

Prayer Concerns

For the world:

Ecumenical prayer cycle: Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and the Mainland of China

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
Ron Daniels (Ginger Goodin's father)		Sharon Platt (Paul Gay's sister)
Leona Mims (Nell Pennington's sister)		Mary Howard (Pam Clinch's mother)
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)		
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 9th

Reflection on Previous Sunday

Monday
Numbers 16:1-19
Hebrews 13:7-17

Tuesday
Numbers 16:20-35
Acts 28:23-31

Wednesday
Micah 4:8-13
Luke 7:31-35

Preparation for Coming Sunday

Thursday
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 10:10-18

Friday
Isaiah 42:10-18
Hebrews 10:32-39

Saturday
Isaiah 66:7-11
Luke 13:31-35

Sunday, December 22nd
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Micah 5:2-5a
Luke 1:46b-55
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

600 West Park Street, Cedar Park, Texas 78613

(512) 335-9540
CPFUMC.org

Cedar Park First United Methodist Church

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



Third Sunday of Advent
December 15, 2024

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

GATHERING

WELCOME

Peter Castles

CHORAL INTROIT

"Gloria"

Sanctuary Choir

*GREETING

This is the earth's quiet season, the season of waiting.

We rest in the shelter of God's love.

This is the season of darkness, when we seek stars to guide us.

We trust in the light of God's promise.

This is the season of solitude, when we listen for our own heart's rhythm.

We find warmth in the signs of God's presence.

This is our season to make room, a time to make ready.

For we shall join in the angels' chorus.

Peace on earth, goodwill to all.

Peace on earth, goodwill to all.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

"Blessed Be the God of Israel"

UMH 209

*OPENING PRAYER

LIGHTING THE SECOND 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.

In the Gospel of Luke, John the Baptizer points to Jesus: As the people were filled with expectation . . . questioning whether John might be the Messiah, John answered them

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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 15th

- 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
- Noon BE LIGHT Youth Fellowship in the Youth Room

MONDAY, December 16th

- 7:30pm Contemplative Prayer in the Sanctuary

TUESDAY, December 17th

- 9:30am Service of Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary
- 10:00am Bible discussion group meets in the Sanctuary and by Zoom
- 5:30pm Prayer Shawl ministry meets in the Sanctuary (come crochet or knit with us!)

THURSDAY, December 19th

- 10:00am Sanctuary Preparation

Looking FORWARD !!

- December 24 Christmas Eve worship services
 —Family-friendly service with children's performance, 5pm
 —Traditional service with carols, communion, and candlelight, 7pm
- December 29 One combined worship service, 10am

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.

by saying, "I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I is coming . . . He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." *(Luke 3:15-16)*

If we follow Jesus Christ, we will get everything we hope for, and more than we bargained for. We light our third candle to praise God, whose Spirit comes to us with disturbing and wonderful blessings.

(The third candle is lit.)

Living Christ, give us faith to trust you, hope to follow you, and love to live for you.
We trust you, we love you, we praise you. Amen

HYMN	<i>"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"</i> (stanzas 5 and 6)	UMH 211
CHILDREN'S MOMENT		<i>Suzette Thorpe Johnson</i>

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**Glorious God, in Jesus your grace appears, bringing salvation to all.
 Help us to ponder your words of love by the light of your Spirit,
 that we may proclaim glad tidings of peace and welcome Christ in our world.
 Amen**

FIRST LESSON	Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (p. 600 in the pew Bible OT)	<i>Anita Rizley</i>
SONG	<i>"Waiting for a King"</i>	<i>Sanctuary Choir</i>
SECOND LESSON	Luke 2:1-7 (p. 54 in the pew Bible NT)	<i>Lisa Feazell</i>
SONG	<i>"Sleep, Little Lamb"</i>	<i>Sanctuary Choir</i>
THIRD LESSON	Luke 2:8-16 (p. 54 in the pew Bible NT)	<i>Lynn Lennier</i>
SONG	<i>"Alleluia, Sing Noel!"</i>	<i>Sanctuary Choir</i>
FOURTH LESSON	John 1:1-14 (p. 86 in the pew Bible NT)	<i>Russ Lundstrom</i>
SONG	<i>"He Is Born, the Holy Child"</i>	<i>Sanctuary Choir</i>

PRAYER SONG

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

UMH 230

CONCERNS AND PRAYERS

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

*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

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.
Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. 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.

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

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

"Joy to the World"

UMH 246

*DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

*SINGING THE SHALOM

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