

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

January 2020

*The mission of our church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ
Our vision is to be an oasis of God's love.*

1311 McCaulley Office hours: M ~ F, 9:00 am ~12:00pm

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Pastor: Rev. Marie Mickey 979-574-6348

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Clerk of Session: Paula Huckabee

Elder of the Month: Gary Brown

Dear Friends,

I often find the new year to be especially difficult for people. We have moved through our holiday highs (or lows) and now are back into the daily grind. We give ourselves new year resolutions and by the end of January we seem to be slipping back to the old habits bringing disappointment to another failed attempt at bettering oneself. For some, reading the newspapers or listening to news shows brings joy and hope. For others, it brings sadness and fear. There is much sadness, anxiety, brokenness, and hurt in this world. As a community and nation, we have many people who are hurting.

As Christians, we need to be sure that we are not only praying, but also speaking, engaging with, and honoring all people. We need to be inclusive and meet people where they are, because if we don't, we risk losing the opportunity to share the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ with them. We miss the opportunity to be Light to them. We miss the opportunity to be a friend, a colleague, a neighbor to them. We miss the opportunity to be human. And so, here is a benediction for you, our community, our nation, and our world:

A Franciscan Benediction

May God bless you with discomfort
At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships
So that you may live deep within your heart.
May God bless you with anger
At injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people,
So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.
May God bless you with tears
To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war,
So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them
and to turn their pain into joy.
And may God bless you with enough foolishness
To believe that you can make a difference in the world,

So that you can do what others claim cannot be done,
To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

May 2020 be filled with blessings and adventures with God and may FPC have the courage to respond with the words, "Count Me In"!

*Blessings,
Pastor Marie*



Bulletin board by Jessica Bond and Barbara Bond



- 5 Patty Gesin and Richard Gesin
- 12 Keith Brock
- 19 DeeAnne McFarland
- 26 Doug Richards

Dates to Remember

- 1 New Year's Day Holiday
Church Office will be closed.
- 2 Over the Hill Bunch~ 11:30am~ Great Wall
- 5 Hoyt Place Worship ~ 9:00am-9:30am
Sunday School~ 9:45am
Worship~ 10:45am Reverse Offering
Communion Class of 2020
Take Down Decorations after Worship.
- 8 Planning~ 1:00pm~3:00pm
Presbyterian Women~ 5:15pm
- 9 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Schlotzsky's
Choir Practice ~ 5:30pm
- 12 Sunday School ~ 9:45am
Worship ~ 10:45am
Ordination and Installation of Elders
Little Ones & IBKs~ 5:00pm~ 6:00pm
- 15 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
Session ~ 5:30pm
- 16 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Golden Chick
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
- 19 Sunday School~ 9:45am
Worship~ 10:45am
Middle School & High School~ 5:00pm-6:00pm
- 22 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 23 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Bigg's
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
- 24-25 Presbytery ~ FPC Lubbock
- 26 Sunday School~9:45am
Worship~ 10:45am
Noisy Offering
Little Ones & IBKs~ 5:00pm-6:00pm
- 29 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 30 Over the Hill Bunch ~11:30am~ Dairy Queen
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm



- 2 Emerson Jane Gesin
- 6 Rick LeBleu
- 7 Karen Brown
- 10 Laverne Foy
- 12 Betty Richards
- 16 Brandon Bennett
- 17 Seth Maitland
Mason Maxwell
- 18 Bryson Maitland
- 20 Willadean Brock
Michelle Maitland
- 21 Mike Briggs
- 23 Alex Wiele
- 26 Aly Moore
- 31 James Staton

Hoyt Place

We are excited to lead worship every first Sunday of the month at Hoyt Place, from 9:00-9:30 a.m. We will sing, and hear the Word of God and share communion. Come join us in this wonderful Ministry of fellowship.



Happy New Year! I hope you all had a great holiday! What a great Christmas program we had; thank you all for being a part of the program. We will be back to our regular routine this month. We will continue from 5:00 - 6:00 each Sunday evening. I will be looking forward to seeing each of you in 2020!

