



# The **RED**bud

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church  
Mountain Home, Arkansas



## DECEMBER 2025

**Sunday Worship Services 10:00 am**

**Coffee Fellowship after Worship Service**

**Phone: 870-425-3799      email: [fpcmh@centurytel.net](mailto:fpcmh@centurytel.net)**

**Office hours: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**

**Tuesday– Thursday**

### **The Angels' Song in Three Words**

On the very first Christmas Eve, frightened shepherds were suddenly surrounded by light and music. A choir of angels filled the night sky, singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14, KJV).

Nineteenth-century pastor Charles Kingsley reflected on how those three simple words — glory, peace, and good will — still capture the meaning of Jesus' birth and the hope it brings.

**Glory.** God's glory isn't shown in dazzling displays of power but in humility and mercy. The baby in the manger revealed God's greatness by stooping low, forgiving, and showing love.

**Peace.** True peace is more than the absence of conflict. It comes when we follow God's example of selflessness, giving up pride and selfish ambition to live in harmony with one another.

**Good will.** God's good will toward us is a gift that transforms our lives. Through Jesus, God invites us out of selfishness and sin into a life marked by love, kindness, and community. The angels' song wasn't meant only for shepherds long ago. It still sings to us today, calling each of us to live in glory, peace, and good will.



### **Bad or Good?**

**Everyone has memories of their Christmas traditions. Some involve the tree or how and when presents are opened or a special meal that gets made every year. One habit I've heard of that is used often is the "Santa List".**

**Parents will tell their children as Christmas gets closer, that they better be good or stop being bad, or Santa will put them on the naughty or bad list and they won't get their presents. Such a threat is serious business to a child at Christmas. They'll try to stay on Santa's good list, at least until Christmas is over.**

**For Christians, Christmas is a time of celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, our long-awaited Savior and Redeemer. People waited thousands of years for His coming. He is our rescuer, the one who saved us. Our God incarnate. It is good that we celebrate His coming every year, because we just couldn't stay good, no matter how we tried.**

**We are all sinners by our very nature. Since Adam and Eve, we have been on God's naughty list. We couldn't follow the rules even when we were warned to be good or face the consequences, just like the mother instructing her child about Santa's list.**

**We are blessed that Jesus saved us. By His grace and sacrifice we have been taken off the bad list and made good in God's eyes. For this we will receive the ultimate present, an everlasting home with Him in Paradise.**

**Hosanna to God in the highest!**

**Merry Christmas everyone.**

# Special Dates in **DECEMBER**

## Birthdays

**11-Sarah Ruegsegger**

**17-Loweta Rogers**

## Anniversaries

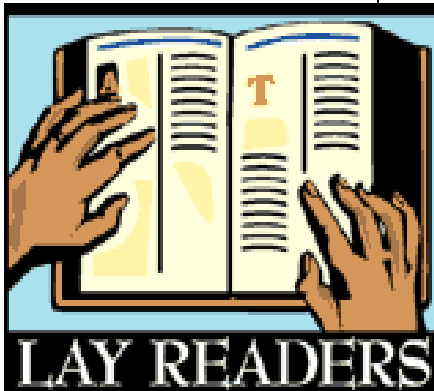
**28-Phil & Ellen Jordan**



## **Special Dates for December 2025**

- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 7, 2025*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 14, 2025*
- First Day of Winter, *December 21, 2025*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 21, 2025*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2025*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2025*
- New Year's Eve, *December 31, 2025*

## ***Serving in Worship***



## **December Lay Readers**

**07-Marty H**

**14-Mary S**

**21-Ellen J**

**28-Nancy P**

## **Advent Readers**

**30-Nancy P & Marty H**

**07-Phil & Ellen J**

**14-German & Guille M**

**21-Ralph & Karen G**

**24-Ron & Mary S**

## **December Fellowship**

Don't forget to volunteer to host fellowship by signing up on the bulletin board on the way to the fellowship hall. There is a sign-up sheet for December currently hanging on the board.

