

COUNCIL ACTIONS

March 21, 2019

- Worshiped and prayed together
- Received a new member by transfer
- Approved the short time loan of 4 FPC hand bells to Brian Wasson
- Approved the hiring of a student to fill in as nursery attendant
- Discussed grounds cleanup for upcoming installation of pastor
- Called a congregational meeting for April 7 to discuss and approve new mission statement and approve an oil/gas lease with Buffco

Kathy Porter, Clerk of Session



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue Four

Energized for what comes NEXT

March was a month for travel! To the Northern edge of Mexico and on the Southern edge of Canada, I traveled. At both extremes, I met others who are working in our amazing connectional church.

In Seattle, WA, I attended the NEXT Church conference. This is a favorite event of mine every year. It is an assembly of Presbyterian Church leaders, pastors, elders, youth and seminary students, centered on the future of the church. NEXT is a collaborative community. The workshops are more like structured conversations than lectures. We walk away energized and full of ideas.

This year's theme was "Woven Together" using the narrative of Ruth and Naomi. By choices that they made and choices that were made for them, their lives were intertwined. To flourish and survive they had to work together and trust one another.

This year we incorporated traditional, charismatic, and spiritual music with cello, guitar, drums, piano and an impromptu choir. We explored spoken and silent prayer. We prayed together using visual and interactive arts. We tore fabric in lament, and bound ourselves and our communities to each other by tying knots and weaving them together.

It is always a wonderful moment to see the communion table laden with enough bread and wine to serve almost 600 people! It is a feast of friendships and connections. It is a glimpse of God's generous abundance.

Like Naomi and Ruth, our church communities are inextricably linked. Even though we experience moments of discord, we are stronger together. Before we can pursue justice, we must trust each other, not just within the church, but outside our denomination and in the community. We need to find paths to get to know one another, to see God in each other, and to *build trust*. Then we can begin the deep conversations not with the goal of changing each other's minds, but with the goal of listening and understanding.

We have it good, church! But we know there are those who don't. It is our responsibility to discover where there is discord, to take up the cause, and stand in solidarity with those whose voices are not being heard. Then we can work towards harmony. This way we grow beyond a connectional church to become a connectional society. Then all will begin to realize the kin-dom of God.

As we celebrate Easter, may the resurrection energize our spirits!

With a joyful heart,
Rev Michele



Fellowship Committee - Hospitality and Grace -- *For now and always, keep love in your heart, peace in your soul and joy in every action toward your fellow people.*

Hello April! We are looking forward to a full month with many options of celebratory and fellowship time to share.

The Fellowship Committee has scheduled a "Work Day" for Tuesday, April 2nd. We will gather at 9:00 am to put our organizational skills to work in the Resource Room and in the Kitchen. Anyone who wants to join in – is welcome to join us. Can't promise it will be fun but it will be productive!

We hope you will also consider joining us for the 7:00 am Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday (April 21st) at the Pavilion in Fair Park. Immediately following that always lovely and celebratory service, we hope you will join us in the FPC Fellowship Hall for an Easter Breakfast.



You are all always welcome at the Fellowship table --Claudia Morgan-Gray, Jan Mims, Lavonne Schauwecker; Katie Hurst, Judy Andrasko, Weldon Gray and Rev. Michele.



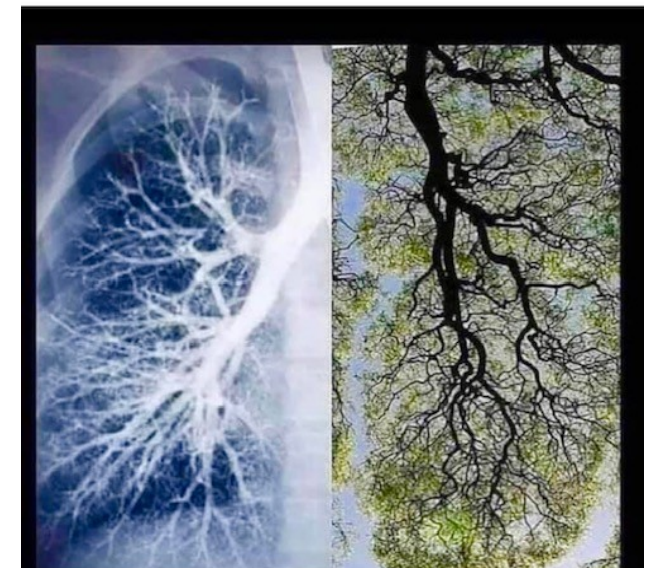
Saying "Goodbye" to Marty with one last ring of the bell!!!

DID YOU KNOW?

Lent began with Rev. Michele and Rev. Will from Kilgore offering ashes at Walmart in Henderson



We breathe in what the trees breathe out, and they breathe in what we breathe out. Forever overwhelmed by the beauty of God's design...



