

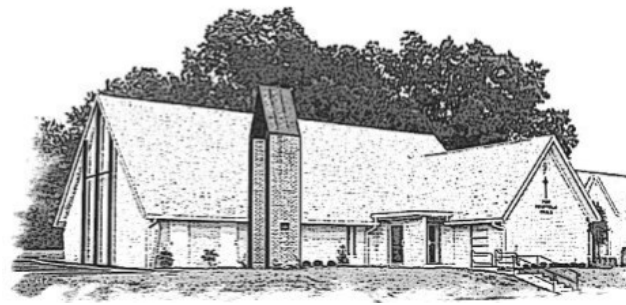


*"Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing
Differences"*

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THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue Five

Sabbath, Silence, and Serenity

When was the last time you sat in silence? When was the last time you took a Sabbath break? When did you last feel calm and serene in your heart? Did you realize that silence, Sabbath, and serenity are connected?

Recognizing the peace of God that dwells within us is easier when we take time to quiet our minds. At its core, Sabbath is stepping out of the hectic patterns of our day-to-day *doing* to spend time simply *being*. Once we have set aside or managed the material world that usually manages us, silence is easier to find.

At Camp Gilmont last week, I received the gift of time and space to step out of my busy routine, connect with nature, and reconnect with myself. Grace Presbytery and Austin Seminary organized a time to "Come Away" for meditation, healing, reflection, and spiritual practices. We walked through the trees, around the pond, and sat lazily in hammocks. We prayed, ate together, and shared stories. We journaled and worshipped. We practiced reflective listening, lectio divina, and contemplated dragonflies.

As an intentional Sabbath retreat, we set aside the many "have tos" that normally clamor for our attention. We spent time in silence, alone, listening to far off traffic, birdsong, and the different sounds the wind made as it rustled oak leaves and pine needles. In the silence there was so much life to notice!

At FPC, during our Holy Week celebration, we use the spiritual practice of silence in worship. A three-five second pause here or there is not unusual. For special reflection, like Holy Week, we reflect silently for three minutes as a time. At about 1:45, folks get just a little antsy. But minute three is worth the wait! It's quieter than the first two, somehow deeper. It holds more stillness. In the third minute, we brush against the deep serene Holy One that dwells in all of us.

The afternoon of the second day at camp, I felt better. My burden was lighter. I felt good, even though I felt fine the day before. I somehow had more room to breathe and my brain was uncluttered. But something in my mind said hang on, we aren't finished yet. The third minute was yet to come!

Sabbath rest is a gift from God. It may be hard to imagine spending more than an hour in quiet reflection or walking in the park but try. Start in 15-minute increments. (continued)

Or find a comfortable chair, set a timer, and try sitting for three or more minutes. You may not discover serenity the first or second time but allow yourself the time and space to seek for the Divine within so that you can share more of the Divine in the world.

Rev Michele

May 8 is Mothers’ Day. May we celebrate and remember our Mothers and ones who are like our Mothers.

Matthew 18:20

*“Where two or three gather in my name,
I am there among them.”*

We want to thank Carolyn for being our “card lady” for so many years. We will miss her on the **Member Care Committee**. Thank you, Claudia for taking on this task.

We pray everyone has a blessed May. Happy Mothers’ Day!

