



THE GOOD NEWS

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

April 2017

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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

Rev. Krista Rasco – Pastor

Email: revkristarasco@gmail.com
 www.facebook.com/krista.rasco

Roger McKenzie – Church Secretary
 And Editor, The Good News
 Office: (903) 886-3783

E-presence

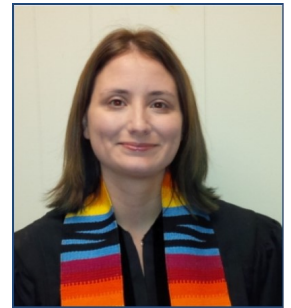
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 Website: www.fpc-commerce.com

A Message From the Pastor

Dear FPCC family and friends,

Easter is this month (April 16th) and I wanted to share with you part of the poem by Ann Weems called "The Church Year". Easter is my favorite day of the year. It probably is for most pastors, I imagine. I wake up Easter morning as excited as a kid on Christmas morning. I look forward to seeing all of you with your family and friends at church that day. It is the day we put away our old selves, the day we remember how God defeats death, the day we celebrate life, new life. We are a resurrection people!

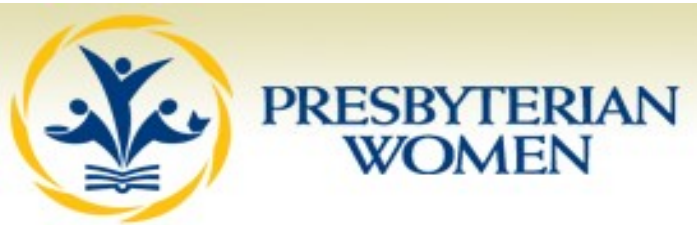
**Grace and peace be with you all,
 Rev. Krista Rasco**



*Selection from "The Church Year" by Ann Weems
 From Kneeling in Bethlehem. (c)1987 Ann Weems. Used by
 permission of Westminster John Knox Press.*

*The church is Good Friday.
 Darkness burnt into blackness,
 abysmal absence of anything good.
 We acknowledge that death is real
 and we tremble for a world that would kill its God.
 Our feet stand in quicksand;
 our voices echo sterile silence.
 We huddle together to meet the dark and the death,*

(Continued on page 2)



Quilts for Flooring

Dr. James Norwood has donated five quilts to the Presbyterian Women of FPC to sell in order to replace the flooring in the Fellowship Hall and straighten the carpets in the Parlor and Nursery. All of the quilts were constructed in the 1940's. They seem to be hand pieced with machine quilting.

1. The first quilt is called "Grandmother Fan". The backing is a gold colored material. It was made by Jim's grandmother and he recalls carding the cotton for the stuffing in Burleson, Texas. His grandmother's name was **Gertrude Gully**.

All of the rest of the quilts were constructed by Jim's mother-in-law in Silver City, New Mexico. Many in the church will recall **Jim's wife, Ann, whose mother's name was Myrtle Barlow**.

2. The first quilt she made was "Grandmother's Flower Garden". This quilt has a scalloped edge with fancy cutting using flower patterns. The backing is unbleached muslin.

3. The second quilt she created was called "Grandmother's Pride" which has a backing covered with another flower pattern.

4. "Michigan Pontiac Star" is the name of the



These colorful handmade quilts, as well as some potholders and hot pads, will be auctioned off to raise money for new flooring in Fellowship Hall, thanks to the generosity of Dr. James Norwood.

third quilt's pattern and has a light blue backing.

5. The last quilt has no known pattern. Mrs. Barlow may have made an original composition. It is a type of string quilt and was hand pieced. The backing is a deep blue material.

Carol Dodd and Isabel Davis inspected the quilts and gave me the information on the patterns and how they were made.

First Presbyterian's PW will make a decision about how the quilts will be auctioned in the next few months.

Circle Meeting

The Presbyterian Women's Circle meeting for April at FPC will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, April 10. **Nancy McFarland** will be the hostess. Please remember to bring something for the food pantry.

Message from the Pastor

(Continued from page 1)

*forgetting what was taught us,
forgetting that somewhere
a seed is sprouting,
somewhere
a child is growing.*

All we see is Christ crucified.

The church is Easter.
Out of death: Life.
Out of darkness:
a lush green world
flowers in the ice
sunrays in the storm
mustard seeds galore.
Our souls enter a spiritual springtime,
our bodies given over to leaping and
dancing,
our very beings saturated in hosannas.
Our shouting crashes in upon this world:
The Lord lives!
We live!
Resurrection resounds throughout our
community.

