

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

November 2019

*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

website: www.fpcsweetwater.org

P. O. Box 956, Sweetwater, Texas 79556 325-235-5491

email: fpcsweetwater@gmail.com

Pastor: Rev. Marie Mickey 979-574-6348

email: mmickey290@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Paula Huckabee

Elder of the Month: Dustin Hammit



I recently came across this article that is worth sharing and gives a lot of food for thought. I hope it has value for you.

Pastor Marie

Generosity grows from gratitude

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances! --1 Thess. 5:16-18

Would you like to be a more generous person, possessing a generous heart? Then try embracing gratitude as a spiritual practice. Since Thanksgiving is on the 28th of this month, November is a great time to give it a try.

Gratitude and generosity go together naturally. Whether you're a millionaire or just middle-class, when you are grateful for what you have, you'll likely be happier and more satisfied with your life. You will tend to see the world through the eyes of abundance and be more likely to give of yourself. And it has nothing to do with wealth. Some of the most generous people you meet are poor, and some of the wealthiest people in the world are stingy. But generous people, rich or poor, tend to look at their lives with gratitude.

How can we embrace gratitude as a spiritual practice? Paul gives us a good start in the Scripture verse above. If we reverse his order, things flow pretty well:

Give thanks in all circumstances: It's easy to give thanks when everything is going along swimmingly, but much tougher when we face problems (and we all do). Notice that Paul says give thanks IN all circumstances, not FOR all circumstances. In hard times, we can be grateful for the parts of our life that are going well and for the resources, relationships and faith that will help us get through.

Pray without ceasing: You can communicate with God anytime and anywhere. Pray in the shower, in your car, on the beach, on your lunch break, at a stop light, in a grocery line. God hears all our prayers, whether spoken, whispered, or just thought. So pray without ceasing.

Rejoice always: Look for everyday celebrations every day. Do you have hot water? A car? Clean socks? High-speed Internet? Enough to eat? Friends? Loving relationships? Then rejoice! For a disciplined approach, keep a journal of your daily thanks, or a "gratitude list" that you can pray over every night and revise as necessary. Or just make it a point every day to enter into a time of thankful prayer.

Commit to a disciplined approach for a period of time – say, from Thanksgiving to Christmas. And it's a good bet that your developing "attitude of gratitude" will result in your developing a generous heart and seeing the world through a lens of abundance.

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Dates to Remember

3 Daylight Savings Time Ends

All Saints Day (Observed)

Hoyt Place Worship ~ 9:00am-9:30am

Sunday School~ 9:45am

Worship~ 10:45am Reverse Offering

Communion Class of 2021

5:00pm-6:00pm Little Ones & IBKs

6 Planning~ 1:00pm~3:00pm

Presbyterian Women~ 5:15pm

7 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Buck's

Choir Practice~ 5:30pm

10 Sunday School ~ 9:45am

Worship ~ 10:45am~ Terrell Thompson will preach.

5:00pm-6:00pm Christmas Program Practice

13 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm

14 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Heff's

Choir Practice~ 5:30pm

17 Sunday School~ 9:45am

Worship~ 10:45am~ Sara Core will preach.

5:00pm-6:00pm Christmas Program Practice

20 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm

21 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Skeet's

Choir Practice~ 5:30pm

24 *Christ the King*

Sunday School~9:45am

Worship~ 10:45am~ Sara Core will preach.

Noisy Offering

Thanksgiving Meal and Decorate Sanctuary for Advent after Worship

5:00pm-6:00pm Christmas Program Practice

28&29 Thanksgiving ~Church Office Closed



- 2 Mitch Moore
- 4 Allen King
- 5 Lou Ann Cumbie
- 6 Chelsey Maxwell
- 7 Pam Graff
- 10 Don Campbell
- 12 Brynlee Scott
- 14 Averil Moody
- 15 Treva LeBleu
- Boo Nemir
- 16 Heather Gesin
- 17 Lea Cleveland
- 20 Richard Gesin
- 21 Patty Gesin
- Ashton Richards Moody



Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, November 6 at 5:15pm. We will study Chapter 3 of the Bible study, Love Carved in Stone~ A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments by Eugenia Anne Gamble.



