

# First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

February 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

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

Pastor: Rev. Marie Mickey 979-574-6348

Clerk of Session: Paula Huckabee

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Elder of the Month: Boo Nemir

The stores are full of merchandise for the upcoming celebration of Valentine Day. From chocolates to cards, from candy to stuffed toys, from flowers to jewelry there is no end to the ways one can express their love to a special person. The sweet refrain of love. I'm reminded of Paul's words in 1 Corinthians, chapter 13, the scripture that is often called the Love Chapter. Paul's eloquent words wash over us as he describes what he calls : the most excellent way. Not romantic love, or love we experience love in friendship, but agape love. Agape is the Greek term that defines God's immeasurable, incomparable love for humankind. God gives this love without condition. "Agape love," says Anders Nygren, "Is unmotivated in the sense that it is not contingent on any value or worth in the object of love. It is spontaneous and heedless, for it does not determine beforehand whether love will be effective or appropriate in any particular case." Rather this love, as Paul describes is patient, kind, without envy, not rude and not self-serving. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres and rejoiced in the truth.

Love each other as I have loved you is the way Jesus expressed it. A simple command from Jesus, but one that holds great responsibility and power to the one who obeys. Loving one another calls us to live in high regard for others. When we follow the commands to love one another, to live in the way of this agape love, and to rest our faith in the promises of God through the Christ Jesus we are able to live in the hope and the joy that God offers us. That love for God that is expressed in our relationship with God and with one another is at the core of our faith. One cannot say that they love God without actively living in the truth of that love. As Paul writes "if I have faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing."

Mr. Rogers, creator and longtime of the television show for children and a Presbyterian pastor believed each and every person has a "divine spark" that is God's love for us. Because of that we have a responsibility to help that spark shine out of ourselves and to also recognize that spark in everyone else. It is the divine spark that makes us capable of loving and deserving to be loved. Everybody longs to be loved, and longs to know that he or she is lovable. So this Valentine Day we are reminded of our calling to love one another. In the words of Paul in 1 Cor. 13:13 "And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love."

*Pastor Marie*



**Valentine's Luncheon**  
**February 10, 2019 after worship.**

*We will have a Valentine's lunch following the church service on Sunday, February 10th. Chicken will be provided. Please bring your favorite side dish or dessert.*

## Dates to Remember

- 3 Hoyt Place Worship ~ 9:00am-9:30am  
Sunday School~ 9:45am  
Worship~ 10:45am Reverse Offering  
Communion Class of 2021  
All Children & Youth Activity during worship.
- 6 Planning~ 1:00pm~3:00pm  
Presbyterian Women~ 5:15pm
- 7 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Schlotzsky's  
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
- 10 Sunday School ~ 9:45am  
Worship ~ 10:45am  
Valentine Lunch after worship.  
Little Ones & IBK's ~ 5:00pm~6:00pm
- 13 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 14 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~Great Wall  
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
- 17 Sunday School~ 9:45am  
Worship~ 10:45am  
Youth (Middle & High School) 5:00pm~6:00pm
- 20 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm  
Session ~ 5:30pm
- 21 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Golden Chick  
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
- 24 Sunday School~9:45am  
Worship~ 10:45am  
Noisy Offering  
Little Ones & IBK's~ 5:00pm~6:00pm
- 27 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 28 Over the Hill Bunch ~11:30am~Bigg's  
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm



- 3 RuthAnn Campbell & Donella Parker  
10 Lou Ann Cumbie & Dennis Cumbie  
17 Paula Carmichael & Alan Carmichael  
24 Patty Gesin & Richard Gesin

### 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.*



- 1 Lily Catherine Smola  
4 Tabby Baugh  
5 Payton Moore  
7 Lacey LeBleu  
8 Tres Campbell  
10 Jack Aycock  
12 Gayle Biggerstaff  
14 Bette Byrd  
15 Buddy Alldredge  
Leigha Armstrong  
18 Gordon Nemir  
19 Greg Wortham  
20 David Bennett  
Tracy Wilburn  
Hannah Bennett  
23 Evalyn Bates  
27 Sherie Alldredge



### Directory Updates

Winnie Ruth Liner  
5501 Piping Rock Dr.  
Abilene, TX 79606-4361

Kirsten Elliott Burson  
PO Box 1465  
Panhandle, TX 79068-1465

Please send any changes to mailing address, phone numbers or emails to Becky 235-5491 or [secfpc@att.net](mailto:secfpc@att.net)  
Thank you!



**Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, February 6 at 5:15pm. We will continue our study, "Noah Built His Ark In the Sunshine, Chapter 12.**

## Headline: A New Education Ministry Opportunity For FPC

In Sunday School we have been looking for new ways to engage with studying the Bible and have come across a big resource that we believe can help our church: Right Now Media.

Billing itself as "the Netflix of Christian Media", Right Now offers a huge selection of Bible Studies, Christian teaching, classes and TV shows. Initially we were looking for a series of short videos to guide our Sunday School classes, but realized that this resource has a much greater potential to serve our youth and children's ministries, enrich our weeknight meetings, and bless congregation members who aren't able to make it to worship every week.

