



THE GOOD NEWS

**The Good News is published weekly and monthly by
the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas.**

October 2018

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Worship with us this Sunday!

"A Christian Community of Faith"

9:45 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages
10:50 a.m.
Sunday Worship

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A Message From the Pastor

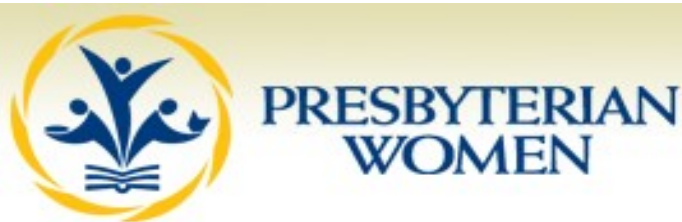
Dear FPCC and Friends,

I have noticed that the topic of authenticity has come up a lot lately. I believe that people, especially the younger generations, are craving more authentic encounters and more authenticity from one another and from leaders. Not that long ago there were a lot of subjects that were taboo including religion/faith, sexuality, and mental health, among many others. In many ways, these topics are still taboo. I imagine they were and are taboo because it requires a person to be vulnerable. To talk about such personal subjects means that you have to risk rejection, and lack of understanding on the other's part.



Vulnerability is hard and scary because you have no idea how the other person is going to react. Yet, trying to be authentic and opening myself up to my own pain and being able to share with others has actually had the opposite results. It has allowed others a safe space to say "me too." It allows for people to let down their facades and say "I make mistakes and I am not what society would deem perfect, but that's ok because I'm not alone." No one out there is perfect, and the more we open ourselves up and are truthful with others, it dismantles this idea of being perfect which takes a lot more energy to uphold. I realize there a lot of times that I do try to portray myself as if everything is going well and perfect. I will keep trying. In the mean time, I wonder if the church as a whole could be included in trying to be more authentic and vulnerable and what would that look like? Would it include more testimonies, personal or communal confessions? Maybe it would be just as simple as sitting next

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Upcoming PW Events

♦Sunday, October 7, immediately after the worship service

PW Fundraiser Luncheon—The PW will be providing a Lasagne meal for all. You need not bring anything except your appetite! Donations will be accepted to help complete some needed improvements (painting and new chair mat) in our Education Wing. Come and enjoy the fellowship and take time to get acquainted with some of our recent visitors and guests. You may even want to continue your “Passing the Peace” conversations!

♦Monday, October 8 – 10 a.m. in FH

The Presbyterian Women Circle will meet for Bible study and brief business meeting. Hostess is Brenda Estes; Jane Cox will lead the lesson, Chapter 2 --“God With Us in Our Uncertainty” from the Horizons Bible Study, *God’s Promise: I Am With You*. Members are asked to bring something for the Food Pantry; the suggested item is spaghetti sauce in cans. All women are invited to attend.

♦Friday-Saturday, October 19-20

PW Fall Gathering/Retreat at Gilmont (Gilmer, TX)—All women throughout Grace Presbytery are invited to attend the annual Fall Gathering. This year, a retreat is planned at Gilmont Camp and Conference Center. Joanna Kim, who spoke at our church recently, will be the keynote speaker. For more information, see the flyer on our bulletin board. The deadline for registering has been extended to October 15. For more information, there is a flyer on the bulletin board under glass in the hallway to the Sanctuary.

Powerful Quotes from Diane Moffett, president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, who spoke at PW Churchwide Gathering, which Bettina and Toni attended in Louisville in August:



“Rise up so that new stories will be told. Rise up despite the barriers. Ain’t no mountain high enough to keep God from us!”

Jesus came to “cause terror to those who loved the status quo!” She said Jesus causes us to rise and love justice, just as yeast causes bread to rise.

“Rise up like evening stars and transform what is troubled!”

PW Women — Strong, Faith Driven, Results Oriented!
Find a Place in Service Here!

PW Luncheon Pictures

On Saturday, Sept. 8 at noon, the annual PW Luncheon was held in Fellowship Hall. The top picture shows attendees (l-r) Brenda Estes, Jane Cox, Bettina Zvanut, Nila McQuary, Mona Towne, Helon Razniak, Nancy McFarland, and Martha Clevenger.



Nancy Green and Pastor Rasco and daughter Kaitlynn (above) and Toni Deaton (below) also enjoyed the luncheon.





