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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P. O. BOX 773
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Jiu Jitsu Decision Making

Have you ever wondered how two people can come to such opposite opinions? Have you ever wondered why you and your neighbor, or even your sibling can disagree when you come from similar environments?

When someone disagrees with us, we often jump to the conclusion that *they* don't know all the facts. We explain in an effort to change their mind, as if they need to be more informed, or taught the rest of the story. We assume that the other has an incomplete picture of the data. On TV, there are people with credentials of all sorts offering their opinions to “help” us make up our minds.

Between popular opinion and scientific consensus, there has developed a worrisome gap. Infectious diseases are rising due to anti-immunization beliefs. As many as one-third of Americans are “skeptical that humans are primarily responsible for climate change.” Politics aside, these are provable scientific facts.

Psychologists believe we have “attitude roots” that motivate us toward beliefs that are contrary to scientific evidence.

These attitude roots undergird our surface ideologies, values and worldviews. We may value a hierarchical vs egalitarian worldview, by which we reject scientific findings threatening to elites. We may value social dominance and therefore reject anything that challenges human dominance over nature. One might revere free-market ideology to the extent that any implied need for government regulation at the expense of the market would be anathema. One may have a vested interest and be subconsciously protecting their own livelihood. And the one that seems the most obvious: fears and phobias. We might have a fear of needles, for example, and refuse to receive immunization because it is delivered by injection. Other attitude roots include: individualistic vs communitarian worldviews, system justification/belief in a just world; conspiratorial ideation, personal identity expression, and social identity needs.

There are many reasons, conscious or otherwise, that our deeply held beliefs and opinions are contrary to scientific evidence. That's okay.

But there are times when we need to be persuaded, especially when rejecting science is contrary to our safety. That is where this discovery interested me the most.

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Psychologists suggest a “Jiu Jitsu” model of persuasion that emphasizes creating change by aligning (rather than competing) with these attitude roots.” Jiu Jitsu’s key component as a martial art is to turn the opponents’ power into an asset against them. Jiu Jitsu persuasion’s goal “is to identify the underlying motivation, and then to tailor the message so that it aligns with that motivation.” The Jiu Jitsu model is nonjudgmental and nonadversarial.

For example, a person rooted in system justification, might appreciate a pro-environmental message that is patriotic and system preserving. Protecting the environment is then part of their disposition to protect the status quo and leave already established systems in place. A person who is afraid of needles might be convinced that one immunization shot now is a way to potentially avoid many needle pricks later in life. Someone whose identity is expressed by being critical and skeptical could be reminded of the innately skeptical nature of scientific study.

When messages come from in-group resources, we are more likely to buy in, just as we are when behavior is considered normal for our group.

It can be tricky to discern the underlying attitude roots in others and in ourselves. Knowing why we make the decisions and choices we do empowers us to make more informed and grace-filled decisions in the future.

In peace, *Rev Michele*

American Psychologist, “Attitude Roots and Jiu Jitsu Persuasion: Understanding and Overcoming the Motivated Rejection of Science.” Matthew J. Hornsey and Kelly S. Fielding. 2017, Vol. 72, No.5, 459-473.



We have received memorials in August in memory of:

Margaretta Pickle

Don Turlington



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



JOHN & LYNN’S 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Please join us for a barbecue and fellowship

Saturday, September 7th

at the Tieken Home

[4065 FARM TO MARKET ROAD 1251, HENDERSON, TX 75652](#)

Come to visit at 4pm, and the meal is planned for 6pm.

We will provide brisket, beans, potato salad, iced tea, water, and beer.
If convenient, please consider bringing a side dish or dessert to share.

NO GIFTS PLEASE!

We appreciate the thought, but any gifts received will be donated to charity.

Questions: [903-836-2418](tel:903-836-2418)

Lynn: [903-738-1621](tel:903-738-1621)

John: [903-738-1346](tel:903-738-1346)



It has been a busy summer for your Building and Ground group – busy but also productive. Here are a few things we’ve been working on throughout the church. We also invite you to let us know when you see something that needs attention. We’ll add it to our “To Do” list.

