

Our Daily Bread

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
DESOTO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
212 W. PLEASANT RUN RD.
P.O. BOX 548
DESOTO TX, 75123

DECEMBER 2023

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Christmas celebration

Christmas day is a time for giving. It is a time when people feel the desire to reach out to others generously. While this Christmas generosity is good, we must remember that the needs of people are not limited to Christmas time. As Christians we must reach out to those who are hungry, those who are in need, and those who are oppressed throughout the year.

Jesus came, not just to the wealthy or the elite, but also to the downtrodden, the oppressed, the poor, and the enslaved. He came to set us free from our sins. He came to free us from the snares of earthly entanglements. He came to give us peace, hope, and love.

During this festive season, we should focus our hearts and minds on the birth of the Christ child. Our focus should not be on the glitz and glamour of the secular Christmas, though most of us enjoy it. Our focus should be on the Christ child and the true meaning of Christmas. We do that with worship, Bible reading, prayer, and fellowship. And of course, through our generosity.

As we prepare our hearts for the birth of the Christ child, I encourage everyone to come join us for worship on Sunday mornings, Christian fellowship at church, and at our lunch after church on Sunday, December 10. Together we can enjoy our journey to the manger in Bethlehem.

Merry Christmas!

Janet

STATED SESSION MEETING

Our next Stated Session Meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2023 at 12:15 p.m. in the Rainbow Room. Joe Alexander is going to lead the devotional and opening prayer. If you cannot

make it, please let Lori Gast know – (214) 218-7784.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am acknowledging those of you who participate in the Worship Service each month. We would love to have everyone who worships here be a part of the Worship Service. Talk to Barry Krueger if you would like to volunteer for a specific task, or just sign up on the sheets across from the sanctuary kitchen.

Special thanks in October go to:

1. The liturgists –Pat Nash and Bill Gast
2. The greeters – Elizabeth Price, Lori Gast and Joan Christy
3. Those who brought snacks for after worship –Pat Nash, Elizabeth Price, and Joan Christy
4. Joan Christy for being the Gatekeeper
5. Lori Gast for filling the candles with oil
6. Joan Christy and Elizabeth Price host the after worship refreshment time with help from Church Life.
7. Bryan Booth Krueger for preparing the communion
8. William Boyanton for helping clear off the communion table and taking the dirty dishes to the kitchen.
9. Elders serving communion: Pat Nash and Lori Gast
10. The Ushers – Okoro Kalu, Bill Gast, Ivan Yuhanna and Joe Alexander
11. Barry Krueger and the choir for our Anthems

THANK YOU FOR DECORATING THE CHURCH

I want to thank the following for helping me decorate the Church inside and outside for Advent/Christmas on December 2nd: Lorrinda Alexander; Janet, Thomas and William Boyanton; Joan Christy; Bill Gast; Barry Krueger and Bryan

Booth Krueger. Elizabeth Price wanted to come help, but she was too sick.

Pat Nash, Faith in Action Committee

PRAYER CONCERNS

Our leaders, our Presbytery, our church, the Session, our troops, Lorrinda and Joe Alexander, Sue Fitch, Makia and Mireille Epie, Martha Brashear, Nancy Hollingsworth, Thomas Alexander, continued prayers for Bryson, the church and nation of Ukraine, Makia's people in Cameroon, Gene Knox and Jewell Victorino, DeSoto Food Pantry, Joan's sisters Marj and Connie, Max Jewell is at home, but needs continued prayers, the tornados just keep coming – prayers for the people affected by them, Tracy Berkich, Alice Anne's best friend's mother has had shingles since last July, Joan Christy, immigrants at the borders, travel mercies for all our members traveling. Chikezie is very weak, Donnie Jordan has stage 4 throat cancer, Bryan's mom, Thomas' cousin Kenny's wife was brutally attacked, a former coworker of Thomas has a mass on their brain, Christians in Pakistan, teachers and students this school year, Josie's daughter Sienna's best friend's mother was diagnosed with cancer, Janet, Brice Sanders, the war in Israel and Hamas, Nancy Hollingsworth passed away, prayers for her family, Lori had shoulder surgery, travel mercies for Bill Gast, Family of Riad Nassar – he his mother and brother were all killed and his sister was severely wounded, prayers for those who are hungry.

CELEBRATIONS

Lori thanks God she is feeling much better, Bryan's mom (and very large dog) are here visiting, happy belated birthday to Bryan, Joe and Lorrinda are celebrating the life of Jeffrey Alexander, Catherine gives thanks for successful eye surgery for Manfred, so far 2 different colleges have accepted Brayden, the life of Joan's brother John McNeil.

POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY

We will once again be obtaining poinsettias to decorate the Sanctuary. A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board located next to the Opportunity Corner. The price is \$10 each, and the last day to sign up is December 10th. You may take home your plant(s) following the Christmas Eve service that begins at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 24th.

Pat Nash
Faith in Action Committee

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

December 8 Janet Boyanton

December 30 Edwin Shafer

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

December 23 Cecil and Pat Nash

December 28 Okoro and Ogbeyalu Kalu

December 31 Chikezie and Nnennaya Kalu

JOY GIFT AND ANGEL TREE

As we normally do, we will be collecting donations for our annual **Joy Gift** on Sunday, December 24th. Please note on your checks or giving envelopes the phrase "Joy Gift." These gifts that we send to Grace Presbytery are shared equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage.

Also on December 24th, we will be accepting donations for the **Angel Tree** (located on the tables in the Opportunity Corner). These donations will go toward purchasing items from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog (samples of which are also on the tables). We normally like to use the funds for buying chickens and water projects, as those seem to be the most useful. Again, please note on your check or giving envelope the phrase "Angel Tree."

Thank you in advance for your generosity in fulfilling God's direction to provide for the hungry and for those needing assistance.

Joan Christy and Pat Nash
Faith in Action Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT

The following is the new treasurer's report.

October 2023

Bank balance	\$52,712
Expenses	\$6,257
Dedicated Funds	\$11,642
Available Funds	\$41,070

Plus there are investments totaling \$62,481 not immediately available to us and are volatile. The figure to hang our hats on is the **available funds**.

Please continue to support the church with the 3 T's – Time, Talent, and Treasure.

Thank you,
Respectfully submitted,

DECEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10:00 AM Decorate the church for Christmas.
3 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Worship Service w/ communion	4	5 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Group	6	7 10:00 AM Art Group	8	9
10 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:00 Holiday Luncheon	11	12 10:30 AM Tuesday Morning Group	13	14 10:00 AM Art Group	15	16
17 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Worship Service 12:15 PM Stated Session Meeting	18	19 11:00 AM Tuesday Morning Group Christmas Luncheon @ Cotton Patch	20	21 10:00 AM Art Group	22	23
24 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Worship Service 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28 10:00 AM Art Group	29	30
31 10:30 AM Bible Study 11:00 AM Worship Service						

