

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

July 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

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Pastor: Rev. Marie Mickey 979-574-6348

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Clerk of Session: Paula Huckabee

Elder of the Month: Buddy & Sherie Alldredge

I often quote Brene Brown in my sermons. She is a Ph.D., LMSW, professor, speaker, and author who studies courage, vulnerability, shame, and empathy. Her books include Daring Greatly, Braving the Wilderness, and Dare to Lead. Brown's premise is the cultural climate of today is dominated by fear, greed, and degrading others to the status of a mere object. She contends that what is missing is our ability to be vulnerable which means the ability to share our true self; our authentic self. That makes us fearful because vulnerability opens us to being hurt, pain, and rejection. No one wants that, but Brown says that is the only way we can fully live the lives given to us by God. Vulnerability requires us to trust which Brown describes as a process comprised of seven elements:

Boundaries—respecting each other's boundaries and to ask when we are not sure what's okay and not okay.

Reliability—doing what we say we will do. That requires us to not overcommit but doing those things which you can follow through and deliver what we promise.

Accountability—admit mistakes, apologize, and make amends.

Vault—keeping confidences and only sharing information that have permission to share.

Integrity—choosing courage over comfort; practicing our values rather just talking about them.

Non judgment—asking for what we need without fear that we will be judged for it; not judging others for disagreeing with us.

Generosity—rather than being critical and judgmental, be generous in interpreting the intentions, words, and actions of others.

All of these elements sound rather familiar. Perhaps it is because they resemble Jesus' teachings—"love one another as I have loved you." When we maintain our integrity, we honor God and who God has created us to be. Be brave and live your God-given life. The world depends on it.

Pastor Marie

Dates to Remember

- 3 All Congregation Fellowship
Pool & Ice Cream Party
5:00pm-6:30pm Alan & Paula Carmichael's
20 Lakewood
- 4 4th of July Holiday
Church Office Closed Thurs.-Fri. 4th-5th.
- 7 Hoyt Place Worship ~ 9:00am-9:30am
Sunday School~ 9:45am
Worship~ 10:45am Reverse Offering
Communion Class of 2020
- 10 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 11 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Schlotzsky's
- 14 Sunday School ~ 9:45am
Worship ~ 10:45am
- 15 All Children & Youth~ Lunar Miniature Golf
Meet at Church at 5:15pm
- 17 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 18 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Great Wall
- 21 Sunday School~ 9:45am
Worship~ 10:45am
- 24 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 25 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Golden Chick
- 28 Sunday School~9:45am
Worship~ 10:45am
Noisy Offering
- 31 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm



- 7 Keith Brock
- 14 DeeAnne McFarland
- 21 Patty Gesin and Richard Gesin
- 28 Doug Richards



- 3 Dorothy Richards
- 4 Kay Hamlin
- 5 Donella Parker
Elizabeth Hammit
- 10 Scarlett Whitteker
- 11 Stacy McCollom Belk
- 12 Blake Cumbie
Ethan Boswell
- 15 Remelle Farrar
- 17 Judy Byrd
- 18 Dylan Bennett
- 20 Bill Shirley
- 24 Jim Gesin
- 26 Dorian Westacott
- 28 Becky Brock
Kirk Stroman
- 29 Pat Beall
- 31 Reece Whitteker



All Congregation Fellowship

Mark your calendars! Fellowship, swim, hot dogs, and ice cream sundaes at **Alan and Paula Carmichael's house, 20 Lakewood,** for the whole family!!
July 3 from 5-6:30.
Invite your friends and families!!

Thank You

I would like to thank the following people for their help with the luncheon for Jack Aycocck's service:

- Patty Gesin
- Donella Parker
- Barbara Bond
- Karen Brown
- Sherie Alldredge
- Boo Nemir
- Linda Duncan
- Evalyn Bates
- LouAnn Cumbie
- LaVynda Montgomery

And a special Thank You to Barbara Bond for her donation of new tablecloths for our Fellowship Hall tables.

DeeAnne McFarland

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.



Thank you for all your donations to the Pentecost Offering this year. \$318 will go to the local ministry of The SHOP, and \$477 will go to the PCUSA missions.

rightnow MEDIA

Study the bible with your family
this summer!

