



THE MESSENGER

DECEMBER 2025

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KEYS TO BIBLE CLASS

(in-person):

SUNDAY AT 11:15 AM

BIBLE STUDY (virtual):

TUESDAY AT 7:30 PM

Pastor's Post

Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

COMING HOME

MIGRATION AND THE ADVENT OF GOD

WORSHIP 10 AM SUNDAYS

Nov 30 Feeding the wanderer.
Leviticus 19:1-10, Ruth 2:1-12

Dec 7 Blessing within and beyond borders.
Ezekiel 47:1-23

Dec 14 God's holy road.
Psalm 146:5-10, Isaiah 35:1-10

Dec 21 The risk of home.
Hosea 11:1-11, Matthew 1:18-25, 2:13-15

2701 Harwood Rd, Bedford, Texas
www.emmanuelpc.org

There's no place like home for the holidays...so the beloved Christmas song goes. This Advent, we are going to be thinking about home: those who seek a home in far off places, how we find a home with God and with one another, and the God who comes in Jesus to make a home with us. The home Jesus is born into is a world of Herods and threats, of strangers and wise seekers, and of covenant calls to care for the stranger and the foreigner.

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Pastor's Post

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We will be considering how God's *advent* – or coming – was in a very specific way. Jesus came as a refugee, showing what some liberation theologians call God's preferential option for the poor in flesh-and-blood. The incarnation, Emmanuel, God-With-Us, is the heart of our faith. This Advent, we deepen our connection to the coming Christ child who comes home to this world, bringing with him hope, joy, love, and peace.

I have created a devotional guide for this series Coming Home: Migration and the Advent of God. You may find it in the narthex, or on our website [here](#). We will journey from the call to feed the stranger, orphan, and widow in Leviticus and Ruth, to blessing within and beyond borders in Ezekiel, to God's holy road in Psalm 146 and Isaiah, to the risk of home in the Matthew as Jesus is born in Bethlehem, and the family flees to Egypt to escape Herod, echoing the words of Hosea. Each Sunday's scripture reflection includes prompts such as **ponder, imagine, contextualize, remember, act, and create**. Whether this devotional guide is used as part of our Tuesday night and Sunday morning bible studies during Advent, or in your own personal devotional in this holy season, I pray it will be a companion to you, as we discover anew the advent of God who makes a home with us, and who shows us the meaning of home.

Peace,
Pastor Whitney



YOUR CALENDARS

(visit our website
www.emmanuelpc.org for
more calendar listing)

Officer Training

Saturday, December 6

9am-12 pm

Concerts on Harwood 2025

Violin Recital

Swang Lin

Saturday, December 6

4 pm

Itasca Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13

2 pm

Carpool at 12 pm from EPC.

Greenway/Project 6:8 Christmas Party

Saturday, December 20

12:30 pm

EPC Christmas Dinner

Sunday, December 21

5 pm

SIPS 'N TIDBITS

POINSETTIAS

The sanctuary will be decorated with red poinsettias from December 14 through Christmas Eve. Please sign up in the Narthex for a poinsettia: November 30 or December 7. Poinsettias will be \$15 and available to take home after the Christmas Eve service.



2026 Flower Calendar

The 2026 flower calendar will be posted in the narthex in December. Please sign up for a Sunday – include your name, phone number, and note if the flowers are in honor or in memory of a special person or occasion. Please pay the church for your flower arrangement; the flower arrangements are \$35. Our florist, Cooper's, will bill the church monthly for flowers. Flowers may be taken to shut-ins on Monday if they are not taken home on Sunday.

SPECIAL OFFERING

CHRISTMAS JOY December 14

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).

EMMANUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
* 2701 Harwood Road, Bedford TX *

Choir Cantata

DECEMBER 21, 2025
10 am

The Road to Bethlehem
By Lloyd Larson

www.emmanuelpc.org
* * *

CONCERTS ON HARWOOD 2025

*A Classical Music Concert Series
Sharing the Joy of Classical Music with our Neighbors*

- **Swang Lin, violin recital**
Saturday, December 6th at 4 PM

This event will take place at 2701 Harwood Road, Bedford TX inside the sanctuary. Admission is free to the public. Donations are appreciated.

Visit our website for more information.

<https://emmanuelpc.org/concerts-on-harwood/>

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

***Coming Home* Advent Study: In-person and Online options!**

Pastor Whitney has written a thoughtful [Devotional Guide on our Advent theme of *Coming Home: Migration and the Advent of God*](#). The guide has reflection questions and actions based on the Advent worship texts and can be used for personal devotions at home. We also offer two weekly group Advent study options for discussing and reflecting on the Advent texts:

- **Tuesday evening online from 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM.** Contact [Leah Wyckoff](#) for the meeting link.
- **Sunday after worship in-person at 11:15 AM** in Room 5.

You are invited to deepen your Advent journey through individual and/or group study and reflection on the biblical texts and themes of *Coming Home*.

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). For more information on how to participate, [contact the church office](#).

December's weekly group gathering schedule is:

Sunday's

11:15 AM:

- **Advent Study** (in-person) in Room 5, using Pastor Whitney's [Advent Devotional](#) as a guide.
- **Keys to the Bible Class** (in-person). Meets weekly in Room 4 and is studying the Book of Acts. Contact [John Stocking](#) for more information.

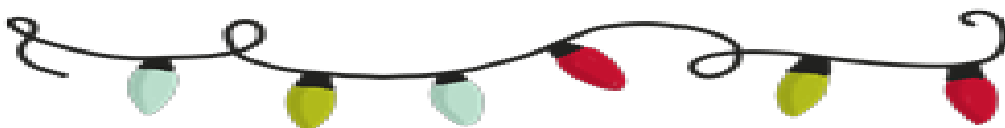
Youth Check-ins Sunday afternoons:

- **Sunday, December 14 at 4 PM (on-line)** Youth Check-in devotional and prayer.
- **Sunday, December 21 3 PM - 5 PM.** In-person meeting at Emmanuel assisting with Emmanuel's Community Christmas Dinner preparations.