## **December Ushers**

**07-Loweta R**

**14-Open**

**21-Open**

**24-Marilyn W**

**28-Open**

# ***Church Leadership Meetings***

## **NOVEMBER DEACONS UPDATE**

The Deacons continue to contact members, friends of the church, and family. We remember Chuck Beall who is now at Hiram Shaddock. German & Guille Morales have moved and their new address is 508 Baxter Road, Mountain Home. Ruth Fine moved to 99 Prairie Dawn Circle, The Woodlands, TX 77385. The Deacons Fund was able to extend monetary assistance within our church family, leaving a balance of \$1,359.18 on December 1, 2025. Moderator Marilyn Wheat

## **TREASURER'S REPORT as of September 30, 2025**

Bank Balance	\$36,122.07
Texas Presbytery Fund	\$377,966.97

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Priest, Treasurer



## **OCTOBER SESSION UPDATE**

The Session met on 26 October 2025 with all the elders but Pete Wells attending; Rev. Lila DeMoss, moderator. Session discussed congregational meeting on December 14. All Reports for the Annual Report are due December 1. A special Session meeting will be at 11:30 on November 16. Pastor Lila presented an opportunity to give Christmas Gifts to the prisoners she is counseling. A list of suggestions will be in the hallway and on Fellowship Hall tables.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Priest, Clerk of



**The Mission Committee gathered enough money in the first half of November to order 7 boxes from Good Samaritan's Purse for children in the world that would not have had a present otherwise. Thank you.**

**We are currently gathering supplies for the Ozark Center of Hope. Portable heaters, scarfs, mittens, hats, etc. Anything you might need to stay warm in the winter. Full sized blankets would be appreciated too.**

**Rev. Lila DeMoss is partnering with the committee to collect snack sized, individually wrapped snacks and candy for the Calico Rock prisoners to be handed out at Christmas.**

**December 14 after the service, the committee is hosting the Church's Christmas Party. If you have not already done so, please sign up on the bulletin board entering Fellowship Hall and tell us what finger food you will be bringing that day.**

**The next meeting will be December 3 at 1 pm.**

**If you have any questions, please contact Mary Smith at 870-321-7905**

HOPE  
PEACE  
LOVE  
JOY

A decorative green branch with small pink flowers is positioned to the right of the word "JOY".



## **Women of the Church**

**The Women of the Church met November 11. A sign-up sheet is on the board for hostesses. The next meeting will be on December 9 at 1 pm. Nancy Priest is presenting the lesson on Esther. We encourage all women to come, listen, and be part of learning about Queen Esther.**

**See you there...**

### **Prayer List for Congregations, Presbytery of Arkansas**

**Dec. 07-Mountainburg Church, Mountainburg (Members: 145 Est:1934)**  
**Active and Retired Ministers**

**Dec. 14-Laotian Ministry, Fort Smith**  
**Youth and Young Adults and Directors**


**Dec. 21-Memorial Church, Atkins (Members: 026 Est:1874)**  
**First, Walnut Ridge (Members: 032 Est:1878)**

**Dec. 28-First, Paragould (Members: 025 Est:1919)**  
**Church Custodians**





# DECEMBER 2025

SUNDAY	Monday	Tuesday	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent 	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent <b>Christmas Party</b>	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent	22	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> <b>Service at 4pm</b>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>	26	27
28 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas	29	30	31 New Years Eve	1	2	3

# ***SCRIPTURES FOR DECEMBER 2025***

**Sunday December 07**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

**Sunday December 14**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalms 146:5-10

Luke 1:46b-55 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

**Sunday December 21**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

**Sunday December 28**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas**

Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalms 148

Hebrews 2:10-18

Matthew 2:13-23

All Scriptures are taken from the Presbyterian Planning Calendar.

(Complementary)





**First Presbyterian Church**

**1106 Spring Street**

**Mountain Home, AR 72653**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Church Office Hours**

**9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. /Tuesday -Thursday**

**Church Mailing Address:**

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**Mountain Home, AR 72653**

**8704253799**

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