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



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
P. O. BOX 773  
HENDERSON, TEXAS 75653-0773**

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# THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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## Notes from NEXT

The NEXT Church Conference is one I look forward to every spring. I have come to expect inspiring and innovative worship and workshops that are both practical and challenging. The many people I have met there make NEXT feel like some kind of reunion. It is a spiritually and socially edifying experience.

While we are there among friends, scholars and like-minded strangers, we share practical advice and compare what works and what doesn't in ministry. We collaborate in seeking ways to do better. We question our motives: are we keeping God at the center of what we do? We discuss challenges of aging buildings, generation gaps, restricted funds and other adversities unique to pastoring. We remind one another that even as shepherds and sheepdogs, we belong to a larger flock.

The virtual format allowed us to worship and attend workshops, but the social component was missing. Which on some level reinforced the lesson we set out to learn. We were invited to step into "the building" of God's kin-dom, just as surely as many of us are returning to our physical church buildings.

This year's theme for the conference: Breaking, Building, Blessing. Together we asked for wisdom to break what needs to be broken, to build what needs to be built (or re-built), and to bless what needs to be blessed. Our key text was from Exodus 32. Moses is on the mountain with God receiving the first set of commandments. Down below, Aaron and people grow restless and return to the comfortable and familiar ways of idol worship rather than wait on the new thing God is doing for them.

Worship was inspiring. Rhythms and harmonies reflected soulful spirituals and freeform jazz arrangements. Even over the speakers of my TV, I could feel it down deep. One of the Prayers of Confession was elaborately orchestrated. Before we added the words, the "sound bath" emotionally expressed the human struggle against ego to arrive at a place of humility that allows us to seek reconciliation where it is accepted.

Lenny Duncan, one of the keynote speakers, spoke to us from his living room. In our anxiousness to return from lock downs and uncomfortable places, he asked, "Are we returning to the places we were before?" Are we rushing back too quickly? All the struggles we have faced over this last year have taught and shaped us. This is a wake-up call. But only if we are willing to hear it. Are we going to seize this awakening of the soul? Or are we rushing back so we can pretend none of this ever happened?

I come away from NEXT encouraged. I miss the energy of being near other pastors and sharing stories. But I am confident that we can use this uncomfortable covid time to become more loving and just people. Pay attention to who is on the edge, who is being silenced, and who is afraid and why. Then we will know where the work needs to be done. We will know what to break, what to (re)build, and what to bless.

Rev Michele



With all that is going on in our earthly world, several of our congregation and Christian Ed Team participated in the ZOOM presentation by Grace Presbytery – “Race in America.” This five part series took us on an informative and sobering journey to the past racial strife in our world and country, up to the mirror for a look at our current racial strife in our country and then gave us the opportunity to envision the world with a window vision to the future. There is no doubt that there remains a lot to be done and, as a church, we will continue to find ways to lessen what divides us, strengthen what binds us, and welcome and care and support all God’s children.

We welcomed three new members who were officially introduced to the congregation during our Sunday, March 14, 2021 service. Recommitting their membership to FPC-Henderson are Liz Buckner and Christopher Cross – both grew up in this church and have now returned and recommitted their memberships. We also welcomed Elizabeth Marvel as a new member.

As we annually do, the Green Team invites you to participate in a short Earth Care service on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00 pm. We hope that you will make plans to be with us on Earth Day. The Earth Care Team got T-shirts (this year with our logo on the sleeve) to wear for this and other events to mark our commitment to God’s Creation – the Earth. We purchased a few extra T-shirts if you are now sorry that you didn’t get one in the original order. They are \$7.00 each and will be available on first come first serve basis!

After Easter, the Christian Ed Team will be bringing a Presbyterian Outlook course program for the Team and congregation participation entitled, “Testimony, Vocabulary of Faith.” We’ll be getting more information out after Easter.

In the meantime, let us all rejoice this Easter

**Christian Education Team**

Happy Easter!

Before our 11:00 Easter Service in the sanctuary, please plan to join us on Easter Sunday at 10:00 am for breakfast tacos. We will meet at the Farmer’s Market Pavilion across the street from the church and eat our individually wrapped tacos together... at a distance.

We look forward to sharing this non-traditional Easter breakfast with you this year!

The Fellowship Team



*Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:*

For Patsy R, who recently broke her arm.

For those who have been affected by gun violence.