F P C P i c t u r e s



CARING IN ACTION—Tina Fletcher Selvaggi sent us three pictures recently. It may or may not be a coincidence, but although the photos are of three very different subjects, each one at its essence captures a demonstration of caring. Above, is her grandson **Austin**. The photo was sent with the following sage notation, *“Now that Rose, Paul, and their little son Austin are living with us for a bit, our farm animals have decided to take Austin on as a project. They are continually monitoring him to make sure he’s safe. This innate understanding they have of Austin’s vulnerability shows God’s will that we all care for each*

other.” In the second picture (below left), she answers a common question people ask her—*“Has Lily has flown yet?”* The picture, taken at sunrise on Sept. 26, shows two men carefully and protectively snapping Lily (you can’t see her, but she’s there) into an Air Force glider for her first soaring experience. The final picture (below) is of Lily’s host family in Colorado Springs, the English family. *“Like 1000 other families in the area,”* Tina wrote, *“these lovely people take in a cadet once a month and take them on outings and help them with ever they might need. They’re already busy people but they have a little more room in their hearts for a cadet who is far from home.”*



Thanks, Tina, for so graphically showing that there is a lot of good going on in this world!

Got a picture for that you would like to share? Email it to fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com



Be sure to include a description of the photo.

Invitation



The First Presbyterian Church in Waco has extended an invitation to members of the FPC congregation to enjoy an afternoon of music played on its recently renovated pipe organ.

Guest artists will be Kiyo and Chiemi Watanabe, of Wichita Falls. Both are graduates of the Manhattan School of Music. The church’s handbell choir will also perform at the event.

The performances will be Sunday, Oct. 21, at 4 p.m. The invitation, with more details, is on the church bulletin board next to the kitchen.





PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE...for victims of Hurricane Florence

God is our refuge and strength

Therefore, we will not fear ... though the waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble. — Psalm 46

Do you want to help those people devastated by Hurricane Florence, but don't know where to start. One way is to support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) effort. PDA is delivering immediate aid to those impacted by the storm on the Eastern Seaboard of the United States. PDA is deploying teams to affected presbyteries to meet with Presbyterian and community leadership to assist in coordinating relief efforts and mucking out homes and churches. After initial needs are addressed, PDA will remain — providing spiritual and emotional care and long-term recovery to address the unmet needs of those impacted.

Here is what Presbyterian Disaster Assistance suggests:

Give: Financial support for relief efforts can be designated to DR000169, which supports the church's response to hurricanes impacting the U.S. Gifts can be made online, by phone at (800) 872-3283, or by check, which can be mailed to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), P.O. Box 643700, Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Act: Learn how you and your congregation can help families who have lost everything in the devastation. Stay informed and like us on Facebook, download resources and share updates with your congregation.

Pray: In these days of relief, assessment and response, open our eyes, our hearts and our hands to the needs of your children and the movements of your Spirit, who flows in us like the river whose streams make glad the city of God, and the hearts of all who dwell in it, and in You.

In the name of Christ the Healer we pray. Amen.

*Rev. Dr. Laurie Ann Kraus, director
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*

THIS JUST IN....the Grace Presbytery Council has voted to contribute a \$5,000 designated gift to the PDA Hurricane Florence response effort.

Get Moving—Gently

Looking for a way to get some exercise without working so hard? Need to reduce the stress in your life? There's a centuries old way to do both.

On Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 9 a.m., FPC began offering Tai Chi classes, taught via DVD and hosted by **Martha Clevenger and Helon Rasniak**. Tai Chi is an internal Chinese martial art that has evolved into a stress reducing graceful form of exercise. Six people (including Helon and Martha) were part of the first class. You are invited to join them and let Martha and Helon introduce you to Tai Chi.



Helon Razniak, Martha Clevenger, and Wally Tucker practice one of Tai Chi's gentle movements during the first class here on Oct. 2.

FPC Is Online!

www.facebook.com/fpccommerce

www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce.

<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>

www.fpc-commerce.com.

You Are Invited!

Lasagna Luncheon

The Presbyterian Women's Circle is hosting a Lasagna Luncheon (donations only) in Fellowship Hall immediately after the worship service on Sunday, Oct. 7.



There is no need to bring a side or dessert. The PW ladies are taking care of it all. Just come hungry!

All proceeds from this delicious event will be used for refurbishing the FPC education wing. Make donation checks out to FPC Presbyterian Women.

Fish Fry, Oct. 21, 6 p.m.



Come back to FPC in the evening on Oct. 21 and enjoy our ever-popular fish fry, sponsored by the Membership Committee. Bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Everyone is invited. If you are new to FPC, you can't beat the food or fellowship. If you are an old-time FPCer, you know how good it is. This event is a reminder of what makes our church so warm and welcoming.

