



December 29, 2024

On the Horizon

Holiday Schedule – The church office will be closed January 1 and we will not have Wednesday Bible study that night.

Year End Giving – Charitable giving must be received or postmarked by December 31 to count towards 2024. If you can, please bring it to church this Sunday.

Union Gospel Mission – This Sunday is the final day to bring gently used coats, sweaters, pants, & other cold weather clothes for the homeless.

Scheduled Activities

Sunday, December 29

Bible Study at 9:45 AM

Morning Worship at 10:45 AM

Wednesday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Pastor's Pondering

When I played soccer as a child, I hated picture day. I always felt awkward standing around with my team while the other teams around us seemed to be so much cooler. Of course, those other teams were no different from my team.

Looking back on it, I realize I did not want to be identified with my team because I thought the association brought me down. How different my attitude was from God's attitude. He was not worried about being brought down, but lowered Himself so that He could bring us up. This is part of what we celebrate during Christmas—God's willingness to associate with sinners and to be identified with us.

I thank God He is not ashamed to call us His. He is so "not ashamed" that He endured the pain and shame of the cross for us (Heb. 12:2). May we identify with Him by adopting His attitude (Phil. 2:5-15).

- Blessings, David

Worship Preparation

For our final service of 2024, we will reflect on hearing and not hearing from God in [Matthew 2:13-23](#).

December Memory Verse

James 1:17

Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Physical Needs:

- Cindy Pratt's treatment for lung cancer (AC)
- Kathy Smith has stage 4 cancer (LH)
- Sheila Pierce has cancer spreading (TB)
- Dean has a terminal cancer diagnosis (MH)
- Stacey has breast cancer (BT)
- Robert is being treated for cancer (DC)
- Leah Iglesias received a difficult diagnosis (TB)
- Steven Wells' stage 4 prostate cancer is getting worse (LL)
- Louis Lapointe has artery blockage (LL)
- Kelly Spear's sister, Beth, has cancer (AC)
- Mark Alexander has Parkinson's Disease (LL)
- Harrison had an MRI for a neck problem (LL)
- Lillie DeRossett is on chemo (MH)
- Cherrie is suffering from a mysterious blood pressure malady (LL)
- Marilyn Stevens has a terminal cancer diagnosis of three months (MS)

Personal Requests:

- Unbelieving family, friends, and acquaintances
- Unspoken prayers carried in our hearts
- People suffering from addictions
- Brandon, nephew of Doug (LL)
- Jane Sutton struggles with Dementia (MM)
- David C. suffers from PTSD and alcoholism (LL)
- Jason has family troubles (LL)
- Pat has poor mental health and alcoholism (TC)
- Hilda Lapointe's extended family (HL)
- Tiffany's mom is off her bipolar meds (GL)
- Amanda Shi needs a job (AC)

Please send new prayers or updates to office@embcmail.com. Thank you for keeping us accurate with your updates!

World Events:

- War in Ukraine, for Christians to be faithful, specifically those believers in Chernivtsi
- Peace and justice for Israel & neighbors
- Hurricanes Helene and Milton victims
- Hostages in Gaza

Ministry Requests:

- Opportunities to strengthen relationships with people who don't know Jesus

In Nursing Care:

- Bonnie McFarland (Azle Manor)
- Charlene Bagby (Azle Manor)
- Anita Boynton (Springtown Park) (KH)
- JL Coleman is recovering from hip surgery (NC)

In the Hospital:

- Brady & Beverly Tidwell's grandson, Arlow, had a high fever (BT)

Families who have recently lost loved ones:

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Family members in the military:

- Matthew Beaman - Army
- Andrew Cecil - Army
- Alex Grant - Army

Praises:

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Special Days:

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

Giving Report for 12.22.2024

Offering	Last Week	Year to Date	World Missions Giving	
General Offering Needs:	\$ 2,121.43	\$108,192.93	2024 Goal	\$6,000.00
General Offering Actual:	\$ 8,394.00	\$113,676.27	Dec. Goal	\$6,000.00
Designated Offering:	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,684.78	Last Week	\$ 500.00
Total Offering:	\$ 8,894.00	\$120,361.05	Year To Date	\$4,165.00