

ANGELS AMONG US: DO NOT BE AFRAID

First Sunday of Advent

December 3, 2017

10:45 am

"Make Ready a People: #morehope"

WE GATHER

Music for Gathering Prelude
Christmas Angels - Helman Chancel Ringers

Welcome and Greeting Josh deSteiguer
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Greeting Time

Announcements Josh deSteiguer

Introduction to the Service Renee Hoke
There Are Angels Among Us Chancel Choir
Sharon Mucker, solo

Entrance of the Advent Candle of Hope The Cook Family
(The congregation is invited to sing)
Do not be afraid, do not be afraid,
Do not be afraid, do not be afraid

*Hymn *Come, O Long-Expected Jesus* No. 125

THE HANGING OF THE GREENS

Scripture *Jeremiah 23:5* Pew Bible Page 725

Hymn *Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gate* No. 129

Scripture *Isaiah 9:2, 6-7* Pew Bible Page 638

Hymn *O Come, O Come Emmanuel - vs. 1, 2 & 4* No. 119

Scripture *Isaiah 11:1-9* Pew Bible Page 640

Hymn *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* No. 160

Scripture *Isaiah 53:1-6* Pew Bible Page 683

Anthem *Every Valley - Beck* Chancel Choir

Scripture *John 1:1-5, 8-14* Pew Bible Page 91

Hymn *People Look East* No. 142

WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Children's Message Claire Baer

The congregation is invited to sing as the children come to the front.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place I can feel God's mighty power and God's grace. I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Scripture Reading *Luke 1:5-24, 57-80* Ensemble

Pew Bible Page 56

Song of Zechariah No. 137

Meditation *More Hope* Renee Hoke

Response

I Believe There Are Angels Among Us

Chris Showalter

WE RESPOND

Prayer Concerns

Renee Hoke

Congregational response
We hear the message of God,
Do not be afraid.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Renee Hoke

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Response to Prayer *Amen for Advent*

Chancel Choir

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Hymn *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* No. 124

Communion Invitation Alice Gordon

Elders' Prayers Eddie Tucker & Polly Tonemah

Music During Communion Chancel Ringers

Distribution of the Loaf and Cup

All believers are invited to share in the Lord's Supper.

*Please partake of the bread as it is passed;
we will share the cup together**,
after sharing our common confession:*

I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

THE OFFERING

Invitation to Stewardship

Josh deSteiguer

Offertory

Chancel Ringers

Offertory Prayer

Josh deSteiguer

WE GO FORTH

*Invitation to Discipleship

Renee Hoke

*Hymn of Discipleship

No. 150

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*The Mission to the Messengers

Renee Hoke

Sung congregational response

Do not be afraid, do not be afraid

Do not be afraid, do not be afraid

*Postlude

Chancel Ringers

Gloria

arr. Callahan

* If you are able, please stand.

** A few cups of water are in the communion tray for those on sugar-free diets

ON THE COVER

This angel was drawn by Ali Thompson, 5 years old.

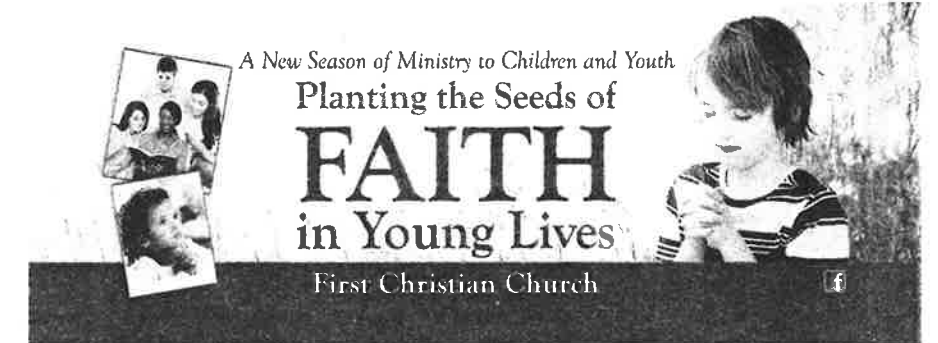
Each week we start our worship with an Advent hymn or song, and we close with a Christmas carol. Traditionally the church waits until Christmas to sing these songs, but in our day, these songs ring through the air on the radio, in stores—just about anywhere holiday tunes are happening. So we will take our encounters with these as "messengers", foretelling the good news of the presence of God coming once again in Jesus Christ. This week when you hear "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing", stop for a moment, touch your angel token if you happen to have it with you, and breathe a prayer that hope will invade the world like a group of angels descending on everyone.

