

This Week @ First

Tuesday, December 23, 2025

Worship & Music

To watch our worship services, connect with us on [YouTube](#) and find the weekly bulletin [here!](#)

On Christmas Eve, join us at 5 PM to read scripture, sing carols, raise candles, and celebrate Jesus' birth together. The service and bulletin will be available on [YouTube](#).



Wednesday choir practice will resume on January 7.



Volunteers worked with other Capital Area Justice Ministry congregations this morning to pack 100 gift bags for Grace Mission. The bags will be distributed on Christmas. Additional pictures are on page 2.

To submit information to be included in the newsletter and/or Sunday bulletin (as space permits), please use [this link](#), which will take you to an online form. Submissions are due by Thursday at noon. Thank you!

First Presbyterian Church

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Spiritual Formation

Sunday classes are 9:30–10:30 AM
Nursery care available on request*



Youth Sunday School will resume on January 11.

“Feasting on the Word” Lectionary-Based Bible Study
Calvin Room and via [Zoom](#)

Class will resume on January 4 to continue the study of James, Chapter 4.

Inquirers’ Class will resume January 11.

Guided Meditation meets at 10:30 in the Library.

***Nursery Staffing:** If members or guests are in need of childcare, there is a sign on the nursery door with numbers to call. Members who have completed the Safe Gatherings screening will always be available.

Compassion and Social Justice

Snack Packs and Laundry Love:

The snack pack and laundry ministries will follow their normal schedule on Wednesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 31.

To volunteer, please contact [Jon Dodrill](#). You are welcome once, weekly, or monthly as you are able and interested.

Give Thanks, Give Warmth:

From now through the end of the year we are asking the congregation to bring in socks, hats, gloves, and anything else you might have to help someone stay warm; a full list is posted here. There will be a laundry basket in the narthex for collections. Many thanks to those who have already shared the gift of warmth with our unhoused neighbors!

Second Harvest Bread Boxing:

Join us on first Fridays from 9:45 AM–Noon.

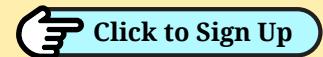
Note: In January we will meet on Jan. 9 rather than the first Friday

 Click to Sign Up

Serve Dinner at Grace Mission:

Join us on second Sundays from 4–6 PM.

Next opportunity: January 11

 Click to Sign Up

January Reminders:

Sunday, January 4: First Sunday Food Collection

Sunday, January 11: 2-Cents-a-Meal Collection

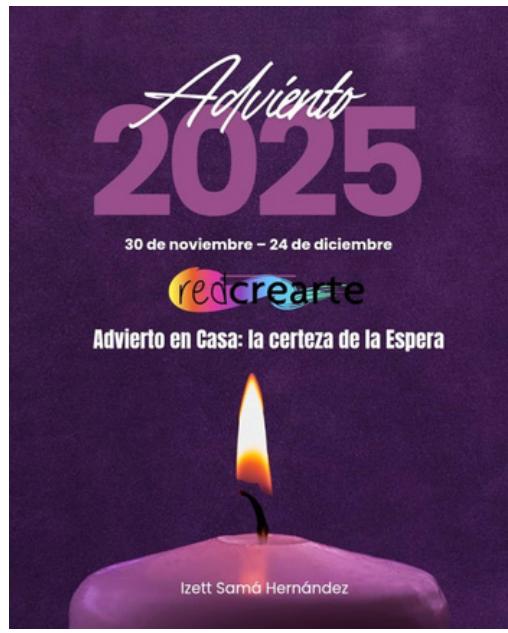


[Click here for the](#)

[Weekly Schedule](#)

[Monthly Calendar](#)

More info available on [Breeze](#)



Rev. Izett Samá Hernández has shared a series of meditations for this Advent season with a special focus on celebrating in the home. The text for the Fourth Week of Advent is Matthew 1:23 — “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman’u-el (which means, God with us).”

We arrive at the final week of Advent. We have walked a path that has prepared us for the encounter with the God who is being born. This is a week to widen the soul, to radiate love, and to distill tenderness that can overflow into every corner of life. It is a time to ready the heart and receive the hope that rises from a manger: the certainty of God-with-us.

From Sunday onward, prepare small strips of cloth, yarn, or woven thread, large enough to be worn as a bracelet on the wrist. Each day of the week, choose two or three people whom you will “vaccinate” with a concrete gesture of love, and at the same time invite them to do the same with others. Think especially of those who are alone, who have passed through difficult moments, who are recovering from illness, or who are living situations where heaviness and sadness often take root. This week we will be messengers of the Good News. Through tangible gestures, we will offer certainty and hope.

Gesture 1: Read the Scripture text suggested for this week. Enter into deep prayer; surrender yourself to God and allow God’s presence to flood your being. When you feel your spirit filled and your trust in God strengthened, place one of the prepared ribbons on your wrist. This will be the visible sign of the certainty that God is with you.

Gesture 2: Each day, draw near to the people you have chosen and discern an action that might awaken a smile, restore their spirit, help them feel accompanied, and rebuild hope. Invite them to listen to music, take a walk, share a favorite meal, read a poem, or engage in any activity that brings healing and light. At the end, place the ribbon on their wrist as well, accompany the gesture with a prayer and an embrace. Give them another ribbon and invite them to carry this gesture forward with someone else, so that love may continue to multiply. We will do this each day, throughout the entire week.

Gesture 3: Invite each person you have reached to share a phrase about how they experienced God within themselves during this week. If you do not already have one, create a small manger scene in your home.

On December 25, place around the manger the phrases that were shared with you. If possible, invite some of those with whom you shared this journey to sit together by the manger, as the shepherds and the magi once did. There, together, make a commitment to always help others through gestures of love, holding in your hearts the unshakable certainty that God is always among us.



Christmas spirit in the form of Grace Mission volunteers and enthusiastic carol singers!

