



THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2023

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THE WOMEN WHO PREPARED THE WAY

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT EPC



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 AM

- Dec 3 Advent 1: Tamar, *Advent workshop following worship*
- Dec 10 Advent 2: Rahab, *Choral Cantata*
- Dec 17 Advent 3: Ruth
- Dec 24 Advent 4: Bathsheba

MONDAY ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES 7:30 PM

- Dec 4 Rahab
- Dec 11 Ruth
- Dec 18 Bathsheba

All on zoom. Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86411818598>

CONCERT BELLS OF FORT WORTH

Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 pm

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 21, 7 pm

A contemplative, peaceful service for those who face this season with grief and loss.

KEYS TO BIBLE CLASS (hybrid):
SUNDAY AT 11:15 AM

BIBLE STUDY (virtual):
TUESDAY AT 7:30 PM

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 17, 5-7 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Sunday, December 24, 5 pm

EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
2701 HARWOOD RD, BEDFORD, TEXAS EMMANUELPC.ORG

COMMUNITY ISSUES CLASS: CREATION CARE STUDY starts November 12

The Community Issues Class begins meeting in-person on the 2nd and 4th Sunday's of the month after worship starting November 12th in Room 4. Based on input from interested participants, the class will discuss Creation Care for November - January. See class discussion details on the flier below. Visitors are welcome to participate. To be added to the class email list, contact Molly Bolles.

Creation Care Study

Date	Activity	Description	Materials
11/12	Learn: What is Creation Care?	We will be speaking about the concept of creation care.	-Yourself -Soup (Provided by Melissa Durkee)
11/26	Learn: Science and Data about Creation Care	We will dive into the science of why taking care of our environment is important.	-Yourself -Sandwich Bar (Provided by Molly)
12/10	Plan: What can we do?	What can we as Emmanuel do to help with this in our community?	-Yourself -Ideas -Coffee and Hot Cocoa
12/24	Act: What will we do?	What are we as Emmanuel going to do for the environment?	-Yourself -Ready to make decisions -Snacks
1/14	Do: Incorporate into the community	Do what we said we would.	-Yourself and any materials we need
1/28	Do: Incorporate into the community	Continue doing what we said we would do.	-Yourself and any materials we need



CANTATA
Sunday, December 10 at 10 a

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

(visit our website for more calendar listings)

ADVENT WORKSHOP

Sunday, December 3
11:15 am

CONCERTS ON

HARWOOD

*Concert Bells of
Fort Worth*

Tuesday, December 5
7:30 pm

ITASCA

*Children's Gift
Delivery &
Christmas Party*

Saturday, December 9
2:00 pm

(Sign up sheet at Narthex. Carpool
departs at 12 pm)

FREE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sunday, December 17
5 pm-7 pm

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Thursday, December 21
7 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

Sunday, December 24
5 pm

SIPS 'N TIDBITS



CANTATA
Sunday, December 10 at 10 am



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: Sunday, December 10

This seasonal offering assists with programs of the Board of Pensions for retired church workers and also helps support racial-ethnic high schools and colleges of the Presbyterian church (USA).



The sanctuary will be decorated with red poinsettias from December 17 through Christmas Eve. Please sign up in the Narthex for a poinsettia: November 26, December 3, 10. Poinsettias will be \$15 and available to take home after the Christmas Eve service.

STAFF CHRISTMAS GIFT

Annual Staff Christmas gift letter and envelope have been placed in your respective mail folder at the Narthex. For some members and friends who cannot be in church, are ill or injured, these letters have been mailed directly to them. The deadline for giving this year is **Sunday, December 17, 2023.**

