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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

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A Message From the Pastor

Dear friends and family of FPC-C,

Easter Sunday is my favorite holiday and Sunday (and not just because I'm a pastor). After a long winter of coldness and darkness, Easter always comes at the beginning of spring which in itself gives us reminders of new life, from budding plants to newborn babies.



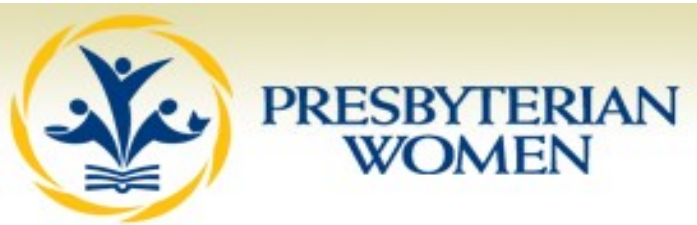
The days are starting to lengthen and the weather starts to warm up. Everything about spring and Easter gives me hope, even if everything at the moment seems bleak. One of the lessons I have learned from the Easter story is to expect the unexpected. One Easter day that I will never forget is the Easter when Kaitlynn, Jason and I returned home after worship and we found a puppy on the steps to our back porch.

On the day that the Easter Bunny is expected to bring eggs and candy, this time it brought something unexpected (to the dismay the parents). Kaitlynn named the puppy E.B. (Easter Bunny). Somehow, we were able to explain to our then four-year-old that E.B. was most likely lost. We went door to door and couldn't find E.B.'s owner. We ended up taking E.B. to the animal shelter where she was eventually adopted.

Lesson learned, expect the unexpected. When you anticipate something happening that you haven't expected or surprises you, then you are more likely to be able to react and respond with more flexibility. You may find yourself open to more possibilities, and more likely to try something that you once wouldn't have dared. Maybe, you might believe something that you once could never have conceived.

That is just the position the disciples were in when they found Jesus' tomb empty that morning so long ago. Although Jesus had told them exactly what was going to happen it was

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By Toni Deaton, moderator

Upcoming activities

- A “trace-and-cut” session for baby caps will be held on Monday, April 2, at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will be sewing 100 baby caps to take to the newborn nursery at Hunt Regional Medical Center in Greenville by May 1. Bring your pins and scissors and join us.
- PW Circle will meet on Monday, April 9, at 10 a.m. **Bettina Zvanut** is the leader for Lesson 8 in our study, of Cloud of Witnesses. **Nancy McFarland** is hostess. All women are invited to join us. Please bring an item for the Commerce Food Pantry.
- Two spring meetings for women in Grace Presbytery will be held this month. Listed below is further information:

Saturday, April 14, at FPC-Kilgore

Saturday, April 28, at St. Stephen PC-Ft. Worth.

Both meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude by 2:00 p.m. Lunch is \$8. Workshops to be held include Updates for Officers; an informative presentation about PPAS (Presbyterian Pan American School); Prayer Life and Devotions; Updates for Cluster Leaders; an overview presentation for our 2018-2019 Horizon’s Bible Study presented by **Rev. Betsy Pense** of Fort Worth.

In addition, items will be for sale at the Mission tables and you may visit the “Book Fair” table (Bring a book you no longer need and get a book you would like to read). You may attend the Mission Workshop and help make fleece blankets for a homeless shelter. No sewing is required; just tie the knots and enjoy fellowship with other women throughout Grace Presbytery. Bettina serves as Vice Moderator for Programs for Grace Presbytery PW and has been very busy arranging the workshops.

If you would like to attend, please get in touch with me and I will make a reservation for you. Reservation deadline is one week before each event. A car pool will be arranged for travel.

A mission outreach effort spearheaded by **Bettina Zvanut**, with the help of some generous donors, has resulted in 16 gifts of robes and slippers being delivered to Kindred Hospice in Greenville.

The hospice staff was thrilled, and the bags filled the office of the community outreach staff member. Three more bags were recently delivered for a total of 19 gifts for the patients there.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this mission to our community!



The last three bags have been loaded and delivered..



Transubstantiation

In Holy Communion we receive the presence of Christ to strengthen our faith and life. How does that happen? The Roman Catholic view is that the substance of the bread and wine is transformed to become the substance of the body and blood of Christ. (Transform the substance: trans-substantiation.) Presbyterians argue that Christ is genuinely present in these elements, but it is a spiritual presence, rather than a physical presence. That is, it is not a question of molecules of bread becoming molecules of human flesh. Instead, it is Christ coming to dwell within us, as he promised to do.

Source: Taken from “What Presbyterians Don’t Believe,” an article that originally appeared in the May, 2003 issue of Presbyterians Today.

Upcoming Community Events



Friendship Bridge has FPC Influence

On Monday, April 9, at 1:30 p.m., the Northeast Texas Children's Museum is once again having its big fund-raiser, **Friendship Bridge**, at the museum. The event is its longest running fundraising event. It has a big FPC presence since it is co-chaired by **Toni Deaton and Nancy McFarland**, and **Brenda**



Nancy McFarland, NTCM director Sharline Freeman, and Toni Deaton, invite you to join them for the Friendship Bridge event.

