



The Good News



MID-MONTH EDITION

No. 6

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Lent Is Coming to an End and Easter Approaches

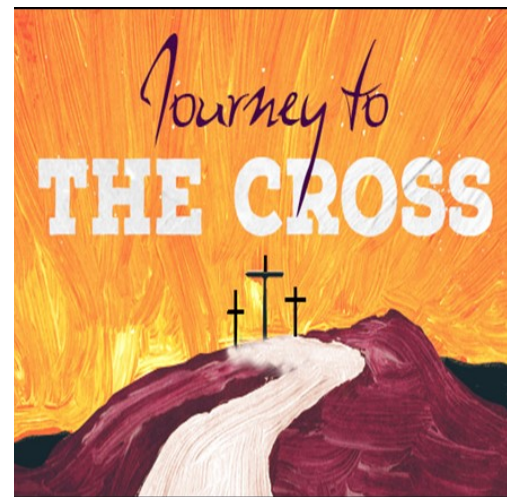
The last two Sundays in Lent are upon us. After this Sunday, the fifth Sunday in Lent, two special worship services pave the way for the celebration of Easter and its triumph over the grave. The first is Sunday, March 25, which is **Palm Sunday**, the start of Holy Week. Children and adult alike will wave palms in recognition of Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Special liturgies are planned.

The second is FPC's **Maundy Thursday** service on Thursday, March 29, at 6:30 p.m. which recalls Jesus's final meal with his disciples—the Last Supper. This much more somber service, like last year's, will be a combined Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Service, ending with reflection on Jesus's upcoming death on the cross and the extinguishing of the lights in the Sanctuary symbolizing the death of our Savior.

After a high and a low, however, we celebrate again in our next worship service—Easter, on April 1. Also called Resurrection Sunday, this service marks the foundation of our Christian faith, that Jesus was raised from the dead and that belief in him will give us victory over death.

Our Easter celebration begins prior to worship with FPC's annual **Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt**. We want everyone to attend. To make it the best ever event, we need your help. To help us plan for breakfast, a sign-up sheet will be in the back of the sanctuary for those wishing to share their famous breakfast items.

The breakfast will begin at 9:30 a.m. to allow the choir time to practice their beautiful Easter anthem. The Easter egg hunt will follow the breakfast. Empty Easter eggs are ready to be filled! They can be located in Fellowship Hall. Please give filled eggs to **Carolyn McFarland or Brenda Estes** as soon as possible.



Time to Order Your Easter Lily

If you have a loved one you would like to remember with an Easter Lily, or a loved one you want to honor this Easter, now is the time to place your order for these beautiful white symbols of Easter. Call the church or use the bulletin inserts starting this Sunday. Each lily costs \$8.50. The deadline to order is Tuesday, March 27. You may take home your flowers at the conclusion of the Easter worship service.



March Is the Month of Another Holiday

St. Patrick's Day

March 17

Did you know that St. Patrick's Day is officially observed by the Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Lutheran Church, and especially the Church of Ireland? Although it isn't officially observed by the Presbyterian Church (and most Protestant Churches, that doesn't mean "wear'in" the green will not be present in the homes of many Presbyterians and others in Ireland, the United States and around the world.



You don't have to be Irish to appreciate St. Patrick's Day. With more than 10% of the population of the United States able to trace their roots back to the "Emerald Isle," we have a big genetic tie with Ireland.

While many cities in the United States will have St. Patrick's Day parades and Chicago will even turn its river green for the holiday, here are some other facts about St. Patrick's Day that you may or may not know.

- The celebration is actually a birthday party in reverse. March 17 is the traditional day that historians cite as the day that Roman citizen born in Britain in the fourth century died. His story, written supposedly by Patrick himself, says he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken to Ireland. During six years there, he found God. He escaped and back in Britain became a priest. He returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity.

- Priest Patrick used Ireland's three-leaved shamrock to explain the Trinity to the "Emerald Isle's" people. Today, it is customary to wear green on St. Patrick's Day.

- St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, but he was never canonized as a saint because that process came later.

- St. Patrick's Feast Day is the precursor of the holiday we know today. It was celebrated by the

Irish in the ninth century, but it was not placed on the Irish Church's liturgical calendar until the early 1600's.

- As popular as his legend became, the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in Ireland did not occur until 1903—the year it became an official public holiday in Ireland.

A Blast from the Past

If you are a long-time FPC member, you may remember these items that were discovered recently by **Bettina Zvanut** in the storage room off the choir loft. These vintage fans were handed out to folks in the



congregation way back when. Yes, for those "youngsters" who don't remember black and white television or rotary dial phones, there was a time when FPC relied on these gems to cool the people gathered to worship because there was no air conditioning.

Now these antiques don't have dates on them, but they can perhaps be dated by the back of the fan. While the front of the fan is a picture of Jesus healing a child being held by its mother, the back lists local businesses who sponsored the fans and allowed FPC attendees to use them gratis.

Do you remember Jack's Cafe? How about Sherrill Flower Shop, Phillips Grocery, or Temple Lumber Company. Altogether, seventeen sponsors are listed. Just as telling as the long ago names are the telephone numbers (before even rotary dial). If you wanted to call Sparks Cleaners, you only had to pick up the phone and tell the operator "682, please" and you would be connected.

Will these treasures end up in a museum? We hope so.





Lily Selvaggi (standing with phone) clears up some of the mystery of smart phones while an attentive audience listens closely during the class Lilly taught on Mar. 8. Eight people attended, becoming more comfortable with their phones.

