

The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

April, 2021

From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgtravis@gmail.com



Life is an interesting venture. It rises and falls. It comes and goes. It begins and ends. In the midst of all life's changes and variables so much happens and so many tales are written. It's rather amazing to me.

I've been thinking a lot about the past year in recent days. I suppose my mind wanders there often because it's been a long year and so many things have changed, so many lives have been rearranged. We're preparing to begin in-person worship again as I write this and much of my attention is currently directed toward what worship will look like and what changes we'll need to make as we become more comfortable and as COVID appears even further behind in the rearview mirror. Many questions arise: How long will we wear masks? When will we be able to have fellowship events and share a good meal together? When will choir begin singing again? What about the yard sales we do each year? Will we have VBS this year? We don't know the answers to all these questions at this time but clarity will come and God will direct. I am pleased to be looking at these queries and hopeful that we may mark our calendars with actual dates soon.

A church is a gathering of people, a community striving to follow the Christ. Much of our life source is ignited by being together, by gathering and worshipping our God – together. It's not necessary that we physically be together to be in community but it surely does help. Long distance relationships are tricky and being with one another as the church surely helps close the distance between our members and enables each of us to feel closer to God. Seems to me that's pretty much the point of the church getting together.

Communities change and church rolls reflect that change. We've had more than our share of deaths this year and many of our members have made moves to new locations. I don't know that those numbers are significantly higher than in years past but when considered in the context of this particular year they seem outsized to me. I get kind of tender when I review those deaths and moves and the fact that we haven't been able to gather as a community to share our sense of loss. I think it's important in the life of the church to mark the comings and goings of those who do church with us. We are family.

Congregations change. They always have and always will. People come and go and when loss is experienced in the church someone steps in to fill the void and to accept a new roll in the church's life. It's not always the same but it keeps things moving along. The church adapts.

I was reminded of this yesterday when I received the call that a very dear friend of mine has terminal cancer and there's really nothing medically to be done. I've been close with him for 25 years and he has been a mentor and incredible presence in my life and in my ministry. He performs an enormous role in his church and he will be missed in so many ways. It was a tough day for me and my heart hurts.

But before that day was over, I received word of the birth of Allison Kay Graham to Emily and Tony and Elliott's family and received a picture of this tiny pink being. It gave new meaning to the words "life goes on." It surely does. God does that.

I am reminded of something Mr. Rogers once said: "Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." Often even the simplest truths can be profound. Some things have come to an end but surely we are at the beginning of something else. Seems like a good word to remember as Holy Week approaches. It may be Friday – but Sunday's coming. God does that, too.

See you Sunday,

Drew

**Reminder beginning Sunday, March 28 we will have 2
in-person Services at 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

Prayer of the Month

Pat Collins, Prayer chain coordinator
pat.collins37@yahoo.com



I'm seeing a lot of people without masks these days and I am concerned. Not for me — I've had Covid (last October) and two vaccines over a month ago. I'm feeling somewhat bulletproof for the moment. I'm worried about the rest of the population, though. Or, maybe, I am just being hyper alert for disaster after the trauma of the past almost-a-year. Maybe some of you are at that point, too. Having had our guard up against most of the people we might ordinarily greet with a loose hug but real joy at seeing, and looking askance and backing away from people we do not know and whose masks draped their beards or were otherwise displaced (rendering them completely ineffective), a lot of us have become a little jumpier about people in general.

Jumpy begets jumpy, I think, and we will have to work on losing that hyper-awareness of the microbial world and the trickle-down effect of such awareness. Those of us tempted to become semi-hermits, or total hermits, might have to consult God about that decision. I know from experience that consulting with God is much, much handier than having God tap you on the shoulder for a talk. It's too early for a total immersion in community life, but, trust me, that day will be coming and I want to participate shoulder to shoulder with all of the rest of you. That means you will have to be there, too. And I want to sing and be sung to by our choir. I am longing for the full worship experience, aren't you? God will continue helping us with our patience, but we will have to prepare ourselves to be ready to trust when the time is right. Yes, I know we are meeting now, but masked and distanced — so,

NOT NORMAL.