Preliminary North Texas Giving Day Numbers

\$48,487,531

157,184 donations to 2,690 organizations

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For the Commerce Food Pantry—\$1967, 15 gifts

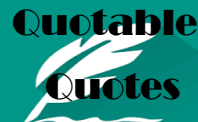
Special Musical Treat Oct. 7

In addition to the beautiful music provided by **David Vergara and by Micah Krajca and the FPC Choir**, during Sunday's worship service on Oct. 7, there will be a little something extra.

Wally Tucker and Jim Deaton will treat the congregation to their musical rendition of "Down by the Riverside." Wally will be playing a bass guitar and Jim will play the clarinet.

“ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb...

Revelation 22:1



October Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 7** Morning Worship service 10:50 a.m.
Communion Sunday
Sermon focus on Mark 10:13-16
- 14** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Job 23:1-9, 16-17
- 21** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Job 38:1-7, 34-45
- 28** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Other October events

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Tuesdays, 9 a.m.**—Tai Chi class
- 6 Saturday, all day**—State Presbytery Meeting at
- 7 Sunday, after worship**—PW Lasagna Luncheon
- 8 Monday, 10 a.m.**—PW Circle meeting
- 10 Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Session meeting
- 21 Sunday, 6 p.m.**—Fish Fry sponsored by the Membership Committee
- 23 Tuesday, 5 p.m.**—Food pantry board meeting

Upcoming Bible Readings

**Sunday (October 7) Is the
20th Sunday after Pentecost**

Old Testament: Job 1:1; 2:1-10 *Job (a man who
turned away from evil) / Attack on Job's Health*

Psalter: Psalm 26 *Plea for Justice and Declaration
of Righteousness*

New Testament: Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 *God Has
Spoken by His Son / Exaltation through
Abasement*

Gospel (and sermon focus): Mark 10:13-16 *Jesus
Blesses Little Children*



**Sunday (October 14) Is the
21st Sunday after Pentecost**

Gospel: Mark 10:17-31 *The Rich Man*

Psalter: Psalm 22:1-15 *Pleas for Deliverance
from Suffering and Hostility*

New Testament: Hebrews 4:12-16 *The Rest
That God Promised / Jesus the Great High
Priest*

**Old Testament (and sermon focus): Job 23:1-9,
16-17** *Job Replies: My Complaint Is Bitter*

Food Pantry Donation Items

The Commerce Food Pantry typically serves between 30-40 different families in need each week—over 120 families each month. Donations remain an important source of its ability to help these people. Remember to help out the food pantry with a donation of food each Sunday.

Here are suggested donations. There is a box just inside the sanctuary for your donation.

1st Sunday—Saltine crackers

2nd Sunday—Ranch Style Beans

3rd Sunday—Spaghetti sauce (in cans)

4th Sunday—Chili without beans

5th Sunday—Canned pineapple

In addition to the above, the Commerce Food Pantry is always in need of grocery paper bags with handles (Braum's paper bags are perfect). If you have any spare paper bags, please consider donating them at any time.



Addition to the Prayer List

Pat Skauge, a neighbor of **Keith and Nancy McFarland**, has been added to the FPC's prayer list since our last newsletter. He is facing heart surgery in the near future.

If you have anyone you would like to add to the FPC Prayer List, please contact the church office.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops
Sara Grace Pullen
Joe Yeakley
Gladys Gray
Preston Helton
Ron Davis
Larry Ratliff
Jim Calvert
Bob Wilkins
Danny Spruel
Nancy Smith
Pat Skauge

Gordon Hunter
Melba Blount
Grace Byrd
Mildred Miller
Catherine King Robertson
Jan Burns
Jack Gray
Tammi Fucci
Joe Dipiazza
Kristen Anderson
Petra Strassberg

Bruce Campbell
Amy Lopez
Gayle Shumate
Gaye Furry
Bennie Neve
Audrey Hucks
Jean Angotti
Adele Reeves
Deryl McKenzie
Family of Freda Lambert
Gary and Melba Strobel

The mid-month newsletter will be published on Oct. 18. Deadline for submissions is Monday, Oct. 22.

A Message From the Pastor Continued from page 1

to someone you don't know and asking how they are doing and letting them know you genuinely want to know, while (and this is not always simple) preparing yourself not to react negatively no matter what the answer is?