You are invited to Worship and Celebrate with
Grace Presbytery

and

First Presbyterian Church Henderson

as Reverend Michele R. Goff
is officially installed as pastor

Sunday, March 31, 2019

4 o'clock in the afternoon

Light Reception to follow

at

First Presbyterian Church

311 South High Street ~ Henderson, TX 75654



A leprechaun was at our
St. Patrick's Day luncheon

Three new members-Scott, Michael
and Sam- with Rev. Michele.
Thanks be to God!

Goodbye gifts for Marty!



WORSHIP TEAM

The festival of the Resurrection of the Lord is the center of the Christian year. On this occasion, the church joyfully proclaims the Good News: Jesus Christ is risen from the dead! Easter faith recalls the past, especially the awesome act of God in raising the crucified Christ from the grave. Easter hope looks to the promised future, to that which awaits us. Easter love celebrates the presence of the crucified and risen Christ who is now among us, reconciling us as one people. Resurrection faith asserts that by grace we are born again into the new humanity of Jesus Christ. We are called to new life for God and for neighbors. As representatives of the new humanity, we walk in newness of life. Let us remember this!

Makes plans to share with us an active April. The Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, will be served on Sunday, April 7th. We invite you to join us for all the Holy Week services this year: *Palm Sunday* (April 14); *Maundy Thursday* (April 18 at 6 pm, with Holy Communion); *Good Friday* (April 19 at 6 pm); and Easter Sunday (April 21) will begin with our traditional *Sunrise Service* at 7 am at Fair Park Pavilion. After the Sunrise Service, we will share a light breakfast together in the Fellowship Hall prior to the 11:00 Easter Service in the Sanctuary. Please remember to bring flowers on Easter Sunday to cover the cross.

Our Earth Day Service will be celebrated on the 28th of April.

Worship Team: Kelly Weaver, Jan Mims, Kathy Porter, Margaret Hillin, Cindy Ratliff, Jimmy Chapman, Scott Hurst, Lynn Ticken-Chair, Rev. Michele Goff- Pastor, and Joshua Allen, Music Director. We welcome new members to the Worship Team. If interested, please come to our meeting on the second Sunday of each month, following worship -or contact Lynn Ticken or Pastor Michele Goff.



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





**Blue Shirt Sunday
in support of
Presbyterian
Disaster Assistance**

REMEMBER HIM

And the other HIM - Henderson Interfaith Ministry! Just a soft reminder that the first Sunday of every month – April 7, 2019. We are a congregation that continues to rise up and show grace, mercy and generosity in helping feed our neighbors. We are blessed to be blessings for others.

In Memory We have received memorials in March in memory of:
Billie Manck

**DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL:
Kathy Porter**

Liturgists for April:

- 04/07 Jimmy Chapman**
- 04/14 Lynn Tieken**
- 04/18 John Tieken**
- 04/19 Claudia Morgan-Gray**
- 04/21 Jimmy Chapman**
- 04/28 John Hillin**

dignity, compassion, and human assistance.

But it was more than that. There were many Holy Spirit moments of connection. One among us came with an open-mind and a backpack full of candy. He returned with a full-heart and an empty backpack. Our effort to communicate in their language was appreciated and amusing but they laughed with us not at us and the laughter filled other voids. Holy Spirit moments when the ever so insignificant act of kindness became an ever-so-significant act, and moments when through act/deed/word we let another person know that they are welcomed, safe from the current storm, seen and loved. Yes, Holy Spirit moments.

It didn't take long to move beyond the labels of immigrant and refugee and simply see a stream of dislocated and desperate humanity--mothers from Honduras and fathers and children from Guatemala. So, we ask you - What conditions would necessitate this kind of journey for you? How unbearable/dangerous would things have to be before you would be courageous enough to take this same journey? The respite center truly provides respite for these men, women, and children when they need it most. Directly from detention centers, many of them are fearful when they arrive. It was a little surprising how quickly that fear gave way to the calm release of unexpected joy with a smile, a nod or sharing a piece of chocolate!

We did our best to help where needed and fill in the gaps along with other volunteers from out of area. We met volunteers from Seattle, Wisconsin, Florida and California. But this and other Respite Centers stay afloat because of the very dedicated local volunteers who have made it their calling, their mission and their vocation. They are ever-present welcoming the refugees with warm smiles, joyful hearts and assisting them. Their dedication, determination and grit have put a process in place that works. They work tirelessly and it is without question inspired by God.

