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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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# THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

Volume 52

August 2020

Issue Eight

## Earth's Joy

By Rachel Hackenberg  
*StillSpeaking Daily Devotional*  
May 6, 2020

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
Worship the Lord with gladness....  
Enter God's gates with thanksgiving.  
Psalm 100:1-2,4 (NRSV)

I was tired before the pandemic overtook our days, our news, our livelihoods. Far from dancing my way into God's presence, I was crawling to the gates with my body tired and my tongue dry. Maybe you were too. Maybe you are now.

Thank goodness – thank God – that all the earth is still making its own joyful noise, chirping and thrumming and blooming and waving without minding our weariness.

Across the street from my home, the neighbor's yard is resplendent with the gladness of dandelions- perhaps the most stubborn flower I know in its determination to be friendly.

On a now-quiet Chicago beach, a pair of endangered piping plovers are blissfully building their nest, dancing their courtship, and dining on God's banquet of insects and crustaceans.

Through the streets of Samsun, Tukey, a large flock of sheep recently wandered and grazed, not minding the rightness or wrongness of their path, only noisily joyful for bites of grass along the way.

Across national parks and nature reserves, bears and boars and cranes and turtles are expanding their territories and visibility, no longer constrained by tourists and traffic.

In the relative quiet off quarantine, scientist report that the earth's natural noise is remarkably quieter- and more measurable. The crust quakes less, the ocean's waves resonate further, the volcanoes' rumbles are more evident.

While humanity observes a season of silence – whether from virus or fatigue, with grief or frustration – all the earth continues to sing God's praise.

Prayer

Teach my heart to retune its song to joy, O Creator. And when my song is quiet and my tongue is heavy, tune my heart to hear your praise sung by all the earth. Amen.

*Rachel Hackenberg serves on the national staff for the United Church of Christ and is the author of several books.*



We all look forward to worshipping in the sanctuary together again! Following recommendations from the Covid-19 Task Force and the Session, a highly modified but also highly anticipated service is planned for Sunday, August 16<sup>th</sup> at 11 am.

While we are all anxious to resume our in-person worship, we do need to make sure everyone understands that "things will be different." And to ensure that we can continue to meet in person, we ask that everyone abide by the guidelines and restrictions we have established:

- There will be no Nursery service provided and there will be no Sunday School;
- Temperatures will be scanned as you enter.
- We will require masks (if you do not have one, we will provide you with one) and ask that you be conscious of social distancing; Seating will be marked for social distancing. Families may sit together; otherwise, six feet apart.
- We will enter the sanctuary by doors in the church (Narthex), and leave by the exit door in front of the sanctuary near the piano.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at various stations.
- Bulletins will be placed in marked off seating areas. At the conclusion of service, there will be a recycle box places near the exit;
- When entering the Sanctuary, there will be a plate for pledges/donations;
- As a congregation, we will not be singing – Joshua will be providing music and he may include some solo singing himself;
- Verbal responses from the congregation will be minimal. The liturgist will read our responses.
- Bring your own Bible, as hymnbooks and Bibles will be removed from the pews.
- Please do not visit with others inside the Narthex or Sanctuary. If you must visit, make the time outside of the church.
- We will be dismissed one pew at a time to reduce movement past each other. Your church officers are attempting to provide as normal worship service as possible while preventing the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

We hope you understand our concern and we look forward to sharing worship with you on Sunday, August 16, 2020!

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



Hello August – The last of the summer months and the entry to the harvest time. Our message to you dear August..... we want to be like sunflowers, so that even on the darkest days, we will stand tall and find the sunlight.

As we look to resume in person services this month, we are looking forward to seeing each of you. While we have all been away, we continued to keep up the church building in good shape awaiting our return.

We have several upcoming projects that we know you will enjoy and appreciate when they are complete.

In the meantime, continue to hold each other and our community in our hearts and prayers – and let's all be like sunflowers.

***Through helping hands of your Building & Grounds Committee***

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

## **Living Estate Sale of Bert Lowe**

Thursday, Friday, & Saturday

August 20, 21, & 22

8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

All proceeds will be donated to First Presbyterian Church Henderson.



