

It's Already October!

What is the greatest commandment? Jesus was asked this question, by church leaders who were trying to confuse and/or trap him. He answered them, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ *This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*”

As you know, there were ten commandments the Hebrew people were charged to follow. Theologians have since realized that the first five have to do with God, and the second five have to do with neighbor. That’s one of the reasons that Jesus could narrow them from 10 to 2. And we’re still trying to follow those two, in all that we accomplish through the work of the church.

This October, as every October, we focus on our neighbors, as we welcome them, entertain them, feed them, play along with them, and award them prizes and gifts. We call it the *First Presbyterian Neighborhood Party*. We used to be in the parking spaces in front of the building; now we utilize the pavilion at Fair Park. Some say it’s becoming harder to hold this party, because we are older, and our energy is waning. Some say it’s not worth it, because neighbors don’t understand how we sacrifice, plan and pay for people we don’t even know. But I say, have you heard the answer Jesus gave to the church leaders? Because nothing has changed, and his answer still echoes in the world.

So, here’s our compromise to you, the congregation at FPC. This year, we won’t ask you to cook over a hot barbeque pit. This year we won’t ask you to eat the same ‘ol burgers. This year, we won’t ask you to tie down table cloths or hold onto potted plants in the wind. We won’t ask you to call Bingo, or supply prizes. We ask you only to follow the two commandments that Jesus named. Just two.

And this year, we’ll serve you brisket! we’ll bring the tables; we’ll even provide a fun new face as your *Master of Ceremonies*. The Committee will pray for cool weather, so you’ll be comfortable in late October. And you won’t even need to worry about your wardrobe. Just wear your blue Presbyterian T-shirt and we’ll handle the rest.

Yes, it’s already October. We’ll all be there on the afternoon of *Saturday, October 24th*. Loving our guests at the Neighborhood Party! Responding, as Jesus commanded. And goodness knows He can’t be wrong.

Peace be with you!

Candice

Candice L Klein, Pastor

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– Matthew 22: 37-39