Lots of Things Going in April

In addition to marking the kick-off of the new **Children's Music Ministry** (see story this page), April is, of course, the month we celebrate **Easter** this year. Two special services precede the Easter service on April 16—**Palm Sunday** on April 9 and **Maundy Thursday** on April 13.. In addition to the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, Easter for FPC means an **Easter Egg Hunt for children** and an **Easter breakfast for everybody**.



The Sunday after Easter is also a special event—**Holy Humor Sunday**. By the way, speaking of Holy Humor Sunday, do you know what kind of a man Boaz was before he married? He was Ruthless. If you have a joke for this service, please send it to Rev. Rasco as soon as possible so that she can include the best ones as part of her service.

Before we let April slip away, we may have a **Hymn Sing** on April 30. That is yet to be

determined. But that Sunday, we will definitely have an **Intergenerational Sunday School**. So, all in all, April should keep us very busy.



FPC and choir director **Kim Nolen Wheelock** are starting a new, SCAMP-like Children's Music Ministry starting April 2 and continuing on the first Sunday morning (prior to the worship service) of each month.

The hour-long (from 9:30—10:30 a.m.) music ministry will provide a meaningful worship experience through music, movement, art, and creative expression.



Look for Easter Lily Order Form in This Sunday's Bulletin

Or Use This One!

If you would like to place one or more Easter Lilies in the Sanctuary for Easter Sunday in memory of or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the following form and either place it in the offering plate or drop it off at the church office by Tuesday, April 11. The cost is \$8.50 each

I am ordering _____ Easter lily/lilies. That makes the total cost _____.

PLEASE PRINT

IN MEMORY OF _____

IN HONOR OF _____

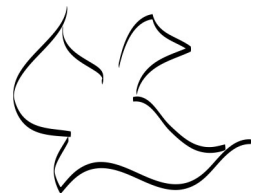
DONATED BY _____

Your flowers may be picked up following the Easter Sunday service.



God Blesses Us All in Special Ways

Rev. Krista Rasco celebrates two important days this month—her birthday and just as important to her—the anniversary of her ordination on April 6.



Community News



Start Your Gardens!

Commerce once again has a community garden. You can stake your claim to a 4' x 12" wood framed plot (with a convenient water supply) for just \$35. If you or someone you know is interested, but needs help with the fee, scholarships are available.

The Community Garden is located directly behind the First United Methodist Church on Hwy. 24 in Commerce. More information and application forms are available at Huffman's Farm Supply, 1100 Bonham in Commerce.

A flyer with all this information is on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

Gilmont Summer Camp Brochures Available

If you are considering sending a child (or grandchild) to one of Camp Gilmont's summer camps, FPC has been sent some brochures that will answer a lot of your



questions.

The brochures are on the table outside the FPC kitchen.

You can also get information on-line at www.gilmont.org or by calling 903-797-6400.



FPC Treasurer's Report

By Susan White

February

Our budget for 2017 is \$11,729 of operating expense per month. February receipts were \$11,865.59, including one unusual non-recurring deposit. These receipts were 1% higher than the budget.

Expenses were \$11,274.12. These expenses were almost 4% lower than the budget. The amount of receipts minus expenses increased our bank balance by \$591.47 in February.

“ Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one. ”

Malcolm S. Forbes



Spring Pictures



If you haven't already guessed it, Spring has sprung! Jim Deaton sent us a beautiful reminder with these pictures of azaleas (left) and crocuses (right) growing at the Deaton home. Got any pictures that evoke spring? Let us show them off for you.

Don't Forget Food Pantry Items

The Commerce Food Pantry serves between 35-45 different families in need each week—over 150 families each month. Donations are a major source of its ability to help these people. Remember to help out the food pantry with a donation of food each Sunday.



1st Sunday—Peanut butter and/or jelly

2nd Sunday—Bag of pinto beans and/or rice

3rd Sunday—Box of cereal or oatmeal

4th Sunday—Cans of tuna, spam, chicken

5th Sunday—Cans of fruit: peaches, fruit cocktail

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops	Gordon Hunter	Bruce Campbell
Sara Grace Pullen	Melba Blount	Billy Marshall
Joe Yeakley	Grace Byrd	Gayle Shumate
Gladys Gray	Pat Skauge	Mildred Miller
Amanda Swanson	Gaye Furry	Preston Helton
Loretta Kibler	Joane Walvord	Donald R. Smith
Catherine King Robertson Odeana Stewart		
Bennie Neve	Ron Davis	Janice Sigur
Family of Chase Carrington		Family of Brad Rollins
Bob Johnson	Tina Fletcher Selvaggi	Aaron Senne
The Gao Family		Jan Burns

