

COUNCIL ACTIONS

April 25, 2019

- **Worshiped and prayed together**
- **Discussed finances and moved some line item accounts**
- **Applied \$524 from oil lease money to cost of roof**
- **Approved a capital campaign to help pay for the roof and other needs**
- **Changed VBS dates to July 25, 26, & 27**
- **Moved May Session meeting to May 23**
- **Elected Commissioners to June 1st meeting at FPC Ft. Worth**
- **Discussed sound devices in sanctuary**
- **Discussed lawn maintenance**
- **Discussed placement of granite marker**



*“Serving God, Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences”*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Why Heaven Can't Be “Up There”

We often refer to heaven as a place that is somewhere else. We think of it in terms of way up there beyond the stars, or after we die, or in the end. But if God lives in heaven and heaven is somewhere else, how can God dwell in us? *“... if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit”*. Perhaps it is the limits of language trying to pin God down in space and time when we more accurately profess over and again that God is the Alpha and Omega, the One who is and was and is to come, and One who is the beginning and the end.

When heaven is out of reach or somewhere in our imagination, then heaven can be used by the people who have “high socioeconomic positions” as a story to tell “those [who are] barely making it in life and who desperately need to believe in alternative reality.”

John of Patmos describes Jesus *“coming with the clouds”* which feels like an up in the sky placement. But this upward placement is within sight, like a kingdom on a hill. From this vantage point, *“every eye will see him, even those who pierced him.”* If EVERY eye is able to see him, then Christ is known to everyone. John’s apocalypse becomes a revelation of Christ’s unveiling for all. Perhaps when we are all confronted with the unquestionable presence of God, the vastly different ways each of us manifest God’s image in ourselves won’t seem so strange after all.

If heaven isn’t a place, but an interconnected communal response of joy to the presence of God, why can’t we participate in heaven today?

Leaving heaven in the somewhere, someday realm means that what we do today to each other, or neglect to do for each other, or our environment, or out of respect for neighbors we might never meet, has little consequence in our lives.

If heaven is only somewhere out there, yet to come, then what happens on earth doesn’t matter.

But we know it does. We know it matters because God IS with us. Our Redeemer is present overwhelmingly in the life of Jesus Christ. God is with us throughout the Hebrew Scriptures: in pillars of smoke, burning bushes, protecting children and individuals in the wilderness, calming storms, and parting seas. From the beginning to the winds of Pentecost, the Holy One is with us in the breath of life that is the gift of the Spirit within us.

Heaven is not over there for just a few who can make it in the end. It is for us to share right now in praise of the One who is.

Rev Michele

WORSHIP

Worship Team completed a very busy Holy Week, thanks to the help of a very able and willing congregation, and we say thanks to each and every one of you. Pastor Michele planned and executed meaningful services, using many voices and many innovative ways to tell the Easter Story. All of her efforts were rewarded by great attendance and participation. Special thanks to all who worked behind the scenes for a smooth transition from Palm Sunday to Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and then Easter Sunrise Service, and Easter Service at 11:00 am.

Earth Day was celebrated by a small gathering at the bell tower on Saturday morning, April 27th, where we praised God for all creation. We planted a dogwood tree and blessed its growth before Building and Grounds completed a scheduled workday where much was accomplished. Be sure to check out their work. It was a beautiful day!

Next, for May, is Mother's Day and Memorial Day, then Pentecost Sunday on June 9th. Pastor Michele will be out on May 19th, and Jimmy Chapman, CLP, will bring God's message to us.

Your dedicated choir led by Joshua Allen, continues to practice regularly on Tuesday evenings at 6 pm. We welcome new voices at any time, and as Worship continues busy, we would love to include more people in service and planning on this team. Next meeting is Sunday, May 5th, following worship. Blessings abound!!

Also, please note that Holy Communion will be served on May 5th. Prepare your hearts and minds for this sacrament, and bring your items for H.I.M.



Worship Committee



Be on the look out for more details about this year's Vacation Bible School!! The event will be held at First Presbyterian Church on July 25 - 27! Kids ages Pre K - 5th grade will go on a roaring safari adventure and discover that even though life gets wild, God is good!



Rev. Michele with the Pastor Nominating Committee and cutting her cake at her Installation Service that was held March 31st!

Rev. Michele's first Easter at FPC.