MEMORIALS & HONORS

IN MEMORY OF MARY ANN DOWELL given by James Irl & Dorothy Montgomery.

IN MEMORY OF JANE STERLING given by Dan & Carole Davis.

IN MEMORY OF DR. DON TERRY given by Dan & Carole Davis:



Sunday Evening Children & Youth Activities Schedule

- NO Grow in Grace Choir [Grades K-5] (Stratten Hall)
- Chi Rho [Grades 6-8] & CYF [Grades 9-12] (Youth Room)
- Young Disciples [Grades K-5] (Room 402)
- 5:00 Advent Workshop (Fellowship Hall)

Youth: Grades 6-8



Join us on Sunday evenings from 5-7 for dinner, games, and some time spent in God's Word. We are working on our "Back to Basics" lesson series where we cover key tenants of our faith such as prayer, grace, and other big picture elements of what we believe. Also join us on Wednesday nights from 7-8 after the Neighborhood Worship service where we are discussing ways to apply our faith to current, real life situations that youth face on a daily basis.

Nursery

A quality nursery for infants and young children during the Sunday worship services located in Room 209. The children will get to learn about God through storytelling, play, and music. Available during the week is our childcare programs of Children Come First and Young Ages Preschool.



Welcome, Little Ones!

Children's Church

Children's Church allows children age 4- 2nd grade to worship and fellowship together in an age appropriate environment through storytelling and art projects. Children can be picked up immediately following the worship service in Room 213, use Exit door near altar and follow the signs for "Children Pick-Up".

Children's Christmas Pageant

The Children's Christmas Pageant is only a couple of weeks away! Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 13th! Rehearsal will be next Sunday, December 10th at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact Claire Baer at claire@firstchristianwf.com if your child would like to participate!

Hearing Aid Devices

We have hearing assistance devices available to improve your worship experience. Please notify one of our deacons or elders who are greeters today and they will be happy to help you.

How May We Serve You?

The registration pad which is passed out at the beginning of worship each Sunday is a convenient way to notify the church office of changes in your contact information, to request a visit or call from the Pastoral Staff, to share information with our Elders, or to make any other request. Please let us know how we might serve you this week.

E-Mail Addresses

FCC Ministry News is an e-newsletter delivered to your inbox and cell phone on Mondays that includes a schedule for the week, ministry highlights, and photos of what's happening at FCC. To subscribe, simply call the church office at 692-2282 and provide your email address. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Sermons

Last week's sermon is available in print form in the Narthex of the Chapel and Sanctuary or at www.firstchristianwf.com.

Please Call The Church Office If A Church Member Is Hospitalized

Due to hospital policy changes & HIPAA laws, if a church member enters any hospital, the church office has no way of knowing and now needs for either the patient, a family member, a friend, or another church member to call and tell us. If in doubt, please, go ahead and call the church office as we would prefer to receive many calls about someone being hospitalized, than us not knowing at all!



Common Ground Recovery Ministries

Adult peer support groups that meet on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm (Women's C.A.R.E., Parenting, Substance Abuse, Anger Management, Grief, and Rebuilding from Broken Relationships). For more information contact Laurel Clement with Catholic Charities at 940-642-7021.

Ministry News & Calendar Highlights

Blood Drive

Today, December 3rd,
from 9:30-12:30 pm in the Gym.

Prime Timers Luncheon

Today, December 3rd,
at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall

Advent Workshop

Today, December 3, 5-7 pm,
in Fellowship Hall.

Join us for Christmas crafts, stew & combread and chicken nuggets for the kids. Donations are appreciated to cover the cost of the meal and craft supplies.

CWF Christmas Brunch & Bake Sale

The 2017 CWF Christmas Brunch and Bake Sale "Christmas Joy" will be held on Monday, December 11th. The doors to Fellowship Hall will open for the bake sale at 10:30 am and the delicious brunch will be served at 11:30 am. Rev. Alice Hupp of Park Place Christian Church will provide the program.

Tickets are \$10.00 each and may be purchased in the church office and seating is limited. Tables of eight may be reserved for persons buying a block of eight tickets.