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

First Presbyterian Church

Staff, Session, and Committees

Staff

Pastor Rev. Krista Rasco
Clerk of Session Wally Tucker
Music Director Kim Nolen Wheelock
Pianist David Vergara
Nursery Attendant Carolyn McFarland
Secretary Roger McKenzie

Session Members

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Walter Davis	Martha Clevenger	Brenda Estes
Helon Razniak	Jordan Conner	Tina Fletcher
Petra Strassberg	Wally Tucker	Russ Garmon
	Bettina Zvanut	

Session Committees

Worship:

Chair Martha Clevenger
Co-Chair Helon Razniak

Christian Education:

Chair Walt Davis
Co-Chair Bettina Zvanut

Membership and Pastoral Care:

Chair Brenda Estes
Co-Chair Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

Mission/Evangelism:

Chair Bettina Zvanut
Co-Chair Petra Strassberg

Buildings and Grounds:

Chair Russ Garmon

Stewardship and Finance:

Chair Jordan Conner

Personnel:

Chair Wally Tucker

April Dates to Remember

Happy Birthday to:

2 - Lily Selvaggi
5 - Walter Sanders
8 - Rebecca Madewell
10 - Monty Howard
13 - Mark Keahey
14 - Larry Towne
15 - Charlene Linton
15 - Evan Shatney
16 - Ric Estes
16 - Meredith Meighen Champion
20 - Krista Rasco
20 - Lance Wells
21 - Frieda Branom
25 - Barbara McCoy
29 - Nila McQuary

No Anniversaries to list for April

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

FPC Is Online!

www.facebook.com/fpccommerce

www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce

<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>

www.fpc-commerce.com

Upcoming Bible Readings

**This Sunday (April 2) is the
Fifth Sunday in Lent and Communion Sunday**

Old Testament: Ezekiel 37:1-14 *The Valley of Dry Bones*

Psalter: Psalm 130 *Waiting for Divine Redemption*

Gospel: John 11:1-45 *The Death of Lazarus / Jesus the Resurrection and the Life / Jesus Weeps / Jesus Raised Lazarus to Life*

Next Sunday (April 9) is Palm Sunday

Psalter: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 *Assurance of God's Protection*

Gospel (and sermon focus): Matthew 21:1-11
Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

April Worship Leaders

April 2

Host Elder: **Brenda Estes**
Head Usher: **Petra Strassberg**
Candle Lighter: **Jack Walker**
Liturgist: **Walt Davis**
Elements: **Wally Tucker**

April 9

Head Usher: **Jordan Conner**
Candle Lighter: **Evie Conner**
Liturgist: **Susan Reeves**

April 16

Head Usher: **Monty Howard**
Candle Lighter: **Sally Walker**
Liturgist: **Toni Deaton**

April 23

Head Usher: **TBD**
Candle Lighter: **Cal Conner**
Liturgist: **Martha Clevenger**

April 30

Head Usher: **Russ Garmon**
Candle Lighter: **TBA**
Liturgist: **Barbara Tucker**

April Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 2** Morning Worship Service, 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on John 11:1-45
- 9** Morning Worship Service, 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Matthew 21:1-11
- 13** **Maunday Thursday Service**, 6:30 p.m.
- 16** **Easter Worship Service**, 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus John 20:1-18
- 23** **Holy Humor Sunday**
Morning Worship Service, 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on 1 Peter 1:3-9
- 30** Morning Worship Service, 10:50 a.m.
Hymn Sing, so no sermon focus on the readings from 2 Samuel, 1 Peter, or 1 Corinthians

Other April events

- 4, 11, 25 Tuesdays, 9 a.m.**—Teach the Preacher
- 10 Monday, 9 a.m.**—PW Circle meeting
- 12 Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—FPC Session meeting
- 16 Easter Sunday**, Easter Egg Hunt, 9:30 a.m.
Breakfast, 9:45 a.m.
- 27 Thursday, 5 p.m.**—Food Pantry board meetings
- 30 Sunday, 9:45 a.m.**—Intergenerational Sunday School

April Community Events

Each Saturday from 7:30-noon—Farmer's Market

Each Monday, 6-8 p.m.—GriefShare, at First Baptist Church of Commerce

29 Saturday morning on the square in Commerce—3rd Annual Bois d'Arc Spring Car Show

Don't see much? It's because we don't know much.
Next time we'll add your event if you tell us!

If we forgot something, let us know.

If you forgot something, let us know.