

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

April 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

website: www.fpcsweetwater.org

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

email: fpcsweetwater@gmail.com

Pastor: Kathy Monroe 325-998-3353

email: kdmonroe17@gmail.com

Clerk of Session: Gayle Biggerstaff

Elder of the Month: Hilary Brennan

Friends,

I hardly know where to begin to express the joy and gratitude I have for the wonderful opportunity to serve as your pastor these past 2 ½ years. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this church family and working with you in the various ministries and passions of this congregation. You truly make my heart sing. You are a vibrant, caring, and enthusiastic fellowship of the family of God living out the path set before us in Christ. I am grateful for the laughter, the tears, the wisdom, and the hope that we have shared. I know that you will welcome Kathy and support her with the same spirit.

May the light of God surround you; the love of God uphold you; the power of God protect you; the presence of God watch over you.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Marie

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Friends,

One Sunday a man was riding a subway in New York. Suddenly another man and his children got on the subway. They were making all kinds of noise, yelling, throwing things, and running around the car. What had been a peaceful group of people reading their papers and minding their own business was interrupted by all this madness. The father of these children had sat down by this other man who was already on the subway. Finally, this man told the father that his children were bothering a lot of people. The father replied, "Oh, you're right. I guess I should do something about it. We just

came from the hospital where their mother died about an hour ago. I don't know what to think, and I guess they don't know how to handle it either."

That describes so well the shape the disciples were in from Friday afternoon all the way up to Sunday morning. They were at a complete loss. Everything they had bet their lives on over the last three years had come tumbling in around them. They had pinned all their hopes on Jesus, and they saw Jesus defeated. But then the morning came, and the morning brought the light of a new day. Since that morning nothing has ever been the same.

The resurrection of Jesus is His defining moment. More than anything else He said, or did, or accomplished, this made Him who He is in the eyes of untold millions of people across 20 centuries. This was the defining moment of Christ, and this enables us to see who He is.

When the final history of mankind has been written, its proudest glory would be that there once walked into ancient Jerusalem and into the hearts of mankind a simple peasant named Jesus of Nazareth. Because of Him and because of what happened in the early morning of a spring day in old Jerusalem the entire world and the history of humankind has never been the same.

And we are so very grateful.....

So excited to be with you starting the 1st of April! What a month this will be, oh what a glorious month!

Pastor Kathy



- 3 Jordan Graham VonRoeder
- 4 Hunter Rotan
- 5 Martha Harvey
- 6 Caden Wilburn
- 10 Boopsie Stanford  
Tommy Maitland
- 14 Makee McCollom
- 19 Bradley Armstrong
- 25 Nick Nemir
- 29 Emily Brock Ledesma  
Wesley Maxwell

### Hoyt Place

*There will be no church services at Hoyt Place until further notice.*



Presbyterian Women will not meet this month. However, Lessons 7 - 9 of Love Carved in Stone DVD now available for free!

Visit [PW's YouTube channel](#) to access the videos.



The Brick Project is an ongoing project for PW. The first order of bricks will be placed this week, but you can turn in your order anytime. The order forms are on the small table in the office.

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The Worship committee decided not to order Easter Lilies this year.

Bible study will not meet for the next 3 weeks.

Planning, Over the Hill Bunch, and Choir will not meet until future notice.

The Blessing Box

**A new outreach mission for
First Presbyterian Church**



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. It is supported by another one of their projects, the sale of memorial bricks.

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, bottle water, toilet articles, etc.

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

Blessings from the Blessing Box



Congratulations to Dane and Ariel Bennett on the birth of their daughter
Jameson Lylia Bennett

Proud grandparents
Paula & Alan Carmichael



New address:
Dane and Ariel Bennett
380 Quail Bend
Sealy, TX 77474

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Correspondence~ Session did not meet this month. The following correspondence was received.

We received a thank you from Presbyterian Mission PCUSA.

"We give thanks to you for your support of Special Offerings, our collective witness to the love of Jesus Christ. We received \$858.00 for the Christmas Joy Offering. Your congregation's giving, when combined with that of others, will share the love of Christ with those in need."

