



# The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

December, 2021

## From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis  
revdgtravis@gmail.com



*Who knows what the facts of Jesus' birth actually were? As for myself, the longer I live, the more inclined I am to believe in miracle, the more I suspect that if we had been there at the birth, we might well have seen and heard things that would be hard to reconcile with modern science. But of course that is not the point, because the Gospel writers are not really interested primarily in the facts of the birth but in the significance, the meaning for them of that birth just as the people who love us are not really interested primarily in the facts of our births but in what it meant to them when we were born and how for them the world was never the same again, how their whole lives were charged with new significance. Whether there were ten million angels there or just the woman herself and her husband, when that child was born the whole course of history was changed. That is a fact as hard and blunt as any fact. Art, music, literature, our culture itself, our political institutions, our whole understanding of ourselves and our world – it is impossible to conceive of how differently world history would have developed if that child had not been born. And in terms of faith, much more must be said because for faith, the birth of the child into the darkness of the world made possible not just a new way of understanding life but a new way of living life.*

Frederick Buechner hits the nail on the head with these words. We don't know exactly what happened in the birth of Jesus. It seems to me wise and faithful to allow some mystery to stand. But we do know and we have experienced the significance of that birth in myriad ways. We profess our faith that this Jesus is God come to earth and dwelling in our midst. Call him *Word* or *Light* or simply *Mary's boy*, he remains the same.

The one who brings salvation gathers us even in his birth. The bringer of hope, peace, joy, and love calls us to follow and beckons us to live a life of compassion as he lived. His example guides and directs and inspires us to be who God has made us to be and who God intends for us to be. The significance of Jesus' incarnation is that God is birthed in our very lives in a manner unimaginable and yet in a manner that allows us to experience the very love God has for us.

That love, my friends, is a game changer and a life changer. It's why you and I are part of the community of faith. It's why we "do unto others." It's why we gather to worship. It's why we kneel to pray. It's why our heart sings at the glory of God's creation. It's why our heart breaks at the loss of one we love. Yet, it's why we continue to pronounce "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!" even in the face of death. It's because the One who was present in the beginning is with us even in the ending. Is there a thing more *significant* than that?

It's Advent, and Christmas follows closely on Advent's heels. We prepare and we ready our hearts to receive the child who comes. May it be our prayer that this Christmas be *significant* in our world. God has made that so. May it also be *significant* in our hearts and in our lives as we experience the Christ born anew in us. May God make that so, too.

See you Sunday,



## Associate Pastor

Rev. Brenda Church  
rev.brenda.church@gmail.com



Welcome to Advent! The word advent, in Christian theology, actually means “the coming or second coming of Christ.” But when I look at the word advent, I can’t help but think of “adventure.” Maybe it’s because 2021 has been an adventurous year for me, or maybe because Advent...this season of awaiting the coming of Christ...is, in itself, an ADVENTure! We could certainly make an argument that our God is an adventurous God. Just a glance at God’s written word (the Bible) and God’s Incarnate Word (Jesus) reveals to us something of the level of God’s risk tolerance...well, if all-knowing God was subject to a risk tolerance, that is! God has created us, sustained us, and redeemed us despite the fact that we have done nothing to deserve it! God has gone beyond anything we can understand to bring us into relationship with Godself! How great is the love of our Father!

Since God is so adventurous, perhaps we as God’s people are called to also be ADVENTurous as we await Jesus Christ’s return this Advent season! I can think of a few ways that we can be ADVENTurous in the coming month. Perhaps we can establish a new spiritual discipline... something that stretches us in new and wonderful ways. Perhaps we can spend more time outdoors, taking in the amazing intricacies of nature and pondering anew our God who is so creative, meticulous, and diverse. Speaking of creativity, maybe we could take up a new hobby like photography, or journaling, or painting. Maybe we could make a commitment to expanding our table and inviting others into our homes to better get to know them. Perhaps we could prayerfully enter the ADVENTure of a new mission focus...getting food to people who need it, offering respite help for foster parents, even something as simple as deciding to smile at every person we encounter. There are so many ADVENTures we could explore!

