



THE GOOD NEWS

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

April 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

Dear Friends and Family of FPCC,

On April 5, I will have been ordained and serving FPCC for five years. I for one can barely wrap my head around this coming anniversary, because although five years seems like a long time, it feels like I just moved here. I remember my first Easter after being ordained. It fell on the day of my 30th birthday. That was probably one of the most exciting and love filled days in my time here in Commerce.

I remember telling a story in my first Easter sermon about listening to a pastor who was retiring soon give her “last” Easter sermon and imagining what that would be like when I had yet to preach my first Easter sermon. Here I am about to give my fifth Easter sermon. In reality, that is not a high number, and I look forward to all the Easters to come and wonder how different my “last” Easter sermon will be from my first one.

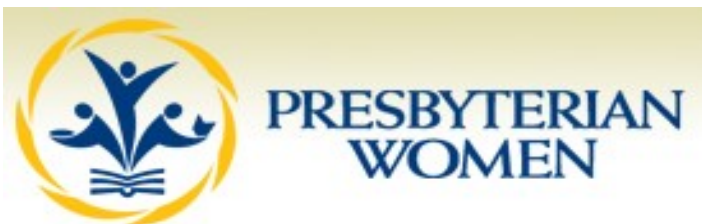
My 7-year-old daughter (who was 2 years old when we moved to Commerce) is even counting down the days to Easter. She is so excited about it that she has even invited her friends back around Christmas time. Isn't she an inspiration for us all? I feel like that is how all Christians should feel about Easter day, so excited that they are talking about it since Christmas and inviting all their friends!

It makes me wonder how those first disciples felt on that first Easter day. I imagine they were afraid, sad, in shock, maybe mad at the death and manner of death of Jesus. Yet, I wonder how they felt at the first news that Jesus was alive?

We hear about them being terrified, perplexed, afraid, joyous, and amazed. One thing we know is that the news of Jesus' resurrection was shared with the other disciples. So, this Easter, imagine you are as excited as a young child sharing the good news to all your friends and all those around



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By Toni Deaton

PW Circle Meeting – PW Circle will meet Monday, April 8, at 10 a.m. for Bible Study and a business meeting. Leader is **Helon Razniak** and hostess is **Nancy McFarland**. We will be discussing Lesson 8 from the Horizons Bible Study. All women are invited. Please bring an item for the Food Pantry such as canned vegetables.

PW Book Share Evening – Recently a “Book Share Event” for PW was held at the home of Toni Deaton. The following books were discussed and recommended:

The Whole Town’s Talking by Fannie Flagg
Miss Lady Bird’s Wildflowers: How a First Lady Changed America by Kathi Appelt
Each New Day by Corrie Ten Boom
The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly
Women Rowing North by Mary Pipher
Gulliver’s Travels by Jonathan Swift
I Can Only Imagine by Bart Millard
Waking Up White by Debby Irving

Those who attended this event were Martha Clevenger, Brenda Estes, Nancy Green, Ann Julian, Tina Fletcher-Selvaggi, Mona Towne and hostess Toni Deaton. If you enjoy reading, you may want to try one of the above-listed books.

Grace Presbytery PW Spring Meetings

The following two spring workshop meetings have been scheduled for women in our Presbytery:

- April 27 – Covenant PC – Sherman
- May 4 – Oak Cliff PC – Dallas

Informative classes to be offered at these meetings include following topics:

- ◆Presbyterian Children’s Home and Services
- ◆PW 2019-2020 Bible Study (to be led by Rev. Julie Adkins)
- ◆Leadership Training for local officers
- ◆Mission Project –Learn more about “plarn” (plastic yarn) and how to make mats for those who are homeless and sleep at shelters in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area.
- ◆Hymn Workshop

- ◆Mission Speakers
- ◆History Tour of host churches
- ◆Workshop for Cluster Leaders

If you are interested in attending one of these PW spring meetings, please contact Toni for more information.

Making Baby Caps – One of our local PW mission projects is making baby caps for the Hunt Regional Medical Center Newborn Nursery in Greenville. We have been making baby caps since May of 2013. Already this year we have donated 200 caps. Thanks to all the women who participate by tracing, cutting out and sewing these fleece caps. They are much appreciated by the nurses and families alike.



