



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

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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# ***THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE***

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**Volume 53**

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**Issue Three**

## **Giving and Taking**

It is Lent: the time of preparation and waiting, self-examination and repentance.

Lent lasts 40 days, like the flood, Moses' time at Mt Sinai, Jonah's time in Nineveh, and the time of Jesus' testing in the wilderness. The paraments are purple, similar to the purple/blue we use for Advent, another season of waiting. What are we to do during this spring season?

These forty days that lead us to the glory of Easter resurrection are a time of giving up and taking on. We make sacrifices to connect us to and help us remember the sacrifice that Christ made for us in his death. We take on practices that bring us closer to God and neighbor and deepen our practice of love. The extra time and donations we make to the food pantry, Meals on Wheels, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and others, connect us directly with the needs of our community. The Friday meat that we skip, the desserts that we go without, are gestures of our willingness to show restraint.

In the lectionary, our gospel readings for this year come primarily from Mark. But for Lent, we take a detour through John for weeks 3-5. This is a little disorienting until we consider the arc that joins each Sunday's readings together. On Lent 1, all four passages followed a path from the death-dealing waters of the flood to the life-giving waters of baptism and the Spirit descending upon Jesus from a gaping hole torn open in the heavens.

The change that comes into our lives from these forty days of giving up and taking on can be just as dramatic. There is nothing subtle about the death and resurrection of our Messiah. We mark this time with basic and tactile elements. From the ashen crosses on our foreheads to the cross of Good Friday, from the splashing waters at the font to the waters of the servant-act of foot washing, we make connections between ourselves and the death and resurrection. We hold rough nails made of iron, damp green palms, smooth wooden crosses and—finally—blossoming flowers on Easter morn. The promise of the empty tomb remains our hope throughout. Even in this pandemic-scared hands-off era, we touch these things and they remind us to give up and take on for Christ who took on flesh and gave his life on the cross for us.

May your lent be fulfilling,

*Rev Michele*



As we all endured a week of historic challenging cold weather - our church building did too. While other parts of the state and other parts of our area experienced some extended power outages, the power at the church remained on with only minimal outages throughout the ordeal. The Building and Grounds team had made sure to cover the outdoor faucets, raised the heat just enough and left the indoor faucets in the bathrooms and kitchen dripping at just the right amount of water to keep flow.

The only truly noticeable damage we received was to one of the gutters on the front side of the church when the weight of the ice caused the gutter to pull away. Easily fixable. We also experienced a small and slow leak through one of the light fixtures in the narthex due to ice build-up on the flat portion of the roof at the entry doors.

The last time we had worship in the sanctuary before the storm some of you may have heard what sounded like a bad speaker when the organ was hitting certain notes. Joshua tracked it down to a key on the organ when applied caused the crackly sound. We will be addressing it in the near future.

Your Building & Grounds Team



Oh how we look forward to the welcoming of Spring this month! After all the cold and snow of February, there will be wonder and delight in the lesson we learn and the treasures we share in springtime.

We will continue our socially-distanced and masked in person worship services in conjunction with our Facebook livestream services each Sunday. On March 7, we will welcome back to our pulpit as our guest pastor, Sharon Templeman. As this is the first Sunday of the month, we will distribute the communal elements and liturgy for the virtual communion service on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

Holy Week will begin on Palm Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>. We are working on the finishing touches for our Maundy Thursday Service and our Good Friday Service which we will share soon.

Peace be with you  
**The Worship Team**

In these times, it is hard to make fellowship plans – but wait, the Fellowship Committee is looking, working and planning a Covid-friendly Easter event. We will be sharing details of this Easter celebration with you soon.

While we will miss our corned beef and cabbage get together again this year, please know that we send Irish blessings to you all.

In the meantime, we encourage everyone to try some safe and fun-found ways to “fellowship.” A few suggestions for your consideration:

- ♦ **Call** – whether it is someone you are used to seeing on a regular basis but haven’t in a while or someone you’ve been “intending to call” but haven’t;
- ♦ **Write** a letter or send a card. This is still a wonderful way to connect with anyone – friend, relative, grandchild, someone you know who would relish your thoughtfulness or could use the encouragement,
- ♦ **Join in**, as the weather improves and as your health permits, with the “Walk with a Doc” group on the second Sunday of every month. Next one coming up is March 14<sup>th</sup>.

