



Wesley's Vision

INVITE all in the Name of Christ  
GROW disciples with the Word of Christ  
SERVE all with the LOVE of Christ.

# Wesley Witness

Wesley United Methodist Church

**December 2019**

614 Texas, Sulphur Springs, TX

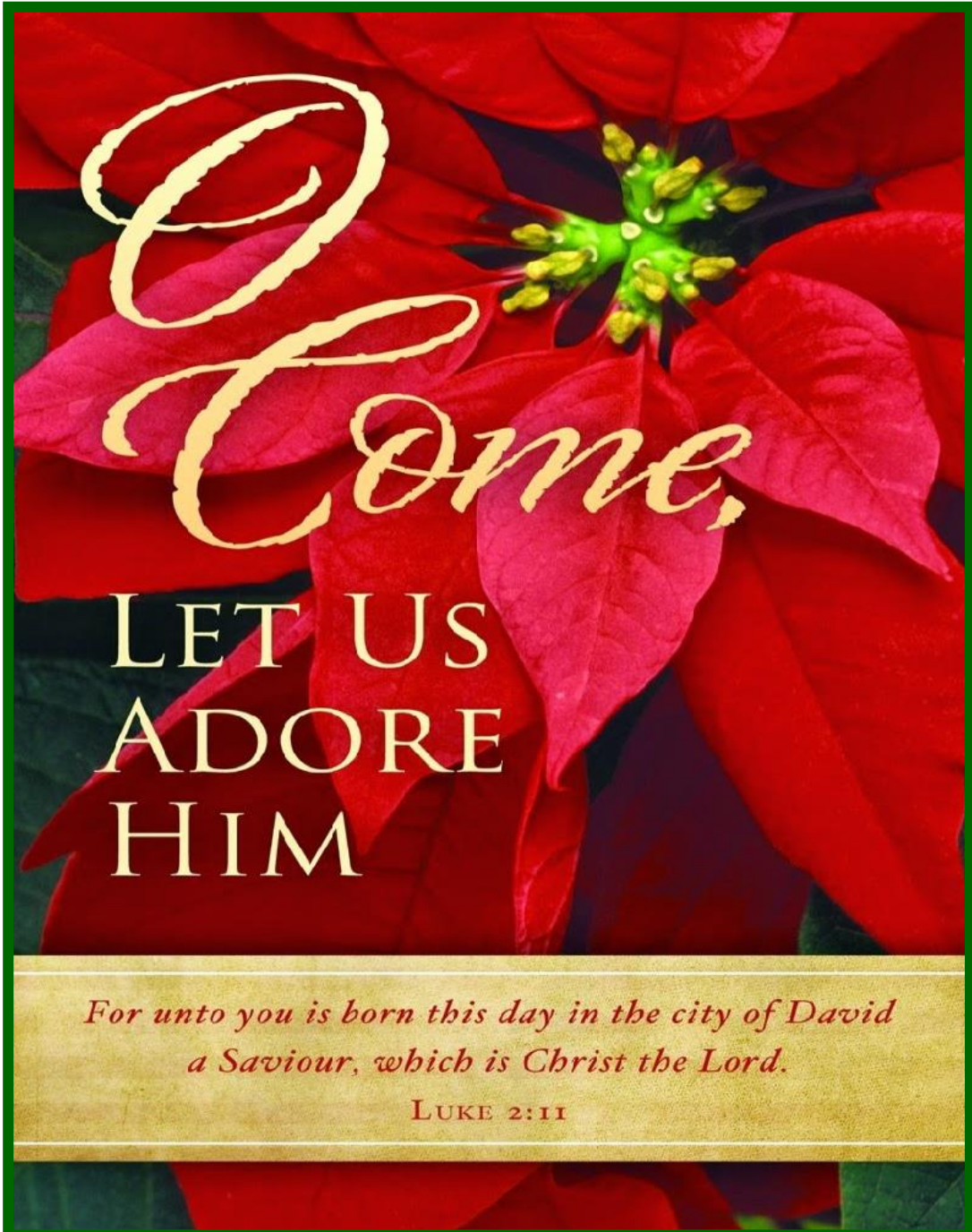
903-885-3383

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Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



*For unto you is born this day in the city of David  
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