Estes, who volunteers for the museum, will be helping out as well.

"We have watched friendships grow each year around the bridge table," said Nancy. "We enjoy seeing returning friends and welcoming new participants each year."

The event provides a relaxing environment for the players. You can come as an individual and be paired with someone, or you can come with a group. Groups may rotate to other tables or stay together throughout the afternoon.

"We will also offer tables for beginning bridge players. Sometimes when individuals have not had the opportunity to play in the last year, they enjoy being with other players of the same level," Toni explained.

The afternoon will include bridge, dessert, and prizes for winners of high, second high, and low. There will also be drawings for other prizes.

Both Toni and Nancy are selling tickets, which are \$25 each. They may also be purchased directly from the museum by phone (903-886-6055) with a credit card.



Image by Harrison Evans :: Gathering #7, 2012

Join the University Gallery and the Department of Art for a closing reception and retirement celebration!

Exhibition: March 27-April 13, 2018

Barbara Frey: *Things Like This*

Reception: April 13, 2018 | 5:00-7:00 pm

The University Gallery is located in the Art Building
2005 University Drive, Commerce, TX 75428



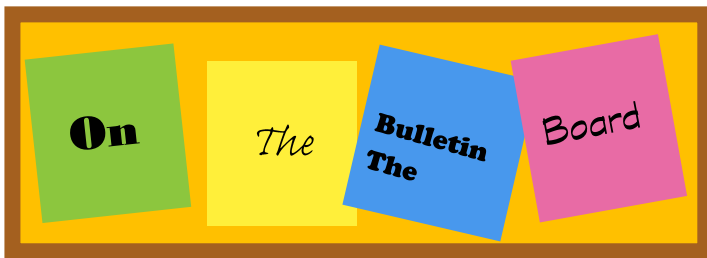
Annual BBQ Supports FISH and (Indirectly) the Commerce Food Pantry

Hunt County Shared Ministries – FISH presents its annual BBQ lunch on Friday, April 6, at the First United Methodist Church of Commerce. Dine in, carry out, and delivery services will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. with brisket, chicken, and ribs from Baker's Ribs of Caddo Mills. The \$15 ticket price includes three meats, traditional sides, and cookies from Peace of Bread.

If you want to make a large to-go or delivery order in Commerce, please contact Angela Roberts by Wednesday, April 4, at 972.765.6547 or agroberts@hotmail.com.

Why should you support FISH? FISH is one of the primary resources we refer neighbors to in need when they enter the church office or are served by the Commerce Food Pantry. FISH provides short-term emergency assistance to residents of Hunt County who are in crisis due to neglect, abuse, or

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● **A Thank-You** and general accounting of funds raised from FPC and all sources nationally for the Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. These funds helped provide aid to people affected by devastation around the world, education, and life-changing gifts to church workers and their families facing financial hardship.

● A small flyer about **Barbara Frey's exhibition** at the TAMUC. Barbara Frey: Things Like These will conclude on April 13 with a closing reception and a retirement celebration.

● A new (and different) flyer about the **barbecue fund-raiser for Hunt County Shared Ministries** on April 6. The flyer focuses on the event at the First United Methodist Church in Commerce, including the menu and the cost (\$15 for a three-meat plate plus sides).

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
- 25 - Barbara McCoy
- 29 - Nila McQuary
- 21-Frieda Branom

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

April Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 1 Easter Sunday**
Easter breakfast 9:30 a.m., followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for children
Morning Worship service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on John 20:1-18
- 8 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.**
Sermon focus on John 20:19-31
- 15 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.**
Sermon focus on Luke 24:36b-48
- 22 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.**
Sermon focus on Psalm 23
- 29 Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.**
Sermon focus on Acts 8:26-40

Other April events

- 2, Tuesday, 9 a.m.**—PW Trace and Cut Day
- 3 Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Membership and Mission Committee meetings
- 9 Tuesday, 10 a.m.**—PW Circle meeting
- 11 Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Session meeting
- 12 Thursday, 6 p.m.**—Christian Education Committee meeting
- 14 Saturday, 8:30-2 p.m.**—PW Spring Workshops at FPC-Kilgore
- 14 Saturday, noon to 5 p.m.**—FPC will have a booth at the "We Care Fair" (sponsored by Commerce Community Action and Women of Worship) in Commerce's Farmer's Market area.
- 21 Saturday, 8:30-2 p.m.**—PW Spring Workshops at St. Stephen PC, Fort Worth
- 22 Sunday, following church services—**
SCAMP Barbecue Fundraiser in FH

The next issue of The Good News will be published on April 20. Deadline for stories, pictures, notices and other items is Wednesday, April 18.

CCC Grant Helps Provide More Food Options for Neighbors in Need

By Angela Roberts

President, Commerce Food Pantry

The Commerce Food Pantry appreciates Commerce Community Cares (CCC) and its patrons! CCC awarded a grant to the Pantry in 2018 to purchase a commercial freezer. This freezer will not only allow the Pantry to store additional types of meat, thus increasing the protein options for our neighbors in need, but will also allow the Pantry to lower its food costs by ordering in bulk from the North Texas Food Bank and storing these additional meats.

