



The Good News

MID-MONTH EDITION

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Love, Sweet Love—That's the Ticket

February is the shortest of all the months, but it is nevertheless full of meaningful events. It is the month of Valentine's Day and love. The Bible has a lot to say about love. I was raised a Baptist and I can recall that the single most important verse that was drilled into my head in Sunday School as a child was John 3:16.

But love is the focus of many more Bible passages, including some of the verses that Rev. Rasco is highlighting this month. The Bible provides guidance on the love of God toward his creation, the love of self, of one's neighbor, and the love between a man and a woman. It tells us God IS love. It says without love we are nothing and that of all our virtues, love is the greatest.

In today's troubled times, it is self-evident that, as the song says, "What the world needs now is love, sweet love. It's the only thing that there's just too little of. What the world needs now is love, sweet love. No not just for some but for everyone."

So here's some advice. We all need to spread the love, not just in February, but each and every day of each and every month.

But February can't be limited to Valentine's Day. It is the culmination of what many would say is America's greatest sports love—football. I'm referring to the Super Bowl, of course. It is also the month which includes Groundhog Day. .

If you don't love football or a rodent who may or may not be afraid of his shadow, you should still be able to appreciate that February is Black History Month. The United States (and most of the rest of the world) has not always been a bastion of love toward all people. The ugliness of racial hatred and inequality is the exact opposite of love. Black History Month gives America an opportunity to recognize the contributions that people of color make and to live up to the Bible's admonition to love one another as oneself.

There are other things that make February unique and worthwhile, but I'll end by noting that it is the final month (meteorologically, speaking) of winter. All of the seasons have their own reasons to be loved and enjoyed, but I can't help but look forward to warmer weather and the fresh buds of spring. It is all part of the circle of life and, especially at my age, the circle seems to be turning a lot faster than it used to. However, it is my wish that while time may be speeding by for all of us, the love of God will abide and blossom in each of us forever.

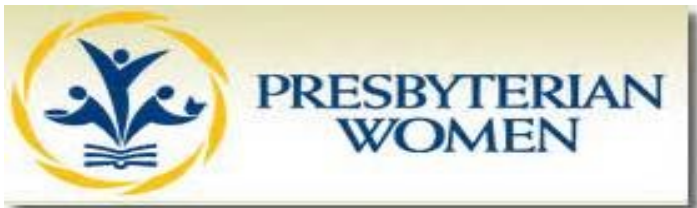


An Oldie but Goodie Is Returning

Remember Church Night Suppers?

The Membership Committee thinks it's time to start them again. Our first Church Night Supper will be Wednesday, Mar. 20 at 6 p.m.!

Please come! Let's start it off right!



Two women from the Presbyterian Women's Circle at First Presbyterian Church recently attended the 2019 Gilmont Women's Retreat at Camp Gilmont. **Tina Selvaggi and Bettina Zvanut** participated in a weekend of prayer, meditation, singing, tai chi, yoga and hikes.

Tina Selvaggi was also a presenter at three



Pictures from Gilmont, taken by Bettina Zvanut

Clockwise, from the top: a labyrinth design takes shape indoors; a view of the lake at Gilmont, taken from the Crain Center; a welcome from Marie Nelson, associate director at Gilmont, with featured speaker Rev. Kate McGee in the background.

workshops where she educated and oversaw the attendees who wanted to experience the two Gilmont labyrinths available for walking. Tina gave a talk on the history of labyrinths and used her own extensive knowledge of their structure to guide the group in drawing their own based on the design of the Chartres Cathedral.

Nearly fifty women attended the retreat from churches as far as Cleburne, Carrollton, and Arlington, and as close as Longview, Mt. Pleasant, and Athens. The headline speaker was **Reverend Kate McGee** who is pastor at Westminster Presbyterian church in Arlington, Texas. She presented studies on Hagar, Photine, and Mary throughout the two days; then she led the Sunday morning communion service in the Crain Center.

The weather was perfect, and everyone enjoyed the healthy food, beautiful scenery, and companionship with other Presbyterian women!



Book Share Is Feb. 19

All women at FPC are invited to a Book Share Evening at the home of **Toni Deaton**. Bring a book you have enjoyed and would like to recommend. Guests are welcome.

This event is hosted by **Toni Deaton and Brenda Estes**. RSVP by calling 903-886-8781.

What Other Presbyterians Are Up To



Rev. Rasco Leads Installation Service

A church pastor leads an interesting life—which includes helping other churches in addition to the one he or she calls home. That’s the case with FPC pastor **Rev. Krista Rasco**, who recently helped out a fellow Presbyterian church in Greenville.

On Sunday, Feb. 10, after preaching here at FPC, Rev. Rasco traveled to Greenville to participate in a special service installing **Candice Richey Womack** as the new pastor at the United Presbyterian Church of Greenville. Rev. Womack was already an ordained minister, but after serving as a hospital chaplain in Houston, she accepted a new role leading her first church.