We are still looking for a few good members to join our awesome committee. Interested? Contact Katie.







Several of us participated in the Grace Presbytery series, “Race in America” with Rev. Dr. Michael Waters. This 5-week ZOOM seminar will be completed on March 4, 2021.

Lent began on February 17th, Ash Wednesday. While weather disrupted our Drive-Thru Ashes event it did not impeded our virtual Ash Wednesday service. Throughout Lent, we will provide daily devotionals included for the week within your weekly service emails and mailings.

We are excited to be welcoming three new members to our congregation during the month of March. Rev. Michele led the new member class, the Session examined them during the February Session meeting, and we will all be welcoming them as a full congregation very soon.

As we do every year, FPC Henderson will be celebrating Earth Day with a short service on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had good response from those wanting Earth Care T-shirts—enough so that our logo will also appear on the shirts! Please mark your calendars now and plan to join us for the April 22<sup>nd</sup> service.

The CE Team is also looking to offer a Presbyterian Outlook six-week curriculum entitled “**Testimony, Vocabulary of Faith,**” later this year. This curriculum opens and frees people to live their Reformed faith by *Remembering, Reclaiming, Rearticulating* what we believe about who God is and who we are so the patterns of our lives embody the liberating love and grace of Jesus Christ.

If you would like to join the CE Team of Lynn-Chair, Kathy-Vice Chair, Claudia, Jimmy and Rev. Michele Goff – we’d love to have you.



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Login to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select First Presbyterian Church Henderson, TX to start giving while you shop.

### Duty Elder for March

*Claudia Morgan-Gray*



### Liturgists for March

3/07 — Claudia Morgan-Gray  
3/14 — Carol Scoggins  
3/21 — Lynn Tieken  
3/28 — TBD

*February memorials were received...*

*In  
Loving  
Memory  
of*

- ♦ *Jan Mims*
- ♦ *Kenneth Tieken*
- ♦ *Rozelle Cain*
- ♦ *Delbert Gray*
- ♦ *Vicki Christine Vestal Smith*
- ♦ *Peggy Morgan*

*Prayer*   
*Request*

*Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:*

For the Tieken family at Kenneth’s entrance to the church triumphant. (John’s brother)

For the Reynolds family at Rozelle’s entrance to the church triumphant. (Patsy’s sister)

For those who are suffering as a result of the snow and ice storm.

For all the front line health care specialists who continue to put their lives at risk to help others during this pandemic.

# Outreach

The Outreach Committee met via Zoom. In addition to addressing the mission of our Outreach, we also welcomed new members to our Team --Tom Weaver and Elizabeth Marvel.

We confirmed our financial and spiritual commitments to continue to: Grace Presbytery, HIM, Presbyterian Children's Home and Services, Rusk/Panola County Children's Advocacy Center, and Camp Gilmont. In addition, the Team reaffirmed our participation in the four Presbytery Special Offerings and designated Champions for each offering.

The first special offering is **One Great Hour of Sharing (February 17 – April 4, 2021)** and our designated Champion is John Tieken.

The second special offering is **Pentecost (April 5 – May 23, 2021)** with designated Champion Jimmy Chapman.

Our third special offering is **Peace & Global (September 5 – October 3, 2021)** being championed by Claudia Morgan-Gray.

The last special offering is the **Joy Gift (November 28 – December 19, 2021)** that will be championed by Kathy Porter.

The Outreach Team also reviewed and reaffirmed our **Adopt A Block** schedule as the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every other month. The weather outside prevented us from our February 15<sup>th</sup> Adopt A Block – so it is rescheduled for **March 15<sup>th</sup>**! You don't have to be on the Committee to come walk the block with us. It is good together time and our neighbors are always glad to see us.

The Team approved accepting an invitation from the Henderson Middle School Sunshine Committee to adopt either a HMS class or staffing area. We decided to adopt Katie Hurst's Science Department and her classes. We are coordinating now to finalize our "adoption" and get the information to begin a regular communication and surprise treat to our adoptee group.

