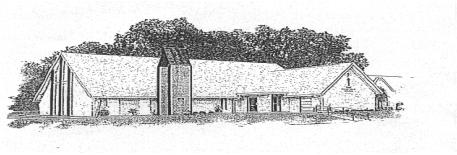


Remember Earth Day 2018

This year, Earth Day falls on Sunday. As you may recall, the first Earth Day recognition was held on April 22, 1970 in the U.S.

This is a day designed to remind each of us of the importance of protecting our natural environment. As happens with great causes, this observation has now spread to over 193 countries. Earth Day reminds us to think hard about the future we want for our planet, ourselves, and all those who come after us. It also reminds us to not only think about our impact on the environment but to also act or modify our actions to preserve our Earth.

As Presbyterians, we take this time to honor the tenets of the Presbyterian faith—Faithful Stewardship of Creation: Responsibility on us to care for each other as well as creation.



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Issue Four

Easter

The New Covenant

Webster's New World Dictionary defines covenant as "a binding and solemn agreement to do or keep from doing a specified thing." Another definition of a covenant could be "a solemn promise, fortified by an oath, concerning future action." When we open our Bibles we notice that it is divided into two parts; the Old Covenant (or Testament) and the New Covenant (of Testament.)

In the Old Testament God made covenants with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the prophets. God promised that the people of Israel would be his chosen people, and he would be their God. God gave his people the Ten Commandments and the laws in Leviticus to be obeyed by the Hebrews. Altogether, there were 613 laws, covering every aspect of human behavior. No one could keep all those laws and the people sinned. To address the people's sins, God set up a system of animal sacrifices. Sin required blood sacrifices. Priests were installed to slaughter the animals, and only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies to intercede for the people directly with God. Among the animals slaughtered, the lamb had special meaning because it was the lamb's blood that Israelites painted on their door posts to avoid death on the night of Passover. This covenant is remembered every year with a Passover meal by the Jews. God gave specific instructions for an annual Passover celebration. Lamb is the pinnacle of the Passover meal. The lamb was to be spotless. All the details of the Passover meal have significant meaning that point to the ultimate Passover meal on Maundy Thursday. Jesus had come to town for the Passover celebration.

The real meaning of Easter would come in the words spoken by Jesus at this Passover meal—In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." Luke 22:20. A new covenant which began with Jesus becoming the spotless sacrificial lamb and rendering animal sacrifices no longer needed. Christ's sacrifice of Himself made it possible to take "away the sin of the world". (John 1:29). Jesus did what we could not do and he sacrificed himself for us as a gift, as grace. Grace, that free gift of salvation through Christ for *any person* who believes in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Besides serving as the sacrifice, Jesus became the new high priest and intercedes for his followers before God; individuals could now approach God themselves and no longer needed a human high priest to speak for them.

The Old Covenant was written on stones and the book of law. The New Covenant is written in the mind and on the heart. The New Covenant is an everlasting covenant made possible by the death and resurrection of Jesus which gave victory over eternal separation from God (death) to all who put their faith and trust in him. This is the New Covenant—everlasting life spent with God through faith in all that Jesus Christ has done and continues to do.

Thanks be to God that we are Easter people living in the New Covenant. **Happy Easter!**

The Communications Team



Easter Blessings and welcome to Spring from your Fellowship Committee.

We invite each of you to continue to share hospitality and grace with us every chance you can.

Easter Sunday is April 1st and we will all be celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord. Following the Sunrise Service at 7:00 am in the Pavilion at Fair Park, we will share an Easter morning breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

Come celebrate the wonder of Easter with us.

Claudia, Mary, Lavonne & Bob, Jan M, Judy, Katie, Cindy & Weldon.

DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL:
Mary Lowe

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation: Debbie Castro, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Jan Mims, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Bob Schauwecker, Patsy Snelgrove, Sue Williams, Session, PNC, and Congregation of our church during this transition time

Connected Family: Billy Tapley (Bert's brother)

For all the people who have been affected by hurricanes, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, and mud slides



PNC NOTES

FPC Henderson has passed, by several months, the one year anniversary of being without a pastor. During this time, your session and the PNC have been working diligently through the process of searching for a new pastor. Your PNC continues to meet faithfully each week to review the Personal Information forms that are sent to us which indicate that a pastor would be willing to accept a call in Texas and falls within our salary guidelines. We review PIF's and listen to sermons. Then emails are sent to inquire if the pastor would be interested in a small East Texas church. Sometimes indicating Texas on a PIF doesn't necessarily mean East Texas. If an interest is shown then a phone conversation or a Skype session is held. We have had times when we have felt somewhat discouraged about available candidates and other times when we have been excited and encouraged about candidates.

