



the chimes

Sunday Mornings

Church School (Zoom) | 10:45am Sanctuary open for prayer, meditation, and Lord's supper (worship pre-recorded); viewable at www.fpcbryan.org

First Presbyterian Friends,

The first week of 2020 – one year ago – no one anticipated the multiple details which have unfolded to this point. Due to COVID-19 and State and Local restrictions, beginning on March 18, on-site/in-person worship was suspended. Practicing mask-wearing and physical distancing, we resumed on-site/in-person worship the third Sunday in August on the parking lot for 35 minutes early on Sunday mornings. Beginning the first Sunday in October we returned to the sanctuary with the same safety and mitigation practices. After the final Sunday of 2020, Session voted 18 to 6 voluntarily to suspend again on-site/in-person worship due to current positive infection counts and hospital resources being overwhelmed. During the entirety of time since March 18, worship services have been broadcast through YouTube via the FPC-Bryan website, either pre-recorded or live-streamed.

During the “shutdown” period, parts of the driveway and parking areas were patched and repaired. Two concrete slope entry/exit ramps were constructed. Since the intense hailstorm on May 27, the entire roof has been replaced. Wi-Fi capability in the FPC building “from stem to stern” has been updated; and the Weddington Courtyard has been given a total and beautiful botanical upgrade!

Classes and meetings have been made possible via Zoom internet connections; and groups have been able to meet through “hybrid” options, both utilizing Zoom for off-site attendance and being in-person/on-site physically distanced within a room. From March 18 up until mid-October, worship was audio-visually taped and/or live-streamed with borrowed cameras from staff and members. During much of this time, a diverse workgroup considered and researched the technical set-ups and equipment necessary for higher quality and technically capable equipment to facilitate the audio-visual aspect of “sending worship” beyond the sanctuary. From late October to the present, recording and broadcasting have occurred via (1) the equipment purchased and (2) adaptations being made to and within the existing audio equipment.

And the people... Honestly, when the May to August off-site worship was in process, I thought, “Well, I guess we’ll figure out ways to check in with each other, since we will not see each other on Sundays for awhile.” We – members and staff – have maintained many personal contacts via telephone, texts, and emails – and in the aforementioned Zoom and broadcast efforts, but we still are challenged to be optimally at our best, given that physical contacts are so minimized, due to the contagiousness of the virus. Now, with our second suspension of on-site/in-person worship, we face the challenge of less in-person contacts again. In terms of being in the sanctuary, though, during this second suspension the sanctuary – on Sundays – will be open for prayer, meditation, and receiving the Lord’s Supper during the previous “regular” worship time of 10:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

The employed staff, volunteers, and other members (including Session elders) – who serve Jesus Christ through leadership and contributing roles – make being an installed pastor of First Presbyterian-Bryan fulfilling on a continuing basis. A special salute of gratitude goes to recently retired (volunteer) Treasurer Rick Page for six years of service, and to Jim Nachlinger and Julie Truax for being the ones to whom the “baton” of that office has been passed. I conclude this report with a prayer written by the Reverend Dr. J. Allen Smith, Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church, Little Rock, Arkansas, from 1975 to 1993 ... *“Gracious God, we know that your plans are not our plans. Your schedules are more comprehensive and more loving than our schedules could ever be. Use, we pray, both the careful plans and the interruptions, both what is expected and what is unexpected – use all to accomplish your merciful, healing, liberating purpose. Keep us sensitive, as Jesus was, to all that happens and to all the needs on the way. And may neither past nor future obscure the glory and the opportunity of the present. ‘This is the day and the year that you have made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.’ Amen.”*

Gratefully, **Ted Foote** (cell: 918.520.7820)

HELPING OTHERS IN NEED

In January, honoring Jesus' birth, adult and infant diapers are our emphasis for the BRAZOS CHURCH PANTRY. Resuming in February, the Pantry appreciates our focusing again on personal hygiene items (soap, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes (individually packaged), toothpaste, deodorant, adult/infant diapers) and single-use and pop-top canned goods for the Blessings Box! The Pantry cannot provide personal hygiene items and infant/adult diapers that many of their clients need. Pick up a few extras when you're out shopping. Your extravagant generosity is appreciated more than you know!

