



THE GOOD NEWS

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

November 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

This Sunday, during worship, we will be honoring those loved ones connected to FPCC who have died in the past year. We call it "All Saints Day." The day we honor and remember the saints of the church gone on before us, present today, and those to come. We speak of the saints of the church as the "great cloud of witnesses."



One of my favorite Bible passages is Psalm 42. Verses 4-5.

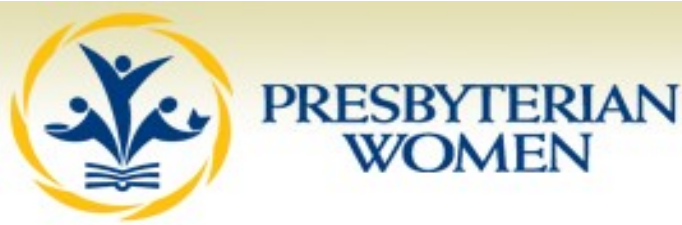
"These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival. Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise God, my help and my God."

I always think of leading funerals when reading this Psalm. In the past, it was custom to accompany the body to the grave. I have learned over the years that there are different ways that different cultures practice this custom. Recently, I learned about "Jazz Funerals" and Second Lines" that are customary in New Orleans where I visited recently.

After I first saw the sign that said "Jazz Funeral: A place

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Circle Meeting—The PW Circle will meet on Monday, Nov. 12, at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. **Brenda Estes** will present Lesson No. 3—“God with Us in Our Discouragement”—from the Horizons Bible Study. Hostess is **Bettina Zvanut**.

Please bring a can of ranch-style beans, or some other non-perishable item, for the food pantry. All women are invited to attend. The annual Thank Offering will be received at this meeting.

Thank Offering—The Thank Offering was established by Presbyterian Women in 1888. This special offering, funded by Presbyterian women across the globe who have joyfully expressed gratitude for God’s blessings, allows us to share with those in need at home and around the world.

Sixteen life-changing ministries have been chosen this year to receive funds from the 2017 offering. In March of 2018, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women met to review 83 applications submitted for grants from the 2017 Thank Offering. Sixteen of the projects were selected; twelve are ministries serving people in need in the U.S. and four of the projects are international.

More than 40 percent of the projects funded are health ministries. One of these, **Security for Stabilizing Families**, located in Spokane, Washington, will benefit 24 “Home Yard Cottages” (HYC) that serve households of women and children who have experienced the chaos of abuse, trauma, danger, poverty and homelessness. The grant will be used to provide security cameras, lights, and a monitoring system throughout the two-acre community.

One of the international recipients is **Finding Freedom Through Friendship ---Expansion into Egypt**. This mission effort located in Synod of Living Waters in Transylvania Presbytery has recently expanded into the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt. The program will provide hope, dignity and security to women who are the heads of household of destitute families. Health, along with nutrition education, is the primary focus. The goal is to provide households with long-term sustainability and to improve families’ quality of life.

PW Fund-Raiser: Lasagna Luncheon—On Sunday, Oct. 7, our PW sponsored a lasagna luncheon immediately following morning worship. It was well attended and donations totaled more than \$1,700.

These donations will fund needed repairs, including painting, in the nursery and office areas. Thanks to all who attended and gave generously, and to those who prepared food and helped serve.

Grace Presbytery Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering-Retreat – On Friday and Saturday, Oct. 19-20, the annual PW Fall Gathering was held at Gilmont in Gilmer, Texas. Four women from FPC-Commerce



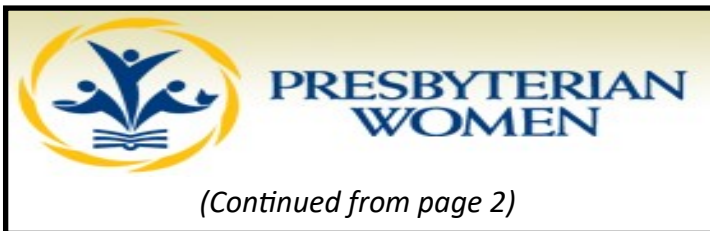
This photo by Kim Fake (daughter of Toni Deaton) shows off some of the natural beauty of Camp Gilmont.

attended both days: **Kim Fake, Toni Deaton, Tina Selvaggi and Bettina Zvanut**. About 60 women were there on Saturday.

Joanna Kim, the Director of Ministry Services with Grace Presbytery, was the keynote speaker and made presentations both Friday evening and Saturday morning. The theme was “Called to be one Body in Christ.”

