

Prayer Concerns

For the world:

Ecumenical prayer cycle: Myanmar, Thailand

For our family and friends:

Horace Pennington	David Beck	Marie Porterfield
Paul Venincasa	Charley Gray	Alice Wiles
Helen Trahan	Chuck Trahan	Shirley Torres
Cliff Burris	Ruth West	Dave Sidney
Tracy Patrick (Sue Chesnut's step-daughter)		Sharon Platt (Paul Gay's sister)
Leona Mims (Nell Pennington's sister)		Ron Daniels (Ginger Goodin's father)
Sara Baram (Nancy Holmes' granddaughter)		Melba Howard (Steve's mother)
Valerie Fine (Chuck Trahan's sister)		Mike Trahan (Chuck's son)
Nace Baggerman (GiGi Heermans' father)		Mary Howard (Pam Clinch's mother)
Brynn Matos (Allen and Betsy Mauldin's 2-year-old granddaughter)		

Prayers of sympathy:

Walter Wilson and family on the death of Charles Bland

If you wish to add a prayer request to this list, please complete a Prayer Card available in the chair pouch in front of you and place it in the collection basket as you come forward for communion. Please indicate how the person we are to pray for is related to you.

DAILY READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 2nd

Reflection on Previous Sunday

Monday
Numbers 17:1-11
2 Peter 3:1-18

Tuesday
2 Samuel 7:18-29
Revelation 22:12-16

Wednesday
Isaiah 1:24-31
Luke 11:29-32

Preparation for Coming Sunday

Thursday
Malachi 3:5-12
Philippians 1:12-18a

Friday
Malachi 3:13-18
Philippians 1:18b-26

Saturday
Malachi 4:1-6
Luke 9:1-6

Sunday, December 8th
Second Sunday of Advent
Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

*A Spiritual Oasis
Committed to Christ
Committed to Peace
Committed to Service*



600 West Park Street, Cedar Park, Texas 78613

(512) 335-9540
CPFUMC.org

First Sunday of Advent
December 1, 2024

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church
First Sunday of Advent
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** indicates an invitation to stand as you are able*

GATHERING

WELCOME

Peter Castles

PRELUDE/BRINGING IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Jodi Blount

*GREETING

People of God, let us worship God: In times of crisis and uncertainty, some hide in fear, dive into activity, distract themselves with pleasure, or sink into despair.

Some look for signs of the end and count who they think will be saved.

But our hope is in the name of Jesus, Jewish child of Jewish parents: healing and teaching, welcoming outcasts,

crucified by imperial power, risen from the dead, and endlessly alive.

Therefore, let us declare our faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again. Thanks be to God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

UMH 196

*OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

What are these candles for? These Advent candles remind us of God's love in Jesus Christ. There are five candles. We shall light a new candle each Sunday from now until Christmas. What is the point of doing this? Because the old proverb is true: "What I hear, I forget. What I see, I remember. What I do, I understand."

As we light our Advent candles, may they bring us together in the warm light of God's love.

The Gospel of Luke speaks about the future:

"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth, distress among nations. People will faint from fear and foreboding." *(Luke 21:25-26)*

Because our world is full of fear and distress, we light our first candle, trusting that Christ is alive on earth and that the Spirit of Christ lives among us.

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There are many different opportunities for spiritual enrichment here:

Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:45am

Sunday School at 9:45am for adults, children, and youth

BE LIGHT Youth Fellowship (6th-12th grades) — Sunday, noon-1:30pm

United Women in Faith — quarterly Saturday, 9:30am

Young At Heart (older adult fellowship) — day and time varies

Sanctuary Choir — performs Sunday at 10:45am, practices Sunday at noon

Contemplative prayer group — Monday, 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

Tuesday prayer service — Tuesday, 9:30am in the Sanctuary

Weekly Bible study — Tuesday, 10am in the Sanctuary and via Zoom

Prayer shawl ministry — 1st Tuesday, 11am; 3rd Tues, 5:30pm in the Sanctuary

Sanctuary preparation — Thursday, 10:00am in the Sanctuary

A Child's Haven (preschool) — Monday through Thursday, 9am-1pm

(Fall thru Spring; contact Yaheli Benitez director@childshaven.net for more info)

The United Methodist Church is a several-million-strong global church that opens hearts, opens doors, and opens minds through active engagement with our world.