LET'S TACKLE HUNGER TOGETHER!

Over \$163 million has been collected since **SOUPER BOWL OF CARING** began in 1990 with a simple prayer from a Presbyterian youth group:

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."



FEBRUARY 7, 2021

DONATIONS WELCOME

now thru February 7

100% of proceeds will benefit the Brazos Church Pantry.

Make checks payable to:
First Presbyterian Church
MEMO: Souper Bowl of Caring
or

Give Online

Go to www.fpcbryan.org,
click give in upper right corner,
provide donation amount in "Special Gifts"
MEMO: Souper Bowl of Caring

THANK YOU, FPC!

Dear Friends in Christ, I, along with the volunteers at Mobility Worldwide Brazos Valley, wish to thank you for your generous donation of \$10,000. MW Brazos Valley seeks to reflect the love of God by giving the gift of mobility and dignity to leg disabled individuals in developing countries. Please be assured that your gift is valued and appreciated. Best wishes and blessings,

Ken Graalum, Board Chairman



LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE THE 2020 "VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR"

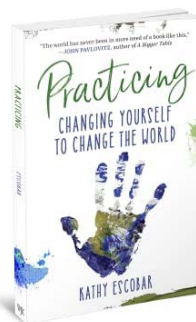


Volunteers are essential to the ministry of FPC-Bryan. They contribute countless hours to the work of this congregation in so many ways—serving on Session/

Foundation, leading/coordinating Church School, ushering, singing in the choir, ringing bells, answering telephones, supporting worship, and so more! Each year, the Volunteer of the Year is usually honored for his/her contributions to the church at the Annual Meeting of the Congregation. Know of an individual who has served the church well in 2020? Submit your nomination with a brief narrative supporting your nomination to Karen Berg, office@fpcbryan.org, or mail to First Presbyterian Church, 1100 Carter Creek Pkwy, Bryan, 77802, by Sunday, January 10.

Submit your nomination today!

CARETEAM AND PRAYER PARTNERS



Care Team and Prayer Partners meets on THU, JAN 21, (and usually the 3rd Wednesday of each month) in the church library at 12:30pm to continue their discussion of the book *Practicing: Changing Yourself to Change the World* by Kathy Escobar. In *Practicing*, Pastor Kathy Escobar inspires and challenges readers with practical encouragement to live their faith through ten practices: Healing, Listening, Loving, Including, Equalizing, Advocating, Mourning, Failing, Resting, and Celebrating. If you would like to be a part of this discussion, please join this group in the church library on the 20th or contact CareTeam/Prayer Partners Facilitator Sharon Bowling at bowlijd@verizon.net or 713.907.1406.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN SING SET FOR SUNDAY, JANUARY 31



During worship on SUN, JAN 31, we will have a congregational hymn sing. What that means is YOU GET TO PICK THE HYMNS FOR THAT SUNDAY. Have you ever thought "I wish we could sing that hymn?" Well, now is your chance! Email Director of Music Ministries David Kipp at music@fpcbryan.org or call the church office at 979.823.8073 by TUE, JAN 19, and as many hymns as possible will be incorporated into morning worship. If we don't sing your suggested hymn on the 31st, it will be saved for a future worship time. Now's your chance!

Let's sing some of your favorite hymns!

YOUTH Haps

Youth Ministries (youth@fpcbryan.org)



SAVE THE DATE! FEBRUARY 7, 2021

YOUTH SUNDAY



All youth were mailed a sign-up sheet to indicate their desire to participate in leading worship on February 7, themed "Elevator Speech." *Imagine you enter an elevator and a stranger notices you are wearing a cross or have a keychain with a Christian fish on it and they turn to you and ask you: "Why do you believe in God?" You have 2 minutes to answer their question before you both exit the elevator. What do you say?* Youth participation in worship can be on-site or virtual and pre-recorded. If you did not receive one, please contact Pastor Emily, ebeghin@fpcbryan.org or 979.823.8073.

