

# MESSENGER

First Methodist Church of Pleasanton

December 2024

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“It’s the most wonderful time of the year,” is the way I feel every Christmas. People around the world stop and ponder the miracle of the Incarnation, the coming of God in human flesh.

In case you haven’t heard, Gina and I are celebrating the arrival of our 2nd granddaughter, Selah Grace Payne. A newborn baby has brought a new sense of joy and wonder into our lives and into the life of our family.

God knows that “a baby changes everything.” Into a world of darkness and pain came the small voice and shining light of the promised child, Jesus. If there’s ever a time of the year in which our friends and family members are open to hearing the message of Jesus, it’s during Christmas.

This month will provide several opportunities for you to invite and bring those for whom you are concerned to The Jesus House. Leverage every opportunity and every relationship for the kingdom of God.

Bring them to hear our children sing; to our Christmas Eve Service; to hear the Story of Mary on December 22nd; to the Merry On Main Parade; to Christmas Village. Introduce your friends to the CHRIST of CHRISTmas this year!

I love you and as ALWAYS, I’m PROUD to be your Pastor.

Yours for Souls this Christmas,

Scott  
 Dr. Scott Camp  
 Sr. Pastor  
 FMC, The Jesus House  
 Pleasanton, TX





## First Methodist Church of Pleasanton

First Methodist Church of Pleasanton Council Meeting Minutes (Overview), November 12, 2024

Attendees: Dan Barrow (Board Chair), Walt Franklin (Finance Chair), Joett Morrison (HRSTChair), Jeff Barta (Trustee Chair), Jeff Petter (Lay Leader), Rev. Dr. Scott Camp, Guest; Deborah Barrow.

This called meeting was called to order by Dan Barrow at 6:03 pm.

Dan Barrow opened us in the Prayer to the Holy Spirit (Page 329)

Jeff Petter gave a devotional from James 4:13-17

The minutes from the council meetings held on October 8, 2024, were reviewed. Walt Franklin moved to accept the minutes as written, Jeff Barta seconded, and the motion passed. The October 8, 2024, meeting minutes were also published in the November 2024 newsletter.

Jeff Petter stated that the by-laws committee met on Thursday, October 10th, and Dr. Camp attended. Jeff Petter noted the committee is in the teaching mode with Dr. Camp leading.

Walt Franklin stated that Leslie Ricks Faith and Finance column published the latest financial information for October 2024 in the November 2024 newsletter.

Jeff Barta presented the trustee report. Jeff Barta said that he had one of our A/C units serviced by PC Air, replaced the coils, and cleaned the unit, which cost \$1,700.00. He said he purchases HEPA Filters from PC Air for the church A/C units. Dan Barrow provided an update on the repairs to the parsonage, which resulted from a busted water pipe in the foundation. ServePro is handling the restoration of the parsonage. They are removing sheetrock and insulation. A hygienist must check the house for signs of asbestos to ensure the air is clean. The hot water pipe needs to be rerouted (this will be done at the church's expense) as it was not part of the initial incident. The valves in the master bath will be replaced while they are exposed. The kitchen cabinets were torn out (the door fronts were saved), and the kitchen counter may be replaced. All flooring will be replaced.

Joett Morrison stated that she does not have anything to report however she is looking forward to the retreat and how we will support the Pastor in his 2025 planning.

Jeff Petter said he did not get a response to his request for Lay Readers in the November 2024 Newsletter. He will continue seeking out new people to help with the Liturgy reading.