Unfortunately, the Advent season has become one of the most stressful, expensive, and busy seasons of the year. The ADVENTure some years is just getting through it. But if we are intentional, prayerful, and willing to begin a new tradition of ADVENTure, perhaps we can counter the frantic pace of the season. In so doing, we might recognize anew the steadfast love God has for us, the gift we are to one another, and the idea that, maybe, just maybe, “presence” is the greatest of all “presents” we could ever give or receive. (Full disclosure: That last line is courtesy of Gail...who represents a daily ADVENTure in the life of this church! I am so glad she is “present”...)

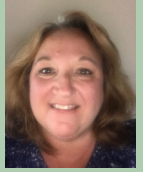
ADVENTure! What a wonderful opportunity we have to delve more deeply into all that God has for us. So, what do you say? Will you join me in the ADVENTure? Let me know your plan! I would love to hear! God’s best blessings to you and to your family this Advent season and beyond!!!



# Worship

Julie Dean, elder

juliebutlerdean@gmail.com



The worship committee would like to thank all of those involved in the decoration of the church for the Christmas season. Thank you to our Advent Readers and to Hannah Briese for organizing them. Thank you to Virginia Conner and Jane Seley for their green thumbs! They are lovingly caring for the poinsettias a couple of times each week making sure they are watered and healthy. We also thank those of you who were greeters as we shared our beautiful sanctuary during the Granbury Candlelight Tour.



If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in honor of or in memory of loved ones please complete an order form and return it to the office or drop it in the offering plate by December 20<sup>th</sup>. Order forms may be found in The Bridge, on the church website, via email and in Sunday bulletins.

May the joy of Christmas be with you, and may your hearts be filled with love in the knowledge of this miraculous gift we have been given.

Christ the Savior is born!

## Christmas Poinsettias'

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to be placed in our church sanctuary in honor of or in memory of loved ones during the Christmas season, please fill out the form below. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate it for "Poinsettias." Please order by December 20<sup>th</sup>.



Number of Poinsettias ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost Each: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.50

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of: \_\_\_\_\_



## Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder  
susanyoung@gmail.com



### AT HOME AND/OR RECEIVING TREATMENT

Diann McHaney, Edith George, Ed and Fran Smith, Bill Lowe, JD Finlay, Dave Barnett, Mary Hayden, Barbara Buffalow, Rita Hart, Rene Metcalf, Lorraine Schmitz, Sheila Higgins, Jim and Theda Deaver, Karen Stahlman



### CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Chris and Kathy Smith on the passing of Kathy's mother, Rose Wolf.
- The Calloway family on the passing of their brother, Kirby Calloway. (Son of Dallas and Willie)
- Helen Furr as she recovers from heart surgery.
- Susan Higginbotham as she recovers from severe injuries due to a car accident.
- Fran Smith as she recovers from knee replacement surgery.
- Edith George as she recovers from pacemaker surgery.
- Lorraine Schmitz as she deals with health issues.
- Sheila Higgins as she recovers from health issues.
- Rita Heart as she deals with the effects of a brain tumor
- Bill Lowe who fell and is in the hospital.

### WE DEEPLY MOURN THE PASSING OF OUR CHURCH MEMBERS

- Winette Lovelayd: We keep her husband Howard, and their family, in our prayers.
- Eloise Pauli: We keep her daughters and family our prayers.
- Warren Rutz: We hold Warren's family in prayer for their loss.
- Martha Ferrill: We hold Martha's family in our prayers for their loss.

### AT CARE/RETIREMENT FACILITIES

**Courtyards at Lake Granbury:** Mary Skinner

**Waterview at Lake Granbury:** Ted Dolan, Nita Collinsworth

**Prestonwood Court, Plano:** Linda Reed

**The Cove at Waterview:** Jean Haight,  
**Town Village Crossing, Arlington:** Linda Bowlin

**The Oaks:** CH Tubbs

**Quail Park:** Dolores Groom, John Cheney,

**Rosemont, Humble TX:** Betty Dean  
**Weatherford:** Dee Holt



## CONCERNS FOR OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

- CJ Cluck, grandson of Beverly McKusick, as he continues to fight cancer and work toward getting a prosthesis for his leg.
- Kenneth Jenkins, son of Paula Jenkins, as he recovers from COVID.