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father. — we seek you in your radiant white, risen from death, walking the earth with your followers. We confess our sins and see our limitations as your servants, longing, always longing to be better in ways we serve. We are so very blessed and grateful for our redemption. As spring unwinds, we give thanks for the freshness and renewal we see around us, demonstrating just what eternal and prolific mean. Your world is rich in color, variety, and complexity. Thank you for laying it all before our eyes. Let us see it.

We ask, Father, that you to bless our church, its ministers and the many who serve us as elders and committee members. Guide and uplift them. Bless all the members and their friends and families and help bring them back to your community of faith. We know the day of full worship together will come; prepare us for that.

Please bring your presence to the forefront of all minds so that healing can continue. Let what is peaceful and nurturing be fed through witness and your word. Let evil starve from lack of investment as all eyes seek only you.

Bless our country, its leaders, and let democracy prevail. Bless the doctors and nurses who serve the ill and dying. It is a difficult job. Be with those who are sick and dying and comfort those who grieve. Have mercy on those who have no one to pray for them. Bless and protect the children.

We pray in the name of Christ.

Pat Collins



Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder
817-573-9153
susanyounk@gmail.com



April Birthdays

- 2 Thomas Bennett
- 3 Jackson Briese
- 7 Deanna Haltom
Mike Christopher
- 8 Earl Haberkamp
Stan Bowlin
- 9 Benjamin
Brownfield
- 10 Linda Nolen
- 13 Bill Brownfield
- 14 John Copeland
Kelly Harding
Margie Randles
- 20 Levi Luersen/
Young
- 21 Dolores Goodall
Sally Garland
- 23 Betty Werbung
- 24 Mike Gulinson
- 25 Dolores A. Groom
- 26 Terry Worcester
- 27 Claudia Southern
Linda Somervill
- 29 Lynne
Schoeneman
- 30 Dennie Treat
Jerry Long



April Anniversaries

- 9 Jim and Julie Dean
- 14 Ron and Betty
Simpson
- 16 Don and Beverly
Williams
- 30 Kenneth and Juanita
Morgan

At home and/or receiving treatment

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Diann McHaney | Martha Ferrill |
| Lynn Schoeneman | Ed Smith |
| Judy & Curt Farley | Stan Bowlin |
| Winette Lovelady | Bill Lowe |
| Edith George | Ruth Gump |
| Jean Haight | JD Finlay |

At care/retirement facilities

Courtyards at Lake Granbury
Mary Skinner

Waterview at Lake Granbury
Ted Dolan
Nita Collinsworth

The Cove at Lake Granbury
Eloise Pauli

Quail Park
John Cheney
Charles Basket

The Oaks of Granbury
CH Tubbs

Autumn Hill Manor (Weatherford)
Dee Holt

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF OUR MEMBERS

- Shirley Crise

CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- * Lynn Schoeneman after experiencing serious post surgery blood clots.
- * Ruth Gump as she continues to heal after a hip revision surgery.
- * CH Tubbs as he recovers from COVID.
- * Dan Crise as he mourns the passing of his beloved wife, Shirley.
- * Rhiannon Orbe following hospitalization.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY CONCERNS

- * CJ Cluck, 8 year old grandson of member Beverly McKusick and nephew of Stephanie Mosley, as he goes through chemotherapy and eventually an amputation for a cancerous tumor on his leg. The tumor has metastasized.

Heavenly Father, please surround our loved ones and their families with your healing peace and comfort.