West Texas Children's Advocacy Center sent Thank you for donations to Angel Tree.

"We want to express our appreciation for your generosity and commitment on behalf of the children and their non-offending family members in the communities we serve. More children and their families are being serviced with Family Advocacy, mental health and other services that may be needed

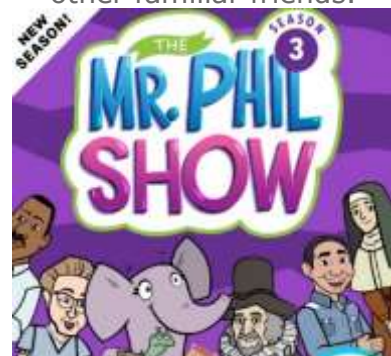
rightnow MEDIA

There are opportunities on Right Now Media for study for adults and children. Below are a few suggestions.

In these one-session Bible studies on the parables of Jesus, Jonathan Evans and Jamin Roller give us fresh perspective on God's plan for our lives.



Just released! Two new seasons of *The Mr. Phil Show* are now available. Learn more about God's Word with Martin Luther King, Jr. and other familiar friends.



Learn what the Bible says about our fears and anxiety and how God's love can strengthen us in times of trouble.



Remember you can still sign up and you are welcome to share this with family members and friends. The sign up link is on the website, www.fpcsweetwater.org

Stewardship - The Manner of Giving

1 Corinthians 13:3

If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

In this familiar chapter on love, we observe to what lengths God has gone to emphasize the absolute necessity of love motivating all we do.

The first three verses list spiritual gifts and actions raised to their maximum level, attainable only by the Lord Jesus. It's tempting to think these are impossible to accomplish apart from love. We see only outward appearance, but God sees the heart.

Paul reminds us in Romans 5:8 that God demonstrated His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us. True love always leads to sacrificial giving of oneself for others. To truly love is to give ourselves away for Christ's sake.

When God looks at us, does He see a "noisy nothing"? Do we have little love for Him and our neighbor, therefore giving little? Have we given to Him and our neighbor without love, therefore gaining nothing? Or, does our love for Him overflow out of us, propelling us toward using every gift from Him for the love of the Lord Jesus and our neighbor?

First Presbyterian Church 2020 Financial Report

2020 Budget \$150,492.05
Needed Monthly \$12,250.00

Month	Plate & Pledge	Expenses
January	\$13,058.00	\$12,346.79
February	\$ 8,858.00	\$ 9,884.70

Received Year to Date \$21,916.00
Over (**Under**) **(\$2,584.00)**

2020 Noisy Offering

Designated toward the Ministerial Alliance

Received Year to Date \$209.65

2020 Food Pantry

Designated to Nolan County Food Pantry

Received Year to Date \$220.00

Reminder: Offerings can be mailed to P.O. Box 956 or drop by the church office. There is an offering plate on the table in my office. There will also be the noisy offering bucket on the table to put your loose change. If you mail in your noisy offering donation, make the check out to First Presbyterian Church, memo line- Noisy Offering. You can also bring items for the food pantry.

These Days devotionals for April, May, June are also available.

The church office is open M-F 9am-Noon.



Times have certainly changed all of our lives in the last few weeks. I am praying that we are back to church and our regular activities very soon. I will carry on with the activities on Sunday evenings for our kids as long as they are willing; we are under 10 in attendance each week. If we are going to have the Easter Service and Easter Egg Hunt, we would like your donations of plastic eggs and candy to put in them. Let's hold off on that until a little later. Becky will send us an email, and we can work quickly to pull it together! Here is this week's plan for now.

LouAnn

April 5 (Palm Sunday): If we have church today, the kids will proceed in with the choir during worship
5:00 - 6:00 Middle School and High School



April 12: (Easter Sunday): If we have church, **Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn right after our church service. All kids bring your baskets!**

April 19: 5:00 - 6:00 Little Ones and IBKs

April 26: 5:00 - 6:00 Middle School and High School

Kathy Monroe's Commissioning Service



*Bulletin Board by Jessica Bond and Barbara Bond
Peyton Gee, Averi Gee,
Emily Hammit, Brynlee Scott*