Dr. Camp discussed the details of our upcoming retreat with his church staff, and council leaders will attend to pray, spend time in the word, set goals for the year, and develop a cost centered line-item budget and a complete calendar for 2025. This retreat is planned for November 14-16, 2024, at the Crocket Hotel in San Antonio. Rev. Tracy will send out an email with the retreat agenda to the attendees. Dr. Camp will present a state of the church at the end of January 2025. Dr. Camp updated that we had 338 in attendance for Friends Day, held on November 10th, and over 70 were saved or dedicated to Christ. Rev. Tracy and Odie White are following up. The church sent a \$1,000 donation to Teen and Adult Challenge for their participation in the Friends Day service. During the F.A.T. men's meeting on November 9th, Dan Barrow reported that the men prayed over Dr. Camp and thanked him for listening to the Holy Spirit for coming here. During the next F.A.T. Men's breakfast scheduled in December, Tommy Jenkin will lead the group to install a suspended ceiling in the children's classroom wing. Dr. Camp stated that Tommy Jenkins plans to lead a Mission Trip to the border in 2025. Dr. Camp also proposed that we hold two church services starting on February 2, 2025. The early service will be more traditional and held at 8:30 a.m., and the later service will be more contemporary and held at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Camp wants us to pray about starting a privately run first-class Christian school for K-5th grades and a Mother's Day out program. Dr. Camp also recommended having a unified budget except for designated specific giving.

Walt Franklin moved that our next church council meeting be held in the parlor on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Jeff Barta seconded, and the motion passed.



12/01	<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	ABF/YBF/KBF Classes* Worship Service* Holy Communion
12/02	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Meet & Move Exercise Class Ladies Bible Study Cub Scouts-Fellowship Hall
12/04	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Basic Christianity #101-Fellowship Hall Sunshine Kids Basic Christianity Class #101-Sanctuary Ablaze Youth Group
12/05	6:30 p.m.	Community Grief Service-FMC
12/06	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
12/07	6:30 p.m.	Merry on Main Parade Coffee/Hot Chocolate/Cookies in Fellowship Hall
12/08	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	ABF/YBF/KBF Classes* Worship Service*
12/09	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Meet & Move Exercise Class Ladies Bible Study Brush Country Cancer Support Group-FH
12/10	6:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
12/11	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Senior Box Pick-up-FMC Basic Christianity #101-Fellowship Hall <b>Sunshine Kids-Last Class of the year &amp; Christmas Play Rehearsal</b> Basic Christianity Class #101-Sanctuary Ablaze Youth Group
12/12	10:00 a.m.	<b>Super Senior Christmas Luncheon at Remschel House—\$20/person—Meet at Church at 10:00 a.m.</b>
12/13	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
12/13-12/15	<b>The Living Christmas Village-Strawberry Festival Grounds 6:00 p.m-10:00 p.m.</b>	
12/14	8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	F.A.T. Men Meeting-Parlor <b>Children's Christmas Play Rehearsal</b>
12/15	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>10:30 a.m.</b>	ABF/YBF/KBF Classes* <b>Children's Christmas Play &amp; Potluck Luncheon*</b>
12/16	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Meet & Move Exercise Class Ladies Bible Study Cub Scouts-Fellowship Hall
12/18	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. <b>7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.</b>	Bountiful Blessings Pantry Basic Christianity #101-Fellowship Hall Basic Christianity Class #101-Sanctuary <b>Ablaze Youth Group-Last meeting for the year</b>
12/20	7:00 a.m.	Prickly Pear Reunion Group
12/22	<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	ABF/YBF/KBF Classes* Worship Service*
12/23	<b>Bountiful Blessings Pantry Closed</b>	
12/24	5:00 p.m.	Candlelight Christmas Service* Special Visitor & photo-op in Parlor
12/25	<b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	
12/26;12/30-01/02/2025	<b>OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED</b>	
12/29	9:30 a.m. 10:30 am	ABF, KBF or YBF classes cancelled Worship Service*

\*Nursery Provided



# Celebrations!



12/16	Gary & Cheryl Butschek
12/23	Jess & Laura Kemp

- 12/01 Jaedynn Henry  
Sheryl Thompson
- 12/02 Nacona David
- 12/04 Parker David  
Tyler Popham
- 12/06 Jaylee Henry  
Ami Powell  
Matthew Franklin
- 12/07 Joan Shearrer
- 12/11 Staci Barta
- 12/14 Brayden Wilson
- 12/18 Rev. Janet Tracy
- 12/22 Ann Smith
- 12/27 Jay Troell
- 12/29 Clarence Thompson
- 12/31 Kenna Bendele  
David Jennings

Are we missing your name on the birthday/anniversary list? Please notify the Church Office at 830-569-2083 so we can update your records. We don't want to miss anyone!

