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www.fpchendersontx.org

*"Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences"*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue Four

Supporting One Another in Love
during the COVID-19 Outbreak

We are the church. We are God's people. Even as we practice responsible social distancing, we continue to discern new ways of connecting. Our priority as followers of Christ remains: love God and love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, First Presbyterian Church of Henderson has chosen to follow Grace Presbytery's recommendation from March 16 and meet virtually until it is deemed safer to do so by authorities.

We formed a Task Force to work with Session, monitor the developing situation, and determine our course of action.

Know that you can call on Rev Michele, the members of the Task Force, Jimmy Chapman, Kathy Porter, Kelly Weaver, John and Lynn Tieken, or your Session if there is any way at all we can support you during this time.

We are excited to explore this opportunity to worship virtually! So that we may continue to worship our Creator together, a service of Word and Prayer will be streamed live on Sunday mornings at 11am on FPC's Facebook page. You do not have to have a Facebook page or account to view our page. *View here:* <https://www.facebook.com/1stPresHenderson/>

On Facebook, you will find helpful and inspirational links, a midweek prayer, the Sunday service of Word and Prayer and the weekly bulletin will be on our church website. *View that here:* <http://www.fpchendersontx.org/category/bulletin/>

If you prefer, and by request, the office will happily mail to you a packet containing the Sunday service and bulletin, a written copy of the Pastor's homily, and the midweek meditation.

The church will keep in touch through the phone tree, Shepherd phone calls, email and traditional mail. Rev Michele will keep her Monday and Wednesday office hours from 9:30 to 12:30. (As long as Michele is well.) And of course, you are encouraged to call, text and email one another!

As a gentle reminder, please remember to mail in your pledges. While the sanctuary is dark, your church staff is still working to keep us connected for the glory of God and God's mission in the world.

TIPS for preventing the spread of COVID-19, from the Center for Disease Control:

Wash your hands thoroughly with soap. Use hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol. Avoid touching your face. Put distance between yourself and others and avoid close contact with others. Stay home if you are sick. Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, or the inside of your elbow. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Statewide, Texas is under a declared public health disaster. This comes with the advice to adhere to the practices listed above in addition to limiting gatherings of more than 10 people.

These measures to socially distance ourselves and observe preventative cautions will hopefully help to flatten the curve, slowing the spread of the virus, and ensuring that more Americans will receive the healthcare attention they need. Even if you are not at risk, your precautions will help protect others who are.

Our Christian mission hold us fast through the uncertainty: love God and love our neighbors as we love ourselves.

In Peace,

Rev Michele

Henderson Interchurch Ministry is in need of supplies

- Canned Meats: Tuna & Chicken
- Jelly
- Crackers
- Cereal/Breakfast Items
- Peanut Butter
- Soups
- Fruit Cups

During this time of pandemic, the need for the services of Henderson Interchurch Ministries have been rapidly increasing. If you have items at home that you can donate, Jimmy (903 649-0341) and John (903 738-1346) are available to come pick up donations from your front porch and deliver to H.I.M. We can safely help our neighbors in this way.

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

- ◇ For our homebound members:
Sue, Joyce, Debbie, Kay, and Sandra
- ◇ Continue to hold *Anita B, Kenneth T, and Rebecca M.*
- ◇ For all those in the world and our community who are ill, at risk, and live in fear of COVID-19



You may still
contribute to
One Great Hour of
Sharing by mailing
your contribution
to:

First Presbyterian
Church
PO Box 773
Henderson, TX
75653

Worship Committee

Worship in Spirit and Truth

What a difference a day makes? One day we are planning diligently for our Lenten studies and Holy Week services, and then worship, as we know it, is cancelled. But, never fear. As one person stated, the church is not a building, it is the people. In this time of social distancing, we wholeheartedly participate in this practice of social distancing to reflect our care and concern for others. We are responding to Christ's call to protect the "least of these" in the human family. So, for a season (we don't know how long), we will limit our participation in activities which bring us so much life and joy. This discipline and self-limitation increase the safety of many.

