



The Messenger

BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER. ROMANS 12:12

(DECEMBER 2021)

CHURCH OFFICE:

105 SALADO PLAZA
DRIVE - P.O. BOX 865
SALADO, TX 76571
(254) 308-2023

PRESBSALADO

@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE:

PRESBSALADO.ORG

PASTOR:

REV. CARL THOMPSON
CELL (254) 702-4119
CTHOMP106@AOL.COM

MINISTERS:

THE CONGREGATION

SESSION MEMBERS:

PAT REHM -
Clerk of Session
OPEN -
Worship
DEBBY ALDRIDGE
Personnel/Finance
EVELYN THOMPSON -
Education
SHIRLEY LETT-
Fellowship
PAT REHM -
Benevolence/Outreach
RANDY KEMP
Building & Grounds

TREASURER:

PAT HART

ORGANIST:

JEANETTE WEST

CHOIR COORDINATOR:

JEANETTE WEST

**COMMUNICATIONS &
MESSENGER EDITOR:**

PETE STEBBINS
(254) 231-4883
PETE7744@ICLOUD.COM

* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH - FOR THE
NEXT MONTH'S
PUBLICATION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson



Once again Advent is upon us - it is a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. The season of Advent begins a new liturgical cycle in the church (Happy New Year). Every year we trace the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from his birth to his resurrection. The central themes of Advent, a Latin word which means "coming" or "arrival," are expectation and longing for the birth of the Christ child. Advent is a time of preparation as we look forward to the great celebration of Christ's incarnation, and we celebrate God dwelling among us in the person of Jesus. Advent is a season of waiting, expecting, and hoping. Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, Advent helps us to prepare us for the coming, or "advent" of the Christ child at Christmas.



For hundreds of years, Christians have used an Advent wreath to inspire their hopes for the coming of Christ. By lighting candles and reading Bible verses, we are reminded about the meaning of Christ's birth. It helps us become more excited about his coming in the past, in our own lives daily, and again in the future.

During the season of Advent, we begin our worship together by lighting candles in the Advent wreath. The lighting of the Advent candles, one for each Sunday in Advent, helps us to focus on Jesus, the light of the world. Many individuals and families light Advent wreaths in their homes as well to highlight the story of God's redemption that will unfold throughout the year and throughout our lives.

There is no set meaning for the candles of the Advent wreath (except for the middle candle, which always signifies the birth of Jesus the Christ). Some wreaths use all white candles; others use three purple candles, one pink candle, and one white candle, the Christ candle in the middle. The purple candles remind us of how serious and solemn God's people have been in waiting for the Messiah, the King of Kings, purple being the color of royalty. The pink signifies the joy of our waiting. The white is triumphant and celebrative because Christ is born.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Calendar of Events

Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 am

Adult Sunday School at 9:00 am

Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues, 8 am

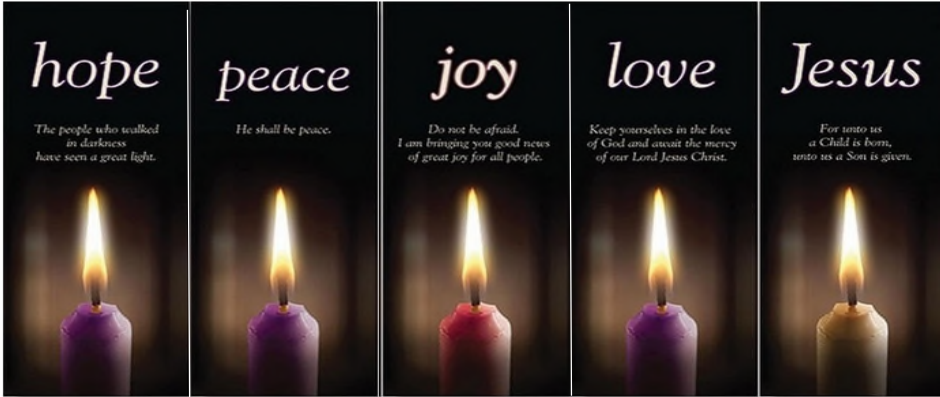
Choir Practice Wednesdays, 4:00 pm

Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Dec. 9 - Women's Devotional, 11:30
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:00 PM
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Day with Family
- Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

DECEMBER 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Choir 4:00	2 Yoga 10:30	3	4
5	6	7 Yoga 1 PM	8 Choir 4:00	9 Yoga 10:30	10	11
12	13	14 Yoga 1 PM	15 Choir 4:00	16 Yoga 10:30	17	18
19	20	21 Winter Begins Yoga 1 PM	22 Choir 4:00	23 Yoga 10:30	24 Candle Light Service	25 Christ- mas Day
26	27	28 Yoga 1 PM	29 Choir 4:00	30 Yoga 10:30	31 New Year's Eve	Happy New Year!

Carl continued



In the reformed tradition the candles represent: HOPE, PEACE, JOY, LOVE, and CHRIST - The Light Of The World.