Those who attended on Friday afternoon chose

(Continued on page 3)



from several different activities, including a nature hike, walking the labyrinth, and planting flowers. Some attended the book review and discussion of ***Waking Up White***, a book by **Debby Irving**. **Mary Alice Harry** from FPC-Ft. Worth was the leader for the discussion.

Saturday morning's gathering included a business meeting, an offering, and a sermon by **Joanna Kim**. Her first scripture selection was / *Corinthians* 1:12-14: "For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body." Another scripture she used was *Acts* 2:1-12, the portion of the chapter that describes the Holy Spirit descending with tongues of fire on those who were gathered and the different languages that were heard by all.

After lunch, a Communion service led by **Rev. Lucia Kremzar**, pastor of Flower Mound PC, was held.



In a special presentation, FPC's Toni Deaton was presented with The Message. Rev. Lucia Kremzar presented Toni the Bible in recognition of her service as moderator. Her term as Grace Presbytery PW moderator ends on Dec. 31.



Toni Deaton (far left) and Bettina Zvanut (fourth from the right) were both important parts of the Camp Gilmont event.

Upcoming Bible Readings

This Sunday (November 4) Is the 24th Sunday after Pentecost, Communion Sunday and All Saints' Sunday

Gospel: John 11:28-44 *Jesus Weeps / Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life*

Psalter: Psalm 146 *Praise for God's Help*

New Testament: Revelation 21:1-6a *The New Heaven and the New Earth*

Old Testament: Ruth 1:1-22 *Elimelech's Family Goes to Moab / Naomi and Moabite Daughters-in-Law*

Next Sunday (Nov. 11) Is the 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel: Mark 12:38-44 *Jesus Denounces the Scribes / The Widow's Offering*

Psalter: Psalm 127 *God's Blessing in the Home*

Epistle: Hebrews 9:24-28 *Christ's Sacrifice Takes Away Sin*

Old Testament: Ruth 2:1-13; 3:1-5; 4:11-17 *Ruth Meets Boaz / Ruth and Boaz at the Threshing Floor
The Marriage of Ruth and Boaz*

Presbyterians in Action

Prayer for Pittsburgh

Lord, help us. Help us rise up and resist evil with all of our heart, soul, mind and strength. Help us confront the hate within and without that is overtaking our land. Comfort, O comfort your people, Lord. We beg for an outpouring of compassion and love to overwhelm the scourge of violence besetting our communities.

Editor's note: The prayer above is part of a larger prayer by Jill Duffield, editor of The Presbyterian Outlook, in the aftermath of the Pittsburgh synagogue shooting. If you want to read the complete prayer, click [here](#).

Presbyterian Leader Calls for Ban on Assault Weapons Sales

The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) has called for "an end to the sale of assault weapons" in the wake of the senseless killing of 11 Jewish worshipers in Pittsburgh, PA.

For the complete story from Presbyterian News, click on the link: [stated clerk](#).

PDA Supporting Hurricane Victims

It is sometimes hard to focus on those victims of disaster after a time has passed and especially as the holidays approach. But the Presbyterian News Service's Scott O'Neill reminds us that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is still helping disaster victims as they struggle to recover in the aftermath of a hurricane. Click on the following link to read his story: [PDA providing much-needed support for hurricane-ravaged areas](#).

DEADLINE FOR MID-NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

The Good News for mid-November will go out Friday, Nov.

16. If you have news, pictures, or a story to share, the deadline is Monday, Nov. 12. Email it to

fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com

GRIEF SHARE® Offers One-Night Seminar

Surviving the Holidays, a one-night seminar for those who are grieving the death of a family member or friend, will be presented on Monday night, Nov. 12, from 6-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church in Commerce. There will be a light supper served prior to the seminar.

The local GriefShare group sponsored by FBC Commerce will be hosting the event for the entire region, and utilizing a new curriculum. So even if you've attended this seminar before, the material covered--video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and other people who have experienced the holidays after their loved one's death and who offer practical suggestions and reassurance--will be new. Those who attend will receive a Survival Guide filled with practical tips and encouragement for surviving the holiday season.

For more information, click on the following link: www.GriefShare.org/holidays. Or call 903-886-8600 or 214-729-7525.

November Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 8 - Neal Stewart
- 10 - Madison Avery Tucker
- 14 - Joane Walvoord
- 14 - Zane Belcher
- 17 - Alexander Lucas Towne
- 19 - Eric McIntier
- 20 - Beverly Housewright
- 28 - Amy McIntier

Happy Anniversary to:

- 14 - Odeana & Neal Stewart
- 18 - Bettina & David Zvanut
- 22 - Kim and Mark Fake

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

A Good News Story

Since our newsletter is called *The Good News*, when we came across this story, we thought we might start a new feature—a story about good news. This particular story came from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and its Presbyterian Mission, but you are invited to share a good news story of your own in the coming issues.

