

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

March 2018

*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

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Elder of the Month: Buddy Alldredge

“Even now”, declare the Lord, “return to me with all your heart.” (Joel 2:12). These words from the prophet underlie one of the most important themes of Lent. These forty days before Easter are an excellent opportunity to examine that promise we made so long ago when we professed our faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, renounced evil and affirmed our reliance on God’s grace. Being distracted by our many responsibilities and worldly attractions, it is easy to fall into habits that draw us away from God.

Additionally, we may have had difficult and painful experiences that cause us to question God’s awareness. Lent is the time to examine the quality of our efforts in sustaining that relationship into which God has called us.

In worship, this Lent we are exploring the book of Lamentations, often called the saddest book of the Bible so it is not one we often read or study. Yet, there is much to learn that is relevant to our examination of our relationship with God. First, we see the importance and efficacy of praying boldly and honestly to God when we are in the midst of crisis, both personal and spiritual, and feel nothing but despair. Second, we learn that our plight is often the result of our sinful actions. Third, we come to embrace the truth that nothing can separate us from God’s love. There is hope, always, as we know God’s love through the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf. Our response, then, is to return to God with all our hearts.

In the remaining weeks of Lent we have much to look forward to including the joyful parade of Palm Sunday, the Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae service with communion, and of course, the celebration of the Risen Christ on Easter morning. I rejoice that, together as the church family, we can glorify God with our hearts, mind, and souls.

Peace, Pastor Marie



- 4 Karen Brown and Gary Brown
- 11 Doug Richards and Donella Parker
- 18 Keith Brock
- 25 Lou Ann Cumbie and Dennis Cumbie



- 1 Robert Hampton
Chris Maxwell
- 2 Peyton Gee
- 3 Marina Wilcox
- 5 Leslie Bond
- 6 Ann Shirley
- 9 Kim Cason
- 10 Major Briggs
- 11 Tracey Smola
Nancy Spillers
- 12 Jeannette Bryant
- 16 Jeff Stein
- 19 Dane Bennett
- 25 Jenny Smola
Amy Westacott
- 27 Beth Maxwell
- 30 Bill Brock
Betsy Howe
Kallen Moody

Dates to Remember

- 1 Over the Hill Bunch~ 11:30am~ Dairy Queen
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 4 *3rd Sunday in Lent*
Hoyt Place Worship ~ 9:00am-9:30am
Sunday School~ 9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am Reverse Offering
Communion Class of 2020
Little Ones & IBKs~ 5pm-6pm
- 5 Bible Study~ 6:30pm~Psalm 82
Loren & Jeannette's
- 7 Lenten Lunch~12:00pm~ Trinity Baptist
Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
Presbyterian Women~ 5:15pm
- 8 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Buck's
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 11 *4th Sunday in Lent*
Daylight Savings Time Begins
No Sunday School
Worship ~ 10:45am
- 14 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 15 Over the Hill Bunch ~11:30am~ Heff's
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 18 *5th Sunday in Lent*
Sunday School~ 9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am
Congregation and Neighborhood Picnic
In the Garden~ After Church
(Deadline to order Lilies)
- 19 Bible Study~ 6:30pm
- 21 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
Session~ 5:30pm
- 22 Over the Hill Bunch ~ 11:30am~ Skeet's
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 25 *Palm Sunday*
Sunday School~9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am~ Noisy Offering
Children's Church
Middle School & High School~ 5pm-6pm
- 28 Lenten Lunch~ 12:00pm
First United Methodist
Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 29 Over the Hill Bunch ~ 11:30am~Pizza Hut
Maundy Thursday~ 5:30pm~ Chapel

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. Come join us in this wonderful Ministry of fellowship.



Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, March 7 at 5:15pm. We will review Chapter 6 of our study book, "Noah Built His Ark in the Sunshine" by James Moore.



Sweetwater Ministerial Alliance Lenten Lunch Schedule 12:

March 7 Trinity Baptist Church

March 28 First United Methodist Church



Help us fill our sanctuary with Easter lilies on Easter morning to help celebrate the rising of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please give an Easter lily in honor or in memory of a loved one.

The cost is \$20 per lily. The deadline for ordering lilies is March 18th. Sweetwater Floral will deliver the lilies. Order forms will be available in the bulletin each Sunday or in the church office.

Fellowship Committee

Thank you to everyone that joined us for the pancake supper. It was a great night for those of us that attended! A special thank you to those on our Fellowship Committee for their help in making this a successful evening.

Please mark your calendars for our Easter Breakfast on April 1st starting at 9:30. It was a great time last year and we hope for the same this year.

Thank you
DeeAnne



Help is needed to help plant new rose bushes in the garden. If you can help, please contact the church office, 235-5491, secfpc@att.net



Please bring plastic eggs and individually wrapped candy by March 25 (Palm Sunday) for our Easter Egg Hunt.



Congregation and Neighborhood Cookout

All are invited to a hot dog cookout on March 18th after worship. Flyers will be distributed inviting the families in the neighborhood to join the congregation for a picnic in the garden.



March 4: 5:00 - 6:00 Little Ones and IBKs

March 18: Welcome to Spring Cookout for the Congregation and Neighborhood after church in the garden! Dorian, LouAnn, and Dennis will be cooking hotdogs!

March 25: Palm Sunday The kids (Little Ones, IBKS, middle school, high school) and the choir will carry in the palms while singing. Children's Church today during worship
5:00 - 6:00 Youth fill the eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt next week after church.

April 1: Easter Egg Hunt after church for babies - 5th graders

February Children and Youth 2018



Emily Hammit, Peyton Gee, Harper Gee, Brynlee Scott, Caden Wilburn, Rhyder Glass, Kreed Davis

Breakfast Buddies



Emily Hammit and Nita Hampton

Shrove Tuesday~ Pancake Supper



Little Ones and IBKs visited Jack and Jodie Aycock and Arleen Kennedy and Hoyt Place



Sherie Alldredge, Rev. Marie Mickey, Prudencia Mekogue