3 Patty Gesin and Richard Gesin

10 Doug Richards

17 Ruthann Campbell

24 Keith Brock



Everyone is invited to the Thanksgiving Meal after worship on Sunday, November 24th.

Turkey, ham, dressing
and gravy will be provided.
Bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish.

We will decorate the sanctuary
after the meal.

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.*



It's time to start working on the Christmas program! Can you believe it? It's going to be a little different this year. We are going to add a few adults, the choir, solos, duets, and the hand chimes...now this is what we are hoping for! It's all in the works, but I need you to volunteer. I know we will need two adults to be Mary and Joseph and a few more adults for other parts. Hand chimes are fun; we haven't heard them in a while-you could join that group! The program will be during worship on December 8th. I need all of the kids through high school. Let me know this week if you are interested, so that I can work you into the program. This is always an exciting time at FPC but even more exciting with the extra parts we are adding this year! Now, hurry and call me while you are thinking about it!

The kids will be practicing each Sunday evening, starting this week. The adults, middle school and high school will join us during this time but they won't start this week. After a week or two of the kids practicing, the adults, middle school, and high school will join us. It may work out that you join us during the last part of the hour. It's a work in progress at this point. I will be excited to hear from you this week!

Christmas Program practices:

November 3: 5:00 - 6:00 Little Ones and IBKs only this week (3 years old through 5th grade)

November 10, 17, 24, and December 1: Little Ones, IBKs the whole time and middle school, high school, and adults will probably join us the last 30 mins. I will let you know for sure before the first practice.

December 8: 9:30am Dress Rehearsal and the program will be during the service.

Tis' the Season,
LouAnn

Bonnie Thompson Memorial

The family has requested to let the congregation know about the Memorial for Bonnie Thompson.

November 9, 2019. 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Love & Care Ministries

233 Fannin St

Abilene, TX 79603

Session Minutes

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

Columbarium:

Boo Nemir reported that the concrete sidewalk leading to the Columbarium along with the floor inside the Columbarium has been stained, and the gates have been painted. Jim Gesin is searching for a company to engrave Memorial Bricks, which may be purchased to be installed in the Columbarium area.

Christian Education:

Lou Ann Cumbie announced that she and Dennis are organizing a booth for FPC at the Fall Festival on October 30th at Halloween at the Park. The Fall Festival will be open from 5:30 to 7:30. She is requesting 2 additional teens or adults to help hand out candy and play games.

Fellowship

DeeAnne McFarland reported that Patty Gesin had delivered food to family of Betty Staton at home following her service at McCoy Funeral Home.

Mission and Outreach:

Peggy announced that \$440 was received through the Peace & Global Witness Offering on Sunday, October 6, 2019. The amount of \$110 of the offering will be given to the Children's Advocacy as local mission, \$110 will be used for ministries of peace and reconciliation, and \$220 will be used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate of peace and justice in cultures of violence.

New Business:

Reverend Mickey announced that it is time to appoint a Nominating Committee for Elders. Lou Ann Cumbie and Sherie Alldredge agreed to serve on the committee for Session. Three congregation members will be needed to complete the committee. She explained that an insert will be placed in next Sunday's bulletin so the congregation may give suggestions for potential elders.

Moderator's Report:

Reverend Mickey reported that she would be taking at least 3 weeks off to care for her daughter, who will be having surgery.

Doug Richards will serve as Elder for December.

Stewardship - The Manner of Giving

Timothy 6:18

Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share.

Generosity never stands alone. It is always associated with other traits. It is a symptom, not an independent entity. Find a generous person and you will find contentment, gratitude, humility, love, and compassion. The person cannot help but be generous because everything he is and has is tied up in relation to God. May generosity overflow from our cup of humility, gratitude, contentment, and love in Christ Jesus.

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

Received Year to Date \$ 96,429.55
Over (**Under**) \$(**16,826.45**)

2019 Noisy Offering

Designated toward the Ministerial Alliance

Received Year to Date \$887.33

2019 Food Pantry

Designated to Nolan County Food Pantry

Received Year to Date \$375.00

Reformation Sunday



Children and Youth October 2019



Caleb Reed was crowned Band King for Roscoe High School.



Caleb placed sixth in the District Cross Country meet for Roscoe.



Averi Moody, Harper Gee,
Emily Hammit, Peyton Gee