I pray that you truly enjoy the celebration of Christmas this year in its true sense and remember these words, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace." As we begin a New Year together Evelyn and I want to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. *Evelyn and Carl*



Many Thanks

Thanks to two of Carl's friends that have preached sermons here in the last two months. They are



willing to help him out when he needs them. **Jessie Thorton** is a retired Chaplain who Carl has known for 45 years, a Presbyterian, and retired in Lampasas.

Mari Lyn Jones lives about a quarter mile from Carl. She is an active Presbyterian minister who is willing to help when not at another church.



Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to requests or other circumstances)

	2nd Sunday of Advent - Dec. 5	3rd Sunday of Advent Dec. 12	4th Sunday of Advent - Dec. 19	Nativity of the Lord Dec. 24	First Sunday after Christmas Dec. 26
1st Reading	Malachi 3:1-4	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Micah 5:2-5a	Isaiah 9:2-7	1 Sam. 2:18-20, 26
Psalm	Luke 1:68-79	Isaiah 12:2-6	Psalm 80:1-7	Psalm 96	Psalm 148
2nd Reading	Phil. 1:3-11	Phil. 4:4-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Titus 3:4-7	Colossians 3:12-17
Gospel	Luke 3:1-6	Luke 3:7-18	Luke 1:39-45(46-55)	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)	Luke 2:41-52

Dec. Birthdays

- Mike Moore 3
- Debby Aldridge 4
- Betty Gengler 9
- Sandie Klingberg 21

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, **with thanksgiving**, present your requests to God." Phil 4:6

THE MESSENGER

About our Members

Julie Goggans needs our prayers as she goes through the higher-powered chemotherapy every other week. She has some good days and then bad days after the chemo. The markers and scans have improved. We need to pray for continued effective treatments and more of the good days.

June Lubowinski has found that there may be other issues in the brain. She will have a special spectrometer SCAN that may shed information on the exact nature of these tumors. The second brain tumor had been shrinking, and other markers were improving. She thanks the church family for all the prayers.

Joe Carroll has had some setbacks. He fell, fractured a lumbar vertebra, spent six days in the hospital, then needed to reinstall a trach and spent another six days in the hospital. He is doing much better. Pray for healing of trach

site and continued improvements. Susan and Joe are grateful to the church for the prayers!

Bob Todd is continuing a three-week immunotherapy injection program which is controlling his cancer. He has some dermatology surgeries coming up to remove several skin cancers on 12/13, 1/3, and 1/17. Please pray that these surgeries will be successful.

Carl Thompson is not feeling strong at times and has determined that he has a hernia that may need to be repaired. The energy issues go back to some long-term problems. Pray for remission and strength.

Bill Reynolds fell at his house and landed on a porcelain pot/plant and managed to create a good gash that required an ER visit, surgery, a hospital stay, and likely some rehab. (Bill is one of the original stalwarts of the Men's Bible Study.) Pray for healing and stability.

Church

Notices

REMINDER: All giving to be included in your 2021 Tax Statement needs to be **in the church office no later than December 26, 2021**. If a check arrives in the mail after that date, it will be too late to be included in your 2021 statement.

We have had a good return on pledge letters but there are still about 25% of the congregation who have not returned them. Please send them in regardless of the late date. We are trying to put together the budget for 2022. NOTE: The Pledge Form is included as the last page of this Messenger.

The October Session (10/17/21) approved the following key items:

- 1). A tentative budget for 2022 was discussed and after pledge cards are received, the 2022 Budget will be approved at the December session meeting and shared with the congregation on 9 January Congregational meeting.
- 2). The names of proposed Elders and Nominating Committee for 2022 were presented.
- 3). A contract for 2022 had been presented and Carl Thompson accepted it with the understanding that he will continue to serve as long as he is physically able or a good replacement can be found.

Mary's Story

Every year as Christmas approaches, my thoughts turn to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Her story ever beckons to me.

As I imagine it, I see Mary, the young maiden, olive skinned, a covering over her long, dark hair, about thirteen years old, newly metamorphosed into womanhood. And I picture Joseph, a tall, handsome young man, likely in his late teens, yet old enough to choose a wife.

I see their families sharing the Sabbath meal together, the candles lit, the ancient words of the ritual being repeated. And Mary's mother, perhaps, as she sees the richly colored garment worn by Joseph's mother, and the fine table that is set before them, growing excited for her daughter's prospects, pleased that a young man from such a family, a descendant of David, is interested in her daughter.

And I envision the fathers, in the cool of the evening, moving out into the courtyard after dinner, to discuss the betrothal, and the eventual marriage of their children. Perhaps the talk turns to the grandchildren that they may one day share which brings a smile of anticipation to their faces.

The happy couple, so young, so innocent, so caught up in the joy and the passion of youth, the excitement of planning their wedding day, and the life they will soon share, seem

blissfully unaware of the turmoil that lies ahead of them.

But then, "The Annunciation!" In the book of Luke, Chapter 1:26-29, we read: "Now in the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of



David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one; the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women. Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of message this might be."

The angel Gabriel then proclaimed that the Holy Spirit would come upon her, and she would bear a child, to be called Jesus, the son of the living God, the long promised and long-awaited Savior of Israel.