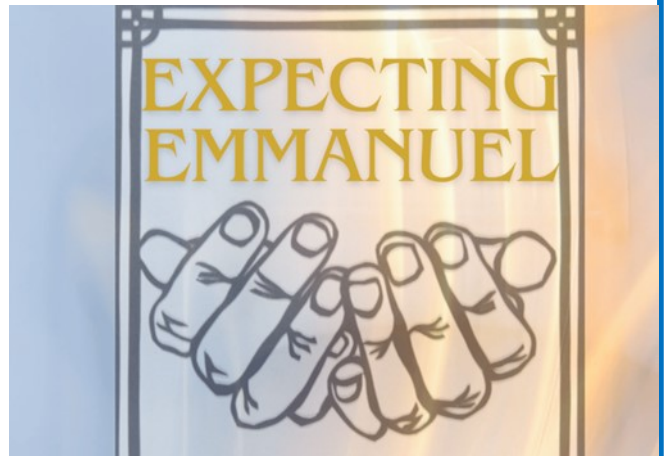
EPC MEN'S GROUP MEETING

The Men's Group has decided to **cancel** the December meeting due to all of the holiday activities that are occurring around that time.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Many thanks to all who attended the Advent Workshop on December 3rd and to the CE Committee members for providing a soup lunch and stations to explore themes from our Advent devotional book *Expecting Emmanuel!* An Advent study on the scriptures from *Expecting Emmanuel* meets online three Monday evenings (December 4th, 11th, and 18th) at 7:30 PM and is led by Pastor Whitney. Contact [Leah Wyckoff](#) to get the Zoom meeting link or if you need a copy of the book.

Many thanks also to the thirteen volunteers who delivered Advent bags to homebound members and friends of the congregation after the workshop!



Regular Group Gatherings Schedule for December

Emmanuel group gatherings take place both in-person and online. Online meeting links are included each week in the Emmanuel Weekly Email and are also available by contacting the church office (office@emmanuelpc.org). The current weekly schedule for gatherings is:

Sunday's

11:15 AM: Keys to the Bible class (hybrid) meets for Bible study in Room 5 and online following worship. The class is studying the Book of Acts. Contact Ray Karriker (rkarriker@gmail.com) for the link to join virtually.

11:15 AM: Community Issues discussion (in-person) meets after worship on December 10th and 24th and is led by Molly Bolles. The group is discussing Creation Care and further steps we can take in our community to both receive care from and give care to creation.

4:00 PM: Children and Youth Check-in and Devotional (virtual). Children and youth meet with two adult sponsors to share how they are doing, read and reflect on scripture, and pray together.

7:00 PM: Book Mavens Youth and Adult Book Club meet online to discuss their December book *Making It So*, by Patrick Stewart, with John Ferrandino leading. For information on how to join, contact Leah Wyckoff (klh@sbcglobal.net).

Monday's

7:30-8:30 PM Advent Study (virtual). Pastor Whitney leads this study group on December 4th, 11th, and 18th in a discussion of biblical texts from our Advent devotional book, *Expecting Emmanuel*. For information on how to join, contact Leah Wyckoff (klh@sbcglobal.net).



BOARD AND COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS- Session Committee Report

VOTED to dismiss Helen Richardson to Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY, which she had joined in August, 2021 and where she is serving on session (never communicated to session), commended her to their care, and removed her from the EPC roll

Noted that confirmation of baptism of Valerie Grossack on August 20th, 2020, by The Rev. Rob Erickson had been researched and shared with her in order for her to become a member of and be married in 2025 in the Catholic Church she attends in the Boston area

Elected Jayne Johnson and John Stocking to serve as commissioners to the Zoom Called Meeting of Grace Presbytery on Thursday, December 7th, at 10:30 AM

Heard about plans for the Longest Night Service scheduled for Thursday, December 21st, at 7:00 PM. Noted that the Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols Service is scheduled for Sunday, December 24th, at 5:00 PM

Learned that Pastor Whitney will be on vacation December 26th - January 3rd, and that The Rev. Dr. Lucia Kremzar will be supply preaching on December 31st

Discussed a way for session to express gratitude and love for Scott Keyes for his service on session

VOTED to approve a 4% across-the-board merit increase for staff and learned that job descriptions have been updated

Noted a request from a member for a worksheet showing each committee's monies as presented on the balance sheet for the December meeting

Was informed that the Clerk of Session had the 2022 Session Minutes reviewed on November 4th at the Presbyterian Mission Center and that they were approved, with exceptions

Learned of the change of plans and that Kroger holiday gift cards will be distributed prior to Thanksgiving and Christmas through NEED

Heard that the Nominating Committee continues to work to fill one slot. Once the slate is complete, an electronic vote of session will be taken to call a Congregational Meeting to elect new elders and deacons

Heard that the Community Issues class on Creation Care and the environment is going well.

Was reminded of the Intergenerational Advent Kickoff on Sunday, December 3rd, following worship.

