



THE GOOD NEWS

The Good News is published twice each month by the First Presbyterian Church of Commerce, Texas.



March 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 Friends and Family of FPCC,

The past two Sundays we have held worship in the fellowship hall because the sanctuary had a nauseating smell to it. *(The smell is finally gone so we will be **back in the sanctuary on March 4th!**)*

Those who were at Sunday school and worship made the transition to worshipping in the fellowship hall seamlessly. Although I missed the reverence and holiness of the sanctuary, I truly enjoyed worshipping in the fellowship hall.

I enjoyed being closer to the congregation instead of separated by so much space. I also appreciated how much more engaged both I and the congregation felt. I loved being able to see the choir whose singing was incredible and truly enhanced the worship services. For all these reasons and more, I felt the Holy Spirit was present and active and made me feel we were all a little more connected.

This experience has reminded me that sometimes a little change is good. Although change is a bit uncomfortable and sometimes challenging, it allows us to see and experience things in a new way. It allows us to think outside the box and allows our minds and hearts to expand and grow.

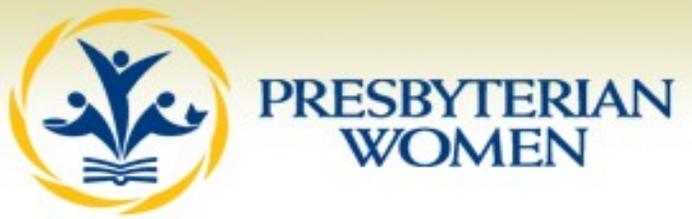
Thank you all for being so flexible and accommodating these past few Sundays. I truly appreciate all the help, grace, and love from the friends and family of FPCC. I look forward to trying new and different experiences with you all!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Krista Rasco, pastor



Life is like weather, change is good. We do best by not just accepting change, but by adapting ourselves to it. While the pessimist complains about the wind and the optimist accepts that the wind will change; the realist adjusts the sails.



By Toni Deaton, Moderator

The PW Circle met on Monday, Feb. 12, at 10: a.m. in Fellowship Hall. **Jane Cox** was hostess. Following the lesson, presented by **Helon Razniak**, a brief business meeting was held. Items on the agenda were as follows:

- Baby caps are now being sewn so that 100 caps can be taken to the newborn nursery at Hunt Regional Medical by March 1.
- Early plans are underway to honor our 2 students who will graduate from CHS this May, Lily Selvaggi and Mason Howard. A date will be selected soon.
- PW members compiled a list of suggested repairs and/or improvements to our buildings that is to be presented to the Session at their request.

The next PW Circle meeting will be Monday, Mar. 12, at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Leader for the lesson is **Bettina Zvanut** and **Mona Towne** is hostess.

FPC Event

Get Smarter with Your Smart Phone

If you are like a lot of people, your smart phone can be intimidating and frustrating to use. FPC's **Lily Selvaggi** can help improve your relationship with your smart phone and increase your ability to get more out of this complicated, but vital, device.



Lily will be conducting a class on smart phone usage in Fellowship Hall on Mar. 8 at 10:30 a.m.

Mark your calendar now so you don't miss out on this learning opportunity.

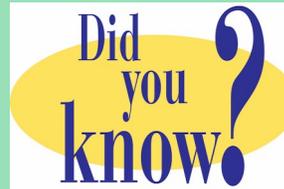


Thanks

Bettina Zvanut pointed out what many FPC'ers may not know. Our sprinklers have been broken. She sent out the following:

"Many thanks to **Russ Garmon** for overseeing the repair of the church's sprinkler system, which has been out of commission for a year. Now our lawns will be green this summer, and perhaps this will enable our St. Augustine grass to expand and fill the grassy sections.

"Also, the church's rosemary bush is very prolific, so if you need fresh rosemary for any reason, please take some!"



Welcome to Two New Choir Members

We are very pleased to welcome our newest choir member **Angie Mendez**, who is a junior vocal major at TAMUC. Angie is from San Antonio and graduated from Breckenridge High School. She has been singing in the choir for several weeks now. Please welcome her in person when you have the chance.

Although she has been here a little longer, it is also great to have our newest FPC member, **Arlene Allen**, as a new member of the FPC choir. Arlene is the sister of FPC's **Susan White**.

Holy Week Is Coming!





