

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

March 2021

*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: Kathy Monroe 325-998-3353

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Clerk of Session: Gayle Biggerstaff

Elder of the Month: Jeannette Bryant

As we move into March, traveling along through Lent, I pray that our hearts will be opened in new ways, to the truth of Christ living in us.

God wearing flesh matters. We find healing comfort in knowing that the Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood to live with us.

It was the wounds and scars of our Savior that allowed Thomas to recognize the risen Christ. And it is often our own wounds and scars that allow us to see Christ in our midst, providing healing and transformation to all of our bodies for the sake of God's kingdom.

When we draw close to Christ through daily introspection, we get to wear the body of our Lord: ears, eyes, hands, feet, heart, and all. As Teresa of Avila once said, "Christ has no body but yours."

Jesus, we thank you for your body, broken for love's sake.

We thank you for your ears, listening attentively to our cries.

We thank you for your eyes, seeing each one of your children.

We thank you for your hands, stretching out with compassion.

We thank you for your heart, opening to every living thing.

We thank you for your body, given to us as a gift of life.

Through your example may we become more attentive to the cries of others, may we see each other as you see us, may we stretch out our hands with compassion, and open our hearts, through service to your world.

Blessings in this time of Lent!

Kathy



Bulletin Board by Jessica Bond and Barbara Bond

Dates to Remember

7 *Third Sunday in Lent*

Adult Sunday School~ 9:45am

Worship~ 10:45am Reverse Offering

Communion (Prepared wafers and grape juice containers will be in trays in the narthex to be picked up when you go into worship.)

All Children and Youth 4:30pm-6:30pm



14 **Daylight Savings Time Begins**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Adult Sunday School~ 9:45a

Worship ~ 10:45am

21 *Fifth Sunday in Lent*

Adult Sunday School~ 9:45am

Worship~ 10:45am

All Children and Youth 4:30pm-6:30pm

24 Session ~ 5:30pm

28 *Palm Sunday*

Adult Sunday School~ 9:45am

Worship~ 10:45am~ Youth Sunday

Noisy Offering



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 Amy Westacott

27 Beth Maxwell

30 Bill Brock

Kallen Moody

Brrr...glad spring is on it's way! When the kids and I met last week, we had some of our lesson outside. Everyone enjoyed the sunshine after that week of freezing cold temperatures. They enjoyed the playground and learned about the columbarium, too.

Having both age groups on the same evening is working out well! 3 years old - 5th grade meet from 4:30 - 5:45, and middle school and high school meet from 5:30 - 6:30...but most kids are staying the whole time, which is great! While I meet with the younger ones, the older ones enjoy the game room (pool table, ping pong table, etc). When I meet with the older ones, the younger ones love to play in the room with all of the toys.

This month, we will meet the evenings of:

March 7

March 21

March 28 is Palm Sunday, and it will be the next time the kids participate in the church service.

Wouldn't it be nice if our kids and the choir would start our service off with coming down the aisle with palm branches and signing 'Oh, Ho-sanna' like we always do? We sure miss our choir!

More people are returning to church, and it sure is great to see everyone! We are looking forward to the day when everyone has returned.

Blessings,
Lou Ann



Reminder to Contribute to The Blessing Box

The Blessing Box is inspired by the Parable of the Goats and the Sheep found in Matthew 25. It is another project of our very active Presbyterian Women.

The concept is simply “take what you need, leave what you can.” Think of it as a mini-Goodwill store that is open 24/7/ Items are left in the Box to be available to strangers. Items may include clothing, shoes, toys, games, puzzles, books, DVD’s, can goods, dog/cat food, bottled water, toilet articles, etc.

The Blessing Box is located outside the garden fence on McCaulley St. Place items in the box.

Stewardship - The Blessing of Giving

Matthew 6:21

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Can’t find your heart? Look for the treasure.

If your heart is set on earthly things, there your treasure is also. It may seem obvious to us, yet the one thing Christ wants, we find extremely difficult to give. Christ knows what treasure we have – money, possessions,

jobs, personal achievement. These are not bad in and of themselves, but our hearts do not belong there. In order to live God’s will each day, we must remember our treasure must be in heaven for our heart to belong to Christ.

First Presbyterian Church 2021 Financial Report

2021 Budget	Plate and Pledge Needed
\$144,494.42	Monthly \$11,766.00
Month	January
Plate & Pledge	\$11,270.00
Dividends & Other Contributions	\$ 4,239.66
Expenses	\$12,774.42

2021 Noisy Offering	
Designated to the Ministerial Alliance	
Received Year to Date	\$115.54

2021 Food Pantry	
Designated to the Nolan County Food Pantry	
Received Year to Date	\$65.00

Session Minutes

Stewardship and Finance: Financial Report was unanimously approved. She noted that there would be approximately \$21,000.00 in the Nunn Trust that will be available for use this year. She also informed Session members that an anonymous donation was made for the purchase of a new computer for the church secretary. Another anonymous donation had been received to hire a company for two visits to disinfect the sanctuary and first floor of the church.

Building and Grounds: Gary Brown of the Building and Grounds Committee reported that an outside leak had been repaired.

Christian Education: Lou Ann Cumbie of the Christian Education Committee informed Session members that the next Youth Sunday will be March 28th.

Worship Committee: Jim Gesin of the Worship Committee is working with the Moderator in gathering information to apply for a Synod grant.

The grant funds would go towards construction of a labyrinth in the church garden.

Moderator's Report: The Moderator reported she had sent out cards and letters to church members letting them know they are thought of and they are welcome to contact her.

February Activities

Youth Service



Artwork by Katie Reed



Averi Moody and Harper Gee
Acolytes



Emily Hammit, Owen Hammit, Averi Moody,
Harper Gee, Brynlee Scott, Peyton Gee,
Mackenzie Lambert, Kallen Moody,
Kreed Davis, Caden Wilburn





Caden Wilburn
Call to Worship



Brynlee Scott
Assurance of Pardon



Emily Hammit
Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession
Owen Hammit
AMEN!



Mackenzie Lambert
Prayer for Illumination



Kallen Moody
The Message
"Three Questions God Answers for
Jeremiah and Us"