Members of the Mission team delivering food for the Rusk County Children's Advocacy Board meeting.





FPC Green Team observes Earth Day with a brief prayer service and planting a tree.



Building team joined with the Green Team for a short Earth Day Prayer service before starting on Work Day



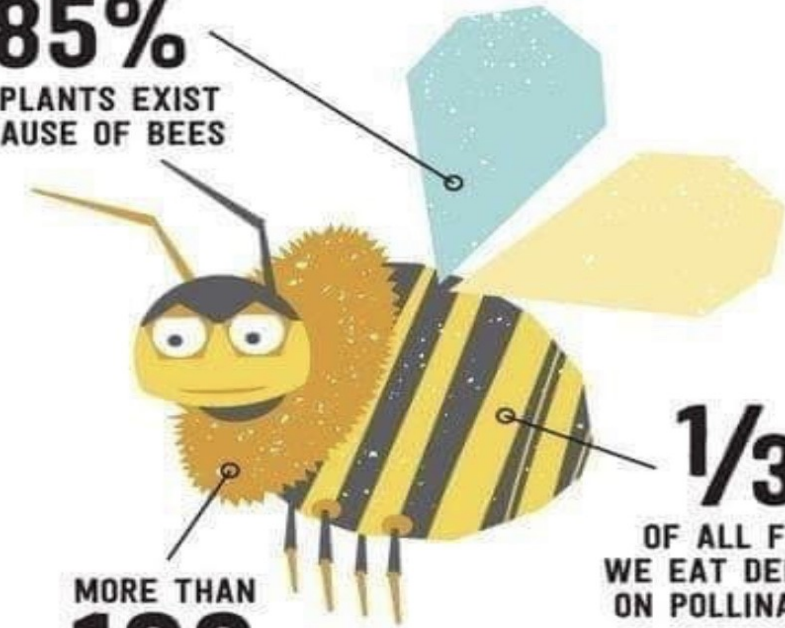
Earth Day Sunday Service was held on April 28th.



Did you know why bees matter?

WHY BEES MATTER

85%
OF PLANTS EXIST
BECAUSE OF BEES



1/3
OF ALL FOOD
WE EAT DEPENDS
ON POLLINATORS

MORE THAN 100
TYPES OF CROPS ARE POLLINATED
BY BEES IN THE US—INCLUDING
THE CLOVER AND ALFALFA
THAT FEED OUR COWS

WFM.COM/POLLINATORS
Beekeeping International



FELLOWSHIP & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION JOINT OUTING EVENT

The Henderson Civic Theatre is doing a presentation of “The Christians” as their next play. This intense and relevant play addresses the issue of what happens when conflict arises between people of faith – similar and different faith. The story will focus on five Christians – a Pastor, the Associate Pastor, a church Elder, a single mother member of the congregation and the Pastor’s wife as they “reckon with faith, desire, and how good people can be torn apart as quickly as they may reconcile.”

So the Fellowship Committee and the Christian Education Committee are putting together a “Dutch” outing. The tickets are \$15.00. The showings are this Friday, May 3 at 7:30, Saturday May 4 at 7:30 or Sunday May 5 at 2:30 and the following weekend Friday, May 10 at 7:30 or Saturday, May 11 at 7:30.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, PLEASE LET CLAUDIA KNOW BY CALLING OR TEXTING 903-646-0506 BY THURSDAY, MAY 2ND!

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

DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF MAY:

Claudia Morgan-Gray

Liturgists for May:

05/05 Carol Scoggins
05/12 Steve Lowe
05/19 Kelly Weaver
05/29 John Hillin

Raising the Roof and all that is under the Roof!



With the help of age, the earth, wind and rain storms that passed through the area over the last several years and most recently the last several months, our already old and worn roof has taken a beating. The inevitable became evitable! We had to begin a “facelift” for the church – and we needed to begin with the 22 year old roof. The good news is we have a beautiful, more efficient and structurally sound new roof. The not as good news is that the insurance for the storm damage only covered a portion of the re-roofing. As with most stories, the silver lining is that with some money we had set aside for roofing, the insurance payment and some other not specifically designated funds, we are looking to raise at least another \$15,000 to pay for the new roof.

