



THE GOOD NEWS



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

March 2019

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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

Am I wrong or did we just celebrate Christmas? I'm kidding. We did just celebrate Christmas. I know because our secretary, Roger, told me he still has not taken down his Christmas tree.

Since then, we've begun a new year, with all those New Year's resolutions attached. I promise, I won't ask how those are going.

We've professed our love on Valentine's Day, and now, so quickly it seems, Lent arrives this month. What is Lent—the preparation time for Easter.

We kick off Lent this month with our Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, Mar. 6, at p.m. Once again, I will draw the mark of the cross with ashes on the foreheads of those who come down the aisle as the solemn service nears an end. The imposition of ashes is to remind the receiver to repent, because we are made from dust and to dust we shall return.

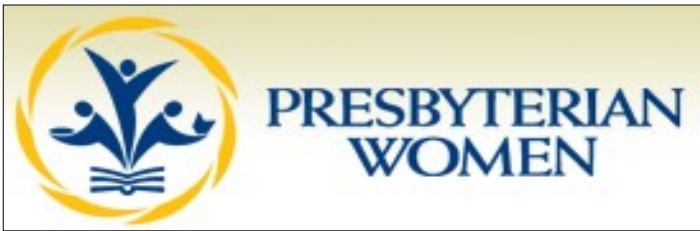
Ashes are symbolic of grief, mortality, and repentance. In the Book of Job, Job has questioned God's authority and judgment. But he has a change of heart and declares to God that he repents "in dust and ashes."

And so, Lent gives us an opportunity to recognize that without God we are lost. We use this time to reflect on our lives and our relationship with God and, as we do so, realize that we are not as close as we need to be. No matter how close to God we may think we are, there is a gap. It may be small or it may be yawning chasm. Lent is a time to lose our pride and come humbly, full of repentance, back to God.

How you do that is very personal. Giving up something for Lent is a common practice, but too often "giving up candy" for Lent is not very helpful. Denying yourself is one way to focus more on God, but too often it isn't very permanent. It is too easy to think "just three more weeks to go." That's why Lent comes every year.



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PW Circle Meeting – Monday, March 11, 2019 in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited to attend.

Lesson Leader – **Bettina Zvanut**. Her lesson is on Chapter 7 in Horizons Bible Study

Hostess – **Mona Towne**

Please bring an item for the Food Pantry; suggested item is macaroni and cheese.

Robes and Slippers Project Very Successful

Special from Bettina Zvanut

Twenty-six bags of robes and slippers were delivered in February to Kindred Hospice in Greenville. The nurses and the director were thrilled to see the gifts again this year.

The total number for 2018 was almost 10 gift bags more than usual! The congregation was very generous in their donations, and six of the bags were for men which was unusual.

A thank you from the volunteer director will be sent to the church in the next week. Thank you to all who kindly participated in this mission.



This colorful array of bags contains robes, slippers and other goodies gathered by FPC'ers and sent to some grateful residents at Kindred Hospice in Greenville.

FPC'ers in Key Roles at Grace Presbytery

FPC is having a big impact on Grace Presbytery's Presbyterian Women's group. Our own **Bettina Zvanut**

has succeeded FPC's **Toni Deaton** as the new moderator for Grace Presbyterian Women. Also, FPC's **Brenda Estes** is serving the group as a member of the coordinating team. She is the liaison between Grace Presbytery and the Presbyterian Women in churches throughout East Texas.

Bettina introduces herself to women of Grace Presbytery in the year's first quarterly issue of the P.W. Innovator, which is just out. Also in the issue is a report about FPC's **Baby Caps Project**.

The P.W. Innovator is a great way keep up with what the women of Grace Presbytery are doing. You can read the current issue (and past issues) by clicking [here](#). If that doesn't work, go online to Gracepresbytery.org, then click on the Ministries tab and choose Presbyterian Women.

We Need Plastic Bags!