As some of you have noticed, we installed two new speakers in the sanctuary directed specifically toward the choir loft. They’ve been in and working for two Sundays now and the feedback from choir members is that this simple but significant addition has really made a difference for members of the choir to be able to hear the service and the sermon. A little extra thanks to John Ticken and Weldon Gray for getting those installed.

The summer heat has been grueling and we have had some air conditioning opportunities; however, they are currently working. That said, we also wanted to share with you some positive information. As you may recall, when we needed to replace the roof, we had them add a layer of installation of sorts in the sanctuary area. We are happy to report that the Finance Committee noted that we are seeing a positive impact to our utility bills and we credit at least part of that to the added insulation.

A request to everyone when entering/leaving the church -- Please make sure the doors close. They are tending to stick a little and if not pulled/pushed shut they are not always closing completely. So, please, make sure they close. Thank you.

Labors of love

Thomas Merton, an American monk, writer and social activist, said, “It is in the ordinary duties and labors of life that the Christian can and should develop his spiritual union with God.” As the United States observes Labor Day, may we find meaning not simply in marking summer’s end but in celebrating the ways nearly all “duties and labors of life” can empower ministry and faith.

Whether as a dentist, parent, artist, teacher, mechanic, gardener, city councilor, farmer, day laborer, attorney or anything else, a Christian can begin each workday or shift by praying for opportunities to serve whoever they’ll encounter. We also can pray for and seek ways to grow in “spiritual union with God”: cultivating spiritual fruits; actively loving God and neighbor; seeing Jesus in the vulnerable; practicing humility, gratitude and praise.

In Labor Day, may we find inspiration to make all our labors loving and faithful!

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that most Americans agree that we have a moral responsibility to provide a safe and healthy climate for our children and families? Also, more and more Americans are recognizing that climate change threatens our health. Increasing temperatures, poor air quality, wildfires, and more frequent and intense extreme weather events are threatening our health and wellbeing.

The EPA is responsible for reducing climate pollution and protecting human health. However, the EPA authority to protect our health is under attack by plans that strip the EPA’s authority to stop climate pollution under the guise of “regulatory simplification.”

Following a surge in the number and intensity of climate change--related harms--from exposure to extreme weather and heat waves to worsening air pollution and the spread of insect-borne disease--health and medical groups have joined together to outline The Call to Action on Climate, Health and Equity: A Policy Action Agenda to protect the health and safety of all people in the U.S. The National Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Public Health Association are among the more than 70 health organizations calling on policy makers at all levels of government, and leaders in business and civil society to face the climate-health emergency head on and to take action.

Each of us can make a difference, now. The American Lung Association provides information and resources so you can contact your elected representative and community leaders and urge them to take climate action. For more information, go to www.lung.org/our-initiatives/healthy-air. Also, you may check out ecoAmerica.org or search Medical Society Consortium on Climate & Health.

The C.E. Green Team



“The entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that Jesus was doing.” – Luke 13:17

Season of Peace:

Begins September 1 and ends with World Communion Sunday on October 6, when we also collect the Peace & Global Witness Offering.

For Inbox Devotions from the Presbyterian Mission Agency, visit:
<https://pcusa.activehosted.com/f/178>

Or Download the PDF version from:

WORSHIP

Your Worship Team meets regularly to plan services to engage the entire congregation and invite visitors and friends. At our most recent meeting, we continued discussion of our quest for more ushers and greeters. Since, we have compiled a sign-up sheet through the end of 2019. Members may sign up for just one Sunday! They are requested to come early, 20 minutes prior to our service, to hand out bulletins, greeting our members and guests, lighting the acolyte candle, gathering the offering at the appointed time, recording the number of people in attendance, and providing assistance as needed (direction to restrooms, Sunday School classes, Nursery, Pastor's Office). Steve Lowe continues to do a wonderful job in this capacity, but like most of us these days, has out-of-town commitments occasionally. Mary Lowe will coordinate our sign-up sheet, which is presently in the Narthex, and will eventually be on the bulletin board in the Secretary's office. Please consider a Sunday that you may be available to help. You will be blessed!

