



December 23, 2018

**Scheduled Activities**

**Sunday, December 23**

Morning Worship at 10:45 AM

**Monday, December 24**

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:00 PM

**Tuesday, December 25**

Merry Christmas!

**Pastor's Pondering**

Last weekend, my family joined my best friend and his family out in the country for a weekend deer hunt and time on the farm. My buddy Wilson's maternal family has lived there for over a hundred years now. The kids loved driving around on a 6x6 ATV, swinging in the trees, and running around among longhorn cattle. Amy got a lot of resting and reading in—just what she wanted, and I got to spend a lot of time with my dearest friend while we took in nature and brought home some meat. All in all, it was a great time!

Coming home, my children impressed upon me how great it would be if I would get a place in the country so that they could enjoy these activities more often. They have no concept of the cost of a farm or ranch, not just in money but in labor and time, nor a 6x6. They received the benefits of Wilson's family's roots without participating in any of the cost!

What a wonderful picture of the grace we receive from God. We can enjoy it, but we can't create it ourselves. The best we can do is receive it with gratitude.

- Blessings, David

**On the Horizon**

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** – Monday, December 24 at 5:00 PM. Bring your family and invite your neighbors, we will have coffee, hot chocolate, and cookies for refreshments!

**Christmas Specials** – Be sure to get a special Christmas portrait done in the photo booth, and deposit or check for cards in the Christmas Mailbox. Both are in the back of the sanctuary.

**Wednesday Evening Activities** – We have concluded our weekday activities for 2018. Prayer Meeting and Bible study will resume on January 2; the Soaring Eagles will resume on the 9th.

**Worship Preparation**

We conclude Advent with the candle of Peace and a look at Matthew 2:1-12. How is Jesus the Prince of Peace? What does peace mean to you? Do you see the peace he creates in this passage?

**Sunday Service Teams**

**Lead Greeter**

Tom Beaman, Jr.

**Nursery**

Maria Carter & Ali Carter

Alternate: Marie Hudson

**Children's Church**

Amy Cecil

**Counters**

Ed Hudson & Amy Cecil

**Physical Needs:**

- Louie Lapointe's friend, Richard, is on waiting list for liver and kidney donor
- Dan Jansen, a missionary to Rwanda, is receiving treatment for depression caused by a vitamin deficiency
- Trish Raney will undergo surgery and chemotherapy for breast cancer
- Ginny Greenwood is receiving treatment for cancer
- Louie Lapointe's friend, Alison Butler was recently diagnosed with cancer
- Amy Cecil's friend, Amanda Officer, is undergoing chemotherapy for breast cancer
- Linda Wells, wife of Tom Beaman's friend, Jerry Wells, is being treated for breast cancer
- Pat & Ricky Ladner's multiple health problems
- Darin Walker is receiving medication to mitigate his dementia
- Jerry Wells will have surgery to repair an abdominal aneurysm
- Ryan Dignum, Bill Goggans' grandson, is receiving treatment for cancer in lymph nodes
- Becky Trotter is receiving chemotherapy for Stage 3 multiple myeloma
- Michelle May is recovering from knee surgery
- Lindy Hoyt is recovering from hip replacement surgery
- Eura Franklin's nephew, Riley Ligon, has a broken foot & ankle, and a head injury, from an auto accident
- Michael Winterrowd is receiving a series of injections for treatment after a stroke in his eye
- Sandy Snipes is on home hospice with leukemia

**In the Hospital:**

- Becky Trotter has low hemoglobin and possibly had a heart attack

**Praises:**

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Thank you for your prayers. We know that many of our praises are due to the prayers of our fellowship.

**Personal Requests:**

- Those who are seeking employment
- Unbelieving family, friends, and acquaintances
- Loved ones struggling with broken relationships
- Unspoken prayers carried in our hearts
- For family members to endure the consequences of their actions with a positive spirit
- Chris is facing struggles with depression

**Ministry Requests:**

- Hailes Family in Madagascar
- Meagan Clark - in India with CSJ
- Opportunities to strengthen relationships with people who don't know Jesus

**In Nursing Care:**

- Bonnie McFarland (Azle Manor)
- Oletha Oldham (Azle Manor)
- Charlene Bagby (Eagle Crest)
- Roy Trotter (Azle Manor)

**Families who have recently lost loved ones:**

- Earl Winterrowd passed away last week

**Family members in the military:**

- Matthew Beaman - Army
- Michael Britt - Navy
- Stephen Cecil - Air Force
- Andrew Cecil - Army
- Alexander Cole - Air Force

**Special Days:**

- Ruth Corley's birthday is on the 29th

**Member Notices:**

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Please send new prayers or updates to [pastor@embcmail.com](mailto:pastor@embcmail.com). Thank you for keeping us up-to-date with your updates!