Don't throw away those clean, plastic bags from Walmart, the grocery store, drug store, or department store. Instead, bring them to FPC for a new project to make mats for the homeless.

More details will follow in our next newsletter.

Instead Of Denial at Lent, FPC's Lenten Study Offers A New Spiritual Discipline

Pray with Art—Awaken to God's Beauty

Presbyterian Today editor Donna Frischknecht Jackson, in an article to the Presbyterian News Service, talks about the 2019 Lenten Devotional from her magazine. *Awakening to God's*



Beauty: A Lenten Invitation to Pray with Art is a full-color, glossy devotional featuring the thoughtful writing and stunning photography of Krin Van Tatenhove, a Presbyterian pastor for more than 30 years.

Lent begins March 6. While supplies last, this devotional is available here on the table outside the side entrance to the FPC Sanctuary.

Said Van Tatenhove, "I hope these devotions will enrich our experience with Lent." If you would like to read more about it in Jackson's article, click [here](#).

FUMC Raises Money for Food Pantries

The two food pantries in Commerce will benefit greatly from the Souper Bowl of Sharing event held Feb. 3 at the First United Methodist Church of Commerce.

Judy Rudolph, who worked closely with that event, called FPC to announce that \$749 had been raised at the event. In addition, she said, FUMC's "Drop a Dollar program's beneficiary for February is food assistance.

"I would not be surprised if by the end of the month we have \$1,000," she said.

Whatever the total comes to, the people served by the Commerce Food Pantry and the Bread of Life Food Pantry here will be grateful beneficiaries.

FPC Surveys Going Out This Month

During the second week of March, the FPC Personnel Committee will be sending out surveys in an effort to help promote quality in the ministry of the various functions of church operation. Look for your survey in the mail.

Please fill it out and return it to Bob Johnson or Russ Garmon no later than Mar. 26.



Blue Instead of Green?

St. Patrick's Day—March 17

If he were alive today, St. Patrick would likely spend the holiday named for him by pinching himself because he

typically wore blue, not green. Although green shamrocks were used by St. Patrick to help him explain the Holy Trinity to the pagan Irish, the color green did not become linked to the holiday until the late 18th century. That was when St. Patrick's Day became associated with the Irish independence movement.

Source: *mentalfloss.com* "Fifteen Things You Might Not Know About St. Patrick's Day."

Lily Needs Our Support

Lily Selvaggi is in need of loving thoughts sent her way as she continues her first year at the United States Air Force Academy.

See Rick and Tina Fletcher Selvaggi for more information on what is needed and where and how to send it.

March Worship Leaders

March 3

Host Elder: Eddie Fuller
Head Usher: Danny Duncan
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Bart Green
Elements: Neal Stewart

March 10

Head Usher: Ric Estes
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Arlene Allen

March 17

Head Usher: Russ Garmon
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Susan Reeves

March 24

Head Usher: Scott Stewart
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Toni Deaton

March 31

Head Usher: Neal Stewart
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Wally Tucker



FPC Is Online!

www.facebook.com/fpcccommerce

www.facebook.com/group/fpcccommerce.

<https://twitter.com/fpcccommerce>

www.fpc-commerce.com.

New

on the

Bulletin

Board

- ♦A mail piece noting an opportunity to attend one of two introductory **Stephen Ministry** workshops in Waco on Mar. 9 or in Denton on April 6. Cost \$15.
- ♦A flyer describing an upcoming event for senior citizens presented by Angels Care Home Health, a Medicare Certified Home Health agency which provides home health care services. Marie Hernandez, branch manager will talk about **mental health issues** in the Community Room at the Emergency Care Center on Hwy. 24 in Commerce on Wednesday, Mar. 13 at 12:15 p.m.
- ♦A poster promoting **Music at the Moody**, chorale and instrumental music at the Moody Performance Hall in Dallas on Mar. 5, presented by the TAMUC Department of Music. For information and tickets, call 903-886-5303.

Don't forget!

Please keep us informed about news items we can use for our next newsletter. Call or email your news to the church office.

March Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 3** Morning Worship service 10:50 a.m.
Transfiguration of the Lord
Sermon focus on Luke 9:28-36
- 10** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent
(Remember to reset your clocks due to the Daylight Savings time change)
Sermon focus on Luke 4:1-13
- 17** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 13:31-35
- 24** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 13:1-9
- 31** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Other March events

- 5, 12, 19, 26 Tuesdays, 9 a.m.**—Tai Chi class
- 5 Tuesday, 10 a.m.**—Worship Committee meeting
- 6 Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Ash Wednesday Worship Service
- 11 Monday, 10 a.m.**—PW Circle meeting
- 20 Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Church Night Supper

Gardeners Wanted

The Commerce Community Garden Association is seeking experienced and first time gardeners for the spring of 2019. The association has 45 plots in its community garden, which is located behind the First United Methodist Church, just off State Highway 24.



Your participation is encouraged. If possible, make plans to attend an organizational (kick-off) meeting on Tuesday, March 19. Call one of the numbers below to indicate you are coming to this important meeting, which is a brown bag lunch meeting (bring your own bag) that will be held in the Magnuson Hotel Conference Room.

Dr. Royce Lee, garden manager, will be conducting the meeting to discuss plans of engagement and to answer questions.

The numbers to call are 903-468-2659 (**Bob Johnson**, Commerce Community Action Program), and 903-366-6047 (**Dr. Royce Lee**, garden manager).



*Daylight Saving
Time Begins*

Sunday, March 6

Move your clocks
ahead one hour at
2 a.m. Sunday (or
when you go to bed
Saturday night).

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—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.

Upcoming Bible Readings

**Sunday (March 3) Is
Tranfiguration of the Lord Sunday**

Old Testament: Exodus 34:29-35 *The Shining
Face of Moses*

Psalter: Psalm 99 *Praise to God for His Holiness*

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 *Ministers of the
New Covenant*

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36 *The Transfiguration*

**Sunday (March 17) Is the
Second Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 26-1-11 *The
First Fruits and Tithes*

Psalter: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16 *Assurance of
God's Protection*

Epistle: Romans 10:8b-13 *Salvation Is for All*

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13 *The Temptation of
Jesus*

Deadline

**The next Good News will be published on Mar. 15.
If you have an item for that issue, get it to us by
Monday, Mar. 11.**

Addition to the Prayer List

FPC's Odeana Stewart has been added to our prayer list. She has been ill, but after a hospital stay is home and recovering. Please keep her and all those on our list in your prayers. If you have anyone you would like to add to the Prayer List, please contact the church office.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops

Amy Lopez

Gladys Gray

Catherine King Robertson

Audrey Hucks

Tammi Fucci

Deryl McKenzie

Nancy Smith

Layne Rylander

Shirley Lam

Gordon Hunter

Joe Yeakley

Mildred Miller

Bennie Neve

Larry Ratliff

Adele Reeves

Danny Spruel

Gary and Melba Strobel

Eddie Fuller

Odeana Stewart



Sara Grace Pullen

Grace Byrd

Gaye Furry

Ron Davis

Jack Gray

Bob Wilkins

Kristen Anderson

Pat Skaug

Alfredo Muniz

Melba Blount

Gayle Shumate

Preston Helton

Jan Burns

Jean Angotti

Joe Dipiazza

Family of Freda Lambert

Joe Tinch

Patricia Welch

March Community Events

- 5 Tuesday, 7:30 p.m.**—Music at the Moody, a musical and chorale performance presentation by the TAMU Music Department at the Moody Performance Hall in Dallas.
- 13 Wednesday, approx. 12:15**—Talk about mental health care issues for seniors (see New on the Bulletin Board this issue.)
- 15 Friday, 6 p.m.**—110th Annual Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet.
- 19 Tuesday, noon**—Spring Organizational meeting of the Commerce Community Garden Association, at the Magnuson Hottel Conference Center. (See story this issue)

Recurring Monthly Events

- **Senior Resource Center lunch**—Monday through Friday, 11 a.m.-1p.m. in the Community Room at the Emergency Care Center, Hwy. 24, in Commerce. (Suggested donation \$2, 60-and over, \$4 under 60)
- **Griefshare**—Mondays, 6 p.m. in the First Baptist Church parlor.
- **Christian Fellowship**—We can all use more of that, right! The First Baptist Church opens its doors to everyone for a potluck dinner 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!