And her response to all this? This virgin, who had never lain with a man, this newly betrothed, barely past childhood, young woman?

Her response, "The Magnificat," as we know it, is found in Luke 1:46-55. It says, in part: "My soul magnifies the Lord; and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, because He has regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth our generation shall call me blessed, because He who is mighty has done great things for me; and holy is His name".

Such faith! Such trust! Such unquestioning obedience to God's call on her life. Such rejoicing!

It is hard for us to fathom. And yet, we accept it as fact, and we believe it is true. For we, as Christians, know the rest of the story. And we know too that it is not yet finished. And soon we, like Mary, like the angels in Heaven, and the Wise Men of old, will be celebrating Jesus' birth.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders; and he shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6).

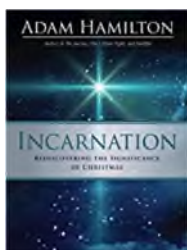


Wishing you a Merry Christmas from "A Merry Heart." *Linda Lloyd*

Advent Adult Bible Study

The class will be continuing our study of Adam Hamilton's INCARNATION through December 19. The last two lessons are about:

1. the role of Emmanuel (God with us) in the Midst of a Pandemic.
2. Jesus as the "Light of the World"



We hope you will be with us at 9 a.m. on these Sundays.

There will be no class on December 26, the day after Christmas, but they will resume on January 2, with another Adam Hamilton book, WORDS OF LIFE.

If you are not coming to class, we hope you will rethink your priorities, and, if possible, join us in studying God's word together. The fellowship is great, and the sharing of our thoughts and experiences is a good way to grow as a Christian. We would love to have you - wouldn't that be a great start to a new year?

We wish everyone much happiness and a blessed Christmas.

Shirley Pinkston



December Benevolence Report

Thank you to everyone who participated in providing food to the Heart & Hand Ministries' community meal for Thanksgiving on November 20th. Our congregation was well represented among those who prepared various foods and volunteered to help in the kitchen or with the distribution of meals for the drive-by pickups. Pat Scarborough, H&H Director, has reported that 335 meals were provided! Some of our members also assisted the employees at Brookshire Brothers on the day before, promoting the sale of their food-filled "Bags of Hope" for the Heart & Hands pantry.



The Benevolence Committee will disburse \$6,000 in the 4th quarter benevolent gifts to both local and global agencies during Advent, and the annual total of our mission giving will be available in early 2022 but looks to be nearly \$25,000. Your generosity has enabled our church to again give 25% of its budget to Benevolences!

Our church will also continue to support the annual Christmas project of Salado Family Relief, donating gifts for local children whose parents or guardians need help providing gifts for their families. According to SFR volunteers Debby Aldridge and Sara Pettijohn, several of our members have already volunteered to provide toys and clothes, which will be collected and delivered before the holiday.

Pat Rehm

♪ Musical Notes ♪

Looking back at Christmases past, different things come to mind. There was the aluminum tree with the multi-colored wheel that my maternal grandparents had in their living room for several years. Another memory is of my mom making divinity candy every year on a day that had to be sunny with minimal to no humidity. Because of my horrible allergies as a child, there was the dried, bare limbed tree/bush we cut from my grandparent's farm in place of a "real" tree. It was sprayed pink and found itself hanging in the garage over the car, wrapped in plastic until the next Christmas. How unconventional, yet these occurrences became forms of tradition.

Then there are the things that always remain constant, in the present, no matter what happens. These include the story of Christmas, the birth of Jesus. The persons and animals with their God-appointed roles in the story of the Nativity, bringing it to life for each generation. In addition, the Christmas Carols cannot be overlooked. Sung year after year with their messages of faith, hope, joy, and love, the message of each remains timely and so pertinent for today.

As we look ahead to "Christmas future," the one to come, what will be remembered from our times of worship, celebration, and tradition? Will we recall the recitation of the Christmas Story from Luke 2 by memory from the King James Version of the Bible? Will the words and melodies of the Christmas Carols become meaningless/mindless canters of repetition? Oh, that each one of us may pray from Ephesians 1:18-21 NIV as follows:



"18 I pray that the eyes of my (your) heart may be enlightened in order that we may know the hope to which He has called you, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, 19 and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength 20 he exerted when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come."

Merry Christmas & God's Blessings!
Sharing in Christ's Service, *Jeanette West*

The "Hanging of the Greens" Social - November 21



The November Social was focused on decorating for Advent plus enjoying Chili and one of the many Soups!



The Choir is Back

2022 Pledge

If you haven't turned in your 2022 Pledge yet, the session would appreciate it if you would.

Presbyterian Church of Salado Pledge for 2022

As a part of my/our commitment to the Presbyterian Church of Salado and my/our belief that "the great end of the church are the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the kingdom of Heaven to the World,";

I/we pledge to:

_____ pray regularly

_____ attend worship regularly

_____ work in and through my/our church

_____ give \$ _____ weekly, monthly, annually for operational expenses.

Name (s): _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please return to:
(or put in collection plate)

**Presbyterian Church of Salado
P.O. Box 865
Salado, Tx 76571**