We are encouraging you all to study through 1st Peter with your whole family this summer, using these free studies available on RightNow Media.

For Adults & Teens



This world looks nothing like the promised perfect kingdom of God. And yet we as God's people must live in it every day. In The Book of 1 Peter, Kyle Idleman walks through the short letter and unpacks the importance of our witness in this world. The world's not as it should be. Until the day that God rights all wrongs, we have a job to do. Let's be about the business of the kingdom.

For Children



Phil Vischer, Founder of Jellyfish Labs and co-creator of the acclaimed Veggie Tales, dives into the book of 1 Peter to answer the question, "Where does Hope come from?" With the help of some animated friends, Phil unpacks what it means to live with hope for a better, heavenly home.



July 3: Swim Party at Alan and Paula Carmichael's house (20 Lakewood) 5:00 - 6:30 Hot dogs and ice-cream sundaes. Bring your family and friends!

July 15: Lunar Miniature Golf (Mall of Abilene). Meet at the church at 5:15



The SHOP News

A big thank you to Doug Richards our newest SHOP board member, for the donations of all these drinks. We look forward to serving alongside you!

Stewardship - The Measure of Giving

2 Corinthians 8:3-4

For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. And they exceed our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

Paul writes that these believers "gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability." Typically, we say we give "what we can afford". That often means we donate whatever we can spare without cramping our lifestyle. We fit God into the budget after much of the other stuff is afforded. But these Christians saw things differently; they gave more than they were obligated to give. Their attitude was that it was a privilege to share in God's work. When we give our gifts to God, it should be a reflection of the fact that we have already given ourselves to God. What motivates us to give to the Lord? Perhaps we will see our giving as a privilege and follow the example of the believers in 2 Corinthians 8:3-5.

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

Received Year to Date \$54,418.00
Over (Under) Budget \$(8,502.00)

2019 Noisy Offering Designated toward the Ministerial Alliance

Received Year to Date \$582.23

2019 Food Pantry

Designated to Nolan County Food Pantry

Received Year to Date \$235.00

Session Minutes

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

Building and Grounds: *The committee is getting bids to replace the carpet in the pastor's and secretary's office and the choir room.*

Christian Education: *Several families were going to the water park in Abilene.*

Columbarium: *The Columbarium members were presented and the motion was made and approved for Jim Gesin a 3 year term, Boo Nemir a 2 year term, and Paula Huckabee a 1 year term.*

Fellowship: *A meal was provided for the family of Jack Aycock after the service. New tablecloths are being donated by Barbara and Leslie Bond and Jessica Bond and Guy Bond for the fellowship hall tables.*

Mission and Outreach: *Reverend Mickey reported that several dozen cookies have been delivered by the Congregation to serve at "The Shop" on Friday, June 21, 2019 by FPC Volunteers. Doug Richards told Session that the meals are now being provided by "The Shop".*

Doug announced that "The Shop" is having a fundraiser at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 28, 2019 at Argos on the square. He said that FPC has purchased a table for the fundraiser with money from the Pentecost Offering 40% Local Funds.

Personnel: *The Administrative Clerk Job Duties, Coordinator(s) of Children and Youth Ministries Job Duties, and 2019 Holidays were unanimously approved.*

Moderator's Report: *Reverend Mickey reported that she is taking vacation in August and will not be present for the August 4th and August 11th Worship Services. She has secured Sue Lucas for the August 11th Worship Service and is making contacts for the August 4th Worship Service. She announced that Session will not meet for a regular scheduled meeting in July.*

Dance Recital 2019



Harper Gee and Peyton Gee



Emily Hammit



Brynlee Scott

Trip to the Library



Brynlee & Harper
(Notice the planning mats)

Planning Group



Prudencia Mekogue, Boo Nemir, Donella Parker, Inez Walker, Grace Brooks, Rev. Marie Mickey, Lea Cleveland, Patty Gesin

Adventure Cove in Abilene



Vision 2020 Progress



Jim Gesin



The SHOP



Doug Richards

Thank you to Doug, Betty, Gary, Karen, Boo, LouAnn and Cayley for volunteering at The SHOP, and everyone that donated cookies for The SHOP last Friday.



Boo Nemir



Cayley Scott, Karen Brown,
Lou Ann Cumbie, Gary Brown



Betty Richards