Social distancing does not mean entirely cutting yourself off from human interaction. Phone calls, cards, emails, letters are just some ways we stay in touch. This past Sunday, members received mail from the church with devotionals, prayers, and information about how the services would be continued via website and Facebook; and some even received a printed copy of Rev. Goff's sermon. We can be confident that the Holy Spirit will continually equip us not only to persevere, but to share Christ's love with our neighbors.

Sharing our faith with others, providing a quiet, peace filled presence in the midst of this upheaval brings hope, comfort, and the recognition that one is not alone. So, reach out! Share your concern for others with prayer, with contact other than close contact, presenting our faith in the one who made us, and assured us we would not be left alone, Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

John 4:23-24 "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."



<https://www.facebook.com/1stPresHenderson/>

Council Actions March 19, 2020

By Conference Call

- ♦ Worshiped and prayed together
- ♦ Discussed pastoral concerns in this time of uncertainty
- ♦ Discussed ways of doing virtual worship
- ♦ Discussed ways of staying connected
- ♦ Approved purchase of microphone for choir

Colossians 3:15

"And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful."

These are uncertain times and so much is changing around us. Our lives have been turned upside down. From simple things like going to the grocery store or to a restaurant, to the seriousness of protecting yourself and others from the virus. We all look for comfort in finding some small piece of normalcy.

FPC Henderson is hard at work trying to find new ways of staying connected. Many things will need to be done a little differently but one thing that remains the same, you are loved. God will give us the strength and courage to get through this. Some other things that remain the same are our bills and our financial obligations. Please remember your pledges. Until we can worship together in person, you may mail your pledge or plate contribution to P.O. Box 773, Henderson, TX 75653.

May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Your Finance Committee



DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL:
Kathy Porter

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that on April 22, 2020 the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day will be celebrated?

The history of Earth Day began during a time when the U.S. was experiencing both political and economic ups and downs. During the 60's the economy was on the move, but it was costing the environment in a big way. Americans were driving large cars that ran on leaded gasoline. Factories, chemical plants, oil industries were booming but so was the production of air pollution and environmental waste. Unlike today, the health of the planet was not a high priority for most people primarily because they were unaware of the dangerous side effects of common everyday practices.

Small groups of individuals were, however, aware of the deterioration of the world around them and began to take steps to inform the public. In 1962 author Rachel Carson published her book *Silent Spring* which painted the picture for the environmental decline and raised awareness about preserving the planet. The devastating oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in 1969 was the final push Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson needed to launch his campaign for safer industrial practices. He introduced his idea for a "national teach-in on the environment." Senator Nelson chose Republican Congressman Pete McCloskey to serve as his co-chair and Denis Hayes of Harvard University to serve as national coordinator. The team recruited 85 individuals to promote Earth concept across the country.

Thus, on April 22, 1970 the United States celebrated the first Earth Day. More than 20 million people around the U.S. gathered holding rallies, demonstrations, and other activities to promote a clean and safe living environment. Earth Day 1970 worked because it had support from so many types of people—Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city people and country people, bosses and workers. That first Earth Day led to the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species acts. Sen. Nelson was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the highest honor given to civilians in the United States—for his role as Earth Day Founder. In 1990 Denis Hayes organized another major campaign for the planet, and Earth Day went global with 200 million people in 141 countries rallying for a clean environment. Today, Earth Day is recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, marked by more than a billion people in 192 countries every year as a day to advocate for action for a healthy planet, and serves as a conscious reminder of how fragile our planet is and how important it is to protect it.

Your Christian Education Team hopes to have an observation of Earth Day 50th Anniversary on April 22 if our current situation improves. Stay tuned for further details.

"Let's take care of creation! We owe it to one another."

The CE Green Team

Fellowship Soup Supper before Ash Wednesday Service



From Fellowship Committee:

In many ways, fellowship seems like an impossible concept in our current world. We may not be able to schedule a potluck right now, but we encourage you to stay connected to each other during this time: a quick phone call, a video chat if you're tech savvy. Let's get through this together!

While we are uncertain if we will be able to meet in person for our annual Easter breakfast, the committee met last month to plan the event. We will keep you up to date as this unprecedented situation continues.