Christmas Fellowship Dinner

Be sure to make your reservations for this year's Christmas Fellowship Dinner being held on Wednesday, December 13th, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The program for the evening will feature the children of our church in their annual Christmas pageant. Children ages Pre-K to 5th grade are invited to participate in the pageant. Rehearsal will be next Sunday, December 10th, in Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am during Sunday School.

You are asked to bring your favorite Christmas vegetable, salad or dessert. The church will provide the meat. Cost is by donation. Bring your food to the Scout Hall before 6:00 pm.

A certain special gentleman may make his annual appearance during the evening.

On Hold

Our support group for caregivers of all kinds, will be this Tuesday, December 5th, at 2414/2416 Barbados from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Just look for the ON HOLD sign out in front.

First Christian Church

3701 Taft Blvd, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308

(940) 692-2282, www.firstchristianwf.com

Rev. Renee Hoke, *Acting Senior Minister*
Jeanette Showalter, *Director of Music Ministries*
Claire Baer, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Josh deSteiguer, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Alisa Gardner, *Director of Young Ages School*
Heather Dickerson, *Director of Children Come First*
Jessica Gallant, *Common Ground Recovery Ministries*
Cheryl Appling, *Business Administrator* Susan Marrs, *Executive Secretary*
Tina Williams, *Financial Secretary* Ann Hunter, *Receptionist*
Debbie Watson, *Organist* Glenda & Preston, *Custodians*

OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, December 3, 2017

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT / HANGING OF THE GREENS / PANTRY SUNDAY
8:40—Worship Chapel
9:30—Sunday School Chapel
9:30-12:30—Blood Drive Gym
9:45—Journey Through Scripture Parlor
10:45—Worship Sanctuary
12:00—Prime Timers Luncheon Fellowship Hall
3:45—Chancel Ringers Stratten Hall
5:00-7:00—Advent Workshop Fellowship Hall

Monday, December 4, 2017

7:30-6:00—Children Come First (M-F)
9:00-12:00—Young Ages School (M-F)
10:15—FCC Staff Meeting History Room
6:30—Senior Minister Search Committee Meeting Room 310
7:30—Boy Scouts Troop 15 Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 5, 2017

9:15—Young Ages School "Fantasy of Lights" Field Trip (Tues & Fri) MSU
11:00—Whirlwind Cluster Ministers' Meeting Central CC - Nocona
11:30-1:30—"On Hold" Caregivers Support Group 2414/2416 Barbados
2:00—Library Committee Library
6:00-7:00—Common Ground Recovery Ministries Support Groups:
Addictive Behaviors Room 304 Parenting Rooms 305 & 306
Rebuilding from Broken Relationships Room 307
Women's C.A.R.E. Room 308 Anger Management Room 309
7:00—CGRM Christmas Party Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 6, 2017

7:00—Elders' Breakfast Room 405 & Chapel
9:00—Young Ages School Santa Visit (Wed & Thurs) Parlor
5:30—The Neighborhood Meal Fellowship Hall
6:00-7:00—The Neighborhood Worship Fellowship Hall
6:30-7:00—Young Disciples (Grades K-5) Room 402
7:00-8:00—Youth Activities (Grades 6-12) Youth Room
7:00-8:30—Chancel Choir (High School-Adults) Stratten Hall

Thursday, December 7, 2017

1:30—Knit Wits Parlor

Sunday, December 10, 2017

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT / CHOIR CANTATA / CHRISTMAS OFFERING
NO—8:40 Chapel Worship
9:30—Sunday School
9:30—Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Fellowship Hall
9:45—Journey Through Scripture Parlor
10:45—Worship - "Chancel Choir Cantata" Sanctuary
2:00—Decorate for CWF Brunch Fellowship Hall
3:45—Chancel Ringers Stratten Hall
5:00-7:00—Sunday Evening Children & Youth Activities

The Neighborhood

"It's a Wonderful Life" Wednesday Night Worship Series. Enjoy highlights from this Christmas classic during Neighborhood Worship on Wednesdays in December. We gather for a family style meal at 5:30 pm and casual acoustic worship at 6 pm in Fellowship Hall.



First Christian Church *Disciples of Christ*

Sunday Worship at 8:40am in the Chapel
10:45am in the Sanctuary
Sunday School at 9:30am

Acoustic worship Wednesdays at 6pm
in Fellowship Hall

3701 Taft Blvd. • Wichita Falls, TX 76308

(940) 692-2282

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