

*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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THISWEEK@PCPC
VOL. XXXV, NO. 12 | DECEMBER 2024
PARK CITIES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHAWN DAVIS, EDITOR
4124 OAK LAWN AVENUE
DALLAS, TX 75219-3152

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID
AT DALLAS,
TEXAS

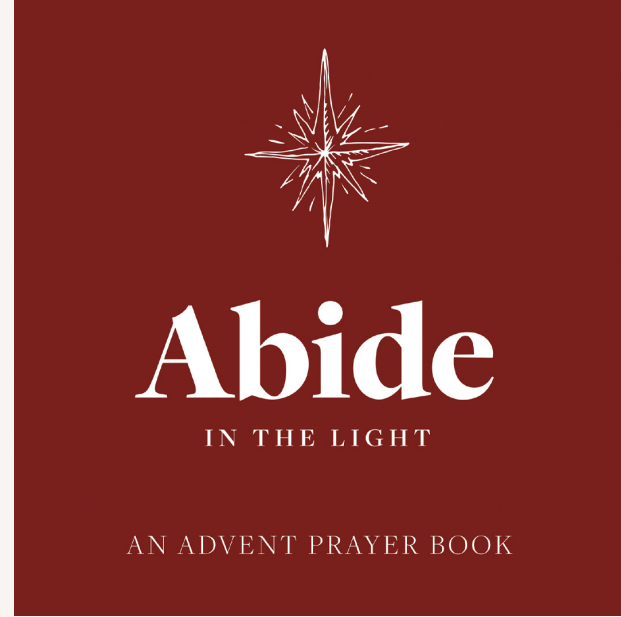
SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 a.m.
24/7 PRAYER HOTLINE: 214-224-2680 or
24/7prayer@pcpc.org

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"The people who
walked in darkness
have seen a great
light; those who
dwelt in a land
of deep darkness,
on them has
light shone."

Isaiah 9:2

PCPCNEWS
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CONNECT, ABIDE, & EXTEND

ABIDE IN THE LIGHT: AN ADVENT PRAYER BOOK

Download online or pick up a free copy! The daily Scripture readings walk through God's redemptive actions in history as revealed through key movements in the biblical story, the good news of great joy, Jesus our Savior.

pcpc.org/resources

THIRDTHIRD LUNCHEON ON RETIREMENT

SUNDAY, DEC. 1 | 12:30 P.M. | FELLOWSHIP HALL

WOMEN'S ADVENT PRAYER

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

ADVENT MEMORIAL SERVICE

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

BOXES OF BLESSING

SATURDAY, DEC. 7 | 8:30 A.M.-11:30 A.M. | BCW WAREHOUSE

Bring your family, small group, and friends to help us extend the Kingdom of Christ to our city by filling 11,000 boxes of food. These boxes are a wonderful gift to our ministry partners for their communities. New addition to 2024—We are looking for people with trucks or large SUVs to help with deliveries.

pcpc.org/christmas-service-opportunities

FAMILY ADVENT SERVICE

SUNDAY, DEC. 8 | 4:30 P.M.

Incorporating costumes (provided by us), 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. There is no childcare for this event. Please join us for worship & dinner (reservations close on December 4).

pcpc.org/advent

GLORIA: CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SUNDAY, DEC. 15 | 4:30 & 7:30 P.M. | SANCTUARY (TICKETS REQUIRED)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:00 P.M. (FAMILY) & 8:00 P.M. (EVENING) | SANCTUARY

Who will you invite this year? The Christmas Eve Family service, where we encourage families to bring children of all ages, is at 4:00 p.m. with special music and a children's message. And the Christmas Eve Evening Service is at 8:00 p.m. with an adult choir and message. No tickets required for admission. Plan to arrive early for parking and seating.

pcpc.org/advent

YEAR-END GIVING

In order to comply with IRS regulations, Tuesday, December 31, is the deadline for donations to be receipted for 2024. Other than offerings given in worship or online, you may mail checks postmarked by December 31. The offices will be closed from December 23 through January 1, but donations can be hand-delivered to the secure drop box in the portico at the south entrance when the church offices are closed for the holidays. For stock donation instructions, contact Cheli Conejo (cheli.conejo@pcpc.org). Please note that mutual fund donations can take up to one month to process. Thank you for your generosity in supporting all that God is doing at PCPC.

pcpc.org/give

pcpc.org/impact-report

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

During this season where we remember and celebrate the One who was sent into the hurt and brokenness of our world, we invite you to join us as we follow in Christ's footsteps, moving towards those who are suffering to share the Good News of God.

If you have free time over the holidays, consider joining us at Boxes of Blessing or one of our Ministry Partners (Thrive Women's Clinic, Vickery Trading Company, Exodus Ministries) this season where we might share the Good News in our city.



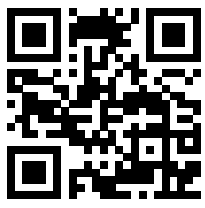
pcpc.org/christmas-service-opportunities

WINTER GRACE

GOD'S GRACE IN CHRIST ALONE

Please be sure to save the date for our annual WinterGrace event on Saturday and Sunday, **February 1-2, 2025**. WinterGrace is an on-campus retreat for our whole congregation to be refreshed in God's grace through fellowship, learning, music, and worship.

