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"Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences"

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July ★★



THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Follow That Star: Christmas in July Edition

The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. Matthew 2:9

We have arrived at the midway point: it is July in the year 2020. Unsettling things are all around us, but good things are happening too. SpaceX, a private company, partnered with NASA, a government agency, to send astronauts into space. Hooray for teamwork and reusable rockets! Black Lives Matter has found a foothold for change. Meaningful progress is being articulated in new ways. Conversations are happening, allowing more people to understand generations-old scars left by racism and bigotry. Our lives look different than they did just six months before.

In January, to mark the epiphany, each of you was given a Star Word. As the Magi followed the star to greet the newborn Jesus, we were invited to follow our word to whatever epiphanies it might illuminate for us in 2020. How has the first half of your star-following journey shaped your year? Are you seeing the world differently? Are you hearing your word, or versions of it in surprising places? Perhaps your word was "joy." If you haven't experienced joy lately, where can you find more joy, in your memories, in nature, in the psalms? If your word was "solitude" perhaps you have had enough solitude, and are looking for ways to counter-balance your word in your life with phone calls and socially distanced visits.

Have you shared your word with a friend? How do your two words and your experiences with them compare? Perhaps, your friend can point out instances of and reflections on your word that you have yet to notice.

My word is RENEW. Over and over this year in scriptures, the possibility for transformation (renewal) by the Spirit has held my attention. I am also noticing how I bend my Star Word, sometimes toward refresh, like spring cleaning, sometimes toward revive, especially when I seek new energy for a routine task. I like the part of renew that suggests again, or repeat. It has a repurpose, second-life or even a start over quality that the world does not always value.

I would love to know how your Star Word has touched your path this year. Send me an email!

Whatever your word, whatever your journey, enjoy it. You still have six more months to play with it. May it bring you closer to our Gracious God.

Rev Michele



**2020
General Assembly**
“From Lament to Hope”

For the first time, PC(USA) held its General Assembly virtually. To say that this General Assembly is unlike anything we’ve seen before may be an understatement. But, “from lament to hope” is where we are – and all of us with each other.

We are living in unprecedented times – as individuals and as a country we are aching. We mourn the more than 100,000 American lives lost to the Covid-19 virus. We rise up when racial injustice result in the unjust killings. We expand our wings of comfort to gather in non-traditional ways for worship in the new realities of social distancing. Through all the change and challenge, we at FPC-Henderson continue “Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences.”

While holding a much shorter General Assembly and only addressing issues considered critical and core, the GA also elected Co-Moderators for the GA224. On June 20, 2020, Elona Street-Stewart and Rev. Gregory Bentley were elected as Co-Moderators on first ballot.

If you’d like more information about the activities and actions of the GA, you can visit “Spirit of GA” Facebook page or the PC(USA) GA224 website. We will also publish additional actions in our August newsletter.

Music in the Middle with Joshua Allen



Wednesdays @ 6PM
Facebook Live
facebook.com/PianoManJoshua

First Presbyterian Church
Henderson, TX
Joshua Allen, Director of Music



*In recognition of National Gun
Violence / Safety Awareness*

Briar's Pre-K Graduation





W O R S H I P

Virtual Worship continues to be our primary source for community gathering, worship and prayer as the risk of transmitting the Covid-19 virus remains high in our region.

Please continue to enjoy Rev. Michele's service online on the First Presbyterian, Henderson, TX, Facebook page, on Sunday morning at 11 am, Music in the Middle with Joshua each Wednesday evening at 6 pm, and Rev. Michele's check-in on Thursdays. If you miss the actual time, the programs can still be viewed or reviewed at your convenience. They are that good!!

We encourage everyone to develop a special area (worship space) using symbols such as a cross or a candle. Make the time and space as meaningful as possible. Use a quiet space outside for meditation and prayer. Have candles, bible and devotionals arranged in a quiet corner of a room inside your home. Centering prayers help us to slow our thoughts and listen for God's input. Begin your meditation with words like "Come, Holy Spirit! Open my heart" or "Lord, you are my refuge" Or simply, a breath prayer, as our pastor has mentioned recently. "Lord, I inhale your peace" (breathing in) and "I exhale my anxiety" (breathing out). Concentrate on God. Relax. See what happens. Pray earnestly for those you love. Let the Lord guide you. Let's pray that God's will be done and mountains may be moved. With God, all things are possible.