Trio Makes News

Thomas Baumler, Tina Fletcher, and Brenda Estes



A special award was recently presented to **Thomas Baumler**, the grandson of FPC's very proud **Helon Razniak**, by the Noon Rotary Club of Rockwall. The club recognized the Linda Lyon Elementary School sixth grader for a variety of impressive accomplishments that together more than warranted the Feb. 22 presentation of its **Rotary Student of Honor Award**.



Everyone is all smiles as Thomas is presented the Rotary Student of Honor Award on Feb. 22. Pictured from left to right are Rockwall County Judge David Sweet, Thomas and his school principal Megan Gist, and Rockwall Independent School District Superintendent Dr. John Villarreal.

Reporter Austin Wells of Rockwall's *Blue Ribbon News* recorded the event for posterity in that newspaper's Feb. 26 edition. He noted Thomas' accomplishments, including being a member of the school's state champion robotics team, a member of the All-City Orchestra (which is primarily composed of older students), and making a presentation to a

room full of principals (and we quote Wells) "*about data notebooks and how students at Linda Lyon Elementary own their learning.*"

Making the presentation at the Rotary Club were Rockwall County Judge David Sweet, RISD Superintendent Dr. John Villarreal and Linda Lyon Elementary Principal Megan Gist. The latter was quoted as saying, "*We have an amazing group of sixth graders, but Thomas stands out above the others. He's a strong student academically, and someone we count on every single day to be a leader. He's absolutely amazing and we're very proud of him.*"

If that is not enough, making the award extra special and very unique is the fact that it is the Rotary Club's first ever Rotary Student of Honor Award.

Congratulations, Thomas!



FPC's **Tina Fletcher** is working to make art experiences, particularly those at museums more successful for children with autism. She is the source for an updated feature article, "Art for All," by Julissa Trevino that was published in the March, 2018 issue of *DFW Thrive*.

To see the full article go to www.dfwchild.com/Thrive/pastissues.asp. Or you can click the following link: [Art-For-All](#).

Keep up the good work, Tina!



One of the many things FPC's **Brenda Estes** does is volunteer for the Northeast Texas Children's Museum. Everybody who knows her knows Brenda is a dynamo, so it is not too surprising that she has been honored with many kind words and put in the museum's "Volunteer Spotlight" in its January-April newsletter.

Brenda is in her third year as a volunteer for the museum. She has helped with many events there, including Brunch with Santa, Mother-Son events and Daddy Daughter dances, and the museum's big

(Continued on page 4)

Congratulations

on your new

B A B Y

FPC's **Rick and Tina Selvaggi** are the proud grandparents (and **Lily** is an equally proud aunt) of a baby boy!. **Austin Rhodes** was born Feb. 28 in California. Proud parents are **Paul and Rose Rhodes**.



Newsmakers....(Continued from page 3)

Friendship Bridge fundraiser.

She has also been involved in the teaching of area school children in several different daytime classes at the museum. Most recently, that has meant being a part of the **Weird Science Class**.

"It has been a joy to work with the staff at the Children's Museum, especially the director, **Sharline Freeman**," said **Brenda**.



Always smiling. That's Brenda

Photo courtesy of Sharline Freeman

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.



**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.

Assisting with Worship

(Note: We are back in the sanctuary.)

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

March 4

Host Elder: Neal Stewart
 Head Usher: Brenda Estes
 Candle Lighter:..... TBD
 Liturgist:..... Lily Selvaggi
 Elements:..... Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

March 11

Head Usher: Jordan Conner
 Candle Lighter:..... TBD
 Liturgist:..... Keith McFarland

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

March Hymn of the Month

Page 434 – Restore in Us, O God



Mid-March Good News

Deadline Is March 14!

Upcoming Bible Readings for the Next Two Sundays

This Sunday (March 4) Is the Third Sunday in Lent

Old Testament: Exodus 20:1-17 *The Ten Commandments*
Psalter: Psalm 19 *God's Glory in Creation and the Law*
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 *Christ the Power and Wisdom of God*
Gospel (and sermon focus): John 2:13-22 *Jesus Cleanses the Temple*



Next Sunday (March 11) Is the Fourth Sunday in Lent

Old Testament: Numbers 21:4-9 *The Bronze Serpent*
Psalter: Psalm 107:1-3,17-22 *Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Many Troubles*
Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10 *From Death to Life*
Gospel: John 3:14-21 *Nicodemus Visits Jesus*





A Change in Suggested 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.

Because the Commerce Food Pantry is now getting some of the items it formerly suggested as donations from the North Texas Food Bank, that list of suggestions has changed to some items it does not get from NTFB.