COVID note: *Due to the extremely high number of cases in Brazos County and the risk involved to our volunteers and in our youth group context/activities, youth will not be meeting physically until the numbers return to a level similar to those seen before the Thanksgiving Holiday. Pastor Emily is dedicated to remaining in contact with each and every one of our youth and hopes they will enjoy being a part of preparing for Youth Sunday worship on the 7th of February.*



A NEW APP FOR YOUTH! "remind" is communication for school, home, and everywhere in-between—simple to use. Here's how to sign up and start receiving news from FPC's Youth Group. If you are a Smartphone Users, open the web browser on your phone and go to rmd.at/remilyb. Follow the instructions to sign up for "remind" and download the mobile app. No Smartphone? Text a message @remilyb to 81010.

The youth of First Presbyterian are on Instagram!
Go to: <https://www.instagram.com/fpcbryantx1867/>

Find our new Facebook page "FPC Bryan Youth"

Concerts on CARTER CREEK

proudly announces its 38th season

Sunday, April 11, 2021, 5:00pm
THE CAVATINA DUO
Eugenia Moliner, *flute*
Denis Azabagic, *guitar*

Sunday, April 18, 2021, 5:00pm
PETER LIEUWEN TRIO
piano, bass, and drums

Thursday, July 15, 2021, 7:00pm
ILYA YAKUSHEV, *piano*

Attend our free concerts in our sanctuary or...
view from the comfort of your own space...
livestreamed on YouTube
(search for First Presbyterian Church of Bryan).

CARING AND SHARING

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE. FPC Member JANE VOELKEL recently moved to be closer to her family. You can stay in touch her at the address below:

Willow Bend Assisted Living & Memory Care
2125 Brinker Rd, #203
Denton Texas 76028

Congratulations to MARILYN & ERNIE WRIGHT on the birth of their granddaughter Morgan Joy to Elizabeth & Mark Wright of Keller, TX, on December 22, 2020. Proud big sister is Mackenzie.

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." -Psalm 139:14



Please notify the church office at 979.823.8073, when you have news to share in the newsletter, or if you or someone you know is in the hospital, is scheduled for admission, or was recently hospitalized. When admitted, please list First Presbyterian Church, as your church affiliation. If you would like to be visited by one of our hospital visitors, please agree to be included on the Pastoral Care List. Your church family wants to minister to you whenever you are ill, especially when you are in the hospital, and they can only do this if you inform them of your needs.

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Bryan, TX
Permit 160



1100 Carter Creek Pkwy
Bryan TX 77802-1129
Ph. 979.823.8073
Fax. 979.822.7063
office@fpcbryan.org
Church Office Hours
M-F, 8:30am to 4:30pm
Visit us on the web
www.fpcbryan.org

"Like" us on

facebook

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



01/14 Eugenia Williams	01/19 Pat Davis
01/15 Esther Carrigan	01/20 Gretchen Schmidt
01/15 Judith Childs	01/22 Heidi Linder
01/15 Rosemary Fogle	01/22 Robert Linnstaedter
01/15 Vicki Gergeni	01/23 Celeste Harris
01/15 Lauren Nash	01/23 Laura Lawrence
01/16 John Lee	01/23 Ethan Truax
01/17 Elizabeth Byrnes	01/23 Bill Watson
01/19 Walter Buenger	



- ♥ Dave Burdett
- ♥ Velma Burnett
- ♥ Madison Hodges
(granddaughter of Peggy & Ken Telg)
- ♥ Ester Hubacek

- ★ Josh Kipp
- ★ Christian McKinley
- ★ Ryan Ratcliffe

**MEMBERS & FRIENDS
IN THE
MILITARY**

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter, The Chimes, is **NOON, SUN, JAN 17, 2021**. This newsletter will be distributed **WED, JAN 20, 2021**, and cover news from **JAN 28 thru FEB 17**.
Submit content to: office@fpcbryan.org.

ABOUT SUNDAY WORSHIP

JANUARY 17
John 1:43-51

JANUARY 24
Jonah, Chap. 3, 4