We all look forward to worshipping again in the sanctuary. The Worship Committee will be meeting soon to discern the best way to follow recommendations from the Covid-19 Task Force and the Session. A highly modified service may soon be possible in the sanctuary, or we may meet for devotions in the park. Either way, we will be conscious of social distancing and follow precautions for minimal spreading of the virus.

God be with you as we walk our walk day by day.

~The Worship Team~

Our OUTREACH is still WITHIN reach

The Outreach Committee is communicating among members, however, we have not met via conference or in person. We do hope to have another Zoom conference call meeting in July – that date is still pending.

As we have noted before, just because we are not meeting in person does not mean that the work and blessings of our congregation do not continue. They indeed continue. One of the programs that we as individuals and as a church have helped shepherd over many years is the Yates Park Help the Youth program that Betty Elder helped champion over 35 years ago. This coming school year is going to be challenging on many levels but this important program is going to continue to make the challenge less challenging for many. Because of the Covid virus, school will be starting early this year – on August 5th. Therefore, this school supplies project will also be held earlier than normal. As we have always done, FPC rises to the occasion to help students through this project. We are beginning our school supplies drive now and will run it through the month of July. You may donate money through the church by making your check out to FPC but noting on it in the Memo line "Yates Park School Supply Project" or you may purchase school supplies yourself and either get them to the church or call one of us to come pick them up. However and whatever you are able to help with this project is greatly appreciated. Remember to get your donations of money and/or supplies to us by July 31st. Thank you.

As we did in May, we do plan to continue in a safe and social distancing kind of way checking in with and on our neighbors through our Adopt A Block walk. We have tentatively set July 20th as our next AAB. If you would like to join us for an hour of walking, exercise, sweat, fellowship, and rewarding reception of our neighbors – Save the date and join us.

Thank you to all that contributed to our second Special Offering – Pentecost. Because of the generosity of this congregation, we raised \$390.00 for the Pentecost Offering. This special offering goes directly to helping children in need and young adults in their faith journeys. FPC Henderson gets to keep 40% of our total offering and this year it looks like it will be around \$156.00 that we will devote to an organization devoted to helping children.

We also continue to ask for your blessings and assistance for the HIM ministry – it is needed and greatly appreciated.

Peace & Grace,

***Claudia, Katie, Bert, Jan P., Jan M., Jimmy, John,
Kathy, Lynn, Scott & Rev. Michele***



For It Is In Giving That We All Receive

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Let us continue to count the many ways and many blessings and many thanks to all of you for your continued pledges and offerings. When we are giving, we are being the faithful people God calls us to be and even though we have not been gathering in our traditional way, we are still the Body of Christ.

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Your Finance/Stewardship Committee



***Go Shopping and Support
First Presbyterian Church
Henderson, TX***

If you are already an existing Amazon customer but have not selected First Presbyterian Church Henderson as your charitable organization, simply login to smile.amazon.com using your normal www.amazon.com login.

Type *First Presbyterian Church Henderson* under **"Start by picking your charity"** and click **Search**. Select First Presbyterian Church, Henderson, TX; and then click, **"Start Shopping"**.

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to First Presbyterian Church Henderson.

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:



- ◇ *For our home bound members:
Sue, Debbie, Joyce, and Kay.*
- ◇ *For Judy, Bob & Cindy*
- ◇ *For those who are ill and at risk for the Flu and Coronavirus*
- ◇ *For healthcare and essential workers who are working during this pandemic*



Please join us in continuing our support for the Yates Park Help the Youth School Supply Program. This 35-year old program headed by our friend, Betty Elder, has helped provide school supplies to over 1000 local children year after year. This year, because of the pandemic, the date and manner of distribution has changed a little. The event will be on Tuesday, August 4th at the Henderson Civic Center from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. Rather than coming inside to pick up, the volunteers will be loading the filled backpacks into the vehicles at curbside.

We encourage and invite our congregation to continue their support for this important and local advocacy. You can bring school supplies to the church all throughout the month of July and we will get them to the project. Or, you can help by donating to this cause through our church. Make your check payable to FPC Henderson and in the memo line please include "Yates Park School Supplies." Any and all help is appreciated.