Associate Pastor

Rev. Brenda Church

rev.brenda.church@gmail.com



I recently attended a meeting and heard a Hospice chaplain speak. He told a story that has had me thinking a lot lately. I don't remember the story exactly, but it went something like this:

A man and his wife were driving down a dark and deserted highway, when they had a blowout. The car careened out of control and hit a tree. The man was not hurt, but his wife was badly injured. The man had no choice but to pick her up and walk for help. Finally, they came upon a house. The man was overjoyed and relieved to see a sign on the front of the house that said "Dr. Smith." How wonderful that they would come upon the house of a doctor who would be able to help his wife! So, he rang the doorbell and waited a moment. An older gentleman came to the door. The man said, "Please help us! We were in an accident and my wife is badly hurt." The older gentleman said, "I'm sorry. I can't help. I am retired and haven't practiced medicine for three years." Aghast at this response, the man exclaimed, "Look, you either help my wife or you take that sign down!"

The point to the story is that, as Christians, we must either respond to the needs of the people around us or we need to stop presenting ourselves as Christians. The story really brings the point home well! But this wasn't the first time this idea was presented to me.

Do you remember those ichthus (fish) symbol car emblems that people used to display on their vehicles? From the time I purchased my first car until several cars in, I would immediately buy and apply one of these emblems to my new ride...as a proclamation of faith. This is not a bad thing...we are supposed to be proclaimers of the Good News! And I never really thought about the repercussions of displaying an ichthus on my trunk lid until, one day, a friend of mine said she was hesitant to apply an ichthus to the back of her car.

Now, this person was a mentor of mine...a wonderful Christian. If anyone should have an ichthus, it would be her! She went on to explain that, occasionally, she might get in a hurry and cut someone off. Or maybe she would get a bit frustrated and allow her frustration to show in her driving. All of a sudden, I was convicted. You see, I am a bit of an impatient driver myself. It had never even dawned on me that my fish-decorated car and I might be flying all over town proclaiming the exact opposite thing I had hoped. I wondered to myself how many people in all of those years might have been shaking their head and saying, "Christian? Yeah, right!"...as I sped past them casting a look of frustration in their direction. From that day forward, I was much more careful about my driving habits, especially when I was displaying that distinctively Christian symbol on my car.

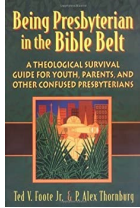
What we do as Christians matters! We represent our God! We are to be reflections of God's grace and peace and mercy and patience! We are to use our gifts and abilities to help others...all the time! We will never be perfect, but the God we serve is perfect. Might we rely on God to mold our faith. Might we seek to abide in Christ and learn from him. Might we allow the Holy Spirit to inform our steps. Just as, hopefully, that doctor finally came around and helped the man's injured wife, may we seek to do all we can to glorify God and help our neighbors...so others may know we are Christians whether we have a plastic fish on our car or not...and so that others will want to get to know, for themselves, the Christ that we proclaim.

Presbyterian Women

Margaret Gulinson
PW Moderator
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Changes are blowing in the March wind! This month we concluded the study on lament a little early because of an expressed desire for a more uplifting study. We've had enough lamenting this year, now on to a more cheerful and humorous book, indicated below. We started a new Bible Study that is quite interesting. In April we will study chapters 4, 5, & 6. In May we will study chapter 7, 8 & 9. Feel free to come even if you have missed the previous month's lesson.



New Bible Study !!

Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt, written by Ted V. Foote Jr. & P. Alex Thornburg, is a theological survival guide for youth, parents, and other confused Presbyterians.

This is an easy read that answers religious questions about Presbyterians, that you may have been asked by others, and are not sure how to answer. For example: "Why do we Baptize babies?", "Have you been saved?", "Do you believe in the Bible's literal translation?", "Do Presbyterians believe in Hell?", "Who's in charge?" Our faith is sometimes difficult to explain. This book definitely helps.

Come join us for a lively discussion! Rev. Brenda Church is offering several In-Person meetings for our Bible study during March, April and May. Come join us at one of the meetings listed below. You'll probably learn something, even if you are a "dyed in the wool" Presbyterian!