There will be a Hymn Sing on Sunday, September 8th. Pastor Michele, Joshua, and Lynn are gathering suggestions for favorite hymns. Invite-A-Friend Sunday will be recognized on September 22nd. We will include a notice on the sign out front.

On Communion Sundays, we will begin singing the responses for the Great Thanksgiving. This won't be entirely new, since we have done it in the past.

New speakers toward the choir have been added due to a gift from Weldon and Claudia Gray and assistance from John Tieken, connecting them. The choir and the congregation have noted hearing improvement.

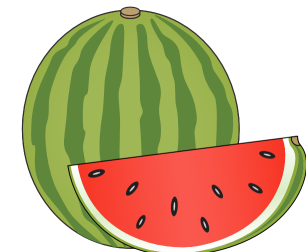
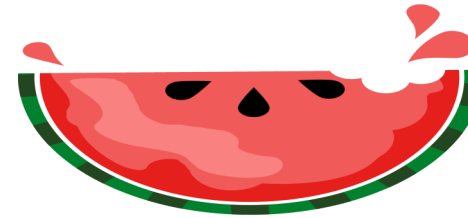
The bulletin has been changed somewhat, hopefully for the better. We would appreciate your comments; so far, they have been good.

Your choir under direction of Joshua Allen has met regularly and practiced diligently throughout the summer. John Bruce Hillin, Stefan Kane, and Tom Laney have recently joined in to complete a good sound. All members have enjoyed the comradery that we experience as a small group.

Your Worship Team includes Rev. Michele Goff, Joshua Allen, Choir Director, Jimmy Chapman, Kathy Porter, Kelly Weaver, Jan Mims, Margaret Hillin, Cindy Ratliff, Scott Hurst, and Lynn Tieken, Chair, plus a whole bunch of other behind the scenes workers. Thanks to all!



DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER:
Bert Lowe





Lots of fun, fellowship, watermelon, and four kinds of ice cream on a hot August Saturday afternoon!



COUNCIL ACTIONS

- Worshipped and prayed together
- Reviewed church finances
- Approved use of Fellowship Hall by East Texas Heritage Theatre
- Elected commissioners for the September 28 meeting of Grace Presbytery in Tyler
- Reviewed status of church air conditioning units
- Rejoiced in the amount raised for capital campaign--\$12,030.00
- Scheduled remaining meeting dates as well as remaining business for 2019
- Set date of November 24 for Annual Congregational & Stewardship Meeting and luncheon

Liturgists for September:

09/01 Kathy Porter
 09/08 Tim Wasson
 09/15 Katie Hurst
 09/22 Lynn Tieken
 09/29 Jan Pennal



Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation: Judy Andrasko, Debbie Castro, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Patsy Snelgrove, Sue Williams, and Debbie & Tim Wasson upon the passing of Debbie's sister.

All who need our prayers





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 - Communion - Bring H.I.M. Donations - Season of Peace begins Cindy Ratliff	2 Home Communion Visits  Church Offices Closed	3 Theology on Tap in Longview 6:00pm Choir Practice 6:00pm	4	5	6 Meals On Wheels	7
8 Hymn Sing! Sunday Grandparents Day	9	10 Choir Practice 6:00pm	11 Joyce Huggins	12	13 Meals On Wheels	14
15	16	17 Choir Practice 6:00pm Claudia Morgan-Gray	18	19 L.E.A.N. Meeting 2:00pm	20 Meals On Wheels	21
22 Invite-A-Friend Sunday	23  Pipeline Deadline	24 Choir Practice 6:00pm Lynn Ticken	25	26 Session Meeting 6:30pm	27 Meals On Wheels	28 Grace Presbytery Meeting in Tyler
29	30				****Reminder**** Bring H.I.M. donations the First Sunday of every month	