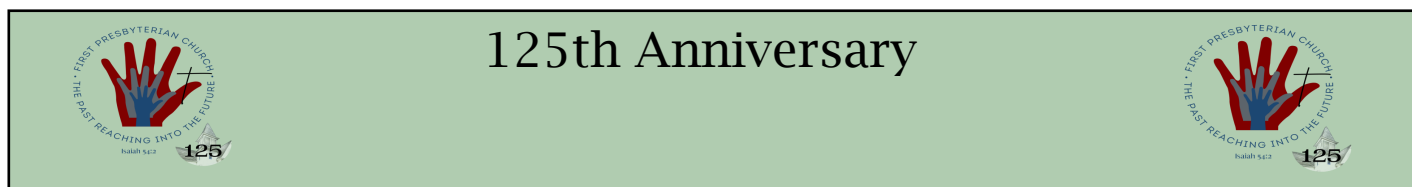
**SPECIAL BLESSING:** Heavenly Father, we ask that you surround our loved ones with your strength, grace and healing. Help them to feel your love as they deal with illness, grief and death. Help us to be your hands in this world and this church community, knowing that you are the way, the truth, and the light. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

## Happy Birthday!

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 Susan Harding                                       | 16 Debbie Armstrong            |
| 2 Baylor Southern<br>David Johnson                    | 18 Junie Herron<br>Sheila Wood |
| 3 Brad Bell   | 19 Saunya Bishop               |
| 4 David Hinterleiter                                  | 20 Karen Stahlman              |
| 6 Jan Massengale                                      | 22 Diana Burton                |
| 8 Ann Mitchell  | 23 Rita Hart                   |
| 10 Renee Metcalf                                      | 26 Carl Dinkel<br>Keith Nolan  |
| 11 C.H. Tubbs<br>Carolyn Rudsenske<br>Gary Towers     | 29 Pamela Gifford              |
| 13 Deece Robertson<br>Greg Schneider<br>Peggy Loshier | 31 Dick Kliemann               |

## Happy Anniversary

- |   |
|---|
| 1 Ben and Anne Mays                                 |
| 5 David and Julia Hinterleiter                      |
| 10 Stephen and Dana Reinke                          |
| 12 Joe and Lillian Ethridge                         |
| 20 Robert and Carol Gadbois                         |
| 22 Jim and Theda Deaver                             |
| 28 Kelton and Virginia Conner<br>Tim and Susan Kidd |
| 29 Ron and Bernice Deeds<br>Stan and Renee Metcalf  |



Dear Friends,

As usual, the 125th Committee has been hard at work with new activities and events. We thank all the members who have volunteered and participated!

On November 7th, our church served apple cider and doughnuts to folks passing by during Granbury's Sesquicentennial Celebration. We met some lovely people throughout the day and enjoyed the beautiful sunshine.

The Polar Express was shown at the Brazos Drive-in on November 11th for our Movies and Mission Night. Fun was had by all and the Chick-Fil-A was a hit. It was wonderful seeing the little children playing up front and people enjoying each other's company. The best news was that we collected \$730.00 and a car load of warm clothing for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. The money and clothing has been delivered and was much appreciated!

**UPCOMING EVENT: A PATH OF REMEMBRANCE** Friday, December 3rd at 7:00 PM. Please join us for this special service honoring friends and members who have passed to the Church Triumphant from Granbury Presbyterian Church. Luminaries will be lit as names are read and then taken out to light the path to the Memorial Garden. Bagpipes will mark this special, touching occasion.

It is such an honor to be part of this loving congregation! Blessings to you all!

The 125th Committee





# Presbyterian Women

Nancy Burks Worcester, moderator  
nancybw@gmail.com



DEC 3RD

## PW CHRISTMAS

*luncheon*

& COOKIE EXCHANGE

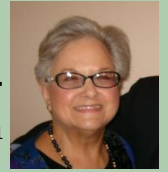
All are invited  
Program at 10:30  
Luncheon to follow

Ham & Rolls provided. Please bring a side to share: Strawberry/Spinach salad & Green Bean Casserole (recipe provided) or Sweet potato casserole (your recipe). Sign up sheets in narthex. Bring 3-4 dozen cookies to share and exchange.



## Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder  
lindaallen33047@gmail.com



The Fellowship Committee is so excited that the session has given approval for our first whole church fellowship dinner since COVID started. We are going to have our very popular **Chili Luncheon** on December 12<sup>th</sup>, following the Christmas Choir Service. The Congregation is asked to bring cookies or desserts. All the chili fixings will be provided. There will be one service that Sunday starting at 10:00 AM.

