

First Presbyterian Church

Tidings

910 N WASHINGTON AVE
LIVINGSTON, TEXAS 77351
FEBRUARY 2019

THE CHURCH AS A MOSAIC

A mosaic consists of thousands of little stones. Some are blue, some are green, some are yellow, some are gold. When we bring our faces close to the mosaic, we can admire the beauty of each stone. But as we step back from it, we can see that all these little stones reveal to us a beautiful picture, telling a story none of these stones can tell by itself.

That is what our life in [the church] is about. Each of us is

like a little stone, but together we reveal the face of God to the world. Nobody can say: "I make God visible." But others who see us together can say: "They make God visible." [Christian] community is where humility and glory touch.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen



AFFECTIONATELY YOURS

St. Valentine, a Roman priest, was martyred in 270 A.D. for loving Jesus. Some sources say he performed weddings after the emperor banned them; others say he rescued Christians from Roman prisons. Two centuries later, the pope declared February 14 St. Valentine's Day.

According to legend, the priest signed his letters "Your Valentine." Later, Christians followed suit to honor him. By the mid-1700s, friends and sweethearts exchanged heart-shaped trinkets or sent handwritten notes of affection on February 14.

Church Events

- Feb 3rd - Communion Sunday; Souper Bowl of Caring
- Feb 4th - Mission Committee Meeting, 11 a.m.
- Feb 6th - Worship Committee Meeting, 10 a.m.
- Feb 10th - Fellowship Luncheon after the Service
- Feb 11th - PW Circle Mtg., 1:30 p.m., FH Rm. 2
- Feb 14th - Session Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- Feb 15th - *Tidings* articles due
- Feb 17th - Kid Zone Event after the Service
- Feb 23rd - Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8:30 a.m., FH



Neighborly love

As an ordained minister, Fred Rogers harnessed the power of television to tell children they were loved — and to show them how to love others. In *You Are Special*, he writes, “When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong along with the fearful, the true mixed in with the façade, and of course,

the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way.”

In a review of the touching documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* a writer for *Variety* notes: “Rogers’ real secret was ... that the call to love your neighbor as yourself isn’t a slogan to hang in your kitchen with flowers around it — it’s a decision you make at every moment, to view

every man, woman and child on earth as your neighbor. If you don’t see and feel that, and act on it, then you’re just another narcissist with a kitchen slogan.”

Last October, when a synagogue shooting shattered the peace of Rogers’ real-life former neighborhood, residents of all religions embraced one another as neighbors. Afterward, the Fred Rogers Center stated, “We long for a day when there is no more tragedy born from hatred.”

Worship Committee

Our first Worship Committee Meeting in 2019 is scheduled for February 6th, at 10 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall, Rm. 2. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend.

—Patricia Herrmann,
Worship Chair

Walk by Ryan Shields

“Walk by the Spirit and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” Galatians 5:15

Have you ever tried walking against the wind? It’s not fun. In fact, it can be hard and kind of a nuisance. It just puts this much unneeded drag on your life. However, when you walk with the wind, you get this extra little push. The wind acts as a helpful guide. Think of the Holy Spirit in likeness to the wind. When we push back against the Holy Spirit, our lives become hard, our days get harder to get through and we put this much unneeded drag on ourselves. But when we walk with the Holy Spirit, according to God’s will, our lives become so much easier. We are guided by love

and grace. The Holy Spirit is there to give us that extra boost we need in living our lives the way God has planned us to live. But how do we follow the Holy Spirit? We bear its fruits. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us that the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. It goes on to say that there are no laws against this. So there’s no excuse. So, I urge you to live your lives not going against the Spirit but walking with the Spirit.

