

## The Hill Country Connection

December 2025

Hill Country Christian Church

20845 State Hwy 46 W

Spring Branch, TX 78070

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### ***Rick's Ramblings***

We talked Sunday about "Hope and Fear" in conjunction with this year's Advent theme: The Hopes and Fears of All the Years. As we look at the paradoxes of Christmas (hope and fear, peace and distress, joy and sadness, love and hate), we come face to face with the reality of life. We don't just experience hope, peace, joy, and love at Christmas, even especially at Christmas. We also experience fear, distress, sadness, and hate. And, all those elements are also found in scripture within that first Christmas event, when Jesus Christ was born.

In relationship to hope and fear, I was reminded of the story of Joseph Ton, who was pastor of a church in Romania when it was still under communist control. He went to Oxford in England to study. He could have stayed in England, but he chose to go back. As he was leaving, the Holy Spirit



impressed a verse of scripture on his heart that would be lived out in his own life—Matthew 10:16—“I send you as sheep in the midst of wolves.” He knew he would be totally defenseless and without reasonable hope of success. He was afraid.

He went back. He preached the gospel. He gained strength from his fellow believers who were under persecution. He was arrested and interrogated many times—each event becoming more severe. They threatened to kill him if he didn’t stop proclaiming Jesus. God gave him the words to say. “Sir, your supreme weapon is killing me. My supreme weapon is dying. My sermons are on tape all over the country. If you kill me, you will be sprinkling them with my blood. Whoever listens to them after that will be saying, ‘I’d better listen. This man sealed it with his own blood.’ They will speak ten times louder than before. So, go on and kill me. I win the supreme victory then.”

Joseph Ton says, “I spent all those years living in fear of those in authority because I wanted to live. Now, I wanted to die, and they wouldn’t oblige. For years I wanted to save my life, and I was losing it. Now that I wanted to lose it, I was winning it.” Hope amidst fear.

The next three weeks of Advent we will look at Peace and Distress, Joy and Sadness, and Love and Hate. Our Advent season culminates with our annual Christmas Eve Service—“Carols and Candlelight”—which begins at 5:00 p.m. It is a special service with scripture, singing, special music, and the lighting of candles. Simple, and yet profound. The perfect way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas with family and friends. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year as we look towards what God will do in our midst in 2026.





A Christmas Blessing  
During this Christmas season

May you be Blessed with the spirit of  
the season, which is peace.

The gladness of the season, which is hope.

And the heart of the season, which is love.

Somehow not only for Christmas, but  
all the long year through.

The joy that you give to others, is the  
joy that comes back to you.

**Some Great Things Coming Up....**

**Community Chorus Christmas Celebration!!!**

Performances will be on:

Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Bulverde Methodist Church Sanctuary

**Christmas Eve Service**

*Pastor Rick is planning a beautiful Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome  
so feel free to invite family members, friends and neighbors to this special night.*



Life Line Screening will be here at Hill Country Christian Church on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, offering safe, painless, non-invasive preventive health screenings that are typically not a part of a routine physical. To be more proactive about your health for yourself, your family and your community, please register for these health screenings today.

There is no time like the present to take action!

Three ways to get more information and to register:

- Call toll-free: 1-888-814-0466 promo code HSCA001
- Online: <https://www.llsa.social/hscs>
- Text: the word circle to 216-279-1607

## St Jude's Ranch for Children

We are still collecting presents for the children at St Jude's so it's not too late to shop on their Amazon Wish List or make a donation so we can shop for you. All presents need to be brought to the church by Tuesday, the 16th so they can be boxed for Santa to load into his truck and deliver on the 19th. Your generosity and kindness will go a long way in ensuring that the residents of St. Jude's will have a merry Christmas. Below is the link to the Wish List.

<https://a.co/9dl9iEv>

Again, our thanks to you all.

## December

### Birthdays

Jean Garcia – 1  
Betsy Hart – 4  
Rick Son – 4  
Paulette Saenz – 6  
Oscar Venegas – 10  
Burney Martin – 11  
Janet Sogard – 15  
Mia Murray – 18  
Jerlynn Martinez – 23  
Cherilyn Patteson – 24



### Anniversaries

Smitty & Karen Smith – 12  
Wes & Jessica Willard – 23  
Mark & Janet Sogard – 24

Time to

*Celebrate!*









# December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 	3	4	5 7:00 pm – Community Choir Bulverde Methodist Church	6 7:00 pm – Community Choir Bulverde Methodist Church
7 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 am – Adult Bible Study 10:30 am – Worship 3:00 pm – Community Choir	8 	9	10 No Pastor's Bible Class until January	11  <i>Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer</i>	12	13 8:30 am – Men's Breakfast and Fellowship - <b>Cancelled</b>
14 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 am – Adult Bible Study 10:30 am – Worship	15 	16	17 No Pastor's Bible Class until January	18	19 Santa at SJRC	20 10:00 am - CWF Meeting & Luncheon
21 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> 9:30 am – Adult Bible Study 10:30 am – Worship	22	23	24 5:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27
28 9:30 am – Adult Bible Study 10:30 am – Worship	29 	30	31 New Year's Eve			



## Contact Us:

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