As long as there is a need for these respite centers, we will continue to go and help. Want us to save you a seat?

~~~Told by: Michele Goff, Scott Hurst, Tom Laney, Claudia Morgan-Gray, Kathy Porter and John Tieken.



## “RESPITE AT THE BORDER - IN MANY FACES WITH MANY VOICES”

In February 2019, six of us traveled to McAllen, Texas – known border community - to assist at the Catholic Charities Humanitarian Respite Center. Three of us had worked at the Center before. For the other three, this was their first journey on this mission adventure. Whether it was the third journey or the first, there is a real and stark awakening that occurs. A physical, spiritual, emotional, educational and even political awakening takes place. Come on the journey with us through our eyes, hearts and minds.

The Center on Hackberry Avenue is quiet on the outside -- but behind the door you step into a 1950's era abandoned nursing home full of Spanish and English speaking people, some organized and some not so organized chaos, and a sea of God's people some helping some being helped. Amid the chaos, fear, fatigue and uncertainty, we also found God's grace.

For this journey, let's set the politics aside and take this journey with us focusing on the human and spiritual elements.

Retrospect – We wonder if we would be as gracious as those who passed through the respite center while we were there. Honestly, we're not sure. Their journeys are long and hard, their destinations unknown and unfamiliar, and their reception is uncertain and in many ways unwelcoming. And yet... they journey, they hope, they pray, they appreciate and they believe.

For our part, whether it was comforting a small girl who is scared, crying and holding tight to two sheets of the foil blankets that are now her only belongings, or being there for a worried and caring father who wants to express his deep appreciation to you taking time to help his young daughter or the absolute wave of gratitude when a young girl about 3 or 4, wraps her little arms around your legs to give you a hug to say Gracias with her whole being – there is no part of your soul that is not touched during this journey.

Little things are important to these travelers: shoelaces, bars of chocolate, a shower and clean warm towel, a meal, a friendly face, a smile, a kind word or gentle touch. We help free these travelers of the physical evidence of their detention. Yes, we give them back tangible items like shoestrings, belts and hair ties – but truly we are giving them more non-tangible items like identity,

## Mission Statement

We've been working to fine-tune a “*Mission Statement*” for our church that will be both reflective of who we are as a church and a statement that is more easily remembered and shared. To that end, the Session will be presenting for congregational approval a version of a new mission statement during the called and announced Congregational Meeting on April 7<sup>th</sup>. To allow you time to ponder the suggested change and to sit with it in your mind, heart and spirit before casting your vote on April 7<sup>th</sup>, the suggested *Mission Statement* is:

**Serving God  
Honoring All Creation  
Embracing Differences**

**Can You Hear Me Now?** We are looking into hearing enhancement units for use by some in our congregation that may be experiencing difficulty hearing some of the Sunday services. We'd love some input from those of you having difficulty hearing some Sundays as to whether you'd use some type of hearing enhancement device during the Service. Let Rev. Michele or any member of the Session know your thoughts. Thank you.



**Nursery Attendant:** We welcome Ashley Andrus (Carol Scoggins granddaughter) to fill-in as our Nursery Attendant as we continue the search for a permanent employee. Ashley is already doing a great job. Please join us in welcoming Ashley.

*Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:*

**Members of the Congregation:** Debbie Castro, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Aaron Ramberg, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Patsy Snelgrove, Kay Warren, Debbie Wasson, Sue Williams, and the family of Billie Manck.

**Connected Family:** Billy Tapley (Bert's brother)

*All who need our prayers*









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

# april

## 2019

| SUNDAY                                                                                                           | MONDAY                                                                                                                 | TUESDAY                                                                                 | WEDNESDAY                        | THURSDAY                                                                                                                      | FRIDAY                                                                                                                           | SATURDAY         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
|                                                                                                                  | 1<br>Patsy Snelgrove                                                                                                   | 2<br>Theology on Tap series<br>in Longview 6:00pm<br>Choir Practice 6:00pm<br>Bill Snow | 3<br>Brown Bag Study at<br>Noon  | 4<br>Christian Education<br>Meeting 10:00am                                                                                   | 5<br>Meals On Wheels                                                                                                             | 6                |
| 7<br>- Communion<br>- Lenten Study 9:45am                                                                        | 8                                                                                                                      | 9<br>Choir Practice<br>6:00pm                                                           | 10<br>Brown Bag Study at<br>Noon | 11                                                                                                                            | 12<br>Meals On Wheels                                                                                                            | 13<br>Tom Weaver |
| 14<br><br>Lenten Study 9:45am   | 15                                                                                                                     | 16<br>Choir Practice<br>6:00pm                                                          | 17<br>Brown Bag Study at<br>Noon | 18<br><br>Service @ 6:00pm<br>Fonta Conway | 19<br>Meals On Wheels<br><br>Service @ 6:00pm | 20               |
| 21<br>- Sunrise Service<br>@ 7:00am<br>- Breakfast following<br>Sunrise Service<br>- Easter Service<br>@ 11:00am | 22<br><br>EARTH DAY<br>Steve Miller | 23<br>Choir Practice<br>6:00pm                                                          | 24                               | 25<br>L.E.A.N. Meeting<br>2:00pm<br>Session Meeting<br>6:30pm                                                                 | 26<br>Meals On Wheels                                                                                                            | 27               |
| 28<br>- Earth Day Service                                                                                        | 29<br>Pipeline Deadline<br>Lavonne Schauwecker<br>Sue Williams                                                         | 30<br>Choir Practice<br>6:00pm                                                          |                                  |                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                  |                  |