Follow Ryan on Instagram
ryan_devotions



Joy to Life

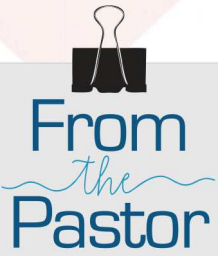
by Tommy Fluker

Laughter, peeling, peeling, come my way
Tears flow softly, softly, another day
Touch me gently, gently, hold my hand
Hurt me not, try, try to understand

Lift me up, up, my spirits to soar
Keep darkness down, down, to come no more
Colors, bright, bright, the eyes to please
Caress, caress, the evening breeze

Warm, warm, the starkly sun
Light fades, fades, when day is done
Rain drops, fluid, fluid, quenching thirst
Petals open, open to glorious burst

Grow heavy, heavy, tired, eyes to close
Dreams, quietly, quietly, in sweet repose
Thoughts, seeking, seeking, ones held dear
Lord fill me, fill me, I’ll have no fear



The One Thing God Wants- Our Trust

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path” Proverbs 3:5,6

In 1858 a French acrobat named Monsieur Charles Blondin traveled to Niagara Falls in America with the goal of crossing the more than 2,000 foot span from the American side to the Canadian side on a two inch diameter rope. He not only crossed that span and back once but many times. On one occasion he carried a camera, took the camera off in the middle of the walk and took a picture of the onlookers on the bank. He also crossed Niagara in shackles and once with a bag over his head and body. On another occasion he stopped in the center of the tightrope, asked for the “Maid of the Mist”, Niagara’s famous tour boat, to stop underneath him. He let down a rope, had a flask of wine attached and hoisted it up for a mid-rope glass of wine before finishing the walk. On July 15th, before a huge crowd, including President Millard Fillmore, he walked backwards on the rope to Canada and pushed a wheel barrow back to America. His most noted exploit was when he carried a stove and utensils on his back, stopped in the middle of the walk, started a fire, cooked an omelet and let it down on a rope to serve passengers on the Maid of the Mist. On one occasion he was said to ask the crowd if they thought he could take a man across on the rope. Everyone shouted yes of course; to which he replied, “Then who will be the first to get on my back?” That’s right. The real test of trust is when we “cut off the limb” and depend only on Him. Jesus said take my yoke and give me yours. He doesn’t want to just take your load “on His back,” he wants to take you as well. Incidentally, there was a man by the name of Harry Colcord, who accepted the challenge and rode across the great falls on Blondin’s back. It was estimated that when he made his final crossing in 1896 that he had crossed the falls 300 times and had walked the rope more than 10,000 miles. By the way, he never had any life insurance. All the companies refused because of the risk. Are we willing to let Jesus take us “on His back” in every life situation?

Blessings, Pastor Joe MacDonald

Puzzle!

Love is a fruit of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23. Identify another fruit that can make Valentine’s Day — and every day — special. First, write a word that fits each clue below. Then unscramble the letters from the bold, vertical column to find another fruit of the Spirit.

Write it on the blanks below.

LEAVE

CHAPEAU

TRANQUILITY

BECOME MATURE

RESPOND

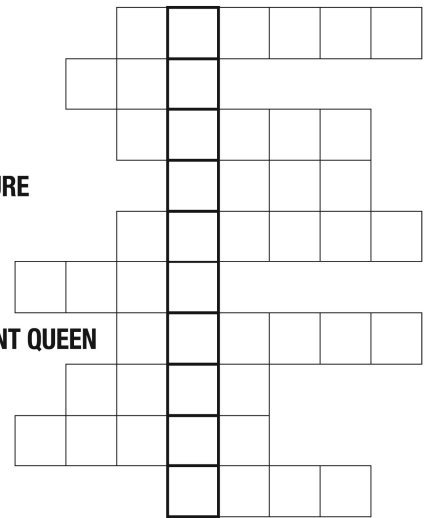
SPHERE

OLD TESTAMENT QUEEN

DISCOVER

CONFIDENCE

ALWAYS



Answer: depart, hat, peace, grow, answer, ball, Esther, find, trust, ever, gentleness

I Surrender!

Everybody eventually surrenders to something or someone. If not to God, you will surrender to the opinions or expectations of others, to money, to resentment, to fear or to your own pride, lusts or ego. You were designed to worship God — and if you fail to worship him, you will create other things (idols) to give your life to.

You are free to choose what you surrender to, but you are not free from the consequences of that choice. E. Stanley Jones said, “If you don’t surrender to Christ, you surrender to chaos.”