Way to Go Congregation—As noted in an earlier newsletter, 26 bags of robes and slippers were delivered in February to Kindred Hospice in Greenville. But that delivery overlooked these eight bags (pictured below), which were subsequently delivered as well, bringing the total of gift bags delivered to 34, making the increase over the prior year even greater.





FPC People in Pictures

Lily Surviving and Prospering At USAFA

After a brutal week in mid-March, FPC's **Lily Selvaggi** and most of the cadets in her USAFA class of 2022 were promoted and are no longer considered doolies (freshmen). They earned their prop and wings insignia, which they are now allowed to wear on their flight caps and they are now "officially" recognized as airmen. This traditional step is acknowledgment that the class has successfully met military training requirements and is prepared to continue the rigorous and rewarding US Air Force Academy journey.

Lily's mom, **Tina Fletcher Selvaggi**, wrote: "To say Lily is thrilled is an understatement. With her new-found free time she wants to have a double major of humanities and mechanical engineering, minor in Chinese, play flute in the orchestra, play tuba in the drum and bugle corps, be a better boxer, play tennis. You name it, she wants to do it!

"She even got to wear civilian clothes to Target. We were lucky enough to see her this week because the Texas parents host a giant Texas barbecue for all the cadets. Despite the fact that it occurred in the middle of the cyclone bomb blizzard, it was a great experience."



Above, Lily Selvaggi and some of her fellow cadets spent their spring break working on Habitat for Humanity homes in Thibodeaux, Louisiana. Pictured at left is the barbecue event hosted by Texas parents.

Got a picture for *The Good News* that you would like to share?

Email it to fpc-commerce@embarqmail.com



Shining In the Spotlight



Making the Heart Swell with Pride

Favor, honor, and lots of pride came together within days of each other last month for two young people with ties to FPC.

In the picture above, as his Scout Master looks on, **Matthew McFarland** and the people around him (his father and step-father, his mother, and his grandparents—FPC's Keith and Nancy McFarland) are all smiles as he received Scouting's highest honor on Mar. 17 in Greenville—the rank of Eagle Scout.

Isabelle Baumler (in the picture at left), granddaughter of FPC's **Helon Razniak**, is a talented musician. She is a sophomore at Heath High School and a member of the Lone Star Youth Orchestra. Isabelle was invited to play her cello with the Las Colinas Symphony recently. She performed with the symphony on Mar. 15-16.

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.

Don't forget!

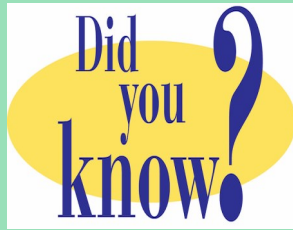


A Message From the Pastor Continued from page 1

you to come witness what all the excitement and good news is about. What are you feeling this Easter? Is it so very different than what you were feeling five years ago, or is it a familiar joy? What are you excited about this Easter? What is your good news to share with the world? Go and share it.

