



First Press

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BELTON MINISTERS' FELLOWSHIP
INVITES YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US

NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP SERVICE

Sunday, December 30 | 6:00 PM
First United Methodist Church of Belton
205 E. 3rd Avenue, Belton

Dear Saints, Our lives are made of days and nights, of seasons and years. We are part of a universe of suns and moons and planets. We mark ends and we make beginnings and, in all, we praise God for the grace and mercy that fill our days.



In the Book of Genesis, it is written:

God said: "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky, to separate day from night. Let them mark the fixed times, the days and the years, and serve as luminaries in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth." And so it happened: God made the two great lights, the greater one to govern the day, and the lesser one to govern the night; and he made the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky, to shed light upon the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. God saw how good it was. Evening came, and morning followed—the fourth day. *Genesis 1:14-19*

The Psalmist sings of it this way:

*Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Go back, O child of earth."
For a thousand years in your sight
are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night.*



Psalm 90:1-4

Take a moment to reflect, as 2018 becomes 2019. Offer prayers of thanksgiving for the past year, and prayers of intercession for the year to come. Please know that it is and has always been my tradition to pray for each of you by name in the new year. I invite you to pray for me as well as our entire church family, past, present and future.

Let us pray:

Remember us, O God;
from age to age be our comforter.
You have given us the wonder of time,
blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.
Bless your servants and your church at the turning of the year
and fill the months ahead with the bright hope
that is ours in the coming of Christ.
You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever. Amen.



Blessings on you in the new year!

Rebecca

The Session met on December 4, 2018 at 6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. After opening with prayer, the Session adopted a consent agenda including: minutes, correspondence, the serving of both wine and grape juice for the 12/24 Communion, a Hymn Sing as the Word Proclaimed on Dec. 16, Christmas Cantata as the Word Proclaimed on Dec. 23 a Congregational Meeting on Dec. 30 to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect Elders (2) and a Trustee for the Class of 2021, continuing education and Presbytery travel cost reimbursements, several building use requests, and collecting the Joy Offering on Sunday, Dec. 23.

Spiritual Development – We are conducting an unscientific Prayer Experiment and inviting people to participate in an Advent Spiritual Discipline

Hospitality/Congregational Care –PW taskforce to purchase new Christmas decorations: Robin Schilling, Kay Atwood, Lynda Allmer and Gloria Jelly. Team meets 2nd Tuesday of every month at 2 pm. Robin Schilling to decorate FH for Christmas Dinner, which is currently scheduled for December 9 at noon.

Mission/Evangelism –Preparing for Joy Offering. We will provide dinner for volunteers at Body of Christ Clinic on Dec. 13.

Building/Grounds –"Hanging of the Greens" Saturday, Dec 2. Anticipate removing greenery after worship on January 6th (Epiphany).

Generosity –Authorized Gloria Jelly as signatory on First Texas Bank account. Reviewed Budget worksheets, noting that the Generosity Team could not arrived at a budget for 2019 using current Income and Expense data. Committee on Ministry of Grace Presbytery has been invited to assist.

Worship –5th Sunday Community Worship is 6 pm December 30th at First United Methodist Church. This is a New Year's Communion Worship Service with Claudette Morgan-Scott preaching and Jeff Miller presiding at the Table, with Rebecca assisting.

Communications –The Session authorized Johnnie Schilling to create a new gmail account for social media and authorized Lara Roberts to post to church's Instagram account.

Personnel: The Session is the Personnel Committee--Staff Interviews to be conducted before the end of the year by Fulton Jones, Patricia Rye and Melinda Guthrie. Staff to be interviewed include: Rebecca, Debbie, George, Jessye, Jennifer, and Chloe.

Other Agenda Items—Reviewed Child Protection and Sexual Misconduct policies and combined them in one notebook to be kept in the Church Admin office. Reviewed the property and liability insurance. Also discussed the Administrative Handbook that is being updated and is scheduled to be completed in 2019.

Presbytery Meeting: Rev. Rebecca reported that the recent Grace Presbytery meeting was informative and she recommends that the session and congregation read two books mentioned at the meeting: *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger and *Quietly Courageous: Leading the Church in a Changing World* by GII Rendle.

The session approved a motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm, and Rebecca closed with prayer.

Patricia Rye
Clerk of Session