PS – and while it is after school starts and this drive is complete, also remember that the Sales Tax Holiday this year falls on August 7-9, 2020.

Footnotes from Fellowship:

How wonderful and fun was our first Peek-A-Boo in the Park? We enjoyed seeing everyone. It was beyond grand to finally see each other face to face even though we were wearing masks and mostly 6' apart!

Because our first was so successful – it will not be our last. We are working on another in person/socially distancing/masked but fun second event. You will be getting information soon about another event as we team up with the Outreach Committee to help gather school supplies for the children of Henderson. We hope you will join us for this event!

With love,

The Fellowship Committee



Did You Know?

***We CAN
do something!***

The CE Green Team



Council Actions

June 18, 2020

- ◆ Worshipped and prayed together
- ◆ Shared joys
- ◆ Shared pastoral concerns for congregation
- ◆ Discussed validity of electronic meetings
- ◆ Noted early start of school on August 5 regarding the Yates Park Project
- ◆ Heard status of church finances during this time of pandemic
- ◆ Discussed rise in COVID19 cases in Rusk County in relation to opening sanctuary



Dear July --- We don't want any trouble from you. Your siblings – March, April, May & June – have been handfuls. So come on in and try to be only your normal hot mess self. Nothing extra please.

As we are still on our hiatus from group gatherings at the church, we have also been limited on the group work we can do on some of our projects. We are, however, continuing to make our To Do List for when it will be safer for us to all work together again.

In the meantime, let's all continue to hold each other in our hearts and prayers and hold the community of our church gently in your thoughts as well.

Through helping hands of your Building & Grounds Committee

Claudia, Steve, John T, Michael, Scott, Kathy, Weldon and Rev. Michele.



JULY 2020



July Reminders:

Please bring H.I.M. donations on the first Monday of the month. The office will be open from 9 AM to 2 PM.

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You can bring school supplies to the church all throughout the month of July.



|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| Jon Nicholson | 9  |
| John Tieken   | 18 |
| Steve Lowe    | 19 |
| Carolyn Boren | 20 |
| Jan Pennal    | 23 |
| Jimmy Chapman | 27 |

| Sunday                                      | Monday                                        | Tuesday   | Wednesday                                                            | Thursday                                                     | Friday                                                                   | Saturday                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                             |                                               |           | <b>1</b><br>Music in the Middle<br>Facebook 6 PM<br>CE Meeting 10 AM | <b>2</b><br>Meditations on Facebook 5:30 PM                  | <b>3</b><br>Meals on Wheels<br>Church Holiday<br>4 <sup>th</sup> of July | <b>4</b><br><br>Happy 4th of July! |
| <b>5</b><br>Facebook Virtual Service 11 AM  | <b>6</b><br>Meals on Wheels                   | <b>7</b>  | <b>8</b><br>Music in the Middle<br>Facebook 6 PM                     | <b>9</b><br>Meditations on Facebook 5:30 PM                  | <b>10</b><br>Meals on Wheels                                             | <b>11</b>                                                                                                             |
| <b>12</b><br>Facebook Virtual Service 11 AM | <b>13</b><br>Meals on Wheels                  | <b>14</b> | <b>15</b><br>Music in the Middle<br>Facebook 6 PM                    | <b>16</b><br>Meditations on Facebook 5:30 PM<br>Session 6 PM | <b>17</b><br>Meals on Wheels                                             | <b>18</b>                                                                                                             |
| <b>19</b><br>Facebook Virtual Service 11 AM | <b>20</b><br>Meals on Wheels<br>Adopt a Block | <b>21</b> | <b>22</b><br>Music in the Middle<br>Facebook 6 PM                    | <b>23</b><br>Meditations on Facebook 5:30 PM                 | <b>24</b><br>Meals on Wheels                                             | <b>25</b>                                                                                                             |
| <b>26</b><br>Facebook Virtual Service 11 AM | <b>27</b><br>Meals on Wheels                  | <b>28</b> | <b>29</b><br>Music in the Middle<br>Facebook 6 PM                    | <b>30</b><br>Meditations on Facebook 5:30 PM                 | <b>31</b><br>Meals on Wheels                                             |                                                                                                                       |