

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
AT DALLAS,  
TEXAS

**THISWEEK@PCPC**  
VOL. XXXV, NO. 11 | NOVEMBER 2024  
PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SHAWN DAVIS, EDITOR  
4124 OAK LAWN AVENUE  
DALLAS, TX 75219-3152

*Park Cities Presbyterian Church exists  
to extend the transforming presence of the  
Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ in Dallas  
and to the world.*



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**SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.**  
**24/7 PRAYER HOTLINE: 214-224-2680 or**  
**24/7prayer@pcpc.org**

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"Truly, truly, I say  
to you, whoever  
hears My word  
and believes Him  
who sent Me  
has eternal life.  
He does not come  
into judgment,  
but has passed  
from death to life."

John 5:24

**PCPCNEWS**  
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## CONNECT, ABIDE, & EXTEND

### YOUNG ADULT NIGHT OF WORSHIP

NOVEMBER 7 | 7:00 P.M. | CHAPEL

Join us Thursday, November 7 for a night of singing and prayer in the Chapel. Dress casually and bring friends!

[pcpc.org/events](http://pcpc.org/events)

### TENEBRAE CONCERT

NOVEMBER 10 | 7:00 P.M. | SANCTUARY

PCPC welcomes the UK's award-winning vocal ensemble Tenebrae! Tenebrae has earned international acclaim for its interpretations of choral music ranging from the Renaissance to contemporary masterpieces. A paid ticket is required and available online.

[pcpcconcerts.org](http://pcpcconcerts.org)

### PARENT EQUIPPING CLASS: MARRIAGE

NOVEMBER 13 | 6:30 P.M. | MEZZANINE B

Join us as Kristen and Pete Hatton lead us in an in-depth discussion about marriage and the impact it has on your whole family. Childcare will be available for children three months through 4th grade with reservation.

[pcpc.org/events](http://pcpc.org/events)

### HELPING HANDS

NOVEMBER 16 | 8:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M. | OAK LAWN WEST

Be the hands and feet of Jesus and join the deacons and other volunteers to help single moms, widows/ers, senior adults, and those with chronic illness by doing odd jobs (light repairs, maintenance, and minor jobs) around their homes. There will be a light breakfast, instructions, prayer, and assignments for jobs.

[pcpc.org/events](http://pcpc.org/events)

### CHURCH IN THE CITY LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 17 | 12:30 P.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Join us after church for lunch on November 17 to learn how believers across our city are using business to serve the most vulnerable. From traditional for-profit companies to social enterprises, come hear about the myriad of ways business can be used to extend the Kingdom. Registration appreciated but not required.

[pcpc.org/events](http://pcpc.org/events)

### RUF-INTERNATIONAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK

NOVEMBER 22 | 6:00 P.M. | GRAND HALL

Welcome international students from all over the world with us and share a fun American tradition! Please register online and sign up for bringing food.

[pcpc.org/events](http://pcpc.org/events)

### OTHER EVENTS

60+ COMMUNITY FELLOWSHIP "CARING WITH GRACE" | NOVEMBER 1

WOMEN'S SEMI-SILENT RETREAT | NOVEMBER 1-2

THIRDPART GRANDPARENTING LUNCHEON | NOVEMBER 3

FAITH DRIVEN ENTREPRENEUR COURSE | NOVEMBER 8

MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRLS FRIENDSGIVING | NOVEMBER 13

THE GATHERING (HIGH SCHOOL) | NOVEMBER 20

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDSGIVING | NOVEMBER 21

[pcpc.org/calendar](http://pcpc.org/calendar)



# ADVENT AT PCPC

"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." - John 1:14

## WHY WE SING AT CHRISTMAS

PCPC seeks to proclaim the excellencies of Jesus Christ this Advent season. As we draw the year to a close, we hope you will join us to worship in song and prayer through Advent events and in corporate worship on Sundays! Let us lift our hearts and voices to the King of Glory born a babe in the manger, the Word who became flesh. *Gloria in excelsis deo.*



## WOMEN'S ADVENT PRAYER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3 | 7:00 P.M. | CHAPEL

Join us for a time of devotion and prayer to prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the Incarnate Son of God. There will be a time of fellowship afterward in the Grand Hall with desserts and coffee!