The Member Care Committee



Bert for healing

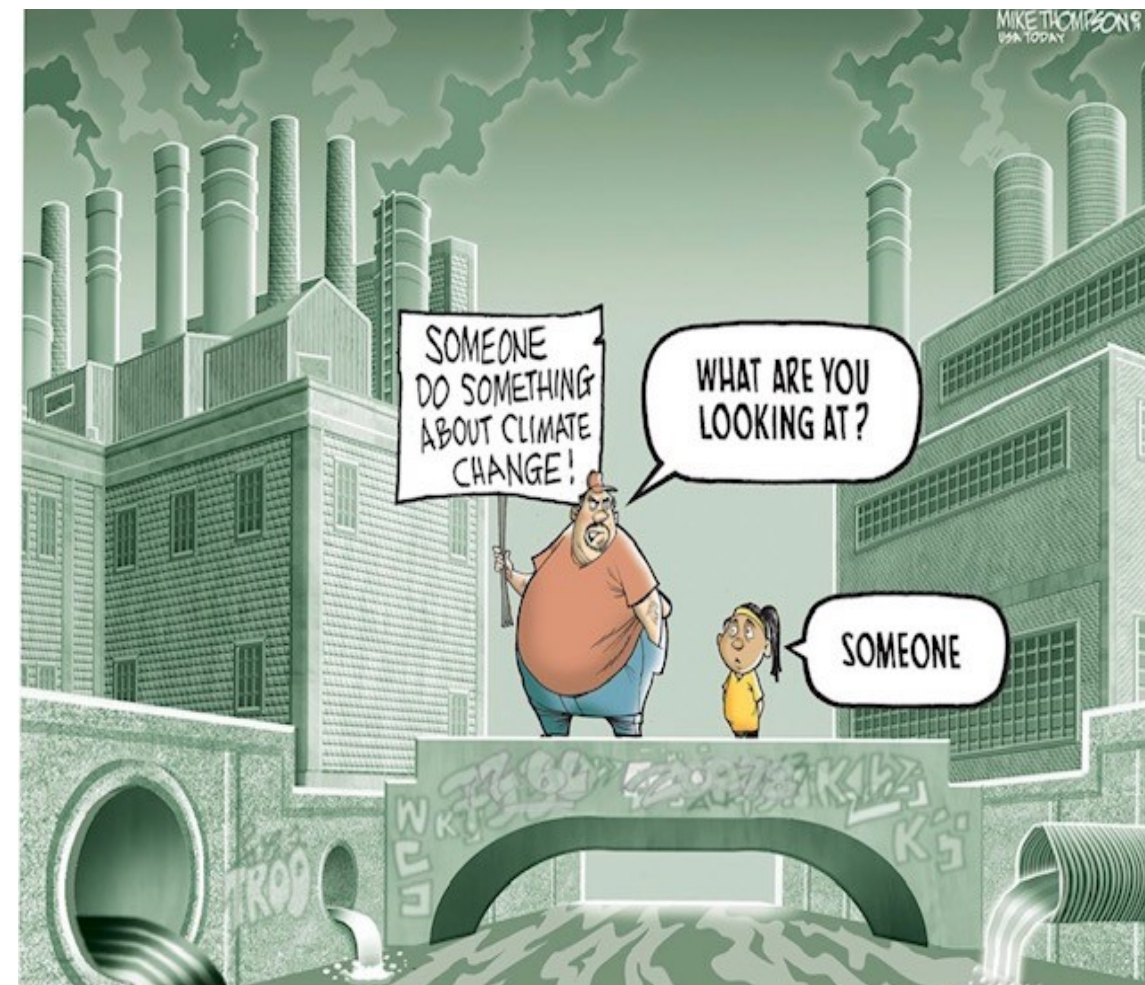
Pat for healing

Peace everywhere

Saving God,
grant safe harbour
for all those who are weathering storms.
AMEN



Did You Know?



Christian Education Green Team



Earth Day 2022

The Christian Education Green Team led a special prayer service and planted roses in front of the bell tower to honor God and creation on Earth Day.



Prayer Companions

Prayer Companions is a sub-committee of the **Member Care Team**, under the direction of Mary, elder. The purpose of the group is simply to pray for the needs of our brothers and sisters.

Because of privacy issues in our world today, the group has established some guidelines. The guidelines are designed to protect any confidential information associated with prayer requests. *Prayer Companions* guidelines are intended to honor the privacy of individuals while exercising the privilege of praying for one another.

Guidelines

- A. In order for the group to pray for someone, there must be a specific request to a member of *Prayer Companions*, the church secretary, or the pastor.
- B. When members or attendees of FPC request prayer for themselves or their families, the person requesting prayer may provide only whatever details they think appropriate. The person accepting the request will ask if all the information provided may be shared with *Prayer Companions*. All requests will be kept within the *Prayer Companions* circle unless permission is given to share with the congregation.
- C. Whereas confidentiality and trust is of the utmost importance to the group, requests may be made for anonymity. A person may request that his name and the name of the person for whom prayer is being requested not be used. For example, "Please pray for someone who is going through a divorce." (God knows for whom this prayer is intended.)