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

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.



March Is Women's History Month

*Here are some interesting moments in women's history
Did you know . . .*

●that **Victoria Woodhull** was the first (of many) women candidates for the presidency of the United States? She ran as a candidate for the Equal Rights Party in 1872.

●that journalist **Nellie Bly** (the pen name of Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman) set a record for circumnavigating the world in 72 days in 1890 (before airplanes)?

●that **Mary Walker** in 1866 became the first (and thus far the only) woman to win the Congressional Medal of Honor? She was a doctor who volunteered with the Union Army and was captured after crossing into Confederate held territory to treating wounded civilians. She was arrested as a spy and sent to Richmond as a prisoner of war.



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	Audrey Hucks	Larry Ratliff
Martha Clevenger	Jack Gray	Jean Angotti	Joyce Isaacs
Jim Calvert	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	Barbara Tucker	

Additions to Prayer List

We've had one recent addition to the FPC Prayer List.

Barbara Tucker had double knee replacement surgery and is currently rehabbing. If not already, she should be home soon.

Please pray for all those (and their families) on our list.



Assisting with Worship

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

March 18

Head Usher:**Ric Estes**

Candle Lighter: **TBD**

Liturgist: **Walt Davis**

March 25

Head Usher:**Scott Stewart**

Candle Lighter: **TBD**

Liturgist: **Neal Stewart**

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.

Upcoming Bible Readings

**Sunday (March 18) Is the
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament: Jeremiah 31:31-34 *A New Covenant*

Psalter: Psalm 51:1-12 *Prayer for Cleansing and Pardon*

Epistle: Hebrews 5:5-10 *Jesus the Great High Priest*

Gospel (and sermon focus): John 12:20-33
Some Greeks Wish to See Jesus / Jesus Speaks about His Death

Sunday (March 25) Is Palm Sunday

Two special liturgies will mark this Sunday.

- Liturgy of the Palms
- Liturgy of the Passion



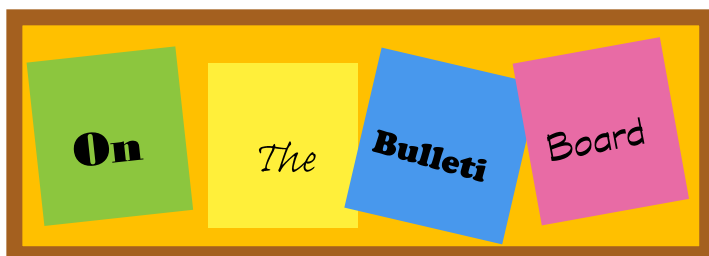
March Hymn of the Month

Page 434– *Restore in Us, O God*



Newsletter Deadline

The Good News for April will go out on Mar. 28. So If you have news, pictures, a story to share, or a date for a meeting that you want people to see, get it to us not later than March 28..



- **FISH Fundraiser:** Hunt County Shared Ministries (FISH) is having a barbecue fundraiser on Friday April 6. Look for the flyer on our bulletin board.
- **Like to play bridge?** A flyer on our bulletin board gives details about the Friendship Bridge event coming up Monday, April 9 at the Northeast Texas Children's Museum here in Commerce.
- **Mo-Ranch events:** Grand Camp and Men's Conference. There are two-sided (you will have to take them down to see the back) notices about the Mo-Ranch's opportunity to go to summer camp with your grandchildren (July 22-26) and its 67th Annual Men's Conference on May 4-6.

Upcoming Community Events



Saturday, Mar. 24, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.—Easter Egg Hunts. There are two upcoming Easter Egg Hunts for children.

Unfortunately, they are both are on March 24 and, as far as we could tell at our



deadline, both take place at about the same time.

- The Aglaia Culture Club is hosting a free Easter Egg Hunt from 11-2 p.m. for children through the second grade at Commerce City Park.
- With the sponsorship of Brookshire's, the Children's Museum's conduct Easter Egg Hunts at 11:00 and 2:00 pm. While there will be regular admission at the Children's Museum that day, the egg hunts and Easter crafts are included. Free pictures with the Easter Bunny will be taken and

will be available for download on Facebook.

Friday, April 6, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.—Annual barbecue fundraiser for Hunt County Shared Ministries at the First United Methodist Church in Commerce.

Monday, April 9, 1:30 p.m.—Friendship Bridge, the longest running fund-raiser at the Northeast Texas Children's Museum returns, co-chaired by FPC's own **Toni Deaton and Nancy McFarland**. Tickets for bridge, dessert, and a chance to win prizes are \$25. You can purchase them from Toni and Nancy or the museum. Look for a longer article and a picture about this fun event in our next newsletter.

Thanks

For Helping Hands. . .

The Mission/Evangelism Committee's church-wide effort to collect new or gently used robes and slippers for use at Kindred Hospice in Greenville got some more help recently. **Bettina Zvanut** issued a big thank-you to **Nila McQuary, Helon Razniak, Toni Deaton and Isabel Davis** for their donations to this effort. Robes, slippers, and gift bags (or donations of money) are needed to keep this effort going.

Grace Presbytery eNews

There is a lot to see in the latest edition of Grace eNews, including an interesting video about the recently completed renovation of the First Presbyterian Church of Dallas.

To see the March 6 edition, click [here](#).

Office Hours for Rev. Rasco

Until further notice, Rev. Rasco's office hours will be Tuesday and Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or by appointment. She can be reached at 903-453-1424.

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, please remember to remember next time!