

# WHAT'S HAPPENING!

Please join us after the service for Hospitality Time in Criswell Hall

**Announcement: Adult Bible Study will meet this Tuesday and then resume on January 13, 2026**

## This week's activities:

- Mon. 6:00pm Gerry's Quilt Class, Criswell Hall
- Tue. 10:00am Sew 'n Sews, McMillen Rm #113
- Tue. 11:00am Chair Yoga, Criswell Hall
- Tue. 1:00pm Adult Bible Study, Criswell Hall
- Tue. 5:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, Hand Bell Rm. #115
- Tue. 7:30pm Friendly Neighborhood Big Band, Criswell Hall
- Wed. 4:00pm Christmas Eve Service
- Sun. 8:30am Informal Worship Service with Praise Band
- Sun. 10:30am Traditional Worship Service

## BRING THE ANIMALS TO BABY JESUS CHRISTMAS OFFERING

So far 17 Doves, 5 Cat, no Dogs what happened to our dog lovers?, 3 Donkeys, 3 Sheep, 1 cow, 1 Camel and even a llama have arrived at the manger to worship Baby Jesus. And the first angel has appeared at the manger! Please support our Christmas offering by bringing more animal to the manger. We are hoping for a few more angels. In the two week we raised \$3,095 towards the \$6,500 goal of our Christmas offering.

**HOSPITALITY: Today hosted by Mission Team  
December 28<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by Fellowship Ministry**

ATTENDANCE						
WEEK	8:30	10:30	IN- PERSON	VIDEO	TOTAL	STEWARDSHIP
Nov 23	52	73	125	26	151	\$5,815
Nov 30	39	75	114	30	144	\$2,495
Dec 07	49	80	129	33	162	\$11,907
Dec 14	42	67	109		109	\$5,089
<b>Weekly Needed: \$7,175</b>						
<b>YTD Received: \$155,959</b>			<b>YTD Needed \$171,769</b>			
<b>CHRISTMAS OFFERING \$815</b>			<b>CHRISTMAS BUDGET \$6,500</b>			



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WorshipWeekly.com



December 21, 2025 **7th SUNDAY OF ADVENT** 10:30 am

PRELUDE "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" Traditional Carol

HANDBELL INTROIT "Appalachian Christmas" Douglas Wagner

### CALL TO WORSHIP\*

Beloved, God calls to us—like Joseph—through angels and messengers, inviting us to listen for the Spirit's guidance in the midst of half-truths and distractions.

**We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Sometimes, angels surprise us (as they did Mary) with good news too fantastical to believe and yet too real—realer than real—to ignore.

**We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

For generations, God has sent signs of God's coming kingdom in unexpected places—the birth of a child, the wisdom of the lowly, the faithfulness of a carpenter.

**We listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

Come! Let us worship God who calls out to us, inviting us to faithfulness as we watch, wait, and work for the day when the whole world knows the abundant love and grace of Emmanuel, God-with-us.

**Come! Let us worship as we listen faithfully for the day that all the earth awaits.**

OPENING HYMN\* "O Little Town of Bethlehem" No. 230

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OPENING PRAYER

Give ear, O shepherd of Israel.

**Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.**

O God of hosts, will You accept Your people's prayers?

**Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.**

We will never turn back from You; we will call on Your name.

**Restore us, O God; let Your face shine, that we may be saved.**

ADVENT CANDLES AND THE COLLECT:

Advent VI: Dayspring from on High

Advent Song: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appears.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

Sovereign God, Lord Christ.

**Hear us, we pray.**

HANDBELL ANTHEM "Soliloquy on Silent Night" Leonard G Lutz

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MOMENT Maria Hamane

We invite all children and youth to participate in this intergenerational time of learning about Jesus

**O God, we thank you for blessing us with the gift of children.  
May they learn the stories of Jesus. May we share their joy. Amen.**

A TIME OF PRAYER

Call to Prayer "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" No. 204

Prayer/Lord's Prayer Response "Emmanuel, Emmanuel" No. 204

SCRIPTURE Matthew 1:18-25

SERMON Emmanuel

OFFERING

Call to Stewardship and Mission  
Offertory "Bethlehem Morning" Morris Chapman  
Doxology/Prayer of Dedication\*

CLOSING HYMN\* "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" No. 240

BENEDICTION\*

**Advent people, may we go now in the blessing of God to watch and wait, ready to receive the angels among us and to faithfully follow where God leads. Amen.**

RESPONSE\* "He Is Born" No. 228

POSTLUDE "Christmas Joy" Esther S Higgins

**\*Please stand as able  
Bold - Congregational Reading**

**Matthew 1:18-25**

**The Birth of Jesus Christ**

**18** This was how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they were married, she found out that she was going to have a baby by the Holy Spirit. **19** Joseph was a man who always did what was right, but he did not want to disgrace Mary publicly; so he made plans to break the engagement privately. **20** While he was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, descendant of David, do not be afraid to take Mary to be your wife. For it is by the Holy Spirit that she has conceived. **21** She will have a son, and you will name him Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins." **22** Now all this happened in order to make come true what the Lord had said through the prophet, **23** "A virgin will become pregnant and have a son, and he will be called Immanuel" (which means, "God is with us").

**Assisting in today's service Pastor:** Rev. Wesley Thompson,  
**Liturgist:** Nancy St. Laurent, **Piano/Keyboard:** Dennis Eiler, **Organ:** Brad Bettencourt  
**Choir Director:** Tricia Stewart, **Sound Tech:** Tom Thiel, **Video Tech:** Susan Thronson,  
**Percussion:** Xander Thompson.

**Today's Flowers In Memory Of  
Bob, Helen, Judy Atwood  
From Cristy Van Hook**