Need a prayer? We have a prayer team for that. Staci, Leigh Ann and Leigh Ann Shearrer are happy to pray for you or your loved one. We believe in the power of prayer so leave a message at the church office, or fill out a prayer request card at church. They are at the entrance to the sanctuary.

### Altar Flowers for December Given to the Glory of God

December 1st  
Nixon & Gail Dillard  
In Memory of their  
beloved son,  
B. K. Dillard

December 8th  
Dale Ray & Nacona David  
In Memory of our beloved  
Pawpaw, Buck Turner

December 15th  
Corky & Leigh Ann Shearrer  
For the gift He gave us

December 22nd  
Aileene Oelkers  
In Memory of Mom and Dad

December 29th  
Dora Rutherford  
For family, both church and blood  
and for a Blessed New Year

Foyer:  
The Thompson Family  
In Honor of Clarence Thompson's  
90th Birthday!



*Delah Grace Payne*

Parents: Madi & Daylon Payne

Grandparents:

Pastors Scott and Gina Camp

# Church News!

## Faith in Finance

Faith in Finance – December 2024

In's and Out's for 10/20/24 – 11/20/24

Gen Offering Deposits: \$43,851.30

Gen Offering Withdrawals: \$42,917.34

Notable expenditures for this time frame:

- Updating Sanctuary Electrical
- New flooring Jr Hi room
- New Signage for entry points around town
- Painting of the back staircase and doors
- LifeVac – assistive devices for choking prevention. One is placed in the fellowship hall and the other in the Nursery. Both have masks for adults and pediatric use.
- Friend Day expenses: Coffee Bar, Photography, Teen Challenge donation
- Youth REVIVE winter camp
- Leadership Retreat expenses for planning 2025.

With a month or so left in 2024, we will be wrapping up our “Nets” campaign and using the remaining funds to complete a few more projects, such as fresh flooring for the rest of the children’s wing and some technology updates.

As we move forward to the end of the year, we have many things to be thankful for. Our facility has been returned to a much improved and updated state. We have energy and solid giving taking place in our Church. Your Leadership team is full of exciting dreams for 2025. And Walt and I, as always, remain aware of our responsibility to be good guardians of your gifts.

Questions are always welcome.

Leslie (Leslie.ricks@sbcglobal.net) or Walt (walt.franklin@gmail.com)

## Cancer Support Group

The Brush Country Cancer Support Group meets meeting on the 2nd Monday of each month at First Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to join whether they are patients, survivors or those looking to support others through the journey.

For anyone wishing to contribute financially to the groups efforts, donations can be made through First Methodist Church. Please designate funds for the Brush Country Cancer Fellowship.

# Upcoming Events

## Super Seniors

Super Seniors Christmas Luncheon will be on December 12th at the Remschel mansion in DeWeese. We will meet at the church and board the bus at 10:00 a.m. leaving at 10:15 a.m. The cost of the catered luncheon is \$20.00. You can pay by cash/check. Please make checks payable to Maggie Wiatrek.

Instead of exchanging gifts, we will bring canned gifts for the Bountiful Blessings Food Pantry. Bring at least two cans that are either red or green. For example, green beans, peas, tomatoes, tomato sauce, beets.

Please RSVP to Ruth Marsh at 830-570-7509 or Barbara at the church office, (830) 569-2083 not later than December 5th.

Hope you will be able to join us for this fun time of fellowship, good food and helping out Bountiful Blessings Pantry.

Our January 2025 meeting will be on Thursday, January 9th at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. More information to follow in the January Newsletter.

## Invitation for Lay Readers

As our church is growing and adding new members, I want to extend an invitation out for lay readers. Please reach out to me, either in person at church, phone (361-205-7484), or email (petterag04@gmail.com), if you are interested in serving in this way. We will have a short class later in the fall to prepare us as we serve our Lord by reading His word.

Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of God endures forever." (NIV)

Jeff Petter

## Children's Christmas Play

Our children and youth will tell the story of Jesus' Birth!

Christmas Potluck to Follow

Sunday, December 15 at 10:30am



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

## Basic Christianity 101: Study of Texts & Traditions

Basic Christianity classes are held on Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be two classes. The morning class will begin at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and evening class will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Facilitator, Pastor Scott Camp.