Dr. Sinclair Ferguson will be our guest speaker. He is a Ligonier Ministries teaching fellow, vice-chairman of Ligonier Ministries, and Chancellor's Professor of Systematic Theology at Reformed Theological Seminary. He is also host of the *Things Unseen* podcast.



pcpc.org/wintergrace

BOOKS

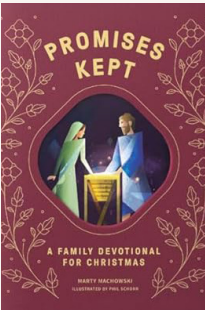
FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT



Promises Made Promises Kept

BY MARTY MACHOWSKI

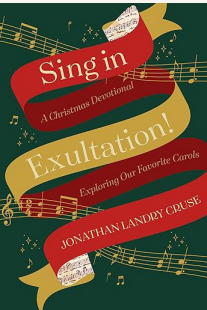
This devotional shows families how the birth and life of Jesus fulfilled God's Old Testament promises of a Savior. This "upside-down" book includes fourteen Bible stories.



Sing in Exultation!

BY JONATHAN LANDRY CRUSE

This book contains 25 Advent devotions, each unpacking a verse from a well-known carol, uncovering riches in the familiar words we love to sing each December. Cruse has written a history and devotional treatment with application questions to mull over.

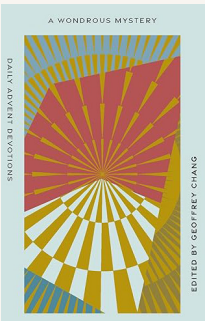


A Wondrous Mystery

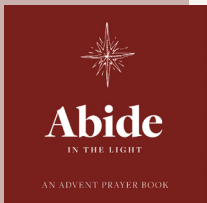
Daily Advent Devotions

EDITED BY GEOFFREY CHANG

Be filled by the wonder of Christmas with thirty days of devotionals from the sermons of Charles H. Spurgeon, reminding us of the Incarnation to be marveled at all year round.



These books are available for purchase in the PCPC Bookstore (Lower Level). Also pick up a free copy of PCPC's *Abide in the Light: An Advent Prayer Book* in the Grand Hall or download a PDF version at pcpc.org/resources/.



FRONT ROW SEAT

Observing God's Work through Serving Others by Jane Edson, Communications Specialist with testimony from John & Ready Bateman, Diane Steele, & Bond Beams

Sitting on the front row of a sporting event gets you right in the middle of the action. Having a front row seat to what God is doing by volunteering simply requires willing hands and heart. The rewards are great when we see the Lord at work while serving others, and we are captivated by Christ up close.

We would like to share a few stories of members who have faithfully served as volunteers on Sunday mornings and in ministry programs. We hope you will be encouraged to prayerfully consider how you can serve the Lord through PCPC as an individual or a family. It's a front row seat to the hands and feet of Christ, bringing God's Word to life.

Psalms 145:4 says, "One generation shall commend Your works to another, and shall declare Your mighty acts."

Preschool Ministry, John & Ready Bateman

John and Ready started teaching preschool Sunday school at PCPC when their children were in preschool, and they never left. You can find John on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. teaching a room full of 60 preschoolers that "God keeps His promises," dynamically slapping his hands and knees along with the kids chanting that "Everything the Bible says is absolutely true." Ready enjoys teaching memory verses to the children, sitting alongside them, and teaching them how to worship the Lord. The Batemans shared:



One time in our five-year-old classroom, we were discussing God's creation at the table. John asked, "Who made all things?", and all the children shouted, "God!" Then he followed up with a harder question, "How did God make all things?", and one little girl answered, "He spoke them into being!" We are always delighted by the theological knowledge of these young children. Teaching children reinforces biblical truth, which is encouraging and instructive to us as well. Finding a place to serve is the best way we've found to make the big church small. Teaching preschoolers the Bible gives us a front row seat to watch our church's youngest children grow in their faith. Whether you teach, care for the poor, or go on a mission trip, you will be blessed as you serve the Lord.

Homebound Ministry, Diane Steele

Diane Steele was attending Sunday worship at PCPC many years ago and overheard two women talking. What she overheard would later launch PCPC's homebound ministry, a program where volunteers visit elderly members in nursing homes or private homes once a month to offer encouragement, friendship, and prayer. Here's Diane's story of how it all got started:

One woman speaking in the pew behind me that day was the daughter of a previously very active woman at PCPC who had become homebound. The other lady asked her how she was doing, and the daughter made the comment that she felt like her mother had been forgotten. This was a divine appointment that I should sit in front of those two ladies. I was so convicted in my spirit that I called Jane Beasley, who was on staff with PCPC senior adult ministry. From that conversation, we began to identify other members who were homebound and to organize members who wanted to visit them. I have been doing this now for about 13 years and have developed so many sweet relationships.



Diane encourages others to take advantage of this front row seat to God's handiwork by listening to the Lord's call and responding according to Isaiah 6:8, "Here I am! Send me."

Helping Hands, Bond Beams

Bond Beams has served with PCPC Helping Hands since its beginning. Similarly, it all began with a conversation and a need. Bond said:

I began serving over 20 years ago following a discussion with a single mom about helping her and other single moms put up Christmas trees and decorations. Shortly thereafter this morphed into "Honey Do Day," where the deacons volunteered to help the single moms 3-4 times a year performing a variety of jobs needing to be addressed at their residences. Now we call it "Helping Hands," and have expanded it to include seniors and other members in need of assistance. It's a great opportunity for the congregation to serve alongside the diaconate.

Bond continues to serve today because "This ministry has provided me a front row seat to observe God's hand at work providing for the needs of His sheep. It has also served to initiate and/or develop relationships within the congregation. All of which has strengthened my faith in Him."



There are many stories like these of God's faithfulness through people's willingness to serve others at PCPC. Find your place to serve at pcpc.org/volunteer/.