January 12: Little Ones and IBKs (3 yr. olds - 5th grade)
January 19: Middle School and High School
January 26: Little Ones and IBKs



Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, January 8 at 5:15pm. We will continue our study, Chapter 4 of the Bible study, Love Carved in Stone~ A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments by Eugenia Anne Gamble.



Presbyterian Women Vision 2020

Presbyterian Women are raising funds for the upcoming 2020 year. This fund raising is actually two fold. It is a Fundraiser/Memorial project.

First, it enables Presbyterian Women to get involved in programs that “give back to the community” (scholarships, etc.).

Secondly, it gives the donor an opportunity to remember a loved one by purchasing an engraved memorial brick to be placed in the Memorial Garden. Bricks can be given in honor of someone.

Two Sizes of brick are available:

4” X 8” with 3 lines available for engraving \$50.00

8” X 8” with 6 lines available for engraving \$100.00

Come by the office for examples and more information.

Thank You

Dear First Presbyterian Ladies,

Our hearts are humbled by your love and prayers for Alma and her family. Alma loved her church and cherished her church family.

The meal that you made and served our family with such love was delicious and not only nourished our bodies, but warmed our hearts.

Thank you again for your love for Alma and our family.

May God bless you.

David and Karyn Green and family

Session Minutes

Examination of Elders:

As examination of Elders, Reverend Mickey requested the 2022 Elder Class each share what started their faith journey, and their hopes for the future of FPC. Gayle Biggerstaff, Keith Brock, Hilary Brennan, and Jim Gesin each gave moving stories of their faith journeys and hopes for FPC. Gary Brown made a motion to sustain the nominated 2022 Elder Class. DeeAnne McFarland seconded, and the 2022 Elder Class was sustained.

Stewardship and Finance: *Financial Report was unanimously approved.*

Building and Grounds:

Gary Brown reported that the following had occurred since the October 16, 2019 Session Meeting:

- 1) Circulating pump on the boiler was repaired and the boiler was approved by the State Inspector;*
- 2) Fire extinguishers were inspected and were out of compliance. Five new fire extinguishers were purchased and installed; and,*
- 3) M&M Electric installed a new plug in the secretary's office so that the new air conditioner could be installed.*

Gary reported that the following needs to be repaired or replaced:

- 1) Lights in the yard have burned out and need replacement bulbs;*
- 2) Light switch in the Parlor needs to be replaced;*
- 3) Right Now Media Program is freezing up during broadcasts. A new ethernet cable needs to be installed from the secretary's office to the fellowship hall; and,*
- 4) Elmer Green has been contacted to trim trees.*

Christian Education:

Sherie Alldredge reported that the Christmas Program was very successful. The Children are taking a break for the Christmas Holiday and will start up again in January.

The congregation is invited to sing Christmas carols at the Nursing Homes with the children and

youth on the evening of December 15th. Afterward, everyone is invited to Dennis and Lou Ann Cumbie's Home for a Christmas Party. Each family is requested to bring a food dish.

Fellowship:

DeeAnne McFarland reported that the Thanksgiving Luncheon was a great success. There was plenty of food and wonderful fellowship.

Gary made a suggestion that the Sanctuary be decorated before the Thanksgiving meal next year. He felt that more members of the congregation may participate with the decorating.

Mission and Outreach:

Karen Brown announced that the Joy Offering will be collected both during the Christmas Eve Service, and the December 29th Sunday Service.

Karen Brown reported that several trips had been made to deliver food to the Nolan County Food Pantry since the October Session Meeting.

Personnel:

Sherie Alldredge proposed the following holidays for the secretary for 2020:

January 1 (New Year's Day), February 17 (President's Day), April 13 (Easter), May 25 (Memorial Day), July 3 (Independence Day), September 7 (Labor Day), November 26-27 (Thanksgiving), December 24-25 (Christmas Day) and 1 personal day. The 2020 Holidays for the secretary were unanimously approved.

Worship:

Reverend Mickey announced Christmas Eve Service will be held at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary, and 9 Elders will be needed to serve Communion.

