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Tornado Outbreak Wreaks Havoc on Area: What Can You Do?

It seems that disasters mostly seem to happen far away, making us feel remote and helpless even when we want to help. But sometimes, disasters happen close to us—or maybe even to us. That was the case recently when tornadoes spawned by thunderstorms struck the nearby communities of Canton, Eustace, and Emory, causing massive damage and killing four people.

That list of tornado-affected areas was expanded when the National Weather Service added an area near Cumby in Hopkins County, bringing the tornado outbreak on April 29 to seven. The tornado south of Cumby was small, judged to be an EF-0 tornado, much smaller than the deadly EF-4 tornado that devastated Canton.

It caused little damage, certainly less than the other areas touched that night. But all of the tornados, so close to Commerce, give us pause to reflect on what we would do if the damage was here. It is gratifying to see the many government agencies, civic and community organizations, and numerous individuals who immediately responded to aid those affected by the storms.

Initially, the desire of many who wanted to help was to rush in right away. But that was discouraged before the initial assessment of damage was completed. Instead monetary donations were emphasized to the Red Cross and other groups which were quickly organized to help.

Grace Presbytery is one of those organizations accepting donations for the relief efforts. If this is how you would like to help, you can send a donation to Grace Presbytery, earmarked for the recent

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Items for Hygiene Kits Now Being Collected

Presbyterian Disaster Relief has made it easy for churches to help those in need following disasters by creating four “disaster kits” that help meet different needs. In a church wide effort, FPC would like to collect the items in one of those kits—the Hygiene Kit—so that the congregation can put those kits together as part of our July 11 worship service. Rev. Rasco plans to take the completed kits to the Van Zandt Fairgrounds to the Volunteer Reception area there for distribution to those in need.

Kit items are arriving and being stored until the July 11 service. The items for the kit are:

One each of the following: hand towel (approx. 16” x 28” (no finger tip or bath towels; wash cloth, wide-tooth comb, nail clipper, bath size bar of soap (in original packaging); toothbrush (in original packaging).

And six BandAids or other adhesive bandage strips.

(Seal all items in a one-gallon plastic bag with zipper closure.

Please do not add toothpaste. Toothpaste with an extended expiration date will be added to the Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to their departure.

Our Student Choir Members Are Keeping Busy This Summer

By Toni Deaton

Alexis, Danielle, David and Micah, our University students who sing in FPC's choir, are now on summer break but will return this fall. Here is what they will be doing this summer.

Alexis and Danielle will be taking on-line classes this summer after they return from the Chamber Singers' trip to New York City from May 27th to June 3rd. We hope they have a great time. Both Alexis and Danielle will be teaching at SCAMP at FPC-C in July.

David Estrada will be living at home in Garland and taking 13 hours at the University. He will also be performing in a musical at the Granville Art Center during July. The center is located at 300 N. Fifth Street in Garland.

Dates of the performances are July 21 and 22 and July 28 and 29 at 8 p.m. The performances on July 23 and July 30 will be at 2 p.m.

Both **David and Micah** will travel to New York in late spring to audition for various musicals there.

Micah will be in Falmouth, Massachusetts, on beautiful Cape Cod, with The College Light Opera Company from June 9 through Aug. 27. He was one of 32 students accepted into this prestigious summer program for young artists who apply from across the USA and around the world.

As part of weekly rehearsals, he will receive vocal and dance training each week. While one show is being performed, the following week's show is being rehearsed during the day.

His average day will begin at 10 a.m. with a break for lunch and then continues from 2 to 5:30 p.m. with a performance in the evening. Performances, frequently sold out, are in the historic Highfield Theatre in Falmouth and will entertain the summer audiences of Cape Cod.

We wish all these talented singers who contribute so much to our choir and worship services the very best in their summer endeavors, as we look forward to their return in September.



FPC Treasurer's Report

By Susan White

March

Our budget for 2017 is \$11,729 of operating expense per month. March receipts were \$12,870.33, including \$2,512 fund-raised for the flooring project. Not counting those donations, regular receipts were \$10,358.33 which is 12% lower than the budget. Expenses were \$10,961.64. These expenses were 6.5% lower than the budget. Including the special funds our bank balance increased by \$1908.79 in March.

April

In April, our receipts were \$14, 373.99 which is 23% over budget. Donations included 2 large non-recurring deposits. Expenses for the month were \$14,004.49. Included in those expenses was a \$2,200 down payment for the flooring project. Another unusual expense was the removal of a dead tree from the church grounds. April's net activity increased our bank balance by \$369.50.