## Wonderful worship together in the park July 19



## Music in the Middle

has a new landing page:

<https://facebook.com/JoshuaThePianoMan>

Come share in God's love  
through the musical  
talents of Joshua.

Streaming live on  
Wednesday evenings at  
6:00 PM

**MUSIC**  
**in the**  
**Middle**

~FOLLOW THIS PAGE~

[facebook.com/JoshuaThePianoMan](https://facebook.com/JoshuaThePianoMan)



## With OUTREACHed hearts

Our Outreach Committee met via Zoom on Wednesday, July 15 to discuss numerous issues, events and avenues of assistance.

We had another wonderful and welcoming (Covid-Safe) Adopt a Block on Monday, July 20<sup>th</sup>. We changed things around a little for this month's walk about in our neighborhood – We did our walk at 7:00 pm in hopes that we would catch more people at home. In addition to our normal neighbor treat that we take to each neighbor, we added an iced down, porch delivered watermelon! The mantra that it is better to give than receive was definitely on display that evening as our hearts filled as we met smiling faces, dancing eyes, thankful hearts and lip smacking lips! It was a good evening. Thank you to Lynn & John T, Kathy P, Jimmy C, Katie H, Rev. Michele, Weldon G, and Claudia – the angels of Adopt A Block this month.

We also share information we received from the Rusk County Health Department Community Health Director noting that they have received a Clinical Health Bridge grant. This group focuses programs for our community aimed at many health emergencies that face Rusk County. They will continue facilitating the Step Up Scale Down project in addition to several new programs aimed at reaching some of the minority population on health issues including but not limited to diabetes and obesity. Rusk County's numbers in these two health issues exceeds the state's average and are high by any standards. We are going to be part of this health revolution for Rusk County beginning with our congregation and our neighbors. Won't you join us?

As our church get to keep 40% of Pentecost special offering funds that we raise, the Outreach Team unanimously decided to allocate in equal amounts the proceeds from this year's offering. We added to our already quarterly support to Rusk County Children's Advocacy and we allocated the remaining to the Yates Park Youth School Supplies project. Each entity will be getting an additional \$78.00 from FPC Henderson.

Thank you to all of you that donated either items or money to this year's Yates Park Youth School Supplies drive. As we can all attest, this year has been full of challenges and opportunities. As the children of this area prepare to return to a school and a classroom where everything will be different and everything will be changed, our part in this project helped these children and these families have one less thing to worry about and one important thing that stayed the same – they are cared about and education is important. Thank you for your generous spirits and participation.

And just a gentle reminder that the state sales tax holiday is August 7-9, 2020.

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

With Outreached Hands & Hearts

**Peace & Grace**

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

**Duty Elder for the month of August:**  
*Jan M.*



**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](https://smile.amazon.com) using your normal [www.amazon.com](https://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.

## Did You Know?



Did you know that a Russian heat wave smashed an all-time record high in one Siberian town on June 20, 2020, possibly the hottest temperature on record so far north in the Arctic, continuing an off-the-charts warm year in what is typically one of the coldest places on Earth. The town of Verkhoyansk, a town in northeast Russia about 6 miles north of the Arctic Circle, reported a temperature of 100.4 F. The head of science at Russia's Hydro Meteorological Centre confirmed the temperature. The average high in late June in Verkhoyansk is about 60 degrees. Let that soak in.....Siberia, one of the world's coldest places in winter, reached 100 degrees before Dallas or Houston.

The heat wave began in parts of Siberia in May and was so remarkable that it reached five standard deviations from normal. In other words, if hypothetically you were able to live in that area for 100,000 years, statistically speaking you should only experience such an extreme period of temperatures one time. Climate change has now increased that chance. Sergei Semyonov of the Institute of Global Climate and Ecology in Moscow said that such heat waves aren't necessarily new to Siberia, but that climate change is increasing their severity and length.

It is clear that human-caused climate change plays a significant role in boosting the intensity of heat waves. Simply put, as average temperatures increase, extreme heat days become more even prominent. In the Arctic, this impact is heightened due to a loss of ice and snow. The white snow and ice reflect up to 85 per cent of sunlight. As the area covered by ice and snow decreases, it is replaced by dark seawater that absorbs much more sunlight, warming the ocean which then releases that warmth back into the air which raises atmospheric temperatures too. This loop is largely the reason why the Arctic is heating at a much faster rate than the rest of the planet. Professor Chris Rapley of University College London, eminent climate scientist, says “We've upset the energy balance of the entire planet. Year after year we see temperature records being broken. This is a warning message from the Earth itself. We ignore it at our peril.” 2020 will most likely be the warmest year on record globally.

