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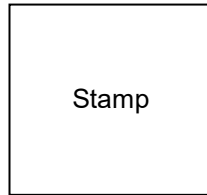
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*“Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences”*



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



Take Time to Play, Everyday

Did you know that playing is an essential part of life? Beyond the play we experience as children, when our lives are provisioned by grown ups and we are too young to carry the weight of responsibility, play has an important part in our lives.

God is known to play in the bible and encourages us to play, too.

In the scriptures, there is evidence of God’s playful spirit. Often, God’s people are found dancing. In Ecclesiastes 3, there is “a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and time to dance”.

When God formed the first human out of the clay, she was creating a playmate. When God rested on the seventh day, it was to take time to enjoy what was created on the other six days. Jesus is often found at banquets and feasts. In one gospel, we find him at a wedding celebration where he makes sure there is an abundance of wine. It is part of our nature as beings made in God’s image that we are designed to play.

We can think of play as activity pursued for enjoyment or recreation. This includes sports, too. Closely related to sabbath practices, play includes moral activities that bring us pleasure. Taking time to play is an invitation to pause from productive obligations and habits and simply enjoy what we are doing. Play is an invitation to celebrate. Theologian Jurgen Moltmann describes play as a way of setting aside the day-to-day toil and decay of earthly existence. “Play relativizes our ‘over-seriousness’ toward life, filling us with a spirit of joy and delight that carries over into all aspects of our existence.”

Play keeps us from taking ourselves too seriously. When we play, we remember to laugh and enjoy life. Playing keeps our minds and imaginations flexible and nimble for taking on the difficult challenges we face daily. When we take time to play together, we laugh and find delight in each other. *(Continued on page 2)*

(Continued from page 1)

How can you add playful experiences to your life? Explore all five of your senses. Find an excuse to indulge in play with children. Ask your grandchildren to play with you. Pick up an unfamiliar fruit in the produce section of the grocery store and experience the unfamiliar flavor. Color something with crayons, just for the fun of it.

Take some time off from productivity and play, and just for fun. You might even see God through the eyes of a child.

Rev Michele

“² [Jesus] called a child, whom he put among them, ³ and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” Mt 18:2-3



Outreach Team

At times, our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.

— Albert Schweitzer



As we enter the time of upcoming holidays, what better time to remind ourselves and each other of our thankfulness and gratitude for life. Our church congregation is known for our generous and loving hearts always but most especially during this time of year. Because the need is so very

great in our community, we will be doing something a little different this year. As you know, we collected donations for **Thanksgiving Baskets** benefiting HIM during October. For Christmas, we will be asking you again to help us support the HIM Ministry by donating in honor or in memory for the **Christmas Blessing Gifts**. We will have decorative paper Tree Ornaments and/or Christmas Stockings. As you purchase one you can put your name on the ornament and/or stocking and hang it on our tree.

While we have, as a church, been Christmas elves for patients of the Rusk State Hospital, this year we felt our collective concentration and attention needed to be with HIM. However, several of your Outreach Team members are going together to take a tray of goodies to Rusk State Hospital to be enjoyed by the group at their holiday party. If you would like to participate in that too, please let Lynn, Kathy, or Claudia know.

There are many in our community and in our neighborhood that benefit from the light our church shares whether it is by our Adopt-A-Block check-in (next one is December 12th) or attention to a special request for a little extra financial help for unplanned bills. We are God’s “boots on the ground.” We are sometimes God’s answer to someone’s prayer. Where and when we can, let’s help those in need.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the Peace and Global Witness Offering which was \$590 this year. We will soon be moving into the Joy Offering through Grace Presbytery.

Let’s be the Light,

John, Tom, Rev. Michele, Kathy, Claudia, Lynn, & Jimmy

The Worship Committee invites you to come worship with us every Sunday, and on November 6 to observe Communion and All Saints Day. You can also view the worship service online on Facebook.