We have a God who displayed massive amounts of vulnerability. We have a God who turns weaknesses into strength, who turns mourning into dancing, and who turns death into life. We have a God who has been there, done that, understands and will not reject us. If we could trust in that knowledge a little more, maybe we too can find strength in our weaknesses, dancing after mourning, and new life where there once was death.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Krista Rasco

First Presbyterian Church		
Staff, Session, and Committees		
Staff		
Pastor	Rev. Krista Rasco	
Clerk of Session	Wally Tucker	
Music Director	Micah Krajca	
Pianist.....	David Vergara	
Nursery Attendant	Carolyn McFarland	
Secretary	Roger McKenzie	
Session Members		
2018	2019	2020
Martha Clevenger	Brenda Estes	Nancy Green
Jordan Conner	Tina Fletcher	Bob Johnson
Wally Tucker	Russ Garmon	Neal Stewart
Bettina Zvanut	Lily Selvaggi	
Session Committees		
Worship:		
Chair	Martha Clevenger	
Co-Chair	Nancy Green	
Christian Education:		
Chair	Bettina Zvanut	
Co-Chair	Nancy Green	
Membership and Pastoral Care:		
Chair	Brenda Estes	
Co-Chair	Tina Fletcher Selvaggi	
Mission/Evangelism:		
Chair	Bob Johnson	
Co-Chair	Bettina Zvanut	
Buildings and Grounds:		
Chair	Russ Garmon	
Co-Chair	Neal Stewart	
Stewardship and Finance:		
Chair	Jordan Conner	
Personnel:		
Chair	Wally Tucker	
Note: Some committees do not have co-chairs.		



The NRSV Bible leaves out some verses. Compare the NRSV and King James verses for Mark 9:38-50 (one of our recent Bible readings). In the NRSV version, verses 44 and 46 are left out. Why? Apparently because they are repeats of verse 48. See if you can find other missing verses.

October Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Jody McIntier
- 2 – Jim Norwood
- 2 – Wendell Linton
- 5 – Paula Ballew
- 7 – Pierce Taylor Wells
- 13 – Toni Deaton
- 22 – Amber Estes Porterfield
- 24 – Ennis McIntier
- 30 – James Rhodes

Happy Anniversary to:

- 2 – Sherry & Bob Johnson
- 11 – Deborah & Lance Wells
- 19 – Wendell & Charlene Linton

*If we forgot you or got a date wrong,
contact the church secretary.*



FPC's **Jane Cox** was captured for posterity in a photo published in the September, 2018 edition of the *Commerce Connection*. She and two other Wednesday volunteers were pictured in front of The Bargain Box, which accompanied a brief article about the store in downtown Commerce.

FPC's **Nancy McFarland and Toni Deaton** were pictured in recent editions of both the *Greenville Herald-Banner* and the *Commerce Journal* for the same event. Both enjoyed the Northeast Texas Children's Museum fundraiser held Sept. 14 at the First Baptist Church in Commerce. They joined over 100 guests for the event which featured a luncheon (served by Commerce businessmen and city officials) and a fashion show featuring fall fashions from Chico's Clothing of Rockwall.



- ♦ A "thank-you" note (see both sides) from the Rhodes Family for a Bible gift from FPC.
- ♦ An invitation from the First Presbyterian Church of Waco to an afternoon of organ music played on their newly renovated pipe organ. The date is Sunday, Oct. 21, at 4 p.m.



October Community Events

We tried, but we just couldn't find any (non-recurring) community events in October. Let us know what we missed!

Recurring Monthly Events

- **Christian Fellowship**—We can all use more of that, right! The First Baptist Church opens its doors to everyone for food and a program on the second Tuesday each month at 6 p.m. in its Fellowship Hall. The Oct. 9 program is a one-act play featuring Mark Twain.
- **NE Texas Retired Teachers Association**—2nd Tuesday (September through May), 9:30-11 a.m. at TAMUC Alumni Center
- **Silver Leos Writers Guild**—2nd Wednesday, 1-4:30 p.m. at TAMUC Alumni Center
- **Family Night at the Commerce Public Library**—Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.

Next time we'll add your monthly event if you tell us!
Call the church office at 903-886-3783.

October Worship Leaders

October 7

Host Elder: **Neal Stewart**
 Head Usher: **Bob Johnson**
 Candle Lighter: **TBD**
 Liturgist: **Keith McFarland**
 Elements: **Bettina Zvanut**

October 14

Head Usher: **Jordan Conner**
 Candle Lighter: **TBD**
 Liturgist: **Toni Deaton**

October 21

Head Usher: **Monty Howard**
 Candle Lighter: **TBD**
 Liturgist: **Susan Reeves**

October 28

Head Usher: **Ric Estes**
 Candle Lighter: **TBD**
 Liturgist: **Brenda Estes**

Please say "thanks" to these volunteers who make the worship experience at FPC better. If you would like to volunteer in some way, contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.

