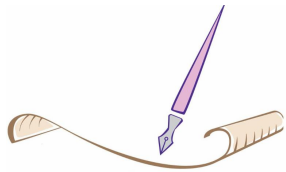


**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

9191 WOODWAY DRIVE WACO, TX 76712
(254) 754-3544 CPCWACO.ORG



December 14, 2017



Pastoral Potpourri

The use of "Xmas" has bothered me for quite some time, so I set out to think a little more through it. On the surface, it appears to be taking "Christ out of Christmas." However, this may not be entirely true. The "X" for Christ in Christmas can be traced back into the 1500's, and possibly even well before that. Since the beginning of the Church, "X" has been recognized as an appropriate abbreviation for Christ, since "X" or "Chi" as it is pronounced, is the first letter of His name in Greek.

Obviously, symbols can be interpreted any way people want to. "X" can be used by those who want to "X out" Christmas, and it can be used as a symbol by those for whom there is no Christmas without Christ. "X" can be seen as an unknown by many who, even though they celebrate His birth, still do not know Him; and it can be interpreted as a Cross - St. Andrew's Cross - by those who won't forget the death He came to die.

Personally, I am not comfortable saying or writing "Xmas," but those who do are not wrong, nor are they disrespectful. They may know full well the depth of God's great love, and have much more tradition behind them than they realize. I'll see you in church, Stephen

This Sunday, December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

9:30 am - Sunday School - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

10:45 am - Worship

Rev. Stephen Rehrig, preaching

Text: John 1: 1-5, 9-14

"In the beginning was the Word"

Sermon: Finding The Word

Theme: In the beginning of everything was the same Word we continue to struggle with.

[Click here for this Sunday's readings](#)



Christmas Eve, December 24

Sunday Morning Worship at 10:45

Fourth Sunday of Advent

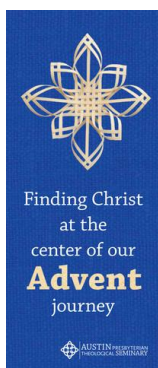
Christmas Eve Service at 6 pm

Candlelight & Communion



Christmas Joy Offering

To help retired church workers and their families, the Christmas Joy Offering provides critical financial assistance through life's challenging circumstances. You may give generously through our special offering on December 24, during morning worship.



**Advent
Devotional
Booklets**
are
available to
be picked
up in the
narthex.



**It's not too late to adopt a
poinsettia!**

CPC Handbell
Choir
performing at
Collin Street
Bakery last
weekend.





We send monthly donations to several local agencies. This month we spotlight **Caritas** by sharing this note we received:

"Today, another individual or family entered the doors of Caritas looking for a glimpse of hope . . . Your gift . . . helps make these and other urgent services at Caritas possible . . . Due to the generosity of donors like you, Caritas of Waco was able to provide assistance to 2,672 families during the month of October . . . Thank you again for caring." (Our total donation this year was \$1560.)

Future Dates

December 17 - Third Advent Group meeting, 6 pm

December 19 - Stated Session meeting, 6pm

December 24 - Christmas Eve service, 6 pm

**NO Supper Club
or Potluck Lunch
in December**

It's not too late to turn in your 2018 pledge card! The budget is being built now.



Celebrating Birthdays

Linda Williams - December 22

Melissa Rhoden - December 25

Meghan Franks - January 15

David Fleuriet - January 17

Phil Oliver - January 17

Nancy Cagle - January 18

Wren Williams - January 18

(We are missing many birthdays in our database; please let us know yours!
We need the year to enter the date in the database, but will never print it!)



[December](#) Scripture readings are available in the Narthex or click [here](#) to view.

The Weekly News is published each Thursday and sent to members via email. It is also mailed to members who do not have email or desire a printed copy. Printed copies are also available in the church narthex.

Church activities and pertinent event information is available on the church website: cpcwaco.org