Rev. Rasco helped out by preaching at the special 4 p.m. service and being a part of Rev. Womack’s installation at UPC-Greenville.



New Pastor in Greenville—Rev. Candice Richey Womack (front, center) is pictured beside FPC’s Rev. Krista Rasco. Also pictured are members of the installation committee: Rev David Shaefers, Ruling Elder John Hill, Rev David Ivie, Ruling Elder Gail Fekel, Commissioned Ruling Elder Jimmy Chapman, and Ruling Elder Velia Saucedo.

Deadline for The Good News

Our next newsletter will be published on Friday, March 1. The deadline to get news into that issue is Feb. 26.

Additions to Prayer List

The family of **Nancy Marie Madewell**, which includes her son and daughter-in-law, FPC’s Quint and Rebecca Madewll, has been added to the FPC Prayer List since our last newsletter. Mrs. Madewell died on Jan. 25 at the age of 86.



Please pray for all those on our list.

Assisting with Worship

The following people are assisting with worship the next two Sundays.

February 17

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

February 24

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

Please remember to let our worship leaders know how much you appreciate them. If you would like to help with worship in some capacity, please contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.

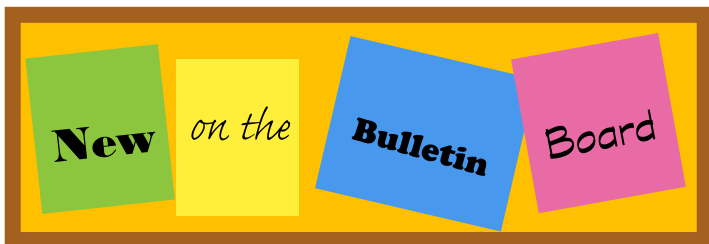
In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

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|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Our Troops | Gordon Hunter | Sara Grace Pullen | Melba Blount |
| Amy Lopez | Joe Yeakley | Grace Byrd | Gayle Shumate |
| Gladys Gray | Mildred Miller | Gaye Furry | Preston Helton |
| Catherine King Robertson | Bennie Neve | Ron Davis | Jan Burns |
| Audrey Hucks | Larry Ratliff | Jack Gray | Jean Angotti |
| Tammi Fucci | Adele Reeves | Bob Wilkins | Joe Dipiazza |
| Deryl McKenzie | Danny Spruel | Kristen Anderson | Family of Freda Lambert |
| Nancy Smith | Gary and Melba Strobel | Pat Skauge | Joe Tincher |
| Layne Rylander | Eddie Fuller | Alfredo Muniz | Patricia Welch |
| Shirley Lam | Family of Nancy Marie Madewell | | |



FPC's **Brenda Estes**, who has long been a volunteer at the **Northeast Texas Children's Museum** and sits on its board, was on the front page of the Feb. 7 issue of *The Commerce Journal*. She was in a picture accompanying a story by Ryan Scott with the good news that the museum, which is being forced to move from its current location, will stay in Commerce.

The museum, which is an attraction here, will move from its Highway 24 location to the former Polara building, including its adjacent acreage, on Highway 11, southwest of Commerce. The move is scheduled for early September.



- ♦ An invitation to women of FPC to come to a Book Share Evening at the home of Toni Deaton on Feb. 19. The event is hosted by **Toni and Brenda Estes**.

Food Pantry Donation Items

Donations are an important source of the Commerce Food Pantry's ability to help people. Remember to help out with a donation of food each Sunday.

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

- 1st Sunday**—Instant Oatmeal
- 2nd Sunday**—Ranch Style Beans
- 3rd Sunday**—Spaghetti sauce (in cans)
- 4th Sunday**—Chili without beans
- 5th Sunday**—Canned pineapple

In addition , the Commerce Food Pantry is always in need of grocery paper bags with handles (Braum's paper bags are perfect).

Upcoming Bible Readings

Sunday (February 17) Is the Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Old Testament: **Jeremiah 17:5-10** *Judah's Sin and Punishment*

Psalter: **Psalm 1** *The Two Ways*

Gospel: **Luke 6:17-26** *Jesus Teaches and Heals / Blessings and Woes*

Epistle (and sermon focus): **1 Corinthians 15:12-20** *The Resurrection of the Dead*

Sunday (February 24) Is the Seventh Sunday after Epiphany


Old Testament: **Genesis 45:3-11, 15** *Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers*

Psalter: **Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40** *Exhortation to Patience and Trust*

Epistle: **1 Corinthians 15:35-49** *The Resurrection Body*


Epistle (and sermon focus): **1 Corinthians 15:50-58** *The Resurrection of the Dead*

Looking at Films

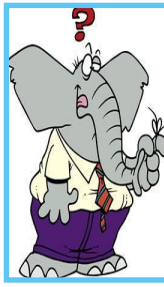


It's Oscar time and at least one Presbyterian weigh in on a particular category of films. We make no claim about the following film recommendations made by Ed McNulty in a "special to the Presbyterian News Service."

Here is his top 10 list of "faith films." To see his article and which films he has listed, click [here](#).



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!