## ADVENT MEMORIAL SERVICE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4 | 5:30 P.M. | CHAPEL

Join us for a time of worship and reflection as we remember the loved ones we have lost during the year.



## FAMILY ADVENT SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 | 4:30 P.M. | SANCTUARY

All families are invited to attend this special evening which is suitable for children of all ages. Incorporating costumes (provided), live music, reading parts, and engaging your children as participants make for an interactive Advent celebration your family will certainly want to make a tradition. The service is followed by a family-friendly dinner and fellowship at 5:15 p.m. Reserve dinner online.

## GLORIA - CHRISTMAS CANDELIGHT CONCERT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 | 4:30 OR 7:30 P.M. | SANCTUARY

This year's Christmas candlelight concert, *Gloria*, features the children's, youth, and adult choirs with symphony orchestra. After the concert, join us in the Courtyard for snow and festivities followed by a carol sing-along in the Grand Hall! A free ticket is required for entry. Tickets will be available starting on Monday, November 11, at 10:00 a.m. Childcare requires a separate reservation which will be available after reserving tickets.



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 4:00 P.M. (FAMILY) OR 8:00 P.M. (EVENING) | SANCTUARY

Who will you invite to celebrate the advent of Jesus Christ with us? The Christmas Eve Family service, where we encourage families to bring children of all ages, is at 4:00 p.m. We will have a special children's message and music. And the Christmas Eve Evening Service is at 8:00 p.m. with an adult choir and message. We anticipate parking and Sanctuary seating to fill up, so please arrive early.

## POINSETTIAS IN THE SANCTUARY

Each year, we extend the opportunity to purchase a poinsettia (\$12/each) in memory of or in honor of a friend or loved one in December. Reservations are open online and run through November 25.

All of this and more can be found online at [pcpc.org/events/](http://pcpc.org/events/).

# THE SCENT OF GRACE

by Heidi Hill, Campus Staff, RUF-International at SMU



We sit in my apartment and assemble our plates. The scent of warm sesame oil wafts in from the kitchen. We oscillate between comfortable silence and soft chatter until the last grains of rice are scraped from our bowls. Our conversation lingers long into the night.



In the haze of clean-up, my friend stops me. She asks if I know why Lunar New Year, which I celebrate with these Chinese friends, is so important to her. I admit that I know a little bit about the dumpling's symbolism for good fortune, urging her to tell me more. She smiles, and affirms, yes, the dumplings are indeed an important tradition for the holiday. Then she reaches out, pressing her fingers into my hand.

She says, "We celebrate today because it means our family is together." The quiver in her voice disappears, replaced with something steadier. Something weighty. "For me, those are people who live far away," she says, "but I still feel welcome here."

She pauses. The clatter of metal pots in the kitchen is muffled, her gaze fixed on my face. She wants me to remember what she says. "It is special for us because this is time we have for just us and nothing else."

In a moment, I have become the guest, the host receiving hospitality, the stranger elevated to the status of family. I catch the scent of what my friend has given and am reminded of grace. It is a scent that lingers, clinging to those who stand close by, urging us to return to its source. Indeed, Jesus Christ is hospitality in its holiest form given to us. When received, gratitude becomes the aroma of our lives.

*"Remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ."*

Ephesians 2:12-13



Interested in getting involved in RUF-International at SMU? We have several opportunities for PCPC members to offer fellowship and welcome in the name of Christ to international students throughout the year:

- Global Cafe (meets weekly in homes)
- Welcome Dinner (each fall semester)
- Thanksgiving Potluck (November 22)
- Lunar New Year (February 28, 2025)

For more information about RUF-International at SMU, contact Will Peters, Campus Associate, [will.peters@ruf.org](mailto:will.peters@ruf.org).