Renovaré at Camp Gilmont

March 13 is the early bird deadline to sign up for this year's Renovaré and receive a registration discount. This two-night (May 3-5) retreat explores familiar of Bible passages with the goal of learning to better hear and walk with Jesus, the Good Shepherd. Drawing on themes from Psalm 23 and informed by Dallas Willard's book *Life Without Lack*, this retreat offers:

- Practical teaching sessions by Renovaré Ministry Team members
- Opportunity for spiritual direction with trained spiritual directors
- Space to create art (optional), explore nature, and rest
- Time to worship and listen to original music

To learn more, call 903-797-6400 or click on the following link: [More Information and Register](#)

March Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

- 
- 4** - John Harris
 - 12** - Scott Harvey
 - 15** - Debra Jones
 - 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.*

A Message From the Pastor Continued from page 1

What is more helpful, I think, is to find a way to keep God close and in your life every day. The Lenten devotional book that we are using this year provides one way to do just that. It encourages a move from denial of some gratification we overindulge in to the adoption of a new spiritual discipline—divine seeing.

The beauty and majesty of God is all around us. The discipline of slowing down, taking in that beauty, and contemplating it seems to me to be a good tool to stay close to God, not just during Lent, but every day of our lives.

Maybe you have great ears. The sounds of God's presence are all around us, too. Whatever sense we use for our concentration, if we are serious in visualizing God's authority in the world and over our lives, I'm betting that the purpose of Lent—to get closer to God—will be fulfilled.

Grace and peace be with you all,

Rev. Krista Rasco, pastor

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>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Brenda Estes	Nancy Green	Nancy Green
Tina Fletcher	Bob Johnson	Bob Johnson
Russ Garmon	Neal Stewart	Neal Stewart

Session Committees

Worship:
Chair Jim Deaton
Co-Chair Nancy Green

Christian Education:
Chair Nancy Green
Co-Chair Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

Membership and Pastoral Care:
Chair Brenda Estes
Co-Chair Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

Mission/Evangelism:
Chair Bob Johnson
Co-Chair Eddie Fuller

Buildings and Grounds:
Chair Russ Garmon
Co-Chair Neal Stewart

Stewardship and Finance:
Chair Scott Stewart

Personnel:
Chair Bob Johnson
Co-Chair Russ Garmon

Note: Some committees do not have co-chairs.

Grace Presbytery's eNews

Want to know what happened at the Stated Meeting on Feb. 23. See meeting pictures? Want to know about upcoming events? Or learn about one of the churches in Grace Presbytery ? Just read the latest Grace eNews. Go online to Grace Presbytery or click on this link: [Grace eNews.](https://www.gracepresbytery.org/eNews)

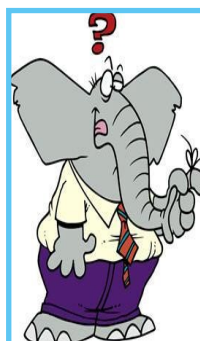
Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshops

Mark your calendar if you have it on your heart to be a lay caregiver. Opportunities in March and April to attend a Stephen Ministry Introductory Workshop are coming up.

The two workshops are on Saturdays, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- **Mar. 9** at Woodway First United Methodist Church, Waco, Texas 76712
- **April 6**, at First United Methodist Church, 201 S. Locust St., Denton, Texas 76201.

Cost for either workshop is \$15 (or \$50 for a group of four or more from the same congregation). Call 314-428-2600 to register.



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!