

SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST THROUGH

THE *Gift* OF Christmas

The "Gift of Christmas" is an opportunity for individuals or groups in our church to share Christ's love with others by giving food, clothing, gifts and/or gift cards to families in our community who are in need. Each family is referred to us by the House of Neighborly Service or Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Some families are large, with many children while others are small with just one or two children. All are very appreciative of the gifts and the givers.

HNS is a non-profit, multi-service neighborhood center founded in 1917 by Presbyterian missionaries. The center provides a wide range of social, educational, and health-related programs for families in need on San Antonio's west side. Presbyterian Children's Home and Services provides Christ centered care and support for struggling children and families in need in San Antonio. FPC has actively supported both organizations for many years.

We encourage WOC circles, Sunday school classes, small groups, various church organizations, families and individuals to share in this effort to include one of these families in your Christmas giving. When we receive your completed family request form, we will match you with a family and provide all of the family information. We will make every effort to match family sizes with your request. If you are unable to adopt a family, but wish to participate, cash donations are appreciated and will be used toward gifts for a larger family or a family that we are not able to match with a FPC covenant partner. Your caring outreach and expression of Christian love will make an enormous difference for these brothers and sisters in Christ this Christmas season.

Gift of Christmas Family Request Forms and Guidelines will be available online at fpcsanantonio.org/christmas-giving, outside the Ave. E entrance every Sunday beginning November 1 through November 29, or can be requested by emailing Cassie or Janet. We will also have a box at the table for cash donations. Please return the completed form no later than December 2 to the Gift of Christmas mailbox in the church workroom or mail to either:

Cassie McMillan
141 E. Gramercy Place, 78212
cassiehager39@gmail.com
(210) 254-8558

Janet Pritchett
14927 Gateview Dr, 78248
jejrpritchett@outlook.com
(432) 349-7913

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."
- 2 Corinthians 9:12

The Gift of Christmas
is a mission project coordinated by the
Women of the Church at
First Presbyterian Church
of San Antonio, Texas



THE Gift OF Christmas

GUIDELINES 2020

As each request form is received, a family will be assigned. Each family is screened and referred by either House of Neighborly Service or Presbyterian Children's Home and Services.

A form will be sent to you that includes family member names and ages and gift requests. Contact information will also be provided so that you can communicate with the family regarding specific needs, delivery information, etc.

Call your family to introduce yourself and determine if there are any special needs and to set up a time for delivery of the gifts. It is a good idea to contact the family just before you plan to arrive, as well, to ensure the family is at home. Due to COVID restrictions and concerns, you may choose to not deliver the gifts to the home but to drop them off at HNS or PCHAS where the family will pick them up at a later time. Delivery of gifts on or before December 22 is requested.

Include a wrapped gift with a name-tag for each family member listed on the form. It may be clothing and/or toys. You may want to consider providing a Walmart or Target gift card for older children as they often have something very specific in mind. There is no obligation nor expectation that you honor every request on the family

information sheet. The requests are guidelines from which to choose one or more items for each family member at your discretion. The real gift is your outreach to a family in Christ's love and grace.

The gift of a Bible is always meaningful, and both English or Spanish Bibles will be available for pick up in Mauze lobby at the GOC table. We also have some children's Bible storybooks.

Limited funds are available from FPC to help with purchases; however, you must have pre-approval before making purchases with these funds. Contact Rev. Joe Moore (joem@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2726) for this approval and to obtain a list of non-profit organizations which may be sources for some items. Tax exempt forms are available at the church office for use at the time of purchase. For reimbursement, return the "approved" purchase receipt to Rev. Moore for his signature.

If you choose to deliver the gifts to the family, we recommend that at least two people from your group go together. Please allow time to visit with the family, sing a Christmas carol and join in a prayer. Let the Holy Spirit be your guide. Thank you for opening your hearts to these families during this joyous season of our Savior's birth.

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If requests from families are received during your visit, direct that person to Rev. Moore or Rev. Simpson. Either one can direct them to non-profit organizations for more services.

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FAMILY REQUEST FORM

At Christmas, many families in San Antonio struggle to provide essential needs for their children and, as a result, are unable to provide “extras.” Please consider including the children of one of these families in your Christmas giving this year. Most families range in size from two to eight. We will do our very best to match you with the size family you request.

Group/Individual requesting family:

Contact name: _____

Contact phone: _____

Contact email: _____

Mailing address: _____

Specify size of family you are willing to “adopt”: _____

Can you take a Spanish-speaking family? ☐ Yes ☐ No
(English and Spanish Bibles are available to include with your gifts.)

Gift Delivery Options:

- ☐ Deliver gifts to family at their home (we recommend meeting outdoors)
☐ Deliver gifts to HNS or PCHAS to be picked up by family at a later time

Please return this form to the “Gift of Christmas” mailbox in the church workroom, or email/mail to either:

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Please call Cassie or Janet if you have any questions.

As requests are received, you will be matched with a family and notified of their information.

Please return this form as soon as possible (December 2 deadline).

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