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

*March Memorials were received ...*



***Kenneth Tieken***

***Rozelle Cain***



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## Member Care-Opportunities for service



Your Member Care Team remains busy delivering communion elements monthly and this month the delivery included crosses designed and carved by Michael Dill along with other items including Lenten devotionals. These communion element deliveries every month are such a small but important gesture – we all enjoy so much the short visits with the friends and members that haven't been unable to attend church. If you would like to be part of the team that delivers communion elements each month, please let Lynn, Mary, Kathy, or Rev. Michele know. Another ministry we dedicate to through Member Care is the Prayer Companions group. This loving group receives special and private requests for prayers and, as such, practices close privacy with any information provided. If you are interested in being part of Prayer Companions, please let Lynn, Kathy or Rev. Michele know.

We are slowly and carefully bringing some of our “normal” interactions back. We are trying to bring the cards we put in the narthex for everyone to sign to be sent to someone not feeling well, someone that is far away or someone that could just use a card to brighten their day (don't we all?). We need your help to keep this interaction back and safe. Staying conscious of Covid-19 protocol, we encourage you to use your own pen or select one from the “clean” pen container and deposit it in the “used basket” after signing. Also, please remember not to congregate around the cards – taking turns at the safe distance will allow us to continue to do some of these gestures we've all missed. With springtime here and some beautiful weather before us we are hoping to encourage more of us to visit some of our folks that really can't get out and about. Bring a chair and sit outside with them or if they can't come out, pull your chair up by a window and visit. You'll be amazed how much these visits mean to everyone involved.

And remember, if you need a ride to a doctor's appointment or dentist appointment or to pick up medications, John Tieken and Kathy Porter have graciously offered to be drivers/companions for these important trips. If there are other places where rides are needed, or if you need an errand run that you just can't do yourself, please know the Member Care Team is here to assist.

Please contact Lynn or John at 903-836-2418 or 903-738-1621.

## Council Actions March 18, 2021

- ♦ Prayed and worshiped together
- ♦ Shared joys and concerns
- ♦ Shared time together in a Cultivated Ministry of storytelling
- ♦ Reviewed church finances
- ♦ Affirmed FPC's membership in the Corporation of Camp Gilmont and committed to continue to support the mission of Camp Gilmont through prayer, participation, partnership, and finances
- ♦ Reviewed Holy Week services
- ♦ Determined that the Easter service would be held in the sanctuary at 11 a.m. and that breakfast snacks would be provided in the park at 10 a.m.
- ♦ Moved the April Session Meeting from April 15<sup>th</sup> to April 22<sup>nd</sup> after the Earth Day Commemoration

The Quarterly payment from our participation in the Kroger Care program garnered the church \$30.66. We currently have 17 households participating in this program..... Just think what a few more might add. If you'd like to participate in the Kroger Care program and have FPC Henderson designated as the entity to benefit from your participation, please contact Claudia. Every little bit really adds a lot!

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





The Outreach Team is never far from your reach – and you are never far from ours



Our first **Adopt A Block** of the year took place on March 15<sup>th</sup>! The weather was perfect and the interaction with our neighbors was priceless. If you ever wonder if our walking our neighborhood letting our neighbors know we are thinking about them, praying for them and just checking in on them mattered- It Does. They were so happy to see us and the smiles and conversations (socially distanced and masked) were God moments. If you're needing a God moment for yourself or if you're wanting to help give one to someone else, please feel free to come walk with us. You don't have to be on the Committee to come Adopt A Block with us. Next one is April 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

Speaking of adopting, our Team also recently accepted an invitation from the HMS Sunshine Committee to adopt the Henderson Middle School Science Department. This small gesture on our part will let these teachers know how much they are appreciated, valued and loved by our small church. This month, we'll begin our interaction and maybe some surprises for our adoptees.

During our last Session meeting, Outreach volunteered to step up our engagement with Camp Gilmont. So, we'll be volunteering to help with functions, we'll be looking to hold events at Camp Gilmont in the future and we'll be adding our voice to the Camp Gilmont Team. More to come on that!

On Easter Sunday we conclude our first Special Offering - **One Great Hour of Sharing**. If you want to participate, please make your checks payable to FPC Henderson and in the memo line indicate OGHS. Thank you. We will be gearing up for our second special offering is **Pentecost (April 5 – May 23, 2021)**.

Outreach has made a commitment to **"Hustling Kindness"** and we invite each of you to join us **every Friday -- and "Hustle Kindness Friday."** What this means is doing one random act of kindness for a stranger or for someone you know. Send someone a card, pay for the coke for the car behind you in the drive through line, hold the door open for someone, and take some goodies by a small business – your dry cleaner, your nail salon, your pharmacy. You will be amazed how wonderful you feel when you give kindness out! So let's all Hustle some kindness in Henderson Texas.

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

## Did You Know?

Did you know that your Session took a pledge on behalf of the church in order to become an Earth Care Congregation in the PC(USA)?

