR Garza	Dec 14
Lonna Smith	Dec 19
Larry Williams	Dec 31



Please remember these members who are shut-ins. Their addresses are listed if you would like to write a card.

David Adamson, 704 W. 11th St

Maxine Goree, 303 Kirchwood

Carol McEver, 2008 W. 18th St

Charlie Marie Whitacre, Plainview Healthcare, 2510 W. 24th St

Connie White, Plainview Healthcare, 2510 W. 24th St

Lea Perry, Plainview Healthcare, 2510 W. 24th St

Doris Fox, 7450 Willow Chase Blvd., Room 2105, Houston, TX 77070



## Dress a Live Doll

Plainview Junior Service League sponsors Dress a Live Doll to help provide Christmas gifts to the Children of Plainview. For the last several years First Presbyterian Church, Plainview has helped dress some of these children. This year the Mission and Ministry Committee chose 8 children to dress. These 8 children were from 2 families, 4 kids in each family, with the ages ranging from 5 years to 18 years. The notes on the older kids forms expressed a need for socks and underwear, something that I have never seen before. Wrapping of the gifts will be on the first Sunday of Advent, December 1<sup>st</sup>, as the gifts need to be delivered Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who helped in this Christmas Mission Project.

FPC held their first Blue Christmas service on Sunday evening, December 1<sup>st</sup>. Since Pastor David Hawkins was in the hospital, Commissioned Ruling Elder Dee Rice led the service assisted by Dr. Wilburn Lackey. Music was provided by Jim Tirey, Kevin Sweeney and Bill Coleman. The service included comments about the pain in our lives, the Empty Chair which may be part of our holiday, and the gift and comfort from God. A special moment distinct to this service was when individuals lit candles from the Christ candle, representing the specific pain in their lives, and allowing God to take this on. The service was meaningful, and counselors and therapy dogs were on hand to serve. Afterwards, there were refreshments shared. Anyone wishing to have an audio CD of the service please contact Gaylan Goddard or the office.





illustratedchildrenslist.com

## THE CHRISMON TREE

The evergreen tree, which symbolizes the eternal quality of life which our Savior has opened to us, is a background for tiny white lights and white and gold Chrismons. The lights speak of Him Who is the Light of the world, and the Chrismons (CHRIST + MONogram) proclaim the Name, the life and the saving acts of Jesus the Christ. White refers to our Lord's purity and perfection; gold, to His majesty and glory.

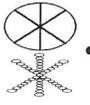
## CROSSES

The cross is, of course, always a reminder of our Lord's saving work of redeeming humankind through his self-emptying example for extending forgiveness and salvation. Different forms of the cross may point to various aspects of our Christ's life and work.

-  • **TAU CROSS** (anticipatory, Old Testament, Advent): Salvation promised but not yet accomplished. Numbers 21.0; Isaiah 53.
-  • **ANCHOR CROSS** (Cross of Hope): This Child, the hope of the world; or, a cross rises from a crescent moon, a symbol for our Lord's mother. Hebrews 6.19; Luke 2.7.
-  • **LATIN CROSS**: Long upright; most widely used form of the cross among Christians.
-  • **GREEK CROSS**: all extensions of equal length. This balanced form is easier to use in designs and was much employed by early Greek artists.
-  • **CROSS OVER THE WORLD**: Christ over the world, "Go ye into all the world..."
-  • **CROSS TRIMPHANT**. A word united in Christ; triumph of the Lord over earthly sin.
-  • **JERUSALEM CROSS**: Four Tau crosses meet to form a larger cross: culminated in the crucifixion of our Lord (large cross) on a hill near Jerusalem. Since then His followers have carried the Gospel to the corners of the world (small corner crosses).
-  • **CROSS IN ETERNITY**
-  • **EYE OF GOD** (Ojo de Dios): A pre-Columbian art form reveals a cross in its weave.

## MONOGRAMS AND LETTERS

The earliest monograms of our Lord are in Greek letters. Originally much of the New Testament was written in Greek because many of the first missionary churches were Greek.

- X** • Chi, the first letter of the word for Christ in Greek.
-  • **Chi Rho**, the first letters of Christ in the Greek alphabet. Or, for the Latin 'Christus Rex', Christ the King. The X may sometimes become a cross.
-  • First three letters of Jesus in Greek. (Note: some letters have several forms.)  
**IHC**
-  • Monogram of the first letters of Jesus and Christ; our Lord's cipher.
- ΑΩ** • Alpha and Omega, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Since only God is before and after all things, a symbol of divinity. Revelation 22.13



# Pizza & Profs



Study break/study session

**Moody Science Building, Room 106**

**Sunday, December 8**

**7:00—9:00 pm**

The Outreach Committee is trying this outreach to the Wayland students again. If you would like to help with purchasing pizza, soda or bake cookies, please let Elise or Karen know.

**You are invited to  
A Christmas Open House  
At the Craigs  
Saturday, December 21  
6 pm**

## 2019 Christmas Offering

This year's Christmas offering will be given to Salvation Army and our custodian, Sabrina Shuping. She is a single mother who struggles to provide for her 3 kids (2 live at home).

It is the hope of the Mission and Ministry Committee to deliver two-thirds of the money to the Salvation Army before Christmas so that they will have this money to finish their Christmas ministry. The committee will also be using one third of the money to buy gift cards for Sabrina so that she will be able to pay some much needed bills and buy Christmas gifts for her family. Let us bless this ministry of First Presbyterian Church on December 8th, 15th, and 22nd.



## Focus

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## DECEMBER NEWS TO KNOW

### Focus

is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church, Plainview, Texas. Articles for inclusion in the FOCUS are requested by the 20th of the month.

Rev. David Hawkins, Pastor  
Dr. Charles Teykl, Pastor Emeritus  
Karen Hawkins, Publisher

Be sure to note these important dates and jobs to be done during the month of December.

### Ushers

Whit Hunt, Richard Morgan,  
Gaylan Goddard, Chris Lewellen,  
Larry Williams, Mike Craig, Graham Tirey

### December Liturgist

Kim Butler

### Wednesday Night Fellowship

12/4—Groovy Grillers  
12/11—T-Bones  
12/18—Disciples

### November Attendance

Nov 3	49
Nov 10	35
Nov 17	27
Nov 24	32

### November Contributions

Nov 4	\$2,608.20
Nov 5 (online)	\$2,300.00
Nov 11	\$ 714.25
Nov 18	\$1,124.30
Nov 25	\$1,146.90

Total Income:	\$ 7,893.65
Total Expenses:	<u>\$11,312.16</u>
	\$ -3,418.51