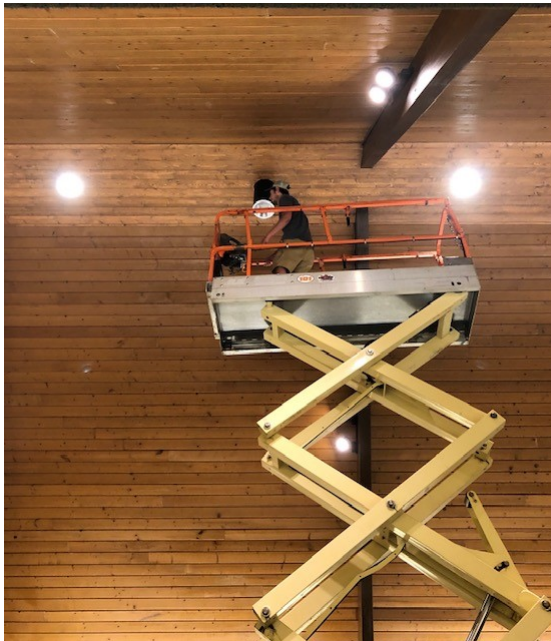
The Fellowship Committee prays for your continued health and safety, and we look forward to meeting with you in person again soon!

Building & Grounds at work.



*John, Michael, and
Weldon at work.*

*Michael uses a self-
propelled scissor
lift to repair the
light in the
sanctuary.*

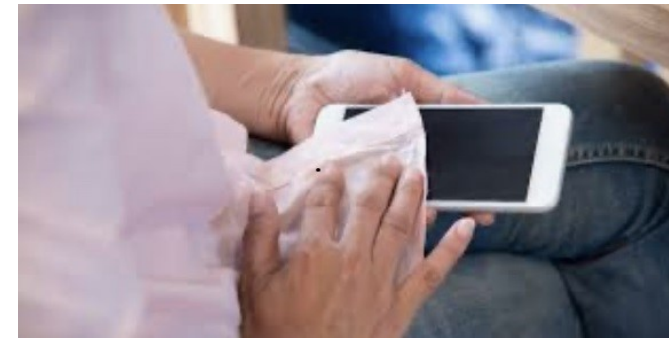


DID YOU REMEMBER?

While the world has been constantly reminded to wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, the Centers for Disease Control is also advising to clean “high touch” surfaces everyday. Anything from tabletops and counters, to doorknobs and keyboards are considered “high touch” surfaces by the CDC and are therefore potential breeding ground for germs. One of the most touched surfaces is undoubtedly the cellphone. The device is pressed to the side of our ears, tapped, and swiped. It goes everywhere with us, making it the ideal surface for virus transfer, so it is important to clean your cellphone daily.

Apple advises using a 70 percent isopropyl wipe or Clorox Disinfecting wipes to gently wipe the exterior of your iPhone. Avoid getting moisture in any opening. Do not use bleach.

Let's make a note to remember to clean our cellphones!



Your Session

Deep peace of the Running Wave to you.
Deep peace of the Flowing Air to you.
Deep peace of the Quiet Earth to you.
Deep peace of the Shining Stars to you.
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you.

A CELTIC BENEDICTION



APRIL 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1 <i>Patsy Snelgrove</i> 	2 <i>Bill Snow</i> 	3 Meals on Wheels	4
5 Palm Sunday Facebook Virtual Worship	6	7 Choir 6:00 PM (TBA)	8 Passover Begins	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday Meals on Wheels	11 Easter Vigil
12  Worship TBA	13 <i>Tom Weaver</i> 	14 Choir 6:00 PM (TBA)	15 <i>Larry Goff</i> 	16	17 Meals on Wheels <i>Jetti Fahle</i> 	18 <i>Fonta Conway</i> 
19 Worship TBA	20	21 Choir 6:00 PM (TBA)	22 	23	24 Meals on Wheels	25
26 Worship TBA 	27 Pipeline Deadline	28 Choir 6:00 PM (TBA)	29 <i>Lavonne Schauwecker</i>  <i>Sue Williams</i> 	30	1 Meals on Wheels	2 