- April 6** 11:00 AM, In-Person Bible Study, in Fellowship Hall. Contact Rev. Brenda Church for reservations at (325) 669-9904 or rev.brenda.church@gmail.com.
- April 6** 1:30 PM, In-Person Bible Study (due to social distancing, this is a closed small group at Pat Collins' home). Contact Pat at (817) 280-0211 or pat.collins37@yahoo.com.
- April 8** 11:00 AM, In-Person Bible Study, at Ruth Gump's home. Contact Ruth at (817) 894-4943 or mgump95@charter.net for reservations.

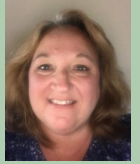
Zoom classes were cancelled due to lack of interest.

We are so-o looking forward to gathering everyone together again soon. Look for more information via E-mail, to announce forthcoming PW Meetings and May Luncheon with the Birthday Offering described in the March Bridge.

Happy Easter!

Worship

Julie Dean, elder
juliebutlerdean@gmail.com



It's wonderful seeing so many of you back in the sanctuary worshipping together again! For those of you choosing to continue to worship online we understand and are grateful for the technical abilities of Emily Graham for keeping us worshipping no matter where we are. Thank you to Bianca Brownfield for filling in during Emily's maternity leave.

We look forward to seeing what the spring and summer bring. The worship committee is ready to roll up our sleeves and get back to working together!



It's almost Easter and we are so glad to be able to worship in-person with you this Easter! This year, we are going to do a 'flowering of the cross' as a part of our celebration. Normally, this would be done inside, but due to Covid restrictions, we will set the cross up outside our church on Sunday morning.

Here's what we need from you:

If you are able, please bring cut flowers with you on Easter Sunday morning to place on the cross (leave enough stem for the flower to be inserted into chicken wire that covers the cross). Then, when you arrive, place your flowers on the cross before you enter the church. By the end of our services, we will have a beautifully flowered cross that represents Christ's victory over sin and death through his resurrection.



It will be a wonderful day! We hope to see you there!

COVID Call Center Urgently needs Your Help!

We are urgently looking for volunteers to help Sheriff Roger Deeds in the Hood County Vaccine Call Center. If you are available to assist Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Making phone calls, please join us at the Sheriff Department Emergency Operation Center located at 401 Deputy Larry Miller Drive. Contact Margaret Campbell @ (682) 936-4791 to make arrangements to volunteer. Thank you!

Jamie Sanders and Ann Mitchell
volunteering at the Hood County
COVID Call Center



Membership

Marla Caraway, elder
marlahill1001@gmail.com



It's so exciting to be back in "regular" worship. Whatever "regular" means these days! Due to recent challenges trying to reach folks during our ice and snow, we'll be working to update our contact information for everyone. Watch for that to come in the near future. At present Drew, Brenda, and myself are reviewing our church rolls to make sure we have an accurate status on all of our members. We are hoping to have some new visitors and members before too long and then we'll make a plan for a New Member dinner. So much has been put on hold and we're all so eager to get back to seeing one another. In the meantime, take care, be safe, and enjoy the Spring weather!



*Thank
You*

My family and I are eternally grateful for the love, warmth, and comfort shown by Drew and the entire congregation during our time of grief for the recent and untimely passing of my darling wife Shirley. In my heart, Shirley remains forever a faithful member of our church. The many calls and cards that I've received from other church members clearly demonstrates that we are indeed an extended family with caring, compassion, and consideration for one another.

Thank you and God bless you all.

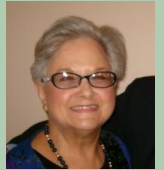
Dan Crise



Dear FPC friends and family –

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for you prayers, cards, food, and gifts in Mom's name, and your sweet comments of support for the loss of my mother, Jeanie Smith. My grief is deep, but I also know peace, as I know she is rejoicing in heaven with our Lord and Savior and those who went before her. Your compassion for our family during this time is genuinely cherished.