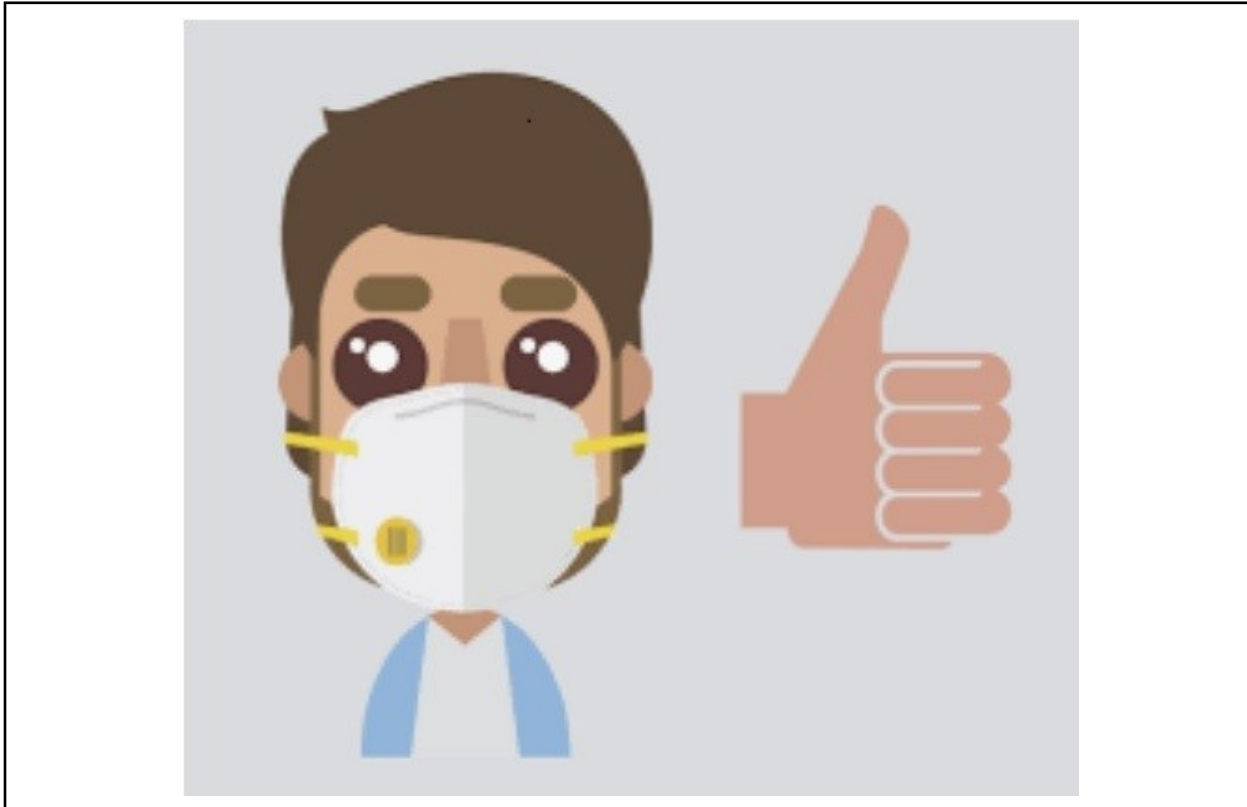
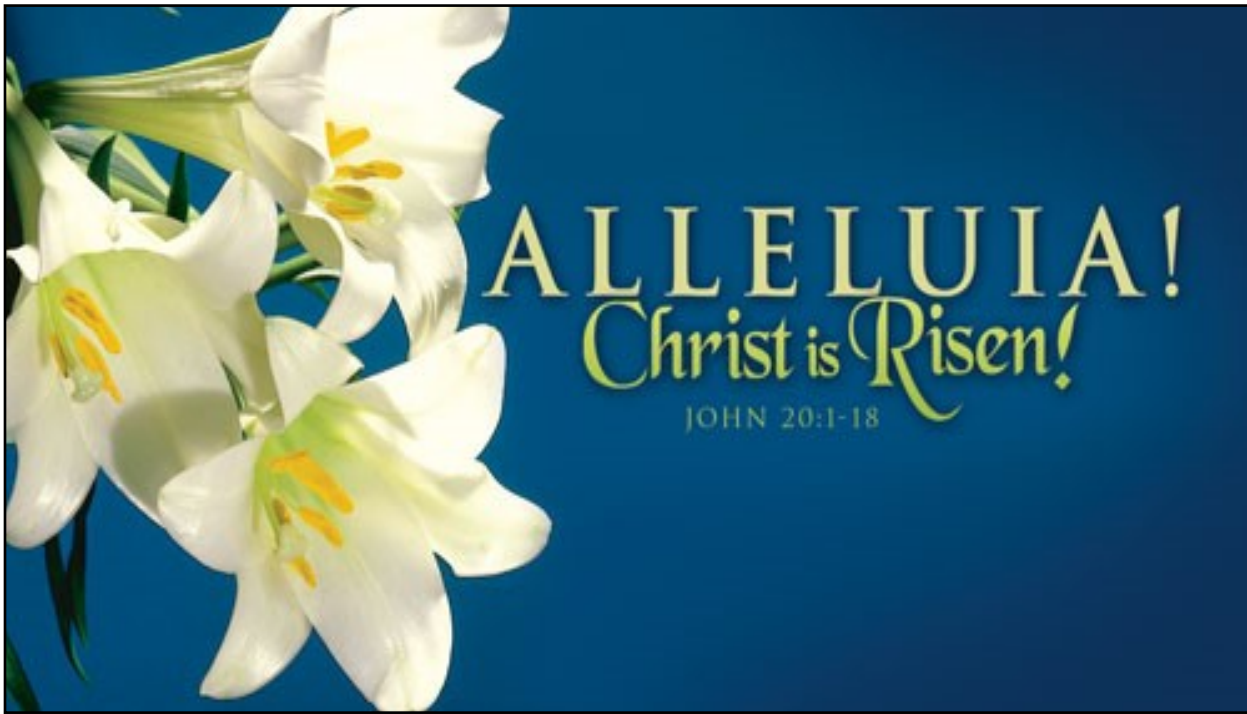
### Earth Care Pledge