With funding from the Christian Education budget and contributions from our Sunday School class, we are planning a 6 month trial that allows all of our church family unlimited access to these resources.

Be on the lookout in the next few weeks for an email explaining how to view Right Now videos at home. If there is a need, Dorian has offered to lead a short workshop at the church to demonstrate how to get Right Now working on their phones, computers, or smart TVs.

- The Christian Education Committee



February 3: Being Super Bowl Sunday, we are doing our activity with the kids during service this week. We need all of our kids there from age 3 through high school! We hope you will all join us!

February 10: 5:00 - 6:00 Little Ones and IBKs

February 17: 5:00 - 6:00 Youth (Middle School and High School)

February 24: 5:00 - 6:00 Little Ones and IBKs

Lou Ann and Dorian

## Session Minutes

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

**Building and Grounds:** *The stained-glass project will be put on hold.*

*Dorian Westacott will check to see if the speakers in fellowship hall can be tied in to the sanctuary as well as to the TV in fellowship hall.*

*The committee recommendation was approved of hiring Jim Gesin as superintendent of grounds at \$2,000 a year to oversee Ryan McCorkle and to take some of the load from him. Gutters need cleaning and drains need cleaning.*

*Sherie Alldredge will choose a light fixture for room in fellowship hall.*

## Fellowship

*A Valentine's luncheon will be held on February 10, 2019 after worship service. Fried chicken will be provided, and members will bring side dishes and desserts.*

## Mission and Outreach:

*Our participation in the food bank continues. A check for \$200 was given to the SHOP in December.*

## Worship Committee:

*The recommended communion dates for 2019 were approved. A training will be conducted so that Alan Carmichael and Sherie Alldredge can serve communion to residents at Hoyt House.*

## Moderator's Report:

*Reverend Mickey attended a Buffalo Gap meeting on January 5, 2019. Discussion of a fundraiser took place. It was reported that Buffalo Gap had the largest attendance for summer camp in history. Reverend Mickey did a gravesite service in Nolan on January 12, 2019 for Pat Gable.*

## Old Business:

*After some glitches, the pastor job should now be posted.*

## New Business:

*A congregational meeting was set for January 27, 2019 so the Nominating Committee can present the new slate of elder officers for the class of 2021 for congregational approval. The names to be presented are: Buddy Alldredge, Gary Brown, Alan Carmichael, and Lou Ann Cumbie.*

*Boo Nemir will give devotional and serve as Elder of the Month for February 2019.*

*Alan Carmichael was elected to serve as elder commissioner for the 142<sup>nd</sup> stated Palo Duro Presbytery meeting on January 25 and 26, 2019.*

*The next Session meeting will be held on February 20, 2019.*

## Children and Youth Activities January



We all wrote New Year's Resolutions.  
Harper Gee, Peyton Gee, Brynlee Scott



A lot a shaving cream + a little paint =  
a lot a messy fun!!  
Katie Reed and Caleb Reed

First Presbyterian Church 2019 Budget	
<b>Income</b>	
Texas Presbyterian Foundation	3,500.00
Withdrawal from Investments	
Youth Director Contributions	7,000.00
Plate Income	7,000.00
Pledge Income	144,026.05
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 161,526.05</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
<b>Benevolence/Mission</b>	
Austin Seminary	0.00
Buffalo Gap Camp	1,200.00
Local Mission	300.00
Palo Duro Presbytery	
Per Capita \$	1,602.05
Pledge \$	2,000.00
Presbyterian Childrens Home	1,200.00
Presbyterian Women	1,500.00
<b>Total Benevolence/Mission</b>	<b>\$ 7,802.05</b>
<b>Church Programs</b>	
Advertising	100.00
Choir Music	200.00
Christian Ed	300.00
Fellowship	750.00
Mission & Outreach	300.00
Scholarships (Camp & Conference)	0.00
Session Expense	50.00
Session Presbytery Expense	200.00
Worship	200.00
Youth	100.00
Youth Sponsors	0.00
<b>Total Church Program</b>	<b>\$ 2,200.00</b>
<b>Church Property</b>	
Building Maintenance	1,000.00
Capital Improvement	0.00
Church Insurance	10,000.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	800.00
Dues/Subscriptions	50.00
Janitorial Supplies	250.00
Janitorial Service	6,500.00
Office	500.00
Copier Maintenance	1,000.00
Postage	300.00
Church Management Program	500.00
Utilities - Gas & Electric	10,000.00
Utilities - Telephone/Internet	1,500.00
Utilities - Water (City of Swater)	1,200.00
<b>Total Church Property</b>	<b>\$ 33,600.00</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	
Youth Directors	12,000.00
Choir Director	1,800.00
Nursery Attendant	1,800.00
Organist Salary	4,700.00
Pastor Salary	38,835.00
Pastor Housing Allowance	15,534.00
Pastor Allowances	300.00
Pastor Car Allowance	5,800.00
Pastor Continuing Education	1,000.00
Pastor Pension & Insurance	20,108.00
Pulpit Supply	500.00
Secretary Salary	9,600.00
Soc Sec/Medicare	2,647.00
Substitute Employee	300.00
Treasurer	3,000.00
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 117,924.00</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 161,526.05</b>