Grace and peace be with you all,

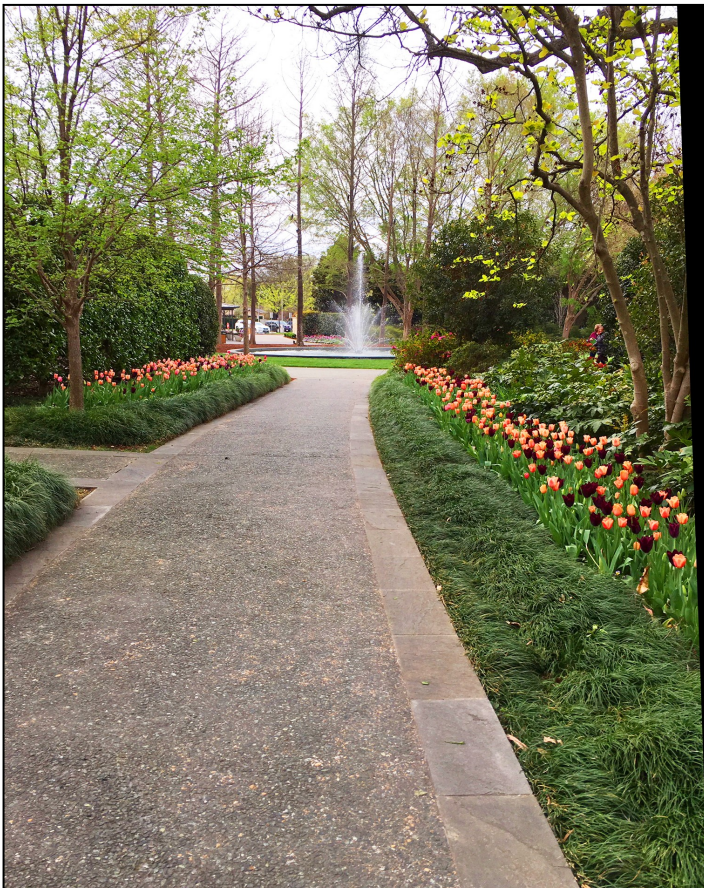
Rev. Krista Rasco, pastor



Over 100 million copies of the Bible are sold each year. The full Bible has been translated into 532 languages. It has been partially translated into

2,883 languages. The longest and shortest chapters in the Bible can be found in the Book of Psalms. Chapter 119 is the longest and chapter 117 is the shortest.

Source: *Fact retriever.com*



One of the most beautiful places in North Texas at this time of the year is the Dallas Arboretum. That's where **Toni Deaton** took this spring picture as she and **Jim** visited during the last week of March. More to come (hopefully).

FPC Is Online!

www.facebook.com/fpccommerce

www.facebook.com/group/fpccommerce.

<https://twitter.com/fpccommerce>

www.fpc-commerce.com.

April Calendar

Worship Schedule

- 7** Morning Worship service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on John 12:1-8
- 14** **Palm Sunday**
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on Luke 19:28-40
- 18** **Thursday, 6 p.m.**—Maundy Thursday worship service
- 21** **Easter Sunday**
Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Sermon focus on John 20:1-18
- 28** Morning Worship Service 10:50 a.m.
Special speaker Joe Knight

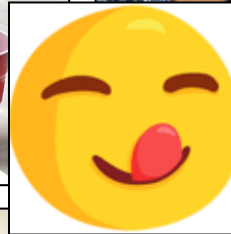
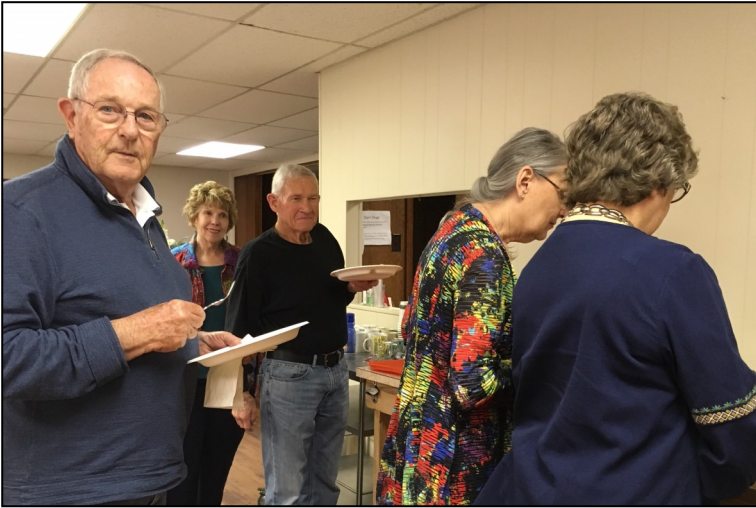
Other April events

- 2, 9, 16, 23, 30** **Tuesdays, 9 a.m.**—Tai Chi Class
- 8** **Tuesday, 10 a.m.**—PW Circle meeting
- 10** **Wednesday, 6 p.m.**—Session meeting
- 21** **Sunday, 9:45 a.m.**—Easter breakfast and Children's Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School time
- 28** **Sunday, noon**—SCAMP fund raiser BBQ

FPC in Action

Food, Fun, and Fellowship Church Night Supper on Mar. 20

Photos by Toni Deaton



Knight to Be Guest Speaker on April 28

We will have a special guest speaker for our worship service on April 28. **Joe Knight**, a friend and many-time musical partner of FPC's Jim Deaton, will visit FPC and speak from the pulpit.



