

December 2023

Parent Newsletter



For Kids!

What's Up With That?

I love Christmas trees with twinkling lights! It brings me joy! What a lovely way to celebrate Jesus birth!

The first person to bring a Christmas Tree into a house, in the way we know it today, may have been the German preacher Martin Luther. A story is told that, one night before Christmas, he was walking through the forest and looked up to see the stars shining through the tree branches. It was so beautiful, that he went home and told his children that it reminded him of Jesus, who left the stars of heaven to come to earth at Christmas. So he brought a tree into his house and decorated it with candles to represent the stars. We don't know for sure who started the Christmas tree tradition but I'm sure glad it happened, aren't you? Miss Ren

Dear Parents,
Does it ever feel like the calendar is rushing from one holiday to the next? It seems like the Christmas commercials started at 9:00 on Halloween night this year. Don't get me started on the seasonal aisles at Hobby Lobby. Why can't we just pump the breaks, take a beat, and have a moment before the next BIG event starts?

I have so many fond memories of special holidays with our girls while they were growing up. I've got some pretty great memories of more recent holidays too, but in the end it's the day-to-day, ordinary happen-

ings that really tell our family's story. I have a vague recollection of a Thanksgiving program in elementary school and probably a few pictures (actual pictures, printed out, from a store, taken on a camera- not to point out how old my kids are), but I can't tell you one thing that happened in that show.

When I come across those pictures, I do get a smile at the recollection of that event, but I also tend to notice the girls' hair-styles, the outfits they are wearing, or the people they are with. Somehow the mundane and easily overlooked details place that event in a

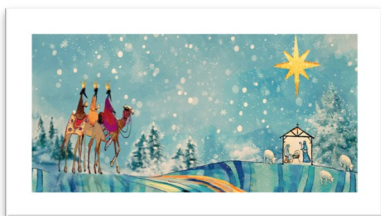
bigger story and help me really see what was going on in our lives at that time.

So, as you get ready for the next big holiday at your home, I hope it does not overshadow the small things that lead up to it. Take time as a parent or grandparent to appreciate the Tuesday afternoons and Sunday evenings; stories read at bedtime and messes made in the basement; errands run together and meals shared. They are so important in your story, even if they don't get an aisle at the craft store.

Cara



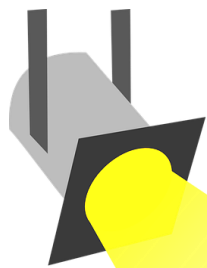
PS3 & PK
Christmas Pageants
Sanctuary 1:45pm
December 19 & 20



Everyone is welcome!

CCP Closed
Christmas Break
Friday, 12/22 - Friday, 1/5
2nd Semester begins
Monday, 1/8/2024!

School Closings & Delays!
Watch for
Children's Circle Second Presbyterian
For quick information, check the internet at wthr.com. A delay means that school will begin at 11a.m.



December Spotlight!

Music & Movement

Weekly Themes:

1. Big Bright star
2. Christmas trees
3. The Nativity



Christmas Star

Twinkle, twinkle big, bright star
Shining brightly from afar
Guiding wise men on their way
Showing them where Jesus lay.
Twinkle, twinkle big bright star
Shining brightly from afar

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus
lay down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
look down where he lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay



Christmas Tree

I'm a little pine tree, you can see
All the other pine trees
are bigger than me
When I grow up, I will be
A great big Merry Christmas tree!



What's happening at Second Church? Check out these Christmas Eve Services

- 8:15a.m. Last Sunday in Advent Sanctuary Worship
- 11:00a.m. Child-led worship.
- 7p.m & 9p.m.. Join us for the traditional Christmas Eve service of "Lessons and Carols" featuring Choir and Brass. *At the 11 p.m. service we will share communion.
- 11p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion. All are welcome at Christ's table.

Second Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community of faith where Jesus Christ transforms lives.



Bible Time Adventure

The children will hear how God's people were waiting for a King. They will learn how God surprised Mary and Joseph with the news about His Son, and how He provided a place for His Son to be born. Hearing how the star led the wise men to find the new King will help the children focus on Jesus as they learn to worship him by giving gifts of love and kindness. How can your family celebrate receiving God's Son, the best present of all?
-Mrs. Leithauser



Down the Chimney

He'll be coming down the chimney when he comes
(5x) **Ho-Ho!**

He'll be riding with his reindeer when he comes
(5x) **Woah!**

Oh, we'll all be sleeping soundly when he comes
(5x) **Zzzzzzzz!**

He will give us lots of presents when he comes
(5x) **Merry Christmas!**

5 Gingerbread Men



5 Gingerbread men laying on a tray

One got up and ran away! Shouting "catch me, catch me, catch me if you can!"

You can't catch me.

I'm the gingerbread man!" (Repeat)

Important Dates!

Fri. Dec. 22 -Jan. 5	Christmas Break- <i>Closed</i>
January 8	School Resumes
January 15	M.L. King Day- <i>Closed</i>
February 19	President's Day- <i>Closed</i>
Friday, March 29-April 5	Spring Break - <i>Closed</i>
Monday-Friday, May 13-17	Last Week of School