The freezer arrived and was promptly filled on March 21 with sliced turkey breast, ground turkey chubs, and baby back pork ribs from the North Texas Food Bank. By March 29 after two distributions, it was nearly empty. Before the freezer arrived, the Pantry's primary meat options were canned tuna, chicken, and SPAM. The freezer will be restocked on first and third Wednesdays of each month when the North Texas Food Bank delivers to Commerce.

The Pantry could not provide any assistance though without the support of you, the congregation of First Presbyterian. Thank you for opening your doors and for faithfully giving your time and resources to this mission. We are also grateful for Roger McKenzie, your church secretary. He is the

face of the Pantry in so many ways, i.e., fielding phone calls, accepting donations, and graciously lending a hand when needed. Thank you all!



Above, the freezer was quickly stocked with meat from the North Texas Food Bank. Below, Isabel Davis shows Commerce Community Cares Board Member Doc Pierce the new freezer. Below left, Mike Roberts moves in the freezer purchased with CCC grant money



FPC Is Online!

www.facebook.com/fpccommerce

www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce

<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>

www.fpc-commerce.com



April Hymn of the Month

Page 231 – *Christ Has Risen*

While Earth Slumbers



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.

April Worship Leaders

April 1

Host Elder: Neal Stewart
Head Usher: Bob Johnson
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Walt Davis
Elements: Brenda Estes

April 8

Head Usher: Jordan Conner
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Toni Deaton

April 15

Head Usher: Monty Howard
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Susan Reeves

April 22

Head Usher: Ric Estes
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Barbara Tucker

April 29

Head Usher: Russ Garmon
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Nancy Green

Upcoming Bible Readings

This Sunday (April 1) Is Easter Sunday

Old Testament: Isaiah 25:6-9 *Praise for Deliverance from Oppression*

Psalter: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 *A Song of Victory*

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 *The Resurrection of Christ*

Gospel: John 20:1-18 *The Resurrection of Jesus / Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene*



Next Sunday (April 8) Is the Second Sunday of Easter



New Testament: Acts 4:32-35 *The Believers Share Their Possessions*

Psalter: Psalm 133 *The Blessedness of Unity*

Epistle: 1 John 1:1-2:2 *The Word of Life / God Is Light / Christ Our Advocate*

Gospel: John 20:19-31 *Jesus Appears to the Disciples / Jesus and Thomas / The Purpose of This Book*

April 15 Is the Third Sunday of Easter

New Testament: Acts 3:12-19 *Peter Speaks in Solomon's Portico*

Psalter: Psalm 4 *Confident Plea for Deliverance from Enemies*

Epistle: 1 John 3:1-7 *Children of God*

Gospel: Luke 24:36b-48 *The Walk to Emmaus*



New Additions to the Prayer List

Four people have been added to the FPC's prayer list since our last newsletter. FPC's **Barbara Tucker** has returned home and is rehabbing from knee replacement surgery on both knees. **Deryl McKenzie**, aka Santa Claus, (the brother of FPC secretary Roger McKenzie) rejoins our list because he is hospitalized in Houston for pneumonia. FPC's **Jane Cox** is recuperating at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas after successful multiple by-pass surgery on Mar. 29. Our newest person on our list is **Danny Spruel**, the brother of a friend of FPC's Nancy Green. He is also recuperating following multiple by-pass surgery in Tyler. Please keep these additions and all those on our list in your prayers.

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	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	Deryl McKenzie
Jane Cox	Danny Spruel		



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

Happy Easter! Alleluia! Christ Is Risen!

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. .

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).

A Message From the Pastor

not something they could perceive. It defied what they believed about how the world works.

God did the unexpected. Only it was something that should have been expected.

I hope you have a wonderful and unexpected Easter this year. See you at worship!

Grace and peace,

Rev. Krista Rasco

BBQ *(Continued from page 4)*

with serious illness, loss of job and other family crisis situations. FISH provides food, support to assist in payment of utility bills, rent or mortgage, and access to medical and dental treatment.

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.

Did we forget something you wanted to see? Let us know. Also suggestions are also invited. Contact the Church Secretary.



Celebrating 40 Years of Service



Hunt County Shared Ministries

Hunt County Shared Ministries presents our annual

BBQ

Friday, April 6, 2018
Lunch 11:00 - 1:00
First United Methodist Church
1709 Hwy 24, Commerce, Texas (across from Texas A&M University-Commerce)

Our 2018 menu includes
Brisket · Chicken · Ribs
Beans · Cole Slaw · Potato Salad · Dessert
Food provided by Baker's Ribs

\$15 Ticket price include all 3 meats. Tickets available at www.hcsmfish.org or at the door. Takeout orders may be placed in advance for delivery or easy pick-up. Call 972-765-6547 or email to agroberts@hotmail.com no later than Wednesday, April 4.

Presented by  **Aerospace Systems**

