



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



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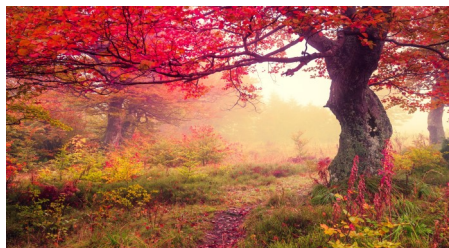
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Investing in God

It is so simple; we almost can't comprehend it:

God loves us. Like a parent, like a friend, like a mentor, like a child.

We exercise our freedom in how we respond to this love. Like our human relationships, our response determines how rich our relationship will become. If we spend time together, if we go to lunch, take time for that phone call or prayer, our knowledge of our heavenly Friend will grow. If we are too busy to take time to return calls, or consider what is important to God, then our relationship will remain shallow and untested. It is our choice to respond to God's love for us. Our relationship is determined by our investment in it. If we want a deep and rich understanding of life, our Maker has the answers! God is right here, ready to share knowledge and wisdom that the world will never know if we never take the time.

It is so simple, it's almost unbelievable. God loves us. And all God asks is for our love in return.

Rev. Michele

³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, ^[b] neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

TO PLANT A GARDEN IS TO BELIEVE IN TOMORROW



- ◇ For our church during this time of discernment;
- ◇ For those suffering with Covid and for those who have lost a loved one because of Covid;
- ◇ For all the front-line health care workers who continue to put their lives at risk to help others during this time of pandemic.
- ◇ For Ryan who needs healing of minor injuries.



**God is love.
God loves everybody.
God loves EVERY body.
God loves every BODY.**

*That includes you. You are beloved.
Everybody is beloved. Every BODY is beloved.*

Say it with me.

And keep saying it. Trust it. Live it. With these words, change the world.

Rev. Diane Butler Bass



At Mercer University their motto states:

“At Mercer Everyone Majors in Changing the World”

The most important dynamic that positively changes the world is love. And you can love the world through chemistry, biology, psychology, religion, mathematics, engineering, sociology, art, music, military science, political science—any academic major taught on a college campus.

But the goal of all education and global endeavors must be to love the world.

Dear God, may I do my part to love and change the world, Amen.

— Prof. Scott Walker



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Finance & Stewardship Committee

Our team members consist of Carol, Tammy, Kathy, Kelly, Steve (Co-Chair) and Tom (Chair). The committee met on September 3, 2021, with all members present except Tammy and Steve. After reviewing our church's finances through the first seven months of 2021, I am happy to report that both our pledges and plate are running slightly ahead of budget and our expenses are still below budget.

The committee reviewed the church's insurance coverage for the period September 19, 2021, to September 19, 2022. It was noted that our property insurance went up \$724 due to building costs and our roof claim in 2019. Tom stated that we received a bid from Brotherhood Mutual for coverage and it was \$2,195 higher than our current provider, Church Mutual. Terry Walthall of Brotherhood Mutual remarked that he believes we are getting such good rates from Church Mutual due to us being a long-term customer and having very few claims. After discussion, the committee voted to accept Church Mutual's insurance bid.

The committee discussed this year's stewardship campaign including a timetable of events. It was determined not to have a lunch due to COVID-19. We will mail our stewardship letter with the 2022 pledge cards by the middle of October and request them to be returned to the church by October 31, 2021. The cards will be dedicated on Sunday, October 31, 2021. Also, a member of our committee will do a minute for stewardship each Sunday during this time.

Peace and thankfulness,
Tom, Chair



Our OUTREACH Tree is Big Enough for Everyone

Our current Special Offering (Peace & Global Witness) will continue through World Communion Sunday, October 3rd. If you would like to participate in this important offering – and one that allows our church to keep 25% of the proceeds for work in our own faith community – please make your offering to FPC Henderson and note in the memo line – for Peace & Global. Thank you.

Due to the continuation of Covid and the high numbers that remain in our area, Outreach is going to forgo some of our Fall activities for another year. We do hope to bring back our Fall Neighborhood Party in some form next year. But for now, we are looking to perhaps partner with Building & Grounds for a Christmas Lighting of the church (hanging Christmas Lights) and maybe with Fellowship for a Hot Chocolate to Go during the holidays. Still in the idea stages but stay tuned.

A positive thing this pandemic has perhaps given us is better appreciation for our need and love of human connection. While we are and continue to practice safe encounters at church and in the neighborhood, we have sure been greeted by our neighbors with loving glances of appreciation for our visits during Adopt-a-Block. And with the cooler weather upon us, we may complete the year with a couple more monthly visits. If you'd like to join us on the walk, let Claudia know.

We will be gearing up soon for the sponsoring of Harvest Baskets for the HIM project. We'll kick that project off the first of November, but wanted to let you be thinking and praying about participating.

As our sign outside says, "Love Everyone and Hustle Kindness."

From Hustle Kindness Central,

The Outreach Team

Claudia, Tom, Jimmy, Katie, Elizabeth, Kathy, John and Lynn

and free ice cream--once we cross the 1.5 degrees-line, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse polish off their martinis, look at each other, and say, "It's go time." Higher temperatures already drag out droughts and wipe out crops. Fires, floods, and storms like recent Hurricanes are stronger and more devastating. What do they have in common --Heat. Heat the factor that throws natural systems with their delicate checks and balances out of whack. The more heat added to Earth's climate system, the more out of balance natural systems get. The more out of balance systems get, the more destruction and suffering. At the 1.5 C, global warming pushes many of the natural systems that sustain us past a dangerous turning point. And we don't want to think beyond 1.5.