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving!

Peace and Love,

The Worship Committee



Council Actions

October 25, 2022

- Worshiped and prayed together
- Reviewed the church membership roll
- Elected commissioner to November 12 Presbytery meeting
- Discussed the work of the Church Officer Nominating Committee
- Reviewed the Pastor’s Yearly Review
- Set Congregational Meeting for November 20th
- Decided to remove safe distance ropes in the sanctuary

Christian Education Team

As Advent approaches, the C E Team extends a personal invitation to each one of you to come help us prepare for the birth of Jesus by sharing your time with us on Sunday mornings at 9:45 am in studying Heidi Haverkamp’s *Advent in Narnia, Reflections for the Season*.

With its enchanting themes of snow and cold, light and darkness, meals and gifts, temptation and sin, forgiveness and hope—and even an appearance by Father Christmas—C. S. Lewis’s *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* fit naturally into the Advent Season. As the reader seeks a storied king and anticipates the glorious coming of Christmas, the devotions alternate between scripture and passages from the novel to prompt meditation on Advent themes. We will ultimately come to know God better while journeying through Narnia.

The Very Reverend Gary R. Hall, Dean, Washington National Cathedral says of the book: “Heidi Haverkamp’s *Advent in Narnia* is both delightful and profound: delightful because it provides a vehicle for Christians of all ages to experience the joys of C.S. Lewis’s classic fantasy; profound because it explores Advent’s themes of hope and expectation with real theological depth.”

We hope that you will come walk through the wardrobe with us on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, at approximately 9:40 as we start at 9:45 because there is so much to discuss. Please let Kathy or Michele know if you can join us, as we need to order books soon.



The Christian Education Team

Christian Fellowship

**Oh, what sweet communion
In God's only Son;
Loving Christian fellowship-
Hearts united as one;
Joined together in Christ,
Free from the state of sin,
Adoring the King of kings-
Our very closest Friend.
One common purpose,
And one single goal-
To glorify our Saviour
Till heavens gates unfold.**

**Lord, thank You for Christian Fellowship
Uniting our hearts in love;
We pray You'd keep us ever close,
Till we reach our home above.**

**"...if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship one with another,
and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son
cleanseth us from all sin."
(1 John 1:7)**



Save the date for the
Stewardship Luncheon
after worship on **November 20th.**
We hope to see you there as it has been
awhile since we have had
Fellowship together.

The **Member Care Committee** asks that you keep Mike and his family in prayer as they continue to honor the life of Tolly. Home Communion will be served on November 7th. We pray that everyone is healthy and happy.
Happy Thanksgiving, and have a blessed November

Good To Set Aside

Poet Unknown

It is good
To set aside a day when we remember
That the beauty about us —
The land, the sea, the sky,
And all that is,
Is not as a result of our power,
But really, truly
Because of the Divine love
And providence of God
Who cares.

Father, instill in us
A right spirit,
So that what we see
Is not so much
The many things we have
For our own,

But what others do not have
To call their own.
Thus — in this light
Let us be thankful.

Thanksgiving — quite inexpressible in words
Yet adequately expressed
In little deeds or silent gifts
That arise spontaneously
Almost sympathetically
When the chord of love is struck.
Thus, in the touch of a moment
We express something almost inexpressible
And we give thanks.



We lift prayers for:
Bert, Mike, Judy, Joey, and Patsy

Did You Know ?