Prayer Companions considers it both a privilege and an honor to pray for others. Prayer is one of the greatest gifts we can give to others. To make a prayer request or inquire about joining the *Companions*, please contact Lynn 903-836-2418, Kathy 903-863-2300, or the pastor 903-657-2529.

Building and Grounds

Earth day was Friday 4/22/2022. We celebrated it in the church on the Sunday following.

This is a good time to reflect on our current abilities to make a difference in our own community.

As we transition from spring on our way to summer the **Building and Grounds Committee** would like to remind you to check your A/C filters and change as needed.

With recent rains and storms we're coming out of a drought and it's a good reminder of how quickly things can change.

Monitor your watering of grass and landscaping. If rain is forecast, hold off watering if possible to let mother nature's showers step in.

If you have an automatic watering system make sure all sprinkler heads are working properly and not watering concrete.

Everything we do can and will make a difference!



The month of May makes us think of growing flowers and bright colors. As Christians, we rely on God's word for growth and maturity.

Isaiah 58:11

"The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail."

On May 8 we are pleased that Kenny Rigoulot will fill our pulpit. He will also provide a PowerPoint presentation of Camp Gilmont during Sunday School class at 9:45. Please try to attend.

Peace to all of you,

The Worship Committee

Finance Committee April 2022

Your 2022 Finance Committee did not meet in March but plans to meet on April 27th. Our team members consist of Kathy, Carol, Kelly, and Steve (Vice Chair). This committee reviews the finances of the church and works with the church's administrative assistant, in accounting for the church's receipts and disbursements.

As of March 31st the Church's finances are in good shape. We are approximately on budget for our pledges but under budget on our plate. Year to date we continue to be under budget for our expenses.

Many thanks to everyone who makes their pledge commitment or donates to the plate. Also, thank you to our committee chairs in being vigilant in controlling the church's expenses.

Peace and thankfulness,
Tom, Chair



Palm Sunday



Easter Morning Breakfast



Easter Service



Maundy Thursday/Good Friday

*Piglet noticed that even though he had
a very small heart,
it could hold a rather large
amount of Gratitude.*



A.A. Milne

Hello Church,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for everyone who helped with Lent and Holy Week this year. It took many helping hands and participants to put together our worship and I am grateful for each and everyone. We had worship enhancements that came and went quietly when no one was looking, adapted for communion and transitioned right into Earth Sunday. We shifted from the sanctuary to fellowship hall seamlessly. We used extra water and extra vessels and incorporated palms and flowers. We had communion and more communion. We had tables and chairs moved around. We had taco brunch from the many helping hands that woke up early on Easter so that we could eat together! We had special readings and many voices, with beautiful music and singing – so many wonderful moments. It was a very special Holy Week that took your helping hands to make it complete. He has risen, indeed!

Thank you,

Rev Michele

May 2022



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Duty Elder for May

River

Liturgists for May

5/1 Lynn

5/8 Carol S.

5/15 River

5/22 Jimmy C.

5/29 Kathy

May Birthdays

5/7 Liz C.

5/13 Tony D.

5/13 Pat L.

5/13 Patsy R.

5/18 Bert L.

5/18 Mary L.

5/21 Mike D.

5/26 Tela S.

1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live/ Communion HIM Donation Day	2 Home Communion	3 10:30-2:00 CPS 6:00 Theology on Tap	4 6:00 Radical Welcome	5 10:30-2:00 CPS	6 Meals on Wheels	7
8 9:45 Sunday School *  11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	9	10	11	12	13 Meals on Wheels	14 9:00 Grace Presbytery Meeting
15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	16	17	18 6:00 Radical Welcome	19 2:30-4:00 LEAN 6:00 Session Meeting	20 Meals on Wheels	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	23 Pipeline Deadline	24	25 6:00 Radical Welcome	26  Ascension of the Lord	27 Meals on Wheels	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	30  Memorial Day <i>Never Forget Ever Honor</i> Office Closed	31	* Special guest speaker and preacher Kenny Rigoulot will give a special presentation on Camp Gilmont during the Sunday School hour at 9:45. Please come and share our gratitude.			