After the new year we are hoping to bring back Small Group Dinners. Of course, we keep a close eye on the COVID count here in Hood County, and the session uses that information to decide on what we can safely do. We were pleased that 40 members received the COVID booster shot when we had our clinic a couple of weeks ago.

I will end with a recipe for Cranberry Chutney. It was given to me by a dear friend of mine who was our pastor's wife in Fort Stockton. She is no longer with us, but I carry her memory in my heart.

### CRANBERRY CHUTNEY

15 oz can Pineapple tidbits drained (don't add until the end)

Drain the pineapple, saving juice. Add water to juice to make 1 cup liquid

1 bag cranberries

2 c sugar

1 c white raisins

1/4 t ginger

1/2 t cinnamon

1/2 t allspice

1/2 t salt



Simmer everything except the pineapple for 20-25 minutes. Then add the pineapple and 1 c chopped pecans. Chill. This is great at Thanksgiving or Christmas.



# Outreach and Mission

Bianca Brownfield, elder  
biancabrownfield@gmail.com



**Merry Christmas to our neighbors!**



Please bring all donations  
to the sanctuary or the  
church office by  
December 5th  
Questions? contact  
Bianca Brownfield

Join the Missions and  
Outreach Committee  
as we fill Christmas  
gift bags for our  
neighbors. We will  
provide gifts for the  
adults and the families  
living in the housing  
authority homes just  
north of our church.



CHRISTMAS JOY  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHURCH LEADERS—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

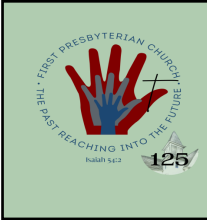


The Christmas Joy Offering reflects that God is with us, through the generous gifts that support church leaders among us, retired, present and future, who have pointed us to God. Even as we support our current and former church leaders through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, God is calling new leaders for our Church and world, through the ministry of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color — offering students the means for a brighter future and enhanced opportunities to use their talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.







## Christian Education

Nancy Bennett, elder  
nbennett0803@gmail.com



For many people, the Christmas season begins the day after Thanksgiving and ends on December 26<sup>th</sup>. The tree, packages, bows, tinsel, and lights are all packed away long before New Year's Eve. But for the church, on December 26<sup>th</sup>, Christmas season has just begun! We celebrate until Epiphany, January 6<sup>th</sup> – the day that commemorates the arrival of the Magi.

So this year, why not celebrate those 12 days of Christmas – you didn't think the song was just about gifts, did you? There are several ways to do so, but one that seems appropriate is to give a small gift or perform an act of service for someone. Send a card or visit someone who maybe has to spend Christmas away from family.

Here are some of the Bible stories told around the birth of Christ with a word to help you think of an activity for each day.

1. Joseph (Matthew 1:18-24) devotion
2. Mary (Luke 1:26-38) - faith
3. Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-5) - journey
4. Jesus (John 1:1-4; 3:16-21) - love
5. Innkeeper (Luke 2:6-7) compassion
6. Stable (Luke 2:6-7) - hospitality
7. Manger (Luke 2:6-7) - gratitude
8. Angels (Luke 2:9-14) - joy
9. Shepherds (Luke 2:9-14) - sharing
10. Star (Matthew 2:1-2) - wonder
11. Magi (Matthew 2:9-12) - giving
12. Egypt (Matthew 2:13-14) - exile

*Merry Christmas!*



*Sunday, December 26, 2021*

*One Worship Service at*

*10:00 am*



## Prayer of the Month

Pat Collins, Prayer chain coordinator  
pat.collins37@yahoo.com



When the days are short, I find myself automatically thinking of the upcoming birth of our Christ child. His birth marks the return of the light. Each day, as the shadows lengthen earlier and earlier, I think of a cocoon closing over us, darker and darker but, too, bringing us closer and closer to a renewal and transformation. I feel excitement stirring. Maybe it's the years of childhood expectation associated with Santa rather than the Christ child. But, maybe it is an adult seeking the excitement found in having hope. The birth of Christ is the return of the hope of the world. At Easter we focus on victory over death. At Christmas — it is a victory over life. As a child is often unaware of obstacles and danger, so too are we free to dream a world where justice prevails. A world where equality for all can be lived and a world where hunger and disease, crime and fear can be vanquished. Because of a child, the son of God, we are free to see with new eyes and hear with new ears. May this year's return of the light renew the brightest of lights within you, within us, and let us be beacons in the world showing the path forward to equality, justice, peace and health for all.

