

BE THE CHURCH

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

- Today's **Communion Offering** goes to the Texas Annual Conference (TAC) Relief Fund. Many churches in our conference (southeast Texas) were hit hard by Hurricane Harvey and have not been able to meet their apportionments. Other churches in the conference (such as our own) have been asked to provide relief.
- December **VCI Meetings are today!** Family Ministries meets at 12 p.m. in the Parlor; Community Connections will meet at 4 p.m. in the Carroll Building.
- The **UMW December General Meeting and Luncheon** are this Tuesday, Dec. 5, beginning at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- Everyone is invited to attend the performance of the **Christmas Cantata** on Sunday, Dec. 10, at the 11 a.m. service. The Chancel Choir will perform *Sing Joy to All the World* by Lloyd Larson.
- It's almost time for our **Christmas Play!** The children and youth will present *They Worshiped Him*, Sunday, Dec. 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Don't miss this heartfelt performance of the Christmas story!
- Our Youth Ministry is growing! We need more **meals for the 25+ Youth** who are coming on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Contact Youth Director Adrian Lucio for more details or sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex.
- **Check in on Facebook** while you're here, then go to [fumcpalestine](https://www.facebook.com/fumcpalestine) to like our page and share our posts with your friends to help us to put Christ first in Palestine. Scan the QR code at right to access our Facebook page directly!



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PALESTINE
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Palestine, Texas 75801
(903) 729-6205 ~ [fumcpalestine.org](https://www.fumcpalestine.org)



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First Sunday of Advent

The First Candle – a candle of Expectation

Reader: Christmas is coming! We all have expectations – tinsel, presents, food, laughter.

We live in a world where our expectations are built up all the time - the computer we should have, the house we would like, the holiday we need. When we don't get those things it hurts. We need better expectations.

There are people in many parts of the world who have learned to expect nothing – not food, not shelter. Sometimes not love. They should be able to expect better.

Christ is coming! As we look forward to our Christmas celebrations **we light this first candle** in expectation of the coming of Christ, who brings joy and justice to all people, everywhere.

Lighting of the first candle

Prayer: Lord of all, remind us of the things that are truly important. Come to this world, come to us, come to all people and bring the joy and justice that few expect but all need. **Amen.**

People: COME LORD JESUS, COME

Sermon Notes

Scripture Reading: Romans 5:1-5 (NIV)

Peace and Hope

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we^[a] have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we^[b] boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³Not only so, but we^[c] also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

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