The PNC is proud of the way you-the congregation-has pulled together and faithfully supported FPC during this time. We know that God has a plan for us and that it will be God's time table, not ours. With God's help, we will continue to work and move forward. As always, we ask that you do your part in praying for us as the journey continues.

Your Pastor Nominating Committee
Kathy, Kelly, Lsha, John, and Jimmy



EASTER

Just when I thought
there would be no more light
in the Jerusalem sky
the Bright and Morning Star appeared
and the darkness has not overcome it.

Kneeling in Jerusalem, Ann Weems



**Knowledge is free at
the library. Just bring
your own container.**

Just a gentle reminder of the glorious treasure we have in our FPC-Library.

It is so much more than a room full of books – it is a room full of knowledge, history, adventure, past moments and future miracles. And, if you like having someone read to you -- we have the audio book of the Bible. In addition, each book that the Seekers Sunday School class read are included in our Library. So, we invite and encourage you to visit and experience the Library!

LOST AND FOUND

As we approached Jerusalem
The crowd stood at the gate
and cried in tear-choked voice:
“We are lost in his death.”
Upon the hill
the angels sang:
“We are found in his rising.”

Kneeling in Jerusalem, Ann Weems

WORSHIP

Easter Sunday is intended to be a joyful time for celebrating the presence of the risen Christ in the church. But Easter isn't just a Sunday. One day out of 365 is hardly sufficient to celebrate the great mystery of our faith—Jesus Christ risen from the dead. Easter is a season. It lasts seven weeks, spanning the 50 days from the Sunday of Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday and encompasses the Ascension of the Lord.

Of course, Easter really isn't just a season either. In the fullest sense, Easter is a new way of life—in which we are “dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rm. 6:11), called to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4). Every year, for fifty days, the church celebrates and rehearses this new way of life in the Season of Easter (Eastertide)—as we await its completion in the fullness of Christ's reign.

For seven weeks, a week of Sundays, we acclaim the resurrection of Christ by the power of God.

On Pentecost Sunday, the fiftieth day of Easter, a festival celebrating the gift of the Spirit marks the time of preparing the way for the day of the Lord in the Christian church. In a similar way, the Jews observed a festival of covenant renewal following their Feast of Weeks. What Moses and the Law did for the Jewish community, the Holy Spirit now does for the community of Christ. Pentecost Sunday will be celebrated on the 20th of May, 2018.



Worship Committee



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that there is even another way to use recycled plastic bottles? Dr. Sahadat Hossain, Professor in the Department of Civil Engineering, and Director of the Solid Waste Institute for Sustainability at the University of Texas at Arlington came up with another way to use recycled bottles on the roads of Texas. The Lone Star State has 311,000 miles of road. That is the most of any state in the U.S. The amount of road alone is an expensive issue; however, another factor is the fact that much of the state is built on “expansive Clay.” That is, a type of soil that contracts and swells during wet and dry weather, resulting in roads that crack and buckle much more than in other areas of the country. The question that came to Dr. Hossain was: what if there was a way to spend \$200,000 or \$300,000 on repairs instead of a million dollars on repairs while taking millions of non-decomposing plastic bottles out of landfills at the same time?

Dr. Hossain's idea is to use recycled plastic bottles to create pins to stabilize the roads and lessen the incidence of cracks and buckling, thereby making the roads last longer. Not only is this a cheaper fix, but it is one that will last years longer than more traditional solutions. Each pin is constructed from 500 recycled plastic bottles, so the environment is positively affected as well, giving Texas a green fix to a decades-old problem. A feasibility study was done on sections of Texas Route 287 where 10-foot long pins were drilled into one section of roadway slope. The rest of the highway was left as it was; unsupported. After a two-year study, it was found that the supported section had moved only one to two inches, where the control sections—the ones left unsupported—had moved about 15 inches. The Texas DOT realized this was an ideal that would be smart to cash in on, and gave Dr. Hossain a grant to begin work on two other Texas highways. Dr. Hossain continues his sustainable utilization of waste materials research at the University.