*Prayer:* Father, we give thanks for the renewal of hope coming in our celebration of the birth of the Christ child. Let that excitement open our eyes and ears to see and hear where we can fulfill your mission on earth. Remove from us the “old” thoughts that may leave us mired in the status quo. Ignite your fire in us anew. Let us think as small children, with excitement for the next minutes, and the minutes after those. Bless our church and its leaders. Guide them so their leadership reflects only your will for us. Heal those who are sick, comfort those who grieve, and bring peace to the distraught. Help each of us mend some small portion of the broken world so that you will know that we love you and that we try to do as you have bidden. Amen.



# Merry Christmas

In 1816 the text to *Silent Night* was written by Fr. Joseph Mohr in Mariapfarr, Austria. The music to *Silent Night* was composed in 1818 by Franz Gruber. *Silent Night* was first played at St. Nicholas Church in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria.



*O Holy Night* is famous for being the first Christmas song ever played live over the radio. In 1906 Reginald Fessenden (a former employee and lab technician for Thomas Edison) transmitted a short broadcast from the Brant Rock radio tower.

**Bridge Circle** will meet on December 6 in the fellowship hall from 1-4 pm. All are welcome! We would love to have some new members. If you have any questions please call Raye at 817.579.1238.



# December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	<b>29</b> 6:30 PM AI-Anon	<b>30</b> Pastor Brenda - Vacation 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Elders-Elect Meeting - Admin Building	<b>1</b> Pastor Brenda - Vacation 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 2:00 PM Organist Search Committee 3:30 PM Choir Practice - MH 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal - FH	<b>2</b> Pastor Brenda - Vacation 2:00 PM Organist Search Committee 2:00 PM PW Decorate FH	<b>3</b> Handbells Program Pastor Brenda - Vacation 10:30 AM Christmas Women's Luncheon - FH 7:00 PM Path of Remembrance - Service in the Sanctuary	<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Communion Guild 1:00 PM Path of Remembrance - Hosted by Historic Granbury Merchants Association (HGMA)
<b>5</b> 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	<b>6</b> 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bridge Circle - FH 6:30 PM AI-Anon	<b>7</b> Trinity Mission Party 10:00 AM PW Bible Brunch at Big O's 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM Office Christmas Lunch 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Elders-Elect Meeting - Admin Building	<b>8</b> 10:00 AM Staff Meeting - FH 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 3:30 PM Choir Practice - MH 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal - FH	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Mission & Outreach Meeting - FH	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 9:30 AM Dress Rehearsal - Choir
<b>12</b> 10:00 AM Worship	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM Monthly Property Meeting - Square Cafe 6:30 PM AI-Anon	<b>14</b> 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Granbury Knitting Guild - FH 10:00 AM PW Brunch at Big O's 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH 5:30 PM Session 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Elders-Elect Meeting Admin Building	<b>15</b> 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 4:00 PM Choir Christmas Party 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal - FH	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	<b>20</b> Bridge Articles Due 6:30 PM AI-Anon	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM PW Brunch at Big O's	<b>22</b> 10:00 AM FUN Circle 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study	<b>23</b> 12:00 PM - 4:30 PM Church office Closed	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve - Office Closed	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	<b>27</b> Office Closed 6:30 PM AI-Anon	<b>28</b> Pastor Brenda - Vacation 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH	<b>29</b> 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve - Office Closed	<b>1</b>

Watch this space for changes to our calendar. View current calendar on website <http://fpcgranbury.org/> Click on calendar at the top of the page.



To celebrate your birthday (or that of a family member or friend), and in thanksgiving for God’s gift of grace, please consider making a gift of your own, in the amount of \$1 for each year of your (or your honoree’s) life, to sustain the permanent endowment funds of the church.

Please notify the church office when you make your gift that it is a birthday offering. If honoring someone else, please so note. If giving online, please provide this information in the “Notes.”

**Any announcements for inclusion in the bulletin need to be received by Thursday noon. Bridge deadline is the 20th of each month.**



**To:**

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury  
202 W. Pearl St.  
Granbury, TX 76048