Peace and justice is God's plan for all creation. The earth and all creation are God's. God calls us to be careful, humble stewards of this earth, and to protect and restore it for its own sake, and for the future use and enjoyment of the human family. As God offers all people the special gift of peace through Jesus Christ, and through Christ reconciles all to God, we are called to deal justly with one another and the earth.

1. Our worship and discipleship will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect and restore this earth.
2. In education, we will seek learning and teaching opportunities to know and understand the threats to God's creation and the damage already inflicted. We will encourage and support each other in finding ways of keeping and healing the creation in response to God's call to earth-keeping, justice and community.
3. Our facilities will be managed, maintained and upgraded in a manner that respects and cherishes all creation, human and non-human, while meeting equitably the needs of all people. In our buildings and on our grounds we will use energy efficiently, conserve resources, and share what we have in abundance so that God's holy creation will be sustainable for all life and future generations.
4. Our outreach will encourage public policy and community involvement that protects and restores the vulnerable and degraded earth as well as oppressed and neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, nation, and world. We will seek to achieve environmental justice through coalitions and ecumenical partnerships.

May we all strive to honor the Session's pledge at our church and in our daily lives.

**The Christian Education Green Team**



It was with great joy and gratitude on March 14 that FPC received God's blessings in three new members: Chris, Liz, and Elizabeth.



Our own Michael spending some last minutes with his parents before leaving on March 22 for 8 weeks of Navy "boot camp" at the Navy Great Lakes Training Center, Illinois. He will be missed. He goes with our love, prayers, and "wishes for fair winds and following seas."





# April 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Maundy Thursday Worship Fellowship Hall & FB Virtual 5:30 pm	2 Good Friday Worship FB Virtual 5:30 pm	3
4 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Breakfast in Park 10:00 am Sanctuary Service & FB Virtual 11:00 am	5	6	7 CE Meeting 10 am  Music in the Middle FB Virtual 6:00 pm	8	9  Meals on Wheels	10
11  Sanctuary Service & FB Virtual 11:00 am	12	13	14  Music in the Middle FB Virtual 6:00 pm	15	16  Meals on Wheels	17
18  Sanctuary Service & FB Virtual 11:00 am	19  Adopt a Block	20	21  Music in the Middle FB Virtual 6:00 pm	22 Earth Day Commemoration 5:00 pm  Session 6 pm	23  Meals on Wheels	24
25  Sanctuary Service & FB Virtual 11:00 am	26  Pipeline Deadline	27	28  Music in the Middle FB Virtual 6:00 pm	29	30  Meals on Wheels	

## Duty Elder for April

*Tom Weaver*



## Liturgists for April

April 1: *Kelly Weaver*

April 4: *Jimmy Chapman*

April 11: *Kathy Porter*

April 18: *Steve Lowe*

April 25: *Kelly Weaver*



## *April Birthdays*

*Patsy Snelgrove, 1*

*Bill Snow, 2*

*Tom Weaver, 13*

*Larry Goff, 15*

*Jetti Fahle, 17*

*Fonta Conway, 18*

*Lavonne Schauwecker, 29*

*Sue Williams, 29*