### ABLAZE

As we wrap up 2024, we want to thank you for being a part of and supporting ABLAZE Student Ministry! This year has been incredible, and we've seen God move powerfully in the lives of our students. From life-changing conversations to unforgettable moments at our events, God has been building something beautiful among us!

We will close out this year with a Christmas Party on December 18th for our students. This will be the last ABLAZE for 2024. We will start meeting on January 8th to kick off the school year and have a huge INVITE NIGHT on January 15. Please be in prayer for this night! Our first INVITE NIGHT to launch ABLAZE had over 130 students and over 40 of them made decisions to follow Christ, so this will be a huge opportunity for us to see the Kingdom of God invade our public school students.

We have seen so much happen in such a small amount of time in 2024 and cannot wait to see what all God will do in 2025 amongst our students! Below are just a few of our achievements.

- Launched ABLAZE Student Ministry in August
- Launched Student Bible Fellowship in October
- Saw 63 students make decision for Christ
- Baptized 15 youth
- Had an average weekly attendance of 44 students on Wednesday

Blessings,

Pastor Jeremy



## New Curriculum for Adult Bible Fellowship.

*Growing in Christ* is our new study for all ABF's. This book is produced by The Navigator's, which is a worldwide discipleship ministry. We will start this new study on December 1st. You will each receive a book and we ask that you chip in \$6 to cover the cost.

Just a reminder, we have a variety of ABF classes to choose from.

Parents of pre-school and elementary school Children – Jeff & Jill Petter lead this class in the classroom next to the Parlor.

Parents of Middle and High School Parents – Dan Barrow leads this ABF in the Library

Senior Saints. (age 65 and up) - Arch & Leslie Stockton lead this ABF in the Fellowship Hall

Women (all adult women) - Pastor Janet leads this ABF in the classroom to the left of the nursery

Men (all adult Men) - Randy Ricks leads at Lew's Restaurant (9am)

Young Men (age 19 to 30) - Rob Pearce leads at Don Jesus Restaurant

New Believers - Pastor Scott leads this ABF in his office

Empty Nesters/Grandparents - Sandra McAda leads this class in the classroom attached to the Fellowship Hall.

As you can see we have plenty of classes to choose from. We also have Bible Fellowship classes for our youth and children. If you have any questions, please ask Dan Barrow or Pastor Janet.

Let's learn more about the Lord, together.



**Pack the Pantry**

The last Sunday of every month we will Pack the Pantry!

The Pantry is need of :

- Peanut Butter
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Chili
- Canned Tuna

Put your donation in the red boxes.  
Or give a monetary donation (check or cash) to Bountiful Blessings Pantry.

## Merry on Main Parade

12/7 Gather at 5:30 pm in front of church.



We will serve hot cocoa and tea. Bring Christmas Cookies to share!





*First Methodist Women's  
Luncheon*

*February 22, 2025, 10am-1pm*

*Tables open at 10am. The Luncheon begins at 11am*

*Amy Cunningham, Featured Speaker*

*Style Show to follow*

*\$200 purchases a table of 8*

*New Location St. Andrews Fellowship Hall 626 Market  
Street, Pleasanton, Texas 78064*

*Theme: New Beginnings Ecclesiastes 3:11*

## **2025 First Methodist Women Luncheon**

The 2025 First Methodist Women Luncheon will be on Saturday, February 22nd from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 pm. We have a new location this year, St Andrew's Fellowship Hall. The Luncheon will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday for table viewing and silent auction. We will begin with our speaker and lunch at 11:00 a.m.

If you would like to be a Table Hostess, the table price is \$200. These will be round tables with seating for 8. If you are interested in purchasing a table please contact Jill Petter at (432) 553-4086.

If you would like to donate to the Silent Auction, please contact Jessica Tom- 210-382-3358 or email [jessicatom09@gmail.com](mailto:jessicatom09@gmail.com). Monies need to be turned in by Friday, February 21<sup>th</sup>. Checks can be made out to FMC or you may also use the PayPal QR code

