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"Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences"

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THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue One

Sabbath as Gift

Is this year already flying by? Are you finding it hard to concentrate? Are you caught up by the inertia of life and unable to relax? Are you feeling disconnected from the people and simple pleasures that usually bring you joy? Then you need a sabbath!

Sabbath is a time for rest, release, and restoration that helps us recharge and realign our priorities. This time of rest is so important to God and for us to experience as God's people, that it's one of the Ten Commandments.

"⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work" see Exo 20:8-11

In the midst of creation, on the seventh day, God rested! We are made in the image of our Creator and we too need time to pause from the work of creating to appreciate what has been created.

To exercise sabbath set aside a particular amount of time – a day is ideal, but start with three hours if a day feels too daunting. Give yourself the freedom to do only things you want to do, leave the things you must do for later.

For me, I find myself feeling obligated to stay up to the minute on breaking news, incoming emails, and planning ahead for my next wave of deadlines. My mind can become a whirlwind of "to do's" and "should have done's". Then of course, there is the laundry, the dishes, the dusting, the weeding, and there is always something smart I could be reading. These things pester me when I'm trying to unwind. By setting apart sabbath time, I give myself permission to enjoy the things I want to do and trust that I have planned well enough not miss a deadline later. I turn off the TV, turn on an audio book, and dive into my knitting. Or relax into a nap. As concerns and worries surface in my mind, I turn them over to God. As things I "should be" doing come into focus, I remind myself that I can do them tomorrow just as well. At the end of my sabbath time I am aware that I have consciously taken control of my thoughts and the pace of my life. It's a peaceful feeling I am thankful for, and one that lasts into the next week.

Sabbath is a gift that is easy to take for granted. We miss the point if we assign too many restrictions on how to enjoy the freedom of rest. Be gentle with yourself, especially as you are getting started. Find time in your schedule to set yourself free from the demands of life and enjoy the blessings. Sabbath takes practice, but taking time like this makes time open up in our lives. God bless!

Rev Michele

Welcome 2021 – Come Worship with Us

February, 2021...it's hard to imagine, we are really here! The pandemic is still raging. In the midst, First Presbyterian Church, Henderson, continues to step forward, thanks to our Session, our pastor, our music director, and our loyal congregation. We continue to adapt to the changing situation. We are grateful for all of us working together in compliance with the safety protocol that allows us to keep meeting in person thus far as well as on-line.

So much will be happening in February – It is Black History month. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17. That day, FPC Henderson under the spiritual leadership of Rev. Michele will distribute drive-by ashes from 3:00 – 5:00 pm in our front parking lot. That evening, we will share a virtual Facebook Ash Wednesday service.

Lent is a time of reflection on what God has done to redeem us and how we can live a whole and full life as a child of God; the love of God and the gift of God's grace. While Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, service and contemplation, at the top of our list should be a prayer for peace. My peace cannot be achieved if others are denied what makes them whole. We will be providing our congregation with regular devotionals to help with reflections.

Holy Communion will continue virtually until conditions are right and safe for an in-person communion service. Communal elements and liturgy will be distributed as has been the usual on Sunday, February 7th, with virtual service on Thursday, February 11th.

Recently, Rev. Michele put together Epiphany Star words for us to draw from. What is your Epiphany star word for 2021? Are you receiving any insight into what your word means to you or may mean to you this year? We encourage all of us to focus on our Star Word and see where it leads you and to discover what God has in store for you this year?

~The Worship Team ~



Christian Education:

Christian Education is offering the online study RACE IN AMERICA: WITH REV. DR. MICHAEL WATERS which begins Thursday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. and will continue on Thursday evenings through February 25. The series is free; however, registration is required on the Grace Presbytery website:

<https://www.gracepresbytery.org/event-calendar/>

The Christian Education Team encourages you to join in learning more about the issue of race as there are few concerns of greater complexity in American society. Rev. Dr. Waters is the founder and Lead Pastor of the Abundant Life African Methodist Episcopal Church in Dallas, Texas.