To that end, the Session has given the Building & Grounds Committee permission and authority to begin a capital campaign to help raise funds for our new roof and for other “under the roof” maintenance improvements that are needed. This is our invitation to each of you to be part of the *Raising the Roof and What’s Under the Roof Campaign*. If you would like to help, please send or bring your donation to the church and mark in the memo field “*Raising the Roof and What’s Under the Roof*”. We have a Church replica in the narthex where you can drop your donations! These funds will be used first to help pay for the new roof and then will be used toward additional capital improvement projects for the betterment of our church.

As we have been in the past, are today and will be in all endeavors – we will be good stewards of your donations and your trust. Thank you.

There is a lot going on at FPC-Henderson

There is a lot going on at First Presbyterian Church Henderson. Let's take a walk around and see some of the wonders in progress here --

Our first stop, of course, and our biggest and best news is our new pastor, Rev. Michele Goff. We began our spiritual journey with her the first of the year. We are truly a blessed and grateful congregation and are thankful for her and all the gifts she brings to our pulpit, congregation and community. She and her husband, Larry, are settled and Rev. Michele has been meeting with all our members and friends. Hopefully you have already had the pleasure of meeting her – but if not, be assured you're in the greeting line.

Our next stop along our walk about, is one that began during the Session retreat and came to fruition at our Congregational Meeting in April – when with unanimous celebration we unveiled our new FPC-Henderson Mission Statement

“Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences”

And new logo:



Our new mission statement and our new logo will be implemented into our documents, stationary, bulletins, on-line presence and will be used in all future church branded items. It is a “Star” that leads to Henderson and further leads to FPC-Henderson. We are excited about all this..... Aren't you?

And with Spring – that Spring cleaning itch hits (some of us anyway) – many of the Fellowship Committee members and others spent a day cleaning up and cleaning out.... And while our work is not complete, we did make a significant dent in the supplies room. Next up will be better organizing the kitchen and labeling the cabinets. Up to that point, you'll just have to indulge the hide and seek philosophy for things!

MEMBER CARE

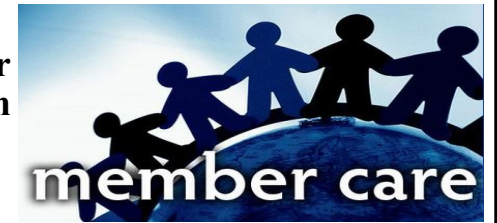
The members of Member Care met via telephone calls this past month and decided to take flowers to our homebound members for Easter. Members are: Patsy Reynolds, Lavonne Schauwecker, Steve Lowe, Lynn Ticken, Carolyn Boren, Jan Mims, Chair, and Rev. Michele Goff.

Home Communion was served by Rev. Goff and Bert Lowe to homebound members, Delbert and Jack Gray, Sue Williams on Monday, April 7, 2019. Also served was Sandra Gibson, one of the persons visited by the Meals on Wheels group of the church.

On April 12th, Lynn Ticken and Jan Mims delivered Easter flowers to Delbert and Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Sue Williams, and Debbie Castro. Carolyn Boren placed cards in the narthex for the congregation to sign for various members.

Member Care would be appreciative of your help in making needs of the congregation known to the committee.

Member Care Team



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



Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation: Debbie Castro, Joy Chapman, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Aaron Ramberg, Patsy Snelgrove, Kay Warren, and Sue Williams.

Connected Family: Billy Tapley (Bert's brother)

All who need our prayers



May 2019

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2 <i>Christian Education Meeting 10:00am</i>	3 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	4
5 <i>Communion</i> <i>Worship Team Meeting following service</i>	6 <i>Home Communion Visits</i>	7 <i>Theology on Tap series in Longview 6:00pm</i> <i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i> Liz Buckner	8 <i>VBS Planning Meeting 5:30pm</i>	9	10 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	11
12  <i>Mothers Day</i>	13 Tolly Dill Pat Laney Patsy Reynolds	14 <i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i>	15	16 <i>L.E.A.N. Meeting 2:00pm</i>	17 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	18 Bert Lowe Mary Lowe
19 <i>Presbyterian Heritage Sunday</i>	20	21 <i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i> Mike Dill	22	23 <i>Session Meeting 6:30pm</i>	24 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	25
26 Tela Snelgrove	27  MEMORIAL DAY <i>Pipeline Deadline</i> <i>Church Offices Closed</i>	28 <i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i>	29	30 Kennedy Miller	31 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	