- 1st Sunday**—Saltine crackers
- 2nd Sunday**—Ranch Style Beans
- 3rd Sunday**—Spaghetti sauce (in cans)
- 4th Sunday**—Spam, 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 (Braun's paper bags are perfect). If you have any spare paper bags, please consider donating them at any time.

FPC Is Online!

- www.facebook.com/fpccommerce
- www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce
- <https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>
- www.fpc-commerce.com



No date has been set, but the Commerce Community Action Program is seeking input from middle school and high school youths and from senior adults (60 and over) to see if there is interest in coming together for a variety of small group experiences.

Those experiences would depend on discussion and desires of participants, but some possible suggestions ranging from health and hygiene to cooking and safety, to developing a relationship with police.

If you are interested in getting together, there are signup sheets for each group on the bulletin board next to the church kitchen.

March Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 4 - John Harris
- 12 - Scott Harvey
- 15 - Debra Jones
- 17 - Jackie Book
- 17 - Bruce Shatney
- 19 - Elizabeth Rasco
- 20 - Trevor Elijah Wells
- 22 - Lucia Simonelli
- 25 - Kyle Keahey
- 25 - Matthew Charles McFarland
- 30 - Jason McFarland Champion

Happy Anniversary to:

- 16 – Kathy & Ken Miller
- 20 – Paula & Charles Elliott

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

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Gordon Hunter	Bruce Campbell	Sara Grace Pullen
Melba Blount	Amy Lopez	Joe Yeakley	Grace Byrd
Gayle Shumate	Gladys Gray	Mildred Miller	Gaye Furry
Preston Helton	Loretta Kibler	Donald R. Smith	Catherine King Robertson
Bennie Neve	Ron Davis	Jan Burns	Dub Holcomb
Jackie Book	Martha and Dan Reynolds	Ruth Green	Audrey Hucks
Larry Ratliff	Martha Clevenger	Jack Gray	Jean Angotti
Joyce Isaacs	Jim Calvert	Deryl McKenzie	Tammi Fucci
Family of Judy Vanderpool	Adele Reeves	Jordan and Clelie Senne	Family of Jackie Lair
Family of Janice Hale	Family of Madeline Sullivan	Brandon and Kate Pullen Hall	
Family of Richard Fulkerson	Family of Larry Tracy	Bob Wilkins	Joe Dipiazza

New Addition to the Prayer List

Joe Dipiazza, the husband of Petra Strassberg's niece Dena, has been added to our prayer list since our last newsletter. Joe has been diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma.

Please pray for Joe and all those on our list.

March Calendar

Worship Schedule

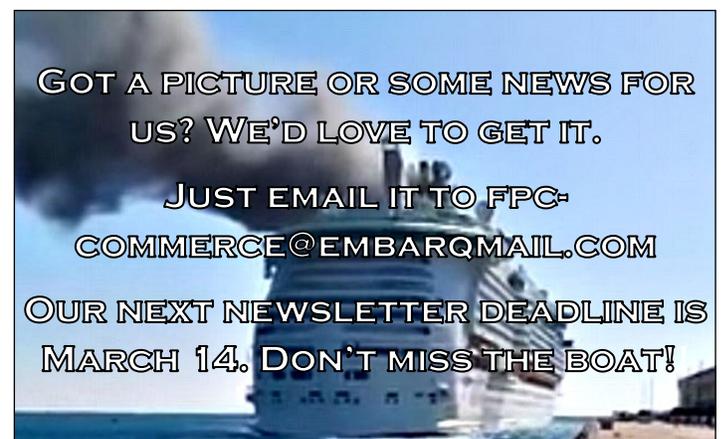
- 4** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on John 2:13-22
- 11** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on John 3:14-21
- 18** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on John 12:20-33
- 25** **Palm Sunday**
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Liturgy of the Palms
- 29** **Maundy Thursday**
Worship Service at 6:30 p.m.

Other March events

- 8** **Thursday, 10 a.m.**—Smart Phone Class, with Lily Selvaggi in FH
- 12** **Monday, 10 a.m.**—PW Circle meeting
- 13** **Tuesday, 6 p.m.**—Christian Education Committee meeting
- 21** **Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Session meeting



Mystery Pix
Can you guess
what this is. We'll
show you more
and tell you what
we know in the
next newsletter.



GOT A PICTURE OR SOME NEWS FOR
US? WE'D LOVE TO GET IT.
JUST EMAIL IT TO FPC-
COMMERCE@EMBARQMAIL.COM
OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS
MARCH 14. DON'T MISS THE BOAT!