Tornado Outbreak : What Can You Do?

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tornado recovery effort, to 6100 Colwell Blvd., Irving, Texas 75039-3148.

For those looking for other ways to help, with item donations or a donation of your time, before you commit, please call first to see if the need still exists or has changed. In addition to the American Red Cross, here are some other organizations to call. There may be others. But please be aware that as time passes, needs may be filled and these points of contact may be discontinued.

- **Christus Trinity Mother Frances HealthPark**

3203 S. Main Street

Lindale, Texas

Phone: **903-882-7717**

(This organization initially accepted general donations, but water and clothes and other immediate needs have been met. There are other needs, however, that they may know about.)

- **Tornado Crisis Hotline in Van Zandt County**

Phone: **903-567-3889 and 800-451-1954**

A Facebook page for Van Zandt County Tornado 2017 has been established for updates on needs and distributions.

- **Van Zandt County Fairgrounds**

24742 St. Hwy. 64

Canton, Texas 75103

Phone: **903-502-0151**

This where you can drop off donations, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Also at the Fairgrounds is the Van Zandt

County Volunteer Reception Center, which is where you can volunteer to help with your time. The center is currently open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tornado Shelters were initially set up in various places, but may no longer be open. However, needs may still exist. Tornado victims needing assistance can call the Red Cross at **866-505-4801** or the American Red Cross Serving East Texas Disaster Relief at 1-800-RED CROSS (**800-733-2767**).

You might also call the following to see if there are any needs still unmet.

- **Eustace City Hall**

107 Edgar Street

Eustace, Texas

Phone: **903-425-4702**

- **Emory Civic Center**

329 N. Texas Street

Emory, Texas 75440

Phone: **903-473-2465**

Animals need help in disasters, too. If you would like to help, here is a contact.

- **Nicholas Pet Haven Shelter & Dog Park**

Phone: **903-312-7585**

One final note from the moderator of the Grace Presbytery disaster response team. Many of the groups that are feeding volunteers have departed, and organizations are needed that can help feed volunteers. If your church or group is able to do this, please contact Damian Morales at damian@onestarfoundation.org



Damage from the April 29 tornado outbreak can be seen on both sides of U.S. 69, as you drive south of Emory.



Upcoming Bible Readings

This Sunday (May 21) Is the Sixth Sunday of Easter

Epistle: 1 Peter 3:13-22 *Suffering for Doing Right*

Psalter: Psalm 66:8-20 *Praise for God's Goodness to Israel*

Gospel: John 14:15-21 *The Promise of the Holy Spirit*

New Testament: Acts 17:22-31 *Paul in Athens*



Next Sunday (May 28) Is the Seventh Sunday of Easter



Epistle: 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 *Suffering as a Christian / Tending the Flock of God*

Psalter: Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 *Praise and Thanksgiving*

Gospel: John 17:1-11 *Jesus Prays for the Disciples*

New Testament: Acts 1:6-14 *The Ascension of Jesus / Matthias Chosen to Replace Judas*

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Gordon Hunter	Bruce Campbell	Sara Grace Pullen
Melba Blount	Amy Lopez	Billy Marshall	Joe Yeakley
Grace Byrd	Gayle Shumate	Gladys Gray	Pat Skauge
Mildred Miller	Gaye Furry	Preston Helton	Loretta Kibler
Donald R. Smith	Catherine King Robertson	Bennie Neve	Ron Davis
Janice Sigur	Aaron Senne	Jan Burns	Kristen Rueb
Walt Davis	Jordan Moore	Jerry Ann Harris	Kathryn Miller
Joyce McCord	Deryl McKenzie	Janice Hale	

Assisting with Worship

This Sunday (May 21)

Bob Johnson, Head Usher;
TBD, Candle lighter;
Bettina Zvanut, Liturgist.



Next Sunday (May 28)

Walt Davis, Head Usher;
TBD, Candle lighter;
Wally Tucker, Liturgist.

Note: Even though they may not be listed, we will have candle lighters. They just won't be designated henceforth, allowing us to use whoever is available. Also, please remember to let our worship leaders (and our candle lighters) know how much you appreciate them.

Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

Remember to help out the food pantry with a donation of food each Sunday.