He and Jim performed musically here recently on July 29 in a hymn sing service.

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—Instant Oatmeal

2nd Sunday—Ranch Style Beans

3rd Sunday—Spaghetti sauce (in cans)

4th Sunday—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 (April 7) Is the
Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament: Isaiah 43:16-21 *Restoration and
Protection Promised*

Psalter: Psalm 126 *A Harvest of Joy*

Epistle: Philippians 3:4b-14 *Breaking with the
'Past / Pressing Toward the Goal*

Gospel (and sermon focus): John 12:1-8 *Mary
Anoints Jesus*

Sunday (April 14) Is Palm Sunday

Old Testament: Zechariah 9:9-12 *The Coming
Ruler of God's People*

Psalter: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 *A Song of Victory*

Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11 *Imitating Christ's
Humility*

Gospel (and sermon focus): Luke 19:28-40
Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

Coming in Our Next Newsletter

We will offer links and contact information for the area's two camps with Presbyterian ties.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops

Melba Blount

Grace Byrd

Mildred Miller

Catherine King Robertson

Jan Burns

Jack Gray

Adele Reeves

Deryl McKenzie

Family of Freda Lambert

Pat Skauge

Eddie Fuller

Shirley Lam

Gordon Hunter

Amy Lopez

Gayle Shumate

Gaye Furry

Bennie Neve

Audrey Hucks

Jean Angotti

Bob Wilkins

Danny Spruel

Nancy Smith

Joe Tincer

Alfredo Muniz

Odeana Stewart

Sara Grace Pullen

Joe Yeakley

Gladys Gray

Preston Helton

Ron Davis

Larry Ratliff

Tammi Fucci

Joe Dipiazza

Kristen Anderson

Gary and Melba Strobel

Layne Rylander

Patricia Welch

Family of Charles Jon Adams



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



Learning how Food Pantries Help the Community

The 2019 Class of the Commerce Leadership Institute visited the Commerce Food Pantry on March 26 as part of their "Volunteer and Community Day". Rev. Krista Rasco welcomed the group and then Angela Roberts, president of the Commerce Food Pantry board, and LesLee Lay, director of Bread of Life Community Services, discussed the outreach and services provided by both of these local assistance organizations.

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

Happy Anniversary to:

No anniversaries were listed for April.

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

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.

April Community Events

- 8 Monday, 1:30-3:30—Freda Mae's Bridge Day.** Northeast Texas Children's Museum. Tickets \$25, includes playing, dessert, and chance for prizes.
- 28 Saturday, 9-11 a.m.—Men's Prayer Breakfast** at the Commerce Church of Christ, 1900 Culver St.

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!

April Worship Leaders

April 7

Host Elder: Scott Stewart
 Head Usher: Bob Johnson
 Candle Lighter: TBD
 Liturgist: Walt Davis
 Elements: Tina Fletcher Selvaggi

April 14

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

April 21

Head Usher: Ric Estes
 Candle Lighter: TBD
 Liturgist: Brenda Estes

April 28

Head Usher: Eddie Fuller
 Candle Lighter: TBD
 Liturgist: Arlene Allen

Please take time each Sunday to let our worship leaders know that you appreciate their service.

If you would like to help as a worship leader or in some other way, please contact the church secretary.

V O L N T E E R
 all that's missing is U!

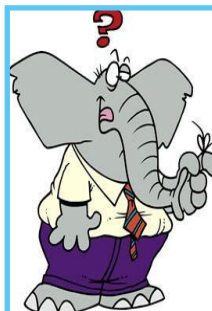
New

on the

Bulletin

Board

- ♦ A thank-you letter and an accompanying brochure from Hunt County Shared Ministries inviting FPCers to help FISH by attending its BBQ Fundraiser on Friday, May 3. One of two sites is the First United Methodist Church in Commerce.
- ♦ An invitation to participate in Solar Under the Sun's next Solar School on April 4-7.



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!