Walk with a Doc at Fair Park

Sunday, February 14th, (the second Sunday of every month) at 3:00 p.m. you are invited to come and participate in Walk with a Doc at Fair Park. This health focused regular event is part of the LEAN program. It is outside, it is socially distancing activity, it is good for your mind, body and soul.

On January 16, several members from FPC joined our brothers and sisters in faith at Mt. Hebron church for the dedication and naming of a city street in recognition of the life and work of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.





As we complete the first full month of the New Year, 2021, there is a lot of things “in progress.”

In addition to some of our projects that are in progress, we are also transitioning some of our committee leadership. As we do every year, we are encouraging members of the congregation to join in on the work of the church by joining at least one committee – whether your talents be of a physical, mental, or artistic sense or, and just as important spiritual sense, each committee invites you and your talents and senses to join us – when you can. The Building and Grounds Team is already gaining benefit from two new members joining our team: Elizabeth M and Tom W.

Some of the major projects that began in late 2020 and we are finishing up now are:

Steps Project: We are currently waiting for the weather to cooperate – we need several days in a row without rain and with temperatures above cold! We hope to have the white facings added to the steps in February;

Parlor Project: Using some of the undesignated Memorial Funds, we have been working hard on a renovation and facelift of sorts on the Parlor. To date, we’ve updated the lighting, we’ve had the ceiling and walls redone and textured, we are awaiting bids on floor covering, we are working on ideas for window covering and we’ll be assessing the return of furniture to this space and/or moving some furniture to other areas of the church – fellowship hall or classroom.

In addition to the routine management and maintenance issues, we are also looking to clean-up and paint the metal top and lines of the bell tower. And as time, energy and funds allow, we are hoping to update some of the lighting challenges of the church.

If you feel so moved, we welcome all to join our team – ideas and creativity are also welcome! Through the helping hands --- ***Building & Grounds Committee***

The 2021 Outreach Committee is just getting started and formulating the work plan for our outreach mission for the New Year. We will be meeting via Zoom to reaffirm our goals and put our work plan into action.



We will review current and perhaps introduce new outreach ministries that we will support financially in 2021. We will also be outlining our calendar of events for our more community and neighborhood related outreach ministries and also look to expanding our presence through additional projects. Some of our expanded programs will likely need to wait until the threat of Covid is more under control; however, pre-planning some alternatives to be ready will be a fun group project.

We do continue to do a masked and socially-distanced Adopt A Block walk every other month. This continues to be a good way for us to check in on our neighbors. A crew of our outreach volunteers also continue our commitment to the Meals on Wheels program every Friday

We are in a holding pattern on what had become our annual pilgrimage to the Rio Grande Valley (McAllen) to assist with the immigrant/ refugee processing center. We hope once this pandemic is under control to be able to make another trip to the border area.

We are excited about all the outreach ministries before us. We are grateful for the participation, support and prayers of our congregation.

Peace & Grace from our grateful Committee,

Claudia, Katie, Tom, Elizabeth, Jimmy, John, Kathy, Lynn, Scott and Rev. Michele

Council Actions

January 21, 2021

- Worshiped and Prayed Together
- Shared Joys & Concerns
- Approved minutes from 2020 meeting
- Approved Committee Reports
- Approved Financial End of Year Report
- Examined New Elder – Tom Weaver
- Set date of January 31st for Installation of Elders Mary Lowe and Steve Lowe
- Begin work on Committee formations and leadership
- Signed up for Duty Elder Responsibilities
- Ended with hopeful prayer for the coming month

Liturgists

Feb 7: Steve Lowe

Feb 14: John Tieken

Feb 21: Carol Scoggins

Feb 28: Jan Pennal

Duty Elder for February:

Mary Lowe

2021 – 2022 FPC Henderson Session

Moderator: Rev. Michele Goff

Clerk: Kathy Porter

Elders:

Katie Hurst	Claudia Morgan-Gray	Mary Lowe
Steve Lowe	Kathy Porter	Lynn Tieken
	Tom Weaver	

Ashes to Go - Wednesday, Feb 17

Our Ash Wednesday Service this year will be done in two parts.