May we all continue to do our part in caring for our planet by reusing, reducing, and recycling!

The Christian Education Green Team



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Great news! Our Christian Education Ministry Team members are organizing a new curriculum for a New Member's Class, with help from our Session Moderator, Rev. Nick Setzer, Co-Pastor of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church in Longview. We are delighted that we have visitors who have expressed interest in joining our church. When plans for the New Member's Class are finalized, the class will be open to any members who want to learn more about what it means to be a Presbyterian, as well as a member of First Presbyterian Church of Henderson, Texas.

The New Member's Class curriculum will address questions, such as: Why Join a Church? What Is Our Mission? How Are We Governed? What Is the History of the Presbyterian Church? How Do We Worship? How Do We Minister to People of All Ages? . . . and more.

Class members will also be encouraged to discover their places as Disciples of Jesus Christ in the Church.

The Christian Education Ministry Team warmly extends a warm welcome to any of our members who would like to join our CE Ministry Team. We would love to have your input.

A very happy Easter to everyone!

Christian Education Team Members: Jimmy Chapman, Rev. Tolbert ("Tolly") Dill, Claudia Morgan-Gray, Kathy Porter, and Bert Lowe, CE Team Leader



**HELP US TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WE
ARE HERE! LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HENDERSON, TEXAS.**



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Our Outreach Committee has not formally met this past month, but Outreach ministries have begun. We are keeping our commitment to staying in touch with our Church neighbors through Adopt-A-Block to assess needs that we may be able to meet, gathering prayer concerns and inviting them to special services at our Church. Much has grown out of this outreach activity during the past two decades or more when we accepted the challenge to "Blossom Where We're planted."

We are also continuing our volunteer service to the Meals on Wheels ministry on Fridays. We have six or seven of our Church members who regularly step up to keep this commitment. While the M.O.W. clientele list changes quite often, we find ourselves growing close to those we serve, and feel we are the ones who are blessed.

Outreach Committee,
Jan Mims, Kathy Porter, Jan
Pennal, Claudia Morgan-Gray,
and Bert Lowe-Committee Chair



COUNCIL ACTIONS

March 15, 2018

- ♦ **Worshiped and Prayed Together**
- ♦ **Celebrated Receipt of Official Earth Care Certificate for 2017**
- ♦ **Authorized Chair of Finance and Treasurer to enter into investment discussions**
- ♦ **Directed Building & Grounds to develop a comprehensive plan for air conditioning and heating maintenance/replacement/overhaul**
- ♦ **Heard update on Church Mutual Church Safety Seminar**
- ♦ **Continued conversation on our own church safety**
 - **Directed Building & Grounds to get bids on front sanctuary door improvement/replacement**
- ♦ **Ended with hopeful prayer for the coming month**



****Reminder****

Bring H.I.M. donations the First
Sunday of every month

2018 APRIL

EASTER SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

- Sunrise Service @ 7:00am
- Easter Breakfast following Sunrise Service
- Celebrate the Resurrection @ 11:00am

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 1 CHRIST THE LORD <small>IS RISEN TODAY!</small> <i>Bring H.I.M. Donations</i> Patsy Snelgrove	2 <i>Church Offices Closed</i> Bill Snow	3 <i>Choir Practice 5:00pm</i>	4 <i>PNC Meeting 5:30pm</i>	5 <i>Christian Education Meeting 10:00am</i>	6 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	7
8	9	10 <i>Choir Practice 5:00pm</i>	11 <i>PNC Meeting 5:30pm</i>	12 <i>Session Meeting 6:30pm</i>	13 <i>Meals On Wheels</i> Tom Weaver	14
15 <i>Worship Committee Meeting 12:30pm</i>	16	17 <i>Choir Practice 5:00pm</i>	18 <i>PNC Meeting 5:30pm</i> Fonta Conway	19	20 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	21
 22 Earth Day: <small>GO GREEN</small> Steve Miller	23 <i>P.W. Meeting 11:30am</i> <i>Pipeline Deadline</i>	24 <i>Choir Practice 5:00pm</i>	25 <i>PNC Meeting 5:30pm</i>	26	27 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	28
29 Lavonne Schauwecker Sue Williams	30					