John Wesley and the early Methodists placed primary emphasis on Christian living, on putting faith and love into action. This emphasis on what Wesley referred to as "practical divinity" has continued to be a hallmark of United Methodism today.

We invite you to learn more about our rich theological heritage by visiting the website for The United Methodist Church (UMC.org).

If you would like to learn more about Cedar Park First UMC or have questions about joining the church, e-mail one of our pastors or check "Desire a Call" on the attendance registration pad when you sign in today.

Rev. Peter Castles, Pastor Peter@cpfumc.org
Rev. Suzette Thorpe Johnson, Pastor Suzette@cpfumc.org
Dr. Jodi Blount, Music Director
Laurel Fabian, Nursery Coordinator

This week at Cedar Park First UMC

SUNDAY, December 1st

- 8:30am WORSHIP with Holy Communion
9:45am Sunday school for Adults:
Followers of the Word are studying the Gospel of Luke (MMB Conference Room)
Seekers are studying "How Jesus Became God" (MMB Back Room)
9:45am Sunday school for Children and Youth (Youth Room)
10:45am WORSHIP with Holy Communion
Noon Choir practices in the Sanctuary

MONDAY, December 2nd

- 7:30pm Contemplative Prayer in the Sanctuary

TUESDAY, December 3rd

- 9:30am Service of Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
10:00am Bible discussion group meets in the Sanctuary and by Zoom
11:00am Prayer Shawl ministry meets in the Sanctuary (come crochet or knit with us!)

THURSDAY, December 5th

- 10:00am Sanctuary Preparation

SATURDAY, December 7th

- 11:00am Memorial Service for Charles Bland in the Sanctuary

Help Hill Country Community Ministries provide Holiday Meals!!

HCCM is busy gathering up holiday dinner items to ensure their clients can enjoy a festive Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner this season. CPFUMC is hoping to collect **100 cans each** of Cranberry Sauce and Sweet Potatoes.

United Women in Faith are collecting gift cards as Christmas gifts for Yesterday's Gone and for Head Start teachers

Place gift cards of \$10, \$15, or \$20 from HEB, Walmart or Target in the UWF jar in the Lobby.

Visitors and Newcomers:

We invite you to participate to the extent you feel comfortable. *UMH* indicates a song from *The United Methodist Hymnal* (found under the chair in front of you). *TFWS* indicates *The Faith We Sing*, the soft-bound hymnal out on top of the chairs. Words will also be shown on the screen at the front. We hope you enjoy worshipping with us, and we thank you for the gift of your presence.

(The candle is lit.)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you.

We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (stanzas 1 and 2) UMH 211

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O Lord our God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, that we may be obedient to your will and live always for your glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen

*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 21:25-36 (p. 80 in the pew Bible NT)

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People's response: **Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

*RESPONSE TO THE WORD (The Apostles' Creed)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the Virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven,

is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYER SONG

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

UMH 206

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

People's response: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

MISSION MOMENT

*THE PEACE

*DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

TFWS 2257-b,c,d

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing . . .
. . . And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ . . .
. . . And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here . . .
. . . Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever.

**Amen, Amen, Amen.
Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

Because the table at which we gather belongs to the Lord, it is open to all who respond to Christ's love, regardless of age or church membership. All, including children, are invited to receive both bread and cup, which is served by means of intinction — a small fragment of bread is placed in the hand to dip in the cup before consuming. Or you may take one of the small communion cups after consuming the bread. If you desire gluten-free bread, please ask for it when you come forward to be served.

Place your regular or special offering in the offering basket as you come forward for communion.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

SENDING FORTH

*HYMN

"People, Look East"

UMH 202

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*SINGING THE SHALOM

As we depart, please join hands with your neighbor to sing a community song of peace.