Marla Hill Caraway



When we had to stop worshipping in person last year, many of us thought that we would surely be able to celebrate Easter together in the sanctuary. We thought it might be a little late.... I'm glad we didn't have any idea how late. What a blessing to look forward to being together for the last Sunday in Lent, then **Palm Sunday**, and then **EASTER**! We still recognize that we are not "back

to normal" as far as being careful, but how wonderful to be in our sanctuary during this Most Holy Season!

As Fellowship Elder, I have been sharing some of my favorite recipes that my family enjoys. The following recipe would be a great side for your Easter dinner. Very quick and easy and so good! **HAPPY EASTER!**

NATE NEUTON'S CORN CASSEROLE

1 can drained whole corn

1 can cream corn

1 stick margarine or butter

1 cup sour cream

Small can chopped green chilies (optional)

1 box Jiffy Corn Bread mix

Melt margarine/butter in 9X13 casserole dish in 400 degree oven.

Mix rest of ingredients and pour in dish. Bake at 400 till brown.





Easter Gifts

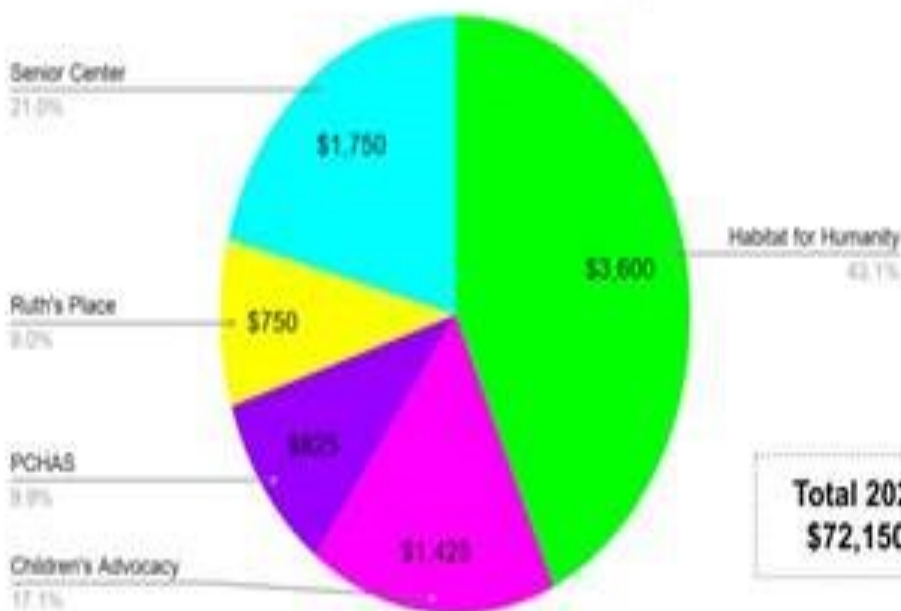
The Missions and Outreach committee is preparing gifts for each of our neighbors at the housing authority. We are including a beautiful coloring book and colored pencils along with chocolate bunnies and mixed nuts. We will provide hams to the folks who've requested one. We'll be delivering our gifts on April 1st!



Family Easter Gifts 2021

In February, the permanent funds committee recommended and session approved that **\$3,831** be distributed to the Missions and Outreach committee to use in local charities this calendar year. This will be added to the 2021 budgeted amount of **\$7,200** for local charities. The Missions & Outreach committee is grateful for the additional support. It is great to see these endowments fulfilling their purposes.

Outreach and Mission 2021 Annual Gifts = \$8,350



Prepared by Bianca Brownfield

2021 Monthly Gifts

*\$2,400
United Mission Giving

*\$1,267
Mission Granbury

*\$1,050
People Helping People

Total 2021 Missions and Outreach Budget
\$72,150 + \$3,831 dispersal from Permanent Fund



Summer Camp Opportunities

If you are looking for summer camp options for your children or grandchildren, PC(USA) has a few in the area that might interest you.