6:45 PM: Book Mavens Youth and Adult Book Club (virtual) complete their discussion of *Made in Asian America* by Erica Lee and Christine Soontornvat on December 7th, with Leah Wyckoff leading. Then they will choose books to read and set their schedule for the first half of 2026. To participate, contact [Leah Wyckoff](#).

Tuesday's

7:30-8:30 PM Advent Study: Sunday worship scriptures (virtual). Online discussion of the Advent Scriptures and readings for Sunday's worship, with leadership rotating among participants. Contact Leah Wyckoff (<mailto:klh@sbcglobal.net>) to receive the study emails and meeting link.



BOARD AND COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Session Committee Report

- Received with gratitude the 2024 Financial Review, as presented by Treasurer Rick Thompson
- Noted that several members and Whitney attended Kelly Balthrop's Celebration of Life
- Heard that the Child Care Worker search was beginning
- Was reminded that the Advent Series would be Coming Home: Migration and the Advent of God
- Learned that the Longest Night Service, a service of solace, was scheduled for Sunday, December 14th, at 4PM
- Officer Training for new and continuing officers is scheduled for Saturday, December 6th, from 9-noon
- Learned that 2 members are working with Sotheby's online getting price valuations for the donated art from Wanda Asire's estate
- Reviewed a request from a woman connected to the Clubhouse to host a Special Needs Revival at Emmanuel; voted 10-1 to have Frank LeCocq and Linda Greenwell continue to explore a possible partnership with the School for such an event
- Approved the updated Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy
- Voted to renew Emmanuel's relationship with Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts of America) for the 55th year
- Intergenerational Advent workshop will take place following worship on November 23rd, followed by a light luncheon
- Those interested in viewing Evicting the American Dream and panel discussion at First Presbyterian, Fort Worth, will carpool from Emmanuel at 2:20 pm on November 16th
- Itasca's Children's Home Christmas party is scheduled for December 13th from 12:30-4:30 PM
- Presbyterian Night Shelter bags will be assembled following worship on December 14th
- Greenway/6:8 Project Christmas party is scheduled for December 20th from noon-2:30 PM
- Voted to create a line item of \$200 for 2026 to fund possible events or service work for the Youngish group
- 50 gift cards at \$20 will be purchased; 25 to be distributed at Thanksgiving and 25 for Christmas through NEED
- Concert on Harwood December 6th at 4:00 PM; violin recital with piano
- Christmas dinner scheduled for Sunday, December 21st, at 5:00 PM
- Voted to approve paid paternity leave (\$1,100) for Tak's February 2026 paternity leave, funds to come from the Special Worship and Music fund to cover 2 Sundays and 8 weeks of Wednesday evening choir rehearsals with a substitute accompanist
- Noted that additional bids had been received to fix the SoRelle Hall steps but all cost more than the original proposal
- Personnel is working on staff reviews and proposed Terms of Call for 2026

CHURCH DIRECTORY

New directories will now be printed in January 2026
instead of Fall.

Future announcement will be sent out when printing
is completed.



Lois Circle

(1st Thursday of each month, 1 pm)

Thursday, December 4, 2025
12:00 noon

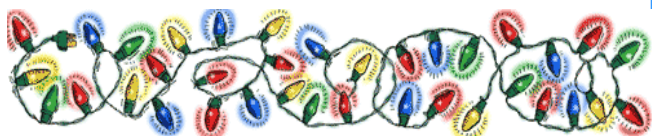
Alwadi Cafe

2712 Brown Trail
Bedford TX 76021

For more information contact:

Donna R: xxx-xxx-5464 or

Denise K: xxx-xxx-8665



Ruth Fellowship

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

Monday, December 15, 2025
6:30 pm

Piaf

S. Main St #130
Grapevine TX

For more information contact:

Nancy.: xxx-xxx-0632

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stay-up-to date*



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

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



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, December 14
4 pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Wednesday, December 24
5 pm

NEW OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY:
8 AM-12 PM
(Jessica only)

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY:
8 AM- 1 PM
(Jessica & Becky)



We offer three ways to submit prayer requests at this time. Please choose one.

- ♦ You may scan the QR code on the right or on the church bulletin
- ♦ Write your prayers on the slips of paper provided in church service
- ♦ 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!

HOSPITALITY SUNDAYS

Do you have gifts for hospitality and welcoming people? Emmanuel's Deacons are looking for volunteers to host refreshments after worship on a Summer Sunday. Host by yourself or partner with a friend or family member, whatever works for you. Sunday Hospitality hosting involves about 20 minutes of setup before worship, then serving food after worship and cleaning up. We have some treats on-hand in the fellowship hall freezer and funds are available to reimburse you for food purchased.

To sign up, contact Helen S. or write your name on the Sunday Hospitality schedule in the narthex. Thank you for considering it!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

The Christian Education is asking for people to volunteer occasionally in the Nursery on Sundays. Kelly Balthrop is our nursery worker but our Child Protection Policy requires no less than 2 adults in the nursery with the children. This does not have to be on a regular basis but will give most of you a chance to enjoy being with the children.

There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex and the CE committee would appreciate the extra help. What a wonderful way to use your talents at Emmanuel!

AUDIO VISUAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

SUNDAY OFFERING COUNTERS NEEDED!

For Sunday Offering Counters, sign up at [Sign Up Genius](#). One of the counters should be an ELDER and the other person a Volunteer. Thank you for volunteering!!

EMMNAUEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2701 Harwood Road,
Bedford TX 76021

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