1st Sunday—Peanut butter

2nd Sunday—Bag of pinto beans and/or rice

3rd Sunday—Can of chili or beef stew

4th Sunday—Can of tuna, spam, chicken



Things to do this summer

Summer is almost here, bringing with it vacations, mini-vacations, summer sports, gardening, yard work, cleaning up, garage sales, etc. Some of that is fun, some falls under the category of chores.

But even with all that going on, there still seems to be empty time, especially for children and teens. What can fill some of that empty time? Why summer camp, of course.

Here are some summer offerings that we know about.

Summer Offerings at Mo-Ranch and at Camp Gilmont

- **Mo-Ranch, Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly**, 2229 FM 1340; Hunt, Texas 78024-3037

For children ages 8-15; six camp sessions, starting June 4 and continuing through July 22.

Mo-Ranch Summer Camp is a co-ed residential Christian summer camp located in the Texas Hill Country on the Guadalupe River.

Offerings: one week (\$775) and two-week (\$1,450) camp sessions, discounts for multiple campers.

For more information, go online at www.moranch.org. or call 1-800-460-4401.

Special events: Mo-Ranch also has a couple of specialized events in July. For more information and costs of these events, call or visit moranch.org online.

- ◆ **Multicultural Youth Conference**, July 6-9. This conference offers students from 6th through 12 grades an opportunity to learn about different ethnicities, including their own.
- ◆ **Young Disciples Confirmation Camp** scheduled for July 24-28. This program is designed for groups beginning or in the midst of their Confirmation process, and also for churches who want to teach their youth more about the Reformed understanding of the Bible, Jesus and the Church.

- **Camp Gilmont, Gilmont Camp & Conference Center**, 6075 State Hwy. 155 N.; Gilmer, Texas 75644
Close by, on over 400 acres, Camp Gilmont has its roots in the Presbyterian Church.

For children ages 6-17



Offerings: One week camps for ages 7-10; 8-12, 12-16, 15-16, starting June 18; shorter mini-camps for ages 6-8, starting June 21 and July 5; and two-week intern camps for ages 16-17, starting June 18 and July 2. Camp costs differ, ranging from \$260 to \$585, with discounts for multiple campers. Payment plans can be set up. Scholarships may also

be available, but you need to inquire as soon as possible.

For more information or to register go on-line to www.gilmont.org or call 1-903-797-6400.

Monmouth College Institute Examines Food Security

Lux Summer Theological Institute for Youth, Monmouth College, 700 E. Broadway, Monmouth, Illinois 61462

This two week (July 16-30) experience offers theologically curious high school students (rising sophomore through graduated seniors) a unique opportunity to get serious and have fun with intellectually challenging classes, service in the local community, and quiet reflection time sandwiched between morning and evening worship services.

This year's theme is *Feast or Famine: Thinking Theologically about Food and Food Security*.

And did we say it is FREE (including transportation from Chicago. Deadline to register is June 1. For more information and a registration form, go on-line to www.monmouthcollege.edu or click [here](#).



Upcoming Events



- ♦ **Thursday, May 25, 5 p.m.**—Food Pantry board meeting
- ♦ **Sunday, May 21, 6 p.m.**—Sole Hope cutting party in FH. Bring your denim and plastic jugs. Food and drink will be served.

Invitations



Petra's Patio Party

Sat., May 27th

2 – 6 pm

Come & Go

3010 Charlinda St.

Commerce, TX

Kick Off the Summer With Petra!

Directions:

On Monroe, cross Culver, at light, heading South
Go to Stop sign (Day Care Center will be to the right)
Turn left onto Charity
Turn immediately right onto Charlinda Street
3010 Charlinda is the last duplex on the left

Free Lunch Is Back At FPC

FPC is working with United Way of Hunt County again to provide area children with free lunches during the summer.

For the second year, FPC and the Norris Community Center (1007 Ross St.) in Commerce will be the nutrition sites for United Way's effort to feed local children. Once again the effort by FPC is headed up by **Bettina Zvanut**, with help from a number of volunteers. If you would like to help in this effort, contact Bettina.

Lunches will be delivered to FPC and served here Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to noon, beginning June 5 and continuing through Aug. 3.

Children 18 years old and younger will be served on a first come, first served basis as long as the meals are available.



A reminder: the church secretary will be on vacation from May 18-26. We are trying to get the office staffed, but it may be closed. A good idea is to call first before you come.

The church office will also be closed on Monday, May 29, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.



Did We Forget Something?

Maybe we forgot an event you are organizing for FPC or a committee report you wanted to get in *The Good News*. Whatever it is, let us know. If you forgot, remember to remember next time!