As a Team, we also approved beginning a weekly **"Hustle Kindness"** commitment. We have deemed **every Friday as "Hustle Kindness Friday"** where each member of the Team will try to do at least one random act of kindness for a stranger or for someone they know. It is a Committee commitment; however, we very much invite and encourage our whole congregation to participate in Hustling Kindness.

With kindness in our grateful hearts and love and grace in our outstretched arms, **Claudia, Tom, Kathy, Katie, Lynn, John, Jimmy, Elizabeth, Scott & Rev. Michele**

## Did You Know?

Did you know that for almost 30 years, NFL Green, the NFL's environmental and sustainability program, has managed community greening initiatives for the sports league. NFL Green works to mitigate the environmental impact of the NFL's major events in each community that hosts Super Bowl, Pro Bowl and the NFL Draft and creates a "green" legacy. Each season, these culminate with "Green Week" before the big event, with projects undertaken by the NFL and the Super Bowl Host Committee benefitting each host community. Efforts include recovering food, recycling and waste management, donating used event and building materials and offsetting energy for events.

This green legacy has also included a touch of blue in the last two years, meaning conservation efforts also focused on the waters of host cities Miami in 2020 and then in Tampa in Super Bowl 55. Miami Green Week activities included planting 100 endangered staghorn corals in Biscayne Bay. This year, the effort expanded to "100 Yards of Hope," a football field-sized coral restoration project off the coast of South Florida. The end zones and center of the field-sized reef were placed in fall 2020, followed by divers planting thousands of staghorn and mountainous star corals recently. Helping with these plantings, was Force Blue—a nonprofit that retrains former special operations veterans and combat divers to assist in marine conservation efforts. "This critically important project is helping to restore Florida's Coral Reef, the third-largest barrier reef in the world, which is in crisis," says Deborah Luke, the Senior Vice President of Conservation for The Florida Aquarium. The Force Blue also removed almost a ton of debris January 25 from the Spanish Rocks Reef offshore of Holmes Beach with the help of NFL Green, Tampa Bay Super Bowl LV Host Committee, PepsiCo, and The Florida Aquarium.

NFL Green projects are hands-on and make a lasting difference in each host community—one that remains long after the big event has ended. Since its beginning in 1993, NFL Green has earned recognition for Super Bowl as the greenest professional sports event in America.

## The CE Green Team

\*resources: [www.nfl.com/causes/nfl-green](http://www.nfl.com/causes/nfl-green), [www.ecowatch.com](http://www.ecowatch.com)

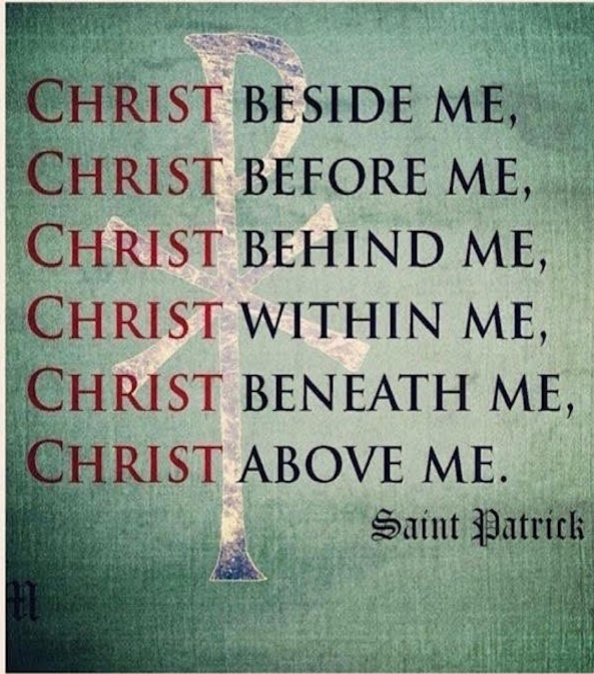




“Books are the windows through which the soul looks out.” (Henry Ward Beecher) – We have such a glorious treasure – our FPC-Library. A room full of books, knowledge, spirit and soul. There are hardback and paperback books – but also available, is an audio of the Bible.

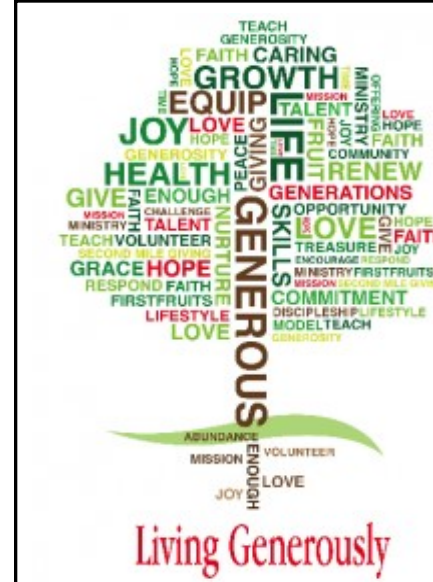
The CE Team is also looking for some assistance in reviewing and cataloging some donated books for the library. So, if you hear the library calling you...we invite you to answer the call.

## St. Patrick's Day remember:



## In this time of need—remember HIM

The pandemic, the politics of the day, and the weather — have all contributed to an added need for our friends and neighbors in our community. As you can, please remember that the first Sunday of every month — March 7th — we ask that you try to bring items for the HIM box in the Narthex just as you go into the Sanctuary. We are proud and loyal supporter for this important ministry. Our church helped start this valuable ministry. Please know how grateful and blessed the people that receive the assistance from HIM are for the generous hearts and grace of our congregation. We are a congregation that continues to rise up and show grace, mercy and generosity in helping feed our neighbors. We are blessed to be blessings for others.



Our 2021 Finance Committee did not meet during February as a full Team. Our team consist of Tammy Hillin, Kathy Porter, Carol Scoggins, Kelly Weaver and Steve Lowe (Vice Chair). As we begin a new year, a reminder about our Finance Committee's focus – to review the finances of the church and work with the other committees and the administrative assistant in accounting for receipts and disbursements.

2020 was a difficult year for all including the church. We've gone now a year with our now modified in person services. 2021 entered with some remaining obstacles

from 2020 (Covid) and brought with it some new opportunities (significant weather). So, not so unusual that we are off to a slow start with respect to our cash receipts as both our pledge and plate receipts are currently below budget. We do believe that as we move past the shadow of the cold weather and into the sunshine of the days ahead, our attendance and support will return. As always, we are grateful for you.

Peace and thankfulness,  
Tom Weaver, Chair

## This is how you do it!



## Save the Dates

March 17<sup>th</sup>  
**St. Patrick's Day**  
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March 14<sup>th</sup>  
**Daylight Savings Time**  
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March 28<sup>th</sup>  
**Palm Sunday**  
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April 1<sup>st</sup>  
**Maundy Thursday**  
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April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
**Good Friday**  
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April 4<sup>th</sup>  
**Easter  
Resurrection Sunday**  
~~~~~

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

**March Birthdays**

*John Hillin, 20*

*Robbie Brooks, 23*



# March 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 CE Meeting 10 am Music in the Middle 6:00 pm	4 Race in America 7 pm	5 Meals on Wheels	6
7 Sanctuary Service & Facebook Virtual 11:00 am	8	9	10 Music in the Middle 6:00 pm	11 Virtual Communion Facebook 5:30 pm	12 Meals on Wheels	13  Spring Forward Tonight
14 Sanctuary Service & Facebook Virtual 11:00 am Walk with a Doc	15 Adopt a Block	16	17  Music in the Middle 6:00 pm <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>	18 Session 6 pm	19 Meals on Wheels	20 
21 Sanctuary Service & Facebook Virtual 11:00 am	22 Pipeline Deadline	23	24 Music in the Middle 6:00 pm	25	26 Meals on Wheels	27
28 Sanctuary Service & Facebook Virtual 11:00 am <i>Palm Sunday</i>	29	30	31 Music in the Middle 6:00 pm	Maundy Thursday	Good Friday	