

+ нарру + Holidays

Rick's Sadly, Christmas has become Ramblings increasingly secularized holi This was brought to my attention a few short years ago while watching a Pentatonix Christmas special on television. To end the show, what should be the penultimate expression of what Christmas is all about, they presented a rendition John Lennon's song, "Imagine." The now-famous lyrics begin: "Imagine there's no heaven / It's easy if you try / No hell below us Above us only sky / Imagine all the people living for today." I never imagined I would hear "Imagine" performed as a Christmas song. But that's how secular the holidays have become. (Perhaps we. have forgotten that the word "holiday" is shorthand for "holy day") ording to Gallup, 95 percent of Americans celebrate Christmas, only 51 percent describe the holiday as "strongly religious" for them One in four American adults say December 25 is simply a cultural holiday, not a religious holy day. As our culture becomes increasingly secularized, it is vitally import that we, as believers, keep the true meaning of Christmas prevalen

our hearts and minds. "The light (still) hines in the darkness;

darkness can never conquer it" (John 1:5). Be that light in an obnoxious, strident way, but in an alluming, drawing Let the light of Christ i you shine into the darkness of the world.

Our Advent series this year is "An Unexpected Gift." This past Sunday we looked at "God Is Expectant." The next three Sundays of Advent, we will consider: "God Is Dangerous," "God Is Jealous," and "God Is Faithful." Maybe you've never thought of God as being dangerous or jealous. Well, this is your opportunity to discover why those words would be used to describe God, especially during the Advent season.

You also don't want to miss our Christmas Eve service that begins at 5:00 p.m. It is simple—meaningful—and the perfect way are mind family and friends about the true meaning of Christmas. We also hold our service in an early time slot so you may experience that special Christmas Eve meal with family and friends afterwards. This time of year, people are more open to attending church services, so be sure and reach out to others and invite them to be a part of Advent warship services, and especially Christmas Eve.

A special treat: my sister and her son and daughter (my niece and nephew) are going to participate in the service. They have beautiful voices. I finally get to include my favorite Christmas song that is a trio, and we will also be singing a quartet. Plus, the gifted Peaches Kelly will also be singing "O Holy Night," and we will have in music because her friend, Daniel Jennings, will be accompanying her well as playing our Christmas hymns. Kids lighting candles—adults reading scriptures—singing hymns together—listening to beautiful music. And then, all of us together, as the Body of Christ lifting our own lit candles to proclaim the truth that Jesus is the Light of the World. That is the thought we will "Imagine" together at Christmas.



Our Christmas Prayer For you

May God bless you as we celebrate the birth of Jesus and may you have PEACE to bless each day, HOPE for each tomorrow, and JOY in every season.

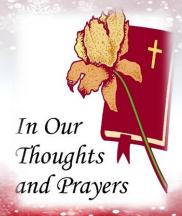


Life Line Screening will be here at Hill Country Christian Church on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today.

There is no time like the present to take action!

Three ways to get more information and to register:

- Call toll-free: 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001
- Online: https://www.llsa.social/hsca
- Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607



Please continue your prayers for Ann Underwood. She is home working on regaining her strength and health and definitely has ups and downs so please remember Ann and her family in your prayers.

Also, please send loving thoughts and prayers to Ernie and Melanie Fishlock as Ernie remains in the rehab facility.



Community Chorus Christmas Celebration!!!

Performances will be on:

Friday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 8th at 3:00 p.m.
Bulverde Methodist Church Sanctuary



Christmas Eve Service

Pastor Rick is planning a beautiful Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome so feel free to invite family members, friends and neighbors to this special night.

St. Jude's Ranch for Children

We are happy to report that 100% of the items on the St. Jude's Wish List have been purchased. This could not have been accomplished without the help of our congregation. Your generosity and kindness will go a long way in ensuring that the residents of St. Jude's will have a merry Christmas.

If you still have presents you've purchased at home, please bring them to the church by the 19th so Santa can deliver them on the 20th.

Again, our thanks to you all.

Birthdays

Jean Garcia – 1
Betsy Hart – 4
Rick Son – 4
Paulette Saenz – 6
Janet Sogard – 15
Mia Murray – 18
Jerlynn Martinez – 23
Cherilyn Patteson – 24

December

delebrate

Anniversaries

Smitty & Karen Smith - 12 Wes & Jessica Willard - 23 Mark & Janet Sogard - 24 Rosemary & Chuck Wilkes - 27









EATING...

EATING...

EATING...

COT SNACKS





I am ready, just in case









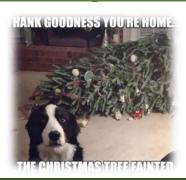






December 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 am – Adult Bible Study 10:30 am – Worship	2	3	4	5	6 7:00 pm – Community Choir Bulverde Methodist Church	7 7:00 pm – Community Choir Bulverde Methodist Church
8 2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 am - Adult Bible Study 10:30 am - Worship 3:00 pm - Community Choir	9	10	11 No Pastor's Bible Class until January	Red legal Reinder	13	14 8:30 am – Men's Breakfast and Fellowship - Cancelled
15 3 rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 am – Adult Bible Study 10:30 am – Worship	16	17	18 No Pastor's Bible Class until January	19	20	21 10:00 am - CWF Meeting & Luncheon
22 4 th Sunday of Advent 9:30 am – Adult Bible Study 10:30 am – Worship	23	24 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	Gesul To	Is God's Gift The World
9:30 am – Adult Bible Study 10:30 am – Worship	30	31 New Year's Eve				World S



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