### The Christian Education Green Team

(Information from Science News, CBS, The Weather Channel, Forbes, Moscow Times)



### Notes from Fellowship:

It was wonderful to finally worship in person last month! We are so thankful to all who joined us for our outdoor service, and we are also thankful for everyone who made the event possible.

Fellowship has certainly changed this year. When I became the chair of this committee, I had very different plans in mind. Thank you for participating in so many unique, non-traditional social activities so far this year. Our committee hopes to be able to plan some traditional experiences again at some point, but our first priority is the health and safety of our congregation.

We are looking forward to seeing you when we resume worship in the sanctuary.

Peace to you,

Katie & the Fellowship Committee



### Council Actions — July 16, 2020

- Worshipped and prayed together
- Shared joys and concerns together
- Discussed finances of the church
- Accepted reports by consensus
- Discussed the current Rusk County COVID19 statistics
- Moved opening of sanctuary to August 16
- Set date of July 27 and August 10 to review Operations Manual

We have had many challenges due to social distancing as we try to keep ourselves and others healthy. Yet, some things remain the same: the abiding love of God, the connections of friendship and prayer within our congregation, and our commitment to reach out in service to our neighbors. You and your generous giving allow this to continue and we sincerely thank you.

**Your Finance/Stewardship Committee**

Let each of you look not  
only to his own interests,  
but also to the  
interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

#LoveOthers



Love Your  
Neighbor as  
Yourself



*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*

*Hello, August.*  
Surprise me.



# AUGUST 2020



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

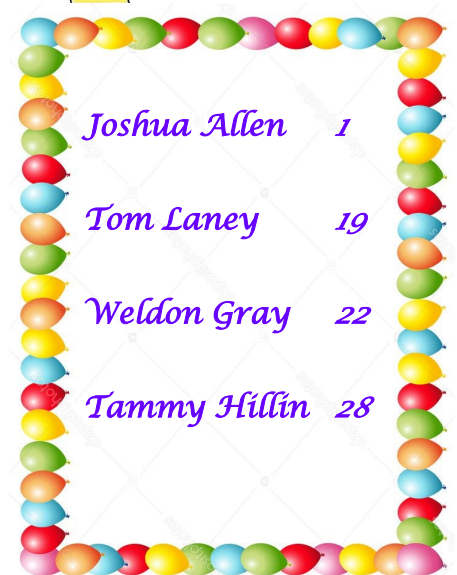
FRIDAY

SATURDAY

## Save the Dates

**August 7 - 9:**  
No Tax Weekend

**August 16:**  
Service in the Sanctuary  
11 Am



*Joshua Allen 1*

*Tom Laney 19*

*Weldon Gray 22*

*Tammy Hillin 28*

2

Facebook Virtual  
Service 11 AM

3

Meals on Wheels

4

5

Music in the Middle  
Facebook 6 PM  
CE Meeting 10 AM

6

Meditations on  
Facebook 5:30 PM

7

Meals on Wheels

8

9

Facebook Virtual  
Service 11 AM

10

Meals on Wheels

11

12

Music in the Middle  
Facebook 6 PM

13

Meditations on  
Facebook 5:30 PM

14

Meals on Wheels

15

16

Service in the  
Sanctuary  
11 AM

17

Meals on Wheels

18

19

Music in the Middle  
Facebook 6 PM

20

Meditations on  
Facebook 5:30 PM  
Session 6 PM

21

Meals on Wheels

22

23

Service in the  
Sanctuary  
11 AM

24

Meals on Wheels

25

26

Music in the Middle  
Facebook 6 PM

27

Meditations on  
Facebook 5:30 PM

28

Meals on Wheels

29

30

Service in the  
Sanctuary  
11 AM

31

Meals on Wheels

~ ~ ~ **Reminder** ~ ~ ~

During quarantine, Bring H.I.M. donations  
the first MONDAY of every month.  
The office will be open 9 AM to 2 PM