Ashes will be available on a “drive thru” basis from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in front of the church. You may remain in your vehicle and receive the blessing and imposition of ashes. You will also receive a hand-carved cross made by our friend and church family member, Michael Dill.

A virtual prayer service will be posted that evening at 6:00 pm instead of Music in the Middle.

COVID Memorial:

On January 19 at 5:30 p.m., FPC had a service of remembrance of the lives lost because of Covid 19.



Prayers were prayed, the bell was tolled 40 times for 400,000+ lives lost, and candles were lighted in memory.



From the Fellowship Committee:

Happy New Year from the Fellowship Committee! We hope you enjoyed your jams and jellies in lieu of our Christmas potluck lunch. We look forward to planning additional socials and fellowship opportunities this year. Keep an eye out for information about our Easter plans!

Please consider joining our committee this year. If you have been thinking of joining a group but worry that you don't have enough time, our group is the perfect place for you. With limited options for in person socials at this time, we mainly need help brainstorming new ideas for safe experiences! A love of baking doesn't hurt, either! To sign up, contact Katie Hurst or Mary Lowe.

The Fellowship Committee



Fellowship

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:



- ◇ For our homebound members: Kay and Sue
- ◇ For the newly elected leadership of our country.
- ◇ For the front-line military who guard our capitals.
- ◇ For all of those affected by the coronavirus pandemic.
- ◇ For all those who have lost loved ones.

Generosity of FPC

Just a gentle reminder that we request that you bring a food donation for the Henderson Interfaith Ministry (HIM) basket the first Sunday of every month.

During this time especially, many families are experiencing food deficiency. Our participation in this program helps many in our community.



The Fellowship Committee distributed Christmas goodies to the congregation on December 20

Did You Know?

The CE Green Team




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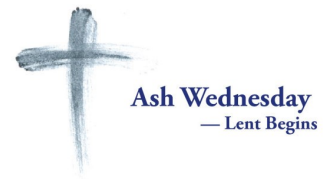
February 14:



TRANSFIGURATION  
of the Lord

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February 17:



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### February Birthdays

Rev. Michele R. Goff, 2

Travis Reynolds, 3

David Fahle, 14

Briar Hurst, 22

# February 2021



| SUNDAY                                                                 | MONDAY                      | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                                                                                        | THURSDAY                                                               | FRIDAY                | SATURDAY |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
|                                                                        | 1                           | 2       | 3<br>Music in the Middle<br>6 pm                                                                 | 4<br>Race in America<br>7 pm                                           | 5<br>Meals on Wheels  | 6        |
| 7<br>11 am Service and<br>Facebook Virtual                             | 8                           | 9       | 10<br>Music in the Middle<br>6 pm                                                                | 11<br>Virtual Communion<br>Facebook 5:30 pm<br>Race in America<br>7 pm | 12<br>Meals on Wheels | 13       |
| 14<br>11 am Service and<br>Facebook Virtual<br>Walk with a Doc<br>3 pm | 15                          | 16      | 17 <i>Ash Wednesday</i><br><br>Ashes to Go<br>3:00pm to 5:00pm<br>Virtual Prayer Service<br>6 pm | 18<br>Session 6 pm<br>Race in America<br>7 pm                          | 19<br>Meals on Wheels | 20       |
| 21<br>11 am Service and<br>Facebook Virtual                            | 22<br><br>Pipeline Deadline | 23      | 24<br>Music in the Middle<br>6 pm                                                                | 25<br>Race in America<br>7 pm                                          | 26<br>Meals on Wheels | 27       |
| 28<br>11 am Service and<br>Facebook Virtual                            |                             |         |                                                                                                  |                                                                        |                       |          |

Please bring H.I.M. donations to the church on the first Sunday of the month.