



The Joyful Noise

December 2018

Jackson Woods Presbyterian Church 10500 Stonewall Blvd Corpus Christi, 78410
Sunday School – Adults and Youth 9:30 – 10:15 a.m. Fellowship Time 10:15 – 10:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Nursery Provided

MISSION STATEMENT – Jackson Woods Presbyterian Church is an inviting Christ-centered fellowship. Bringing the message of God's grace to this community through love, service and spiritual growth.

FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN

Vulnerability and Joy

Let me ask you a question: Where does ministry happen? If you answered “Everywhere,” or “Almost Anywhere,” then you and I are on the same page. And further, I would say that we are on the same page with Jesus.

As you undoubtedly know, God did not just send Jesus into this world to warm our hearts. In fact, there was nothing heart-warming about the external conditions surrounding Jesus' birth. Joseph and Mary were quite poor, and vulnerable! They were (at least temporarily) living the life of refugees. Mary had to travel an arduous journey during her third trimester of pregnancy, thankfully with her faithful fiancée/husband Joseph at her side. As y'all know, the couple could not get a room at a local inn, and thus had to give birth in the place that the innkeeper's animals probably slept.

The Emperor of Rome was probably the most powerful man on earth at that time. Like most people of power, he did all he could to maximize his power, and minimize his vulnerability. Joseph and Mary, living almost the polar opposite existence of the Emperor's life, were the ones chosen by God to bring the Savior of the world to this earth. God often works through the lowliest people and circumstances to bring about His purposes for this world.

God not only sometimes works in mysterious ways, He often works most powerfully in humble circumstances too. This is truly good news for all the people in the world who still suffer from hunger, disease, persecution, mortal fear, and all the other terrible problems that arise out of the sins of this world. Those who live in humble and very vulnerable circumstances generally do not choose their conditions; and, since we can probably name so many negative things that arise from such circumstances, we often run the other way from humility and vulnerability. However, some openness to vulnerability is necessary if we are to live as Disciples of Jesus. As native Texan Brené Brown has written:

Embracing our vulnerabilities is risky, but not nearly as dangerous as giving up on love and belonging and joy – the experiences that make us the most vulnerable. Worst of all, if we shun all vulnerability, then younger generations (especially our children & grandchildren) will experience less belonging, love, and joy too.

If we will pray to God to enable us to truly recognize Jesus for who He is, and open our eyes to the ways that He is seeking to reconcile all creation to God, then we will grasp a fuller and deeper understanding of the meaning of the Advent and Christmas seasons. This divine reconciliation involves us! And it involves our opening ourselves up to the possibility of rejection, fear, and pain. So being vulnerable involves great risks; BUT, it also involves great possibilities of deeper Hope and Joy. The inescapable conclusion is that we need to encourage each other

in taking holy risks to help others, and to be faithful disciples. Let us resolve to look for renewed ways to affirm and encourage and help those who are hurting because of their openness to vulnerability. Tough outer shells do not further the Gospel, but a heart softened and attuned to God does!

Thanks be to God, that 2000 years after Jesus' birth, Christ still comes to us, and to a hurting world. May the Holy Spirit abide with us in this vulnerable Advent season.

Yours along the Journey,
Pastor Charles

MLFLC DECEMBER NEWS



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA!

On Saturday, December 8th

8:30 am to 10:30 am

Santa will be in the Gym!

Pancakes, sausage and fruit

will be served. Crafts and a photo opportunity with Santa will be set-up for the children to enjoy. Tickets are only \$5.00. Children under 12 eat free.

Some of our children participate in a weekly dance program with



Tippi Toes. The Tippi Toes annual

Winter Show will take place on

Saturday, December 14th at 7:00pm at

the Wolfe Recital Hall at Del Mar

College.



MLFLC WILL BE CLOSED:

**Mon, Dec 24 and Tues, Dec 25
for Christmas.**

MLFLC WILL BE CLOSED:

**Mon, Dec 31 and Tues, Jan. 1
for New Years**

Classroom Christmas Parties



The children's classroom Christmas parties will take place on Friday, December 21st beginning at 2:30 pm.

Enrollment: 60 with one on the way.

Halloween at MLFLC



Members hand out candy.



These Days

Nurture your faith with a daily scripture reading, prayer and reflection. *These Days* quarterly devotional booklets are available in the Narthex.



Advent-A Calendar of Devotions 2018, by Sue Mink are available in the Narthex.



Sew N Social Christmas Party –
9:30 am–Everyone is invited. We will meet on Saturday, Dec 8.

There will be a table of items to take. We all have small projects or fabric that we really can't use.



Bring your items and see if there is something on the table you would like. We will be working on unfinished projects and enjoying Christmas cheer. Bring your favorite food for brunch and sew along with us or just come to visit. Be thinking about projects for the coming year.



PILL BOTTLE DONATIONS

The Adult Sunday School Class will be collecting pill bottles with and without secure caps.

The pill bottles will be shipped to medical missions worldwide.

What is the Christmas



Joy Offering?

Supporting Past, Present, and Future Leaders
Whether providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families or providing opportunities for deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools (like Presbyterian Pan American School in Kingsville!), your generous gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering will shine the One True Light of Christ's love.



BSA Troop 52 New Eagle Scouts

Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scouts-Nick Vanway and Colby Cole!