Just send it to fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com and tell us why you sent it.

This issue's A Good News Story is about a church that refused to die. Read it by clicking on this link: [Church's refusal to die leads to growth.](#)



Solar School Dates

Solar School #20: April 4-7, 2019

Solar School is the training program for Solar Under the Sun. It is a hands-on, interactive program designed to equip team leaders with the necessary skills to form meaningful partnerships with communities in the developing world. In collaboration with the local villages, individuals are trained to assess the need for solar power, design and install a solar power system.

These skills are taught in two separate courses that run concurrently during our Solar School. A church or organization should send at least 2 representatives to Solar School, one for each course.

For more information about the Solar School Program, [click here.](#)

November Worship Leaders

November 4

Host Elder: **Brenda Estes**
 Head Usher: **Scott Stewart**
 Candle Lighter: **TBD**
 Liturgist: **Barbara Tucker**
 Elements: **Martha Clevenger**

November 11

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

November 18

Head Usher: **Walt Davis**
 Candle Lighter: **TBD**
 Liturgist: **Keith McFarland**

November 5

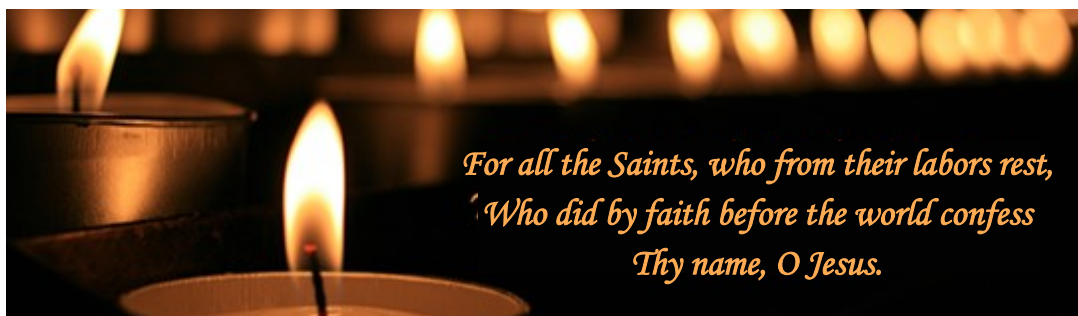
Head Usher: **Bob Johnson**
 Candle Lighter: **TBD**
 Liturgist: **Nancy Green**



How All Saints' Day was initiated?

What do you do when there are too many saints to adequately recognize with their own Saint Day (the day they died and became a saint)? You create a day to remember all saints.

That's basically how Christian churches came up with All Saints' Day way back in the middle of the first millennium of Christianity. Then, the recognition of all saints, known and unknown, was part of the Easter season. But in the year 835, All Saint's Day was first celebrated on November 1. It continues to be officially celebrated on that date today.



*For all the Saints, who from their labors rest,
 Who did by faith before the world confess
 Thy name, O Jesus.*

FPC will observe All Saints' Day on Sunday, Nov. 4. If you have someone who has died in the past year that you would like Rev. Rasco to mention, please contact her or the church secretary asap.

A Message From the Pastor Continued from page 1

where people are dying to get in” in front of a souvenir shop, I asked a local I was talking with about the meaning. Knowing that I had heard about the “second line” parades, he told me that it was the custom of accompanying the dead to their resting place and by it being upbeat they hoped it would help the dead to stay in their realm because it was so much fun, instead of being sad and scared and therefore more likely to return to haunt the family and friends.

There is, of course, a long history to this custom. but Jazz Funerals are parades with a military-style brass band leading a funeral procession with family and friends either accompanying the loved one to be buried to the cemetery or portraying they are. Sometimes the parade will start with a few funeral dirges, but it isn't long until the tunes turn upbeat. As the parade goes along people will join the procession, dancing, drumming, twirling, etc. These people are called the “Second Line” and are not a part of the original intent for the parade. Today these “second line” parades are held even if not for a jazz funeral and funeral procession.