CE Green Team

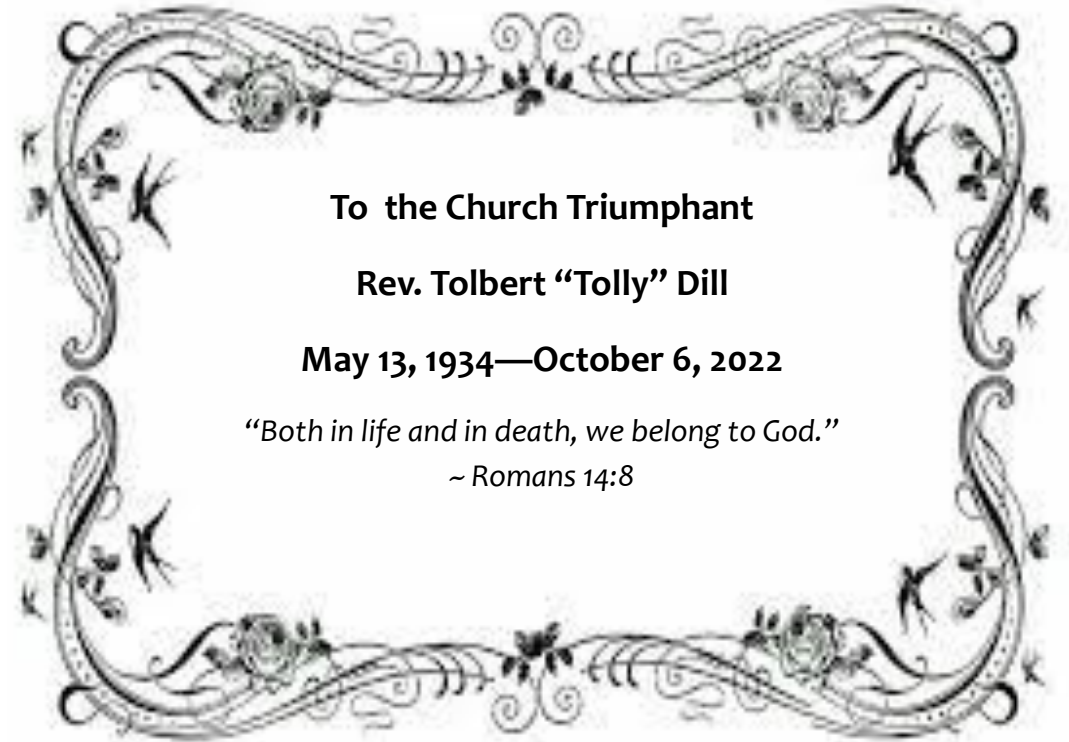
Building and Grounds

Last month, we talked about things to do inside your house as Fall was quickly approaching. Now Fall has arrived and some of us have experienced our first freeze of the year. The Building and Grounds Committee would now like to touch on some areas outside the house to be aware of.

Make sure to put faucet plugs on outdoor faucets now. We're referring to the easily installed plastic insulated covers that can be purchased from a hardware store and reused year after year. Check any areas around doors or windows where caulking may need to be reapplied or weather stripping around a door may need to be updated.

Finally if you have a fireplace make sure the chimney where the smoke vents out is free and clear of bird/squirrel nests, leaves, etc. A chimney sweep may also be a service to contact if you haven't had your chimney inspected in a while.

These activities, if completed by the time winter arrives in December, will save money on your heating bill or avoid costly repairs to your plumbing.



In Memory

Memorial Gifts were Received in Memory of

Tolly Dill

From: Kathy, Carol, John & Lynn



November 2022



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Duty Elder for November:

Kathy

Liturgists for November:

11/6 Jimmy

11/13 Claudia

11/20 John H.

11/27 Kelly



November Birthdays:

11/4 Suzanne

11/14 Kelly

11/18 Mary Ann

11/23 Patricia

11/25 Bob R.

| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---------------------------|--|----|--|---|---|
| | | | | 10-2 Modern Study | |  |
| 6 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live/ Communion HIM Donation Day | 7 Home Communion | 8  6:00 Theology on Tap | 9 | 10 | 11  | 12 |
| 13 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 6:00 Session Meeting | 18 | 19 |
| 20 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live Stewardship Luncheon | 21 Newsletter Deadline | 22 | 23 | 24 Office Closed  | 25 | 26 |
| 27 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |