

## Angel Tree Prison Ministries Mission

To all the “angels” who adopted angels and/or agreed to bake cookies, please remember that the wrapped gifts, labeled with the name and code number, need to be brought to the church no later than Friday, December 17. Cookies, packaged 6 to a baggie, need to be at the church by Sunday, December 19.

Gifts and cookies may be brought earlier. Cookies, clearly marked for Angel Tree, can be put in the freezer.

Thank you so much!



## Luminaries & Light

**Third Sunday of Advent: Joy**  
**December 12, 2021**  
**6pm-7pm**

Come experience the JOY of the season on the front lawn with luminaries, Christmas hymns, cookies, hot chocolate and fellowship.

How can you help?

- Attend this event
- Invite a friend
- Volunteer to set up luminaries
- Volunteer to bake cookies
- Volunteer to serve cookies and hot chocolate

To volunteer, contact Amy Stark, 903-246-1487.

## MERRY MARKET ONLINE AUCTION FOR MISSIONS

**DECEMBER 2, 3, & 4**

**Mark your calendar!**

Looking to do some Christmas shopping? How about Christmas shopping that benefits local and county missions; Hunt County Shared Ministries (FISH), North Texas Food Bank, Raffa Pregnancy Clinic, and Hunt County Clothe-A-Child to name a few.

The Merry Market Online Auction again this year includes handmade scarves, shawls, hats; handmade Christmas decor; gift baskets from local businesses; outdoor metal benches; homemade delicious baked goods and much more. You'll find something for everyone on your Christmas list.

The auction opens on **Thursday, December 2 at 8am** and closes on **Saturday, December 4th at 5pm**. Winners can pick up items at the church on Monday, December 6. Mark your calendar! You can view the auction site early to find your favorite items.



**Start: December 2 at 8:00am**  
**End: December 4 at 5:00pm**

<https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/merry-market-27848>



## Stepping Stones

Steps give us a plan and a direction. Walking in those steps with a companion helps us to be confident on our journey. Such are the steps of Advent as we walk toward Bethlehem, to the Cradle, and to birth of the baby -- Jesus!

Steps give us a direction... a way to mark our progress on a journey. Marked steps give us the confidence that someone has been here before. Steps help us make a plan for where we intend to be. Before our dear parents moved to Texas, we had a preferred route of how to get from Dallas to Cathy's home town, Panama, NY. For many years, we traveled first to Texarkana, then Little Rock, Memphis, Nashville, Louisville, Cincinnati, Columbus, Cleveland, Erie, and Home in Panama. Knowing the steps along the way kept us confident we were making progress in the right direction.

Cathy is one of four sisters and three of them live in Texas. On one long trip with several vehicles and before the days of cell phones, we were traveling back to Texas with one of the other sisters in two vehicles. We had traded some kids; we had one of theirs and they had one of ours. So when we got separated somewhere along the way, we knew what we had to do was just drive on back to Texas and trade kids when we got home. Made me a little anxious but we all knew the steps on the path very well and had another family reunion when we got home.

Advent is just such a journey. Steps toward help us mark our progress but the result is worth the effort, and worth the wait. As we take our steps toward Bethlehem and the miraculous birth, let us step and keep stepping closer to Jesus. We step along paths that have been traveled before. We do so in the company of one another and of all the saints of the past. So we are not alone. We step with our own families and church family. We mark the trail with signs of Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace. Then on Christmas Eve, with the Light... of Jesus, the Light of the World.

I hope you will be here for our single Christmas Eve service on December 24th! There will be one service at 6:00 with candlelight and carols. During the candlelight portion we plan to have a Holy Family for our focus and smiles and, of course, our Silent Night. No long sermon, no communion, just carols and candlelight and holy moments as we share steps together on the journey toward Bethlehem.

Who will you invite to our steps together?  
Pastor Sam

## ***December Mission of the Month: Operación Abrigo***

For many years, this church has been helping to support Proyecto Abrigo on the outskirts of Juárez, Mexico. Several of the congregation have made the 13-hour trip to Juárez to assist in building a home for a needy family. Though it is merely a bare shell of a building, to the recipient family living in a cardboard shack, it is a gift of love that provides shelter, and is for all intents and purposes, a palace for the family.

Your generous donations are needed now more than ever. The mission is now delivering groceries to families who have lost jobs or whose job hours have been drastically cut due to the pandemic and can no longer afford to put food on the table since there is no local food pantry. A gift of \$25 will feed a family for a week, and a gift of \$100 can feed a family for a month.

Operación Abrigo is our December Mission of the Month. Please consider providing what you can to help support this worthy endeavor that has done so much and continues to provide a coat of warmth, a cover of security, a shelter in this pandemic storm. The literal translation of abrigo is coat, but metaphorically, it is the far-reaching shelter provided by God's hand. "...just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:40. Gifts can be made by check, through your online church gift giving, or directly to [www.operacionabrigo.org](http://www.operacionabrigo.org).

**Prayer List 11-30-21**

**Recent Concerns:**

- The Brown Family
- Jerry & Sandy Hutton
- Preston Helton (Jan & Jeff Helton's grandson)
- Julie (Janeen Kvanli's sister)

**Continued Prayers (long term):**

- Our world, country, & leaders
- Lavinia Atchley (Harriet Williams' aunt)
- Harold & Becky Coker
- Jack Gray
- Margie Hamlin (Linda King's mother)
- Cindy Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's mother)
- Robert Jenkins (Tiffany Harrison's father)
- Mabel and Carl Little
- Brenda Mosley Longhoffer (Lisa McGuire's friend)
- Harold & Priscilla McFarland (Julia Robinson's parents)
- Robert Seay
- Dudley Shaw (Robyn Elwell's brother-in-law)
- Christi Webster's friend with breast cancer
- Rev. Dennis Wilkinson

**Austin:**

- Ruby Vander Velde

**Christian Care Center (Mesquite):**

- Jean Arnold

**Discovery Village Rehab:**

- Virginia Collier

**Draughn's/Country Home Estate:**

- Mary Louise McMahan
- Jayne Williams

**Oak Manor:**

- Helen Cole

**Those serving in our military:**

- Lt. Dan Barton
- Daniel Chamberlain
- Sgt. Stephen Smith & Denise Smith
- Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Stogner
- Col. Keith Williams
- Major Bob Farmer

**December Birthdays**

- 12/1 Glenna Julian
- 12/2 Dick Latson
- 12/6 Zachary Smith  
Becky Coker
- 12/10 Helen Cole
- 12/11 Cameron Oats
- 12/15 Jim Bob Grove  
Anna Knutson  
Teddy Walker
- 12/22 Julia Robinson
- 12/24 Mary Louise McMahan
- 12/27 Katie Jensen  
Nicole Pearce
- 12/28 Mike King
- 12/29 Pepper Mackie
- 12/30 Jessica King  
Lynette Gill
- 12/31 Mac Robinson  
Jon Parker

**December Anniversaries**

- 12/17 Sam & Cathy Caldwell
- 12/26 Dick & Brenda Latson

***Prayer Shawl Ministry Update***

In November, Prayer Shawl financially supported Little Ark's "Pie with Parents," and our own Susan Patton baked and donated pies for the event. Also in November, we packed and mailed 44 scarves and 16 hats to Operation Gratitude for their Christmas packages. We are now preparing items for the Merry Market. Our December meeting is on Monday, December 13 at 9:30.

We can't wait to see everyone again! We have an open invitation for others to join us. We hope to see you soon!



## Little Ark Activities

### Children's Program

Thanks to everyone who donated candy for the Trick or Treat on the Square event! We had lots of candy and lots of fun!



Little Ark had our first annual Program and Pie event. We had a great turn out, ate lots of pie and watched the kiddos perform Thanksgiving songs. In December, we will start our reverse advent calendar. All food collected will be taken to the food pantry. See Jennifer Knight for a copy of the reverse advent calendar..



In case of emergency pastoral care need,  
please call or text Pastor Sam at 214-842-9252.

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