Was reminded of the Community Christmas Dinner on Sunday, December 17th, from 5-7 PM

VOTED to leave the Happy Hands line item off of the budget for 2024 and to send the \$115.09 remaining in that fund to Hesston College to support Olvin Duron

VOTED to add Camp Gilmont Support to the Mission Budget in the amount of \$600 annually (\$50/month)

VOTED to approve the tentative Concerts on Harwood series for 2024 as presented by Worship Committee:

- April 27th at 4:00 PM - Aaron Walton organ recital
- June 2024 - date and time TBD - Chris Heldt trumpet recital
- Sept. 14th at 4:00 PM - Mehrdad Gholami flute recital
- Nov. 2024 - date and time TBD - Jung-An Chou soprano recital





We offer three ways to submit prayer requests at this time:

- ◆ You may scan the QR code above right or on the church bulletin or
- ◆ Write your prayers on the slips of paper provided in church service, or
- ◆ Send via email to prayer@emmanuelpc.org.

Be sure to designate in the email/form if the request is for the pastors only or if it can also be shared with the congregation.

All prayers received by Sunday evening will be included in the weekly prayer list. Prayers may be edited for clarity and brevity, but the essence will still be there.

Prayer requests received through texts are not recommended.

Thank you for sharing prayer concerns and participating in the congregation's prayer life!

WANT TO HOST HOSPITALITY SUNDAYS?

A sign-up sheet will be available for those who would like an opportunity to host hospitality on Sundays after worship. It doesn't need to be fancy. If you would be willing to coordinate some form of treat to congregants after worship, please consider adopting a Sunday.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Helen Sink .



AUDIO VISUAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Would you like to help with the sound system and video streaming in worship? If so, please contact Ken Richardson to participate in a training session.

SUNDAY OFFERING COUNTERS NEEDED!

For Sunday Offering Counters, sign up at Sign Up Genius. Thank you for volunteering!!



Ruth Fellowship
(3rd Monday of each month, 6:30 pm)

Tuesday, December 19, 2023
6:30 pm

PF Chang's
 650 W State Hwy 114
 Grapevine TX 76051

For more information contact:
Molly Park: 817-689-8853

Lois Circle
(1st Thursday of each month, 1 pm)

Thursday, December 7 2023
1:00 pm

Pappadeaux Seafood Kitchen
 600 TX-114, Grapevine 76051

For more information contact:
Donna Reeder: 214-537-5464 or Denise
Karriker: 817-723-8665

Finance:

September Income: \$38,734.64

September Expense: \$34,420.29

BIRTHDAYS



Richard Law 12/01

Brittney Axton 12/04

Katie Phillips 12/11

Shirley Brady 12/19

Gabrielle Phillips 12/21

Alice Thompson 12/30

Nathalie Edge 12/31



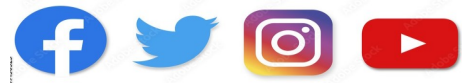
EPC CHURCH DIRECTORY

EPC Church Directories are ready for pick-up. One copy per family has been placed in your respective mail folders at the Narthex. If you did not receive it and/or prefer a digital copy please email Jessica (office@emmanuelpc.org).

CHURCH OFFICE
CLOSED ON DECEMBER 25 AND
JANUARY 1, 2024

Church office will be closed on December 25 and January 1 on the occasion of Christmas Day and New Year.

To submit newsletter articles, events or any other news,
please email office@emmanuelpc.org
by the fourth Sunday of each month.



EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2701 Harwood Rd
Bedford TX 76021

**CONCERTS ON
HARWOOD 2024
NEW DATES
TBA on this last
concert**

**LAST CONCERT OF
THE SEASON
2023**

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church presents

CONCERTS ON HARWOOD

A Classical Music Concert Series

Sharing the Joy of Classical Music with Our Neighbors

2701 Harwood Road, Bedford, TX 76021

Donations are appreciated

Free Admission



Christmas Concert
Concert Bells of Fort Worth
Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 PM



WWW.EMMANUELPC.ORG | 817-545-0251

**2701 HARWOOD RD, BEDFORD TX 76021 | 817-545-0251 | WWW.EMMANUELPC.ORG
MAILING ADDRESS: PO BOX 663, BEDFORD TX 76095-0663**