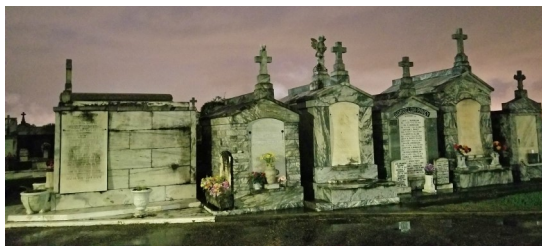
The Jazz Funeral and Second line remind me that when we remember the dead it is appropriate to be sad and to grieve, but it is also appropriate to celebrate with “glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving.” It is also good to be around those who support you and can lift you up, or walk with you during such a time. It is appropriate to join and support those who are processing through the journey of life and death. It is appropriate because we have hope. Hope in God. Hope in God's promises of a world where death and tears will no longer have the final word, and we will live eternally with throngs of all God's creation.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Krista Rasco, pastor



Here are some Halloween and Jazz Funeral pictures, and picture of some of New Orleans' funeral crypts, provided by Rev. Rasco from her recent trip to New Orleans. She was there while Halloween was being celebrated, so we included some creatures on a New Orleans balcony.



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

<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
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.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Gordon Hunter	Sara Grace Pullen
Melba Blount	Amy Lopez	Joe Yeakley
Grace Byrd	Gale Shumate	Gladys Gray
Mildred Miller	Gaye Furry	Preston Helton
Catherine King	Robinson	Bennie Neve
Ron Davis	Jan Burns	Audrey Hicks
Larry Ratliff	Jack Gray	Jean Angotti
Jim Calvert	Tammi Fucci	Adele Reeves
Bob Wilkins	Joe Dipiazza	Deryl McKenzie
Danny Spruel		Kristen Anderson
Family of Freida Lambert		Nancy Smith
Petra Strassberg	Gary and Melba Strobel	
Pat Skauge	Joe Tinch	

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

November Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 4 Morning Worship service 10:50 a.m. (Be on time: remember to change your clocks due to the Daylight Savings time change)
Communion Sunday / **All Saints' Sunday**
Sermon focus on Ruth 1:1-22
- 11 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Ruth 2:1-13; 3:1-5; 4:11-17
- 18 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on 1 Samuel 1:4-20
- 25 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday
Hanging of the Greens—selected scriptures

Other November events

- 5 **Monday, 9 a.m.**—PW's Baby Cap Trace & Cut
- 6, 13 **Tuesdays, 9 a.m.**—Tai Chi class meets.
- 10 **Saturday, 9:15-2 p.m.**—Grace Presbytery's PW Coordinating Team meets in Fellowship Hall.
- 12 **Monday, 10 a.m.**—PW Circle meeting (Thank Offering taken)
- 14 **Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Session meeting
- 22-23 **Thursday and Friday**—FPC's office will be closed for Thanksgiving.
- 27 **Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.**—Food Pantry board meeting

Got a picture for *The Good News* that you would like to share?

Email it to:

fpc-commerce @embarqmail.com



VOLUNTEER
all that's missing is U!

November Community Events

Monday, Nov. 12, 6-8 p.m.—GriefShare Special Event “Surviving the Holidays” (See article this issue)

Thursday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m.—**7th Annual Maloy Road Turkey Trot, 3920 FM 1568**

Recurring Monthly Events

- **Christian Fellowship**—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.
- **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.

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

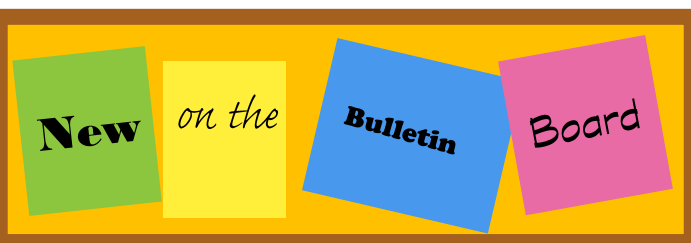
3rd Sunday—Spaghetti sauce (in cans)

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.

Reminder: The FPC office will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22-23 in observance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.



♦A flyer titled “**Make the Knot**” from CCAP. It gives information about a program at Commerce Middle School seeking men from the community to mentor and provide leadership to boys in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades through teaching them a skill—tying a knot in their tie for formal occasions. Three dates, Nov. 8, 28, and Dec. 7, are scheduled for program orientation, practice, and a luncheon and presentation of new ties.

♦A flyer detailing how you can help the Commerce Food Pantry, improve your health, and have fun at the same time. It provides information about the **7th Annual Maloy Road Turkey Trot**, set for Nov. 22 (Thanksgiving Day) at 9 a.m. Entrants need to register early to guarantee a t-shirt.

“ **Democracy is two wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch. Liberty is a well-armed lamb contesting the vote!** ”

— Benjamin Franklin



Please keep us informed and let us know about news items we can use for our next newsletter. Call or email (we prefer email) the church office with your news.