LUKE 2:11

## PRAYERS AND CONCERNS

Richard Adams	Amulfo (Frito) Alvarez	Andres Alvarez	Stephen Andersen
Patsy Ardis	Jordyn Ausmus	Bill Ayres	Charles Batty, Jr.
Marilyn Baxter	Delana Beadle	The Beers Family	Landon Burgin
Allison and John Bostick	Devyne Byars	James Clark	Wanda Clayton
Beverly and Michael Chapman	Dicie Rue Cook	Antonio Cummings	Natalie Darrow
Joyce Davis	Mason Delbridge	Cindy Evans	Garry Hall
<b>Haylee Glenn and Family</b>	Eddie Fenstermaker	Kathleen Fletcher	Renee Francey
Don and Mary Gilmer	Mike Gilmer	Jayne Glenn	Shirley Glossup
Jack and Janie Godfrey	Jeff Godfrey	Frank Hernandez	Kristi Hodgkiss
Ashley, Chris and Jeremiah	Pam Hollingsworth	Mindi Horne	Kaycee Ivey
Magan, Tim, Easley, and Finn Henderson	Lucille Jenkins	Ronnie Jenkins	Jeff Johnson
James and Pat Hulien	Martha Johnson	Louise Jones	Dana Jordan
Lynn Kincade	Caden Lewis	Mary Ellen Little	Jase Mabie
Becky Moore	Cable Moore	Beverly Morgan	Forest Mullins
Debbie Nichols	Jim and Kim Rivers	Johnny Nichols	Rose Raines
JoAnn Roach	Bryan Rogers	Russell Scott	Sylvia Sellers
Ryan Spears	Elton Stewart	Nancy Stobough	Debbie Stribling
Becky and Danny Walker	Allan Thar	Randall Voss	Susan Weber
Betty and Mark Warren	Roger Wilmot	Ron Zitterick	

Rosemary Adams Wakefield  
 Schools, Teachers, Administration, Staff  
 First Responders, Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire Fighters, Hospital  
 Personnel Our Country and Our Leaders CASA  
 Military Personnel and their Families First Responders  
 Law Enforcement, EMS, Fire Fighters, Hospital Personnel  
 Community Chest/Cupboard CANHelp Backpack Buddies  
 North Texas Food Bank Holy Highway Girls Home  
 Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center Abused Children and Youth  
 Dallas Bethlehem Center – Wesley-Rankin Community Center  
 New additions to the prayer list are in BOLD

*Note: Names added to the prayer list will remain on the list for 30 days.  
 They will be relisted by request. Please help us to keep the list current*

## WESLEY HOMEBOUND

Marvin & Louise Jones Sandra McIntire Reid Rawls Marge Johnson



Stephen Andersen	December 2
Vera Skaggs	December 3
Frances Daniels	December 4
James Clark	December 4
Rachelle Sills	December 11
Leigh Moseman	December 17
Carol Ann and Gaylon O'dell	December 19
Judy Stewart	December 21
J.C. Clark	December 21
Marvin and Louise Jones	December 23
Dicie Rue and Steve Cook	December 24
Gaylon O'dell	December 25
Vernice Penny	December 28
Stanley Foster	December 28
Ronny Darrow	December 28
Zachary Clark	December 28
Brad Gilmer	December 29
Carol Ann O'dell	December 30



## Advent and Christmas

The season of **Advent**, which comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning "coming" or "visit," begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. Advent is the beginning of the liturgical year for Christians.

Although we are accustomed to celebrating Christmas on a single day, in both Christian tradition and on the Church calendar, the Christmas season lasts sundown on December 24 (Christmas Eve) through Epiphany of the Lord (January 6). This is sometimes popularly referred to as "the twelve days of Christmas."

### What happens during Advent?

During the season of Advent, Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the arrival of the Lord into the world through the birth of his Son Jesus Christ. Advent is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness. It is also a time to look forward to when Jesus will come a second time.

The beginning of Advent is when the preparations for Christmas really begin - the festive menu is planned, gifts are chosen and wrapped, carols sung, cards are written and posted and houses decorated.

**NORTH EAST TEXAS CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**Hearts**  
 COME HOME FOR  
**Christmas**  
 Saturday **DEC. 7TH 7PM** Sunday **DEC. 8TH 2PM**  
**SSHS AUDITORIUM**  
 1200 CONNALLY ST  
 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT: [WWW.SINGERSCOUNT.ORG](http://WWW.SINGERSCOUNT.ORG)  
 TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED FROM SINGERS AND AT LOCAL BANKS

**From “AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED”**

**Pastor  
Steve**

As a child, it seemed like an eternity between one Christmas and the next. I do recall my brother, Eddie, and I, going with our dad to cut down our tree—always a cedar and never a pine. It was usually up or more than a week to ten days. It was placed in a container so that we could add water to it to prevent it from drying out too quick.

It had all colors of those big Christmas bulbs, a few homemade ornaments, silver icicles, our annual popcorn tree garlands also made at home by threading a needle and thread through pieces of popcorn (if you never had one of these, you cannot imagine the quality and quantity, family time it took to complete these with popcorn being one of the family treats we could afford—back in the day!), freshly made school ornaments we brought home as gifts for our tree. (One point I should stress: Always cut down the nicest tree you can find that fits through an outside door easily. Trust me: All it takes is one experience, especially with cedar. It'll be easier with pine!)

Now, each of us children had stockings—usually one of my dad's clean work socks. We'd discover an apple, an orange, and unwrapped candy—complete with sock fuzz to deal with! I never recall any toy being in a stocking. I do recall being so excited about Christmas that I'd often sleep by the tree and the living room stove. I knew there had to be a Santa Claus because I never heard even a tiny movement!

Typically, my sister, 17 months younger than I, would awaken near 6 a.m. and slowly, but surely, Mom and Dad would appear and, viola, it was time to discover our one or two gifts the Jolly Old Fellow left us—inside and outside our house—sometimes only on the front porch—like a bicycle! The Christmas that my brother and I got Daisy BB guns from Santa was second to getting our bikes!