Old Business:

TSTC Nursing Department requested use of the Sanctuary for the 2019 Pinning Ceremony on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. They requested to rehearse the ceremony on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at 3:30 p.m. Session unanimously approved the request to use the Sanctuary for the 2019 Pinning Ceremony and rehearsal by email on Monday, November 11, 2019.

New Business:

Paula Huckabee explained the duties of Clerk of Session and requested that Session members consider the position. She is resigning after the Yearly Church Report is completed.

Stewardship - The Manner of Giving

2 Corinthians 8:12

For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have.

Many people see tithing as a requirement – the “Christian thing to do.” Paul, however, begins with “if the willingness is there...” and not “this must be done.”

Our prayer should center on the words of David in Psalm 51, “Have mercy on me, Oh God, according to your unfailing love...Create in me a pure heart, Oh God, and renew a steadfast spirit in me.” (Psalm 51:1,10) A pure heart and steadfast spirit will lead to the willingness to give, without the worry of how much.

First Presbyterian Church **2019 Financial Report**

2019 Budget	\$161,526.05
Needed Monthly	\$ 12,584.00

Month	Plate & Pledge	Expenses
January	\$ 12,620.00	\$12,203.06
February	\$ 10,369.00	\$ 9,389.05
March	\$ 11,498.00	\$ 8,867.57
April	\$ 11,434.00	\$10,216.97
May	\$ 8,497.00	\$ 7,862.75
June	\$ 11,347.00	\$ 9,977.24
July	\$ 11,203.00	\$11,669.62
August	\$ 7,022.00	\$10,578.61
September	\$12,439.55	\$11,795.04
October	\$ 8,195.00	\$15,469.26
November	\$ 8,943.00	\$11,294.68
December	\$20,960.00	\$10,828.62

Received Year to Date	\$ 134,527.55
Over (Under)	\$(16,480.45)

2019 Noisy Offering

Designated toward the Ministerial Alliance

Received Year to Date	\$1057.15
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2019 Food Pantry

Designated to Nolan County Food Pantry

Received Year to Date	\$546.00
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Trish McGarrell and Paul Wight

The inscription on the church bell in the garden says "First Presbyterian Church Organized A.D. 1885 Erected A. D. 1924. It was on the land of the Wight family. William and Florence Wight arrived in Sweetwater in February 1886. He purchased land over several years and in 1891 established what is called "the ranch" as it now stands south of Sweetwater. The Wight's were lifelong friends with the Bardwell's. Their friendship began during their sheep herding days on Bitter Creek. Edward Wight, grandson, became owner of the land.

Boo told the story how we were able to obtain the bell. Wendell Kent was leasing land from the Wight Family, and he told Robert Nemir he had found Presbyterian Church bell on the land. Boo began corresponding with two of the Wight's daughters, Annie and Mary, who were in a nursing home in Ft. Worth. After several correspondences, the sisters were glad to have the bell moved to the church. Richard Gesin, Glenn Wortham, Pat Foy, Bud Bast moved the bell to the church garden during the time that Rev. Allan Guthrie was pastor during the 1980's. Bud Bast moved rock from his ranch for the platform.

Paul Wight, son of Edward Wight, visited the church in November.



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thinking of all ya'll in this special Christmas season.

With love,
Dorian, Amy and Alice

Christmas Program 2019



Emily Hammit, Averi Moody, Kallen Moody,
Slade Ross, Peyton Gee, Harper Gee,
Mackenzie Lambert, Brynlee Scott, Caleb
Reed, Scarlett Whitteker, Robert Whitter,
Macy Newberry, Rev. Cathy Ludlum Reed,
Katie Reed, Sherie Alldredge,
Caden Wilburn



Larry Ludlum and Richard Smola



Mackenzie Lambert, Peyton Gee,
Shane Ross



Brynlee Scott, Sherie Alldredge,
Rev. Cathy Ludlum Reed



Macy Newberry



Kallen Moody, Caden Wilburn, Katie Reed

(There are more photos on the bulletin board
and on the photo page of the website,
fpcsweetwater.org)



Peyton Gee, Lou Ann Cumbie,
Mackenzie Lambert, Harper Gee

Christmas Caroling and Party



Nolan Nursing



Hoyt Place



Sweetwater HealthCare