If we act fast, humanity can still prevent the planet from the worst impacts of climate change. It's not too late to change course and global warming can be reversed. However, to do so will require a coordinated effort among countries to stop adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere. 2050—net zero CO2. And, yes, it will require a shift away from fossil fuels. We know what to do. We know how to do it. The question is whether we will do it. Global progress towards reducing emissions is happening and some big businesses are working toward the net- zero emissions—Microsoft, Google, Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Walmart, and Dow.

Prof. Hayhoe notes we all want a chance of something better than what we have today, not worse. Our hope will be found in action.

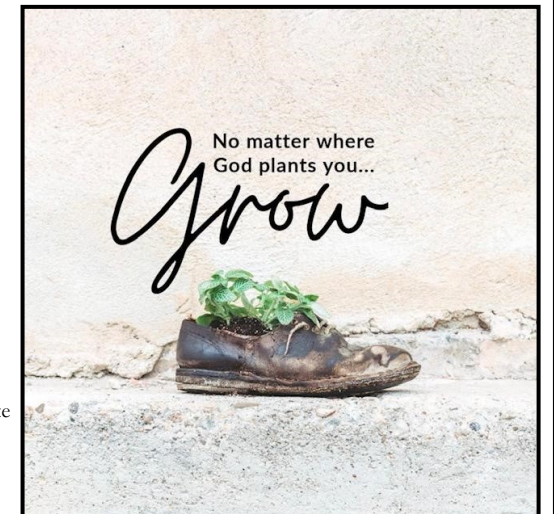
So, what can we do? We recycle our yogurt cup after breakfast. Cut food waste. Try new veggie recipes. Replace lightbulbs with LEDs. Join groups that share your values and advocate for change. And importantly, call on Congress and ask for a clear path to net-zero. And be a good neighbor. In our increasingly polarized and inequitable world, looking out for and caring for each other is vital when faced with extreme weather events like flooding, heatwaves, and wildfire. Sticking together as a community, building resilience together, is also part of the fight against climate change.

We can do our part. If the past year plus of COVID-19 has shown us anything, it's that we can adapt our behavior—sometimes very quickly. Let's do this.

The Christian Education Green Team

Lynn, Kathy, Jimmy, Bert and Claudia

References: Time, BBC, The Nature Conservancy, CNBC, The Guardian, Climate Choices, The Washington Post, The New York Times, USA Today, Climate Reality Project



DID YOU KNOW?



A hotter future is certain? But how hot is up to us. On August 9, the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) took a comprehensive look at the state of climate change. The 2021 report – authored by 234 scientists, is almost 4000 pages long and includes significant evidence on the scope of climate change since the 2013 report. The report outlines the future if greenhouse gas emissions and warming continue. The report begins with “It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean, and land.” Prof. Katherine Hayhoe, endowed chair at Texas Tech University and Chief Scientist, the Nature Conservancy, was asked by Texas Monthly, “What’s the top-line conclusion in this report for you?” She replied: What’s new is there is no equivocation. There is no mincing of words for any country, or company, or state, or city, organization to hide behind and to say, “Oh, scientists aren’t sure. They don’t know enough yet. We need to study it more.” No, we have everything we need to act. We are certain that climate is changing, humans are responsible, and that the impacts are serious. Our future is in our hands. Our choices will determine the outcome. The UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, said the report is a “a code red for humanity.”

Per IPCC report, the effects of climate change are being felt worldwide. It is not about an abstract future—it is current reality. Wildfires, floods, droughts, storms, extreme temperatures are constant reminders that climate change is catastrophically real. In the report, “Global warming of 1.5 C and 2 C will be exceeded during the 21st century unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.” We need to keep the planet from warming beyond thresholds, such as 1.5 degrees or 2 degrees Celsius, because 1.5 C is right at the point scientists’ project some of the climate impacts we already see today will go from bad to terrifying. And, even if we start today sharply cutting emissions, total global warming is likely to rise to about 1.5 degrees C within the next two decades. A hotter future is essentially locked in because of all the greenhouse gases we’ve already put in the air.

The climate crisis is here. And, while global warming up to 1.49999 degrees is not rainbows



Worship Committee

October 3rd is World Communion Sunday. This special day offers congregations a opportunity to experience Holy Communion in the context of the global community of faith, and to remember that we are part of the whole body of believers. How comforting it is to know that our faith is the same, that we are part of the same community, regardless of what part of the earth we live on. And how comforting it is to know that you are a big part of this community at FPC Henderson.

We hope that everyone has a wonderful October.

The Worship Committee

Mary, Steve, Jimmy, River, Margaret, Scott, Kathy, and Kelly

October 2021



Duty Elders for October

Kathy P. & Mary L.

∞

Liturgists for October

10/03 Lynn T.

10/10 John H.

10/17 Carol S.

10/24 Jimmy C.

10/31 Lynn T.

*Birthdays
of the Month*

10/12 Margaret H.

10/27 Judy A.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Meals on Wheels	2
3 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Sanctuary/FB Live Worship/Communion 12:00 Choir Practice HIM Donation Day	4 Home Communion	5 6:00 Theology on Tap 5:30-8:30 National Night Out, Fair Park	6	7 2:00 Modern Study Club	8 Meals on Wheels	9
10 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Sanctuary/FB Live Worship 12:00 Choir Practice 3:00 Walk with a Doc	11	12	13	14	15 Meals on Wheels	16
17 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Sanctuary/FB Live Worship 12:00 Choir Practice	18	19	20	21 6:00 Session Meeting	22 Meals on Wheels	23
24 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Sanctuary/FB Live Worship 12:00 Choir Practice	25	26	27	28	29 Meals on Wheels	30
31 Halloween 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Sanctuary/FB Live Worship 12:00 Choir Practice						