Oh, my! How easy it is for me to remember those Christmas mornings. But the best was yet to be: Going to both grandmas for food and gifts and sharing our new stuff with our cousins. Family time is always my favorite memories.

Sixty-plus years have come and gone for me. My dad's clean work socks have been replaced by Christmas stockings replete with candy and gifts. Those ole days of family meals on Christmas Day rarely occur any more. Dicie Rue and I typically are alone on Christmas Day—with our family spread over Texas and all the way to Kentucky. And, if we allow ourselves to focus on the absence of any of our 5 children and 4 living grands, we've missed Christmas!

It was Isaiah the Prophet in chapter 9, verse 6 who described Christ for us: “And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” And then the Gospel writer and Disciple, Matthew, added to these descriptors of Christ: “You shall call his name, Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” And to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy (7:14), Matthew wrote in Chapter 1, Verse 23: “Behold, the virgin (Mary) shall conceive and bear a son, and they will call Him, Immanuel, which means God is with us!” Thus began the reason for Christmas for followers

of Christ (or Disciples).

Christmas literally means “the mass of Christ.” In addition to setting a date to celebrate the birth of Christ annually, December 25, it is also a time most churches have services either on Christmas Eve, often called candlelight, which includes a mass of Christ, which includes serving/offering Holy Communion or The Lord's Supper, remembering the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, the anointed One of God (Messiah in Hebrew).

The whole New Testament is a testimony of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, as well as the Son of Man. Jesus (save us, Lord) and Christ (the Lord's anointed) would also be known as the Savior of the World and The/Our Lord (the Rightful Owner). It was Jesus himself who declared his ministry in other identifying ways: The Way, the Truth, and the Life; the Gate for My Sheep, The Good Shepherd, the Alpha and the Omega (first and last letters of the Koine Greek alphabet), the Bright and Morning Star, The Word of God, The Lord, Master, Teacher (Rabbi), Son of David, The Lamb of God, The New Adam (St. Paul), The Resurrection and The Life, The Light of the World, King of the Jews, The Bread of Life, The Great Redeemer (paid the price for our sins to rescue us), and as noted earlier in the above paragraph, Emmanuel (the God who is with /for us!).

I love to give gifts and I am still struggling with receiving gifts. Both are very biblical principles. After all, it was the Three Wise Men (Magi) that brought gifts to honor and praise Jesus—the Newborn King. The Apostle Paul could make a living out of making tents, but often relied on faithful friends who gave him money, food, and housing so that he could be Paul, the Missionary. And if there was any doubt about Paul's accepting or receiving these gifts, he put it all to rest in his letters to church and individuals. In II Corinthians 8:12, Paul offers this: “The important thing is to be willing to give as much as we can—that is what God accepts, and no one is asked to give what he has not got.”

In the same vein, the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, once wrote: “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.” Both St. Paul and John Wesley underscored generosity for us.

And you shall call his name—Jesus, Savior and Lord, and Emmanuel, God is with us, forever and ever. May each of us be blest and bless someone this Christmas. To be called Pastor is my blessing from you! Merry Christmas!

**Sunday, December 29**  
**Hymns & Christmas Music**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**NO Sunday School**

# HARK! THE ANGELS SING

Presented by the Wesley  
Chancel Choir

Sunday, December 22  
10:00 a.m.



*Children's Musical*  
*Sunday, December 15*  
*The Gift is Jesus*  
*9:30 a.m.*



**United Methodist Women**  
**Christmas Meeting**  
**Salad Luncheon**  
**Noon December 17**  
**at The Cottage**

1737 CR 2301 (Park Springs Rd)  
Meet at the church at 11:30 a.m. to carpool



The Money Tree will benefit  
Breaking Bread Together

## Poinsettia Order Form

United Methodist Women are taking orders for poinsettias to be placed in the sanctuary for Christmas. Deadline to order is December 15.

The cost of each poinsettia is \$12.

Please make checks payable to UMW.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Poinsettia(s) Ordered \_\_\_\_\_



The Wesley Witness  
Wesley United  
Methodist Church  
614 Texas Street  
Sulphur Springs, TX  
75482

(903) 885-3383 Church Office  
(903) 438-2324 Fax

[www.wesleysst.org](http://www.wesleysst.org)

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

See us on

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Wesley UMC-Sulphur Springs



## Homebound Caroling and Communion

Monday, December 2

9:00 a.m.

Be at the church at 8:30 a.m.  
We will leave promptly  
at 9:00.



*Saturday, December 7*  
*2:00-4:00 p.m.*  
*Come and Go*  
*Rhonda Alley's House*  
*621 E. Spence*



## Christmas is Coming and... So Is the Grinch!

Beginning December 4,  
and continuing until  
January 5, the Wesley Youth will be con-  
ducting their "Grinchmas" fundraiser in  
order to raise money for summer mission  
trips and youth camps. Please visit the  
Youth's Grinch table on Sundays  
or Wednesdays to learn more.

There are two ways you can  
participate:

1. You may purchase insurance that  
protects your home against the Grinch's  
ugly decorations.
2. You may pay a small fee to have a  
friend's yard "Grinched!"