Gilmont – located in the piney woods of East Texas, Gilmont is a 400 acre camp that hosts activities all year long. There is a family camp offered in early June as well as traditional summer camps throughout the summer. More information can be found at www.gilmont.org



Mo Ranch – located in the hill country of Texas along the Guadalupe River, Mo Ranch offers week-long residential camps for children age 8-15. There are also family camping opportunities as well. More information can be found at www.moranch.org

Glen Lake – located just down the road in Glen Rose, this Methodist church camp offers week long residential summer camps as well as family camp. Grace Presbytery uses this location for Youthquake and Kidquake events which means that the location could be a familiar one for your child. More information can be found at www.glenlake.org

Please know that there are scholarship opportunities for all these camps. And the church has also provided assistance with camp fees in the past. So please do not let the cost of camp deter you from finding out more information. If you are needing more information about scholarships, please contact me directly.



Fun Birthday Fact!
Did you know that
Maureen Walker was a
triplet?

To celebrate your birthday (or that of a family member or friend), and in thanksgiving for God's gift of grace, please consider making a gift of your own, in the amount of \$1 for each year of your (or your honoree's) life, to sustain the permanent endowment funds of the church.

Please notify the church office when you make your gift that it is a birthday offering. If honoring someone else, please so note. If giving online, please provide this information in the "Notes."

Please watch for news regarding which events will occur when we have less restrictions.

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Palm Sunday 8:45 AM In Person Worship 11:00 AM In Person Worship - Live Stream Worship via Facebook & YouTube 6:30 PM Lenten Devotional Zoom Conversations	29	30	31 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study - FH 6:30 PM Journey toward Jerusalem Online worship via Facebook & YouTube	1 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Worship	2 Church Office Closed Good Friday	3
4 Easter Sunrise Service 8:45 AM In Person Worship 11:00 AM In Person Worship - Live Stream Worship via Facebook & YouTube	5	6 11:00 AM PW Bible Study - FH 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Clergy Group 1:30 PM PW Bible Study at Pat Collins' 5:30 PM Called Session	7 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study - FH	8 11:00 AM PW Bible Study at Ruth Gump's Home 2:00 PM Innumment Elaine Sparks	9	10
11 Drew Continuing Education 8:45 AM In Person Worship 11:00 AM In Person Worship - Live Stream Worship via Facebook & YouTube	12 Drew Continuing Education	13 Drew Continuing Education 6:30 PM PW Bible Study via zoom	14 Drew Continuing Education 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study - FH	15 Drew Continuing Education	16 Drew Continuing Education	17 Drew Continuing Education
18 8:45 AM In Person Worship 11:00 AM In Person Worship - Live Stream Worship via Facebook & YouTube	19 Brenda Continuing Education	20 Brenda Continuing Education Bridge Articles Due 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Clergy Group 5:30 PM Session	21 Brenda Continuing Education 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study - FH	22 Brenda Continuing Education	23 Brenda Continuing Education	24 Brenda Continuing Education 11:00 AM Shirley Crise Memorial
25 Brenda Continuing Education 8:45 AM In Person Worship 11:00 AM In Person Worship - Live Stream Worship via Facebook & YouTube	26	27	28 10:00 AM FUN Circle 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study - FH	29	30	1

Watch this space for changes to our calendar. View current calendar on website <http://fpcgranbury.org/> Click on calendar at the top of the page.

Welcome Back

We have resumed in-person worship in our sanctuary

- * In-person worship will be held at 10:00 AM on Sundays.
- * Ushers will be on hand to help us maintain social distancing.
- * Masks and social distancing will be required.
- * Please use hand sanitizer upon arrival and departure.

Online worship will continue with no changes. If you feel uncomfortable attending in-person worship or if you are unable or prefer not to wear a mask, we encourage you to join us online.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GRANBURY, TEXAS

To:

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury
202 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048