MLFLC STAFF

Director Nora Pillado
Admin Asst. Debbie Sanderfer
Email mflccorpus@gmail.com
Phone 361 241-8408

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Charles Walden
Secretary Christina Schwirtlich
Organist/Pianist Josie Jaime
PowerPoint Tech Emily Ahrens
Nursery Gracie Charles
Custodian Rosie Perez

Office phone 361 241-3205
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Newsletter – The Joyful Noise

If you have any pictures or articles for the newsletter, please submit them to Jean Brown by the 26th of the month. jbrown@calallen.org

JWPC Website www.jwpc.org

If you have any pictures or suggestions for the website, please contact the church office

JWPC Session

Clerk of Session Clinton Schulz
Moderator of Session Charles Walden

Class of 2018
Ted Sanderfer
Sandy Pinaire

Class of 2019
Andy Phillips
Marie Gray
Luke Hight

Class of 2020
Barbara Albrecht
Warren Albrecht
Michael Hallgarth

NOTE CHANGE

Women's Morning Circle Bible Study Wednesday, December 5,

10-11:00 AM. Our 2018-2019

Bible Study is **God's Promise: I Am With You.** We are at Lesson

#5-*God With Us When We Are Powerless.*

What is the difference between being told to "stand still," and to "stand firm?" We'll answer that question and then go to lunch! Wear your Christmas sweater!



Midwinter Youth Conference in January at MoRanch! Two weekends to choose from. Contact Mrs. Keach.



EYE GLASS DONATIONS

Ruth Einkauf, a long-time member of the Lion's Club has placed a box on the table to put your old and used eyeglasses in. These go to the Lion's Club where they process them for use to individuals in need.



-Prayers, Concerns and Statements of Faith-

Keep Barbara Evans in your prayers, recovering from a stroke

Our prayers are with Susan Hanson, health concerns

Pray for Amanda Grant Edwards - possible recurrence of cancer

Keep those recovering from the recent wildfires in your prayers

Our prayers are with Dana Simpson (return to kidney transplant list).

Our prayers are with Lora Boyer, lung transplant. Pray for healing

Pray for Refugees worldwide

Please pray for our service people: SGT David Kanars, Army Airborne, in Alaska; PV2 Dalton Field-Army Reserves; Major Ivo Roaelina; CWO-4 Jessica & SFC Kyle Jasper, Ft Leonard Wood, MO.

Our prayers are with these members & friends: Cris McKinney, Allen Rothlisberger, Diana Deaton, Young Family, Amy Walker Headley, Johnson Family, Bob Dickson, George Sutton, Mickey Sikes, David Mayo, Kiki & Alex Kantralis, Lee Whitney, Suzi Baker; Lucille Hight's son-in-law, Chris, Seth Smith, Debbie Sanderfer's nephew Bill Burwell's sister, Cathy; Elayne Robinson's sister-in-law Nga Ferguson; Mark Frogge (Susann Whitmire); Jerane McKinstry & her great-nephew, Grant; Marie Carter's son-in-law Billy Moore, and Nancy Burnett (Burwell & Ahrens).

Keep these students attending school in your prayers: Emily & Travis Ahrens, Crosby Anderson, Chase Dickson, Dalton & Toby Field, Ray Hallgarth, Hayden & Hadleigh Hight, Nicholas Karagas (Kantralis), Casey Keach, Cori Steinagle (Dickson) and Rianna Turner, Carolyn Turner's granddaughter

Pray for Coastal Bend Food Bank

Pray for our Mission Outreach Ministries

Pray for Island Presbyterian Church



December 1, Saturday

7:00 AM JWPC Men's Breakfast

4:30 PM Caravan to Goliad-Christmas Concert at the Mission Espiritu Santo

**December 2, First Sunday in Advent
Communion Sunday**

Angel Tree ornaments

December 5, Wednesday

10:00 AM Morning Circle & Lunch

December 8, Saturday

8:30 AM Breakfast with Santa

9:30 AM Sew & Social in Grace Room

December 9, Second Sunday in Advent

Angel Tree ornaments

2:00 PM Nick Vanway Eagle Scout Ceremony-Sanctuary

December 10, Monday

Poinsettias orders due

6:00 PM Scout Troop Court of Honor-Gym

7:00 PM Session meets

December 14, Friday

Angel Tree Ornament Gifts due to office

6:30 PM MLFLC Christmas Dinner in Grace Room

December 15, Saturday

Scout Troop Merit Badge Blitz in Gym

December 16, Third Sunday in Advent

Poinsettias placed in Sanctuary

Angel Tree gifts due to Office

Congregational Meeting following Worship

December 17, Monday

7:00 PM Troop & Cub Scouts Caroling at the Cottages

December 24, Christmas Eve

5:30 PM Worship Service with Communion

December 30, Sunday

10:30 AM Brunch Church in the Gym

Thanksgiving Bags

Outreach would like to thank all of you who participated in this year's collection of Thanksgiving bags. We collected and handed out 15 bags to deserving families in our community.



December Outreach

Angel Tree is a Prison Fellowship program that connects parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts provided by members of the church. Jackson Woods will be participating in this ministry again this year. Name tags (30) will be placed on the Christmas Tree in the church sanctuary on Sunday Dec. 2nd. When selecting a tag please be sure to register the tag with Luke Hight. All gifts will be due back to the church by Dec. 16th. The gifts are to be valued at between \$15 and \$25. Your participation in this ministry is much appreciated. Please contact Luke Hight for any further details at 215-1811.



Our Cub Scout Pack 52 in the TM homecoming parade. Seventy cubs strong!



Girl Scout Mommy and Me Tea



Chrismons

The Chrismons placed on our sanctuary tree are symbols of the Christian faith. They were made by the women of JWPC in 2016. **Chrismons** are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help us remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birthday.

Christmas Poinsettias

Order your 2018 Christmas Poinsettias for the Sanctuary in memory or honor of someone. Each poinsettia is \$8.00. Please use this order form and place it in the offering plate. (Please print clearly so that the names will be spelled correctly on the announcement sheet.)

Orders due Monday, December 10 2018!

Honor of _____

Memory of _____

From _____

Office Use Only – Date Paid _____ Amount _____ Check # _____ Cash _____
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