—Rick Warren, *The Purpose-Driven Life*



Jalapeno Popper Corn Salad

Submitted by Kerry Wheeler

Prep: 25 min.

Grill: 15 min.

Makes: 8 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 medium onion, quartered
- 2 jalapeno peppers
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 2 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 2 teaspoons ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder

- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 4 cups fresh corn (about 8 ears), cooked and cooled
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded pepper jack cheese
- 1/2 cup crumbled cooked bacon, divided

Directions:

1. Grill onion and jalapenos, covered, over medium-high heat or broil 4 in. from heat 3-5 minutes on each side or until lightly charred. Cool completely; chop into 1/2-inch pieces.

2. Combine the next nine ingredients. Stir in corn, cheeses, half the bacon, and the grilled vegetables. Top with remaining bacon to serve.

Test Kitchen tips: Since the grill is fired up anyway, consider grilling

the corn instead of boiling or steaming it.

To make a lower-fat version, use thick plain yogurt instead of the sour cream, and use reduced-fat mayo and cream cheese.

If spiciness isn't your thing, substitute Swiss cheese for the pepper jack.

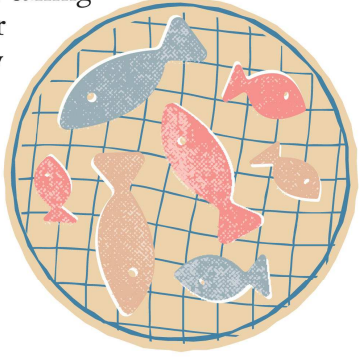
Nutrition Facts

3/4 cup: 476 calories, 40g fat (14g saturated fat), 47mg cholesterol, 616mg sodium, 18g carbohydrate (7g sugars, 2g fiber), 14g protein.

Bible Quiz

In Luke's account of Jesus calling the first disciples from their work as fishermen to follow him and "fish for people" (NIV), which disciple is not named?

- A. James
- B. John
- C. Simon
- D. Andrew



Answer: D (See Luke 5:1-11.)

Got love?

Love asks nothing in return but seeks those who need it. And who needs our love more than those who are consumed with hatred and are utterly devoid of love?

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

+Christian Symbol+

Chi Rho

"Chi" and "rho" are the first two letters in the Greek spelling for Christ (XPICTOC,



pronounced "Christos"). The blending of these two letters into one symbol formed a "sacred monogram." Early Christians created many such symbols as codes to indicate their discipleship while avoiding detection by Roman persecutors. Many variations of the Chi Rho symbol exist, incorporating a cross, a shepherd's crook, the Greek letters alpha and omega, an anchor and other images.'

A MESSAGE OF *Love*

Make this valentine for a family member or friend.



What you need:

- 10 wooden craft sticks
- Painter's tape
- Markers
- A photo and glue (optional)
- Craft knife (and adult help)
- Ribbon or a rubber band

What you do:

1. Set the sticks side by side. Secure with two tape strips.
2. Flip the sticks over. Draw (or glue on) a picture or write a message or Bible verse. If using glue, let dry.
3. Flip the sticks again and remove tape. If you glued on a photo, have an adult help cut the sticks (and photo) apart.
4. Secure the sticks with ribbon or a rubber band.
5. Deliver the gift and invite the recipient to assemble the puzzle.

Mission Update

We kick off this month asking you to bring a can of food (or two) as our youth collect non-perishable foods for donations to the Center of Hope and the Revival food pantries on Feb. 3rd, Super Bowl Sunday. We of course will continue collecting food throughout the year, along with craft and school supplies for the Head Start program at the reservation and the Hechos Dos ministry in Guatemala.

Your Mission committee will meet at 11 a.m., on February 4th, and anyone may attend as we begin planning for our various events later in the year. Please read the information posted on the Narthex bulletin board, as most of the agencies we help support keep us updated via newsletters, notes, or letters of thanks.

As written by James, "Every generous act of giving...is from above" (James 1:17), First Presbyterian's response to various requests for donations or toys or whatever is for sure God acting via each of you in various ways. Your response to help our Christmas families (we ended up helping three families with total of 12 children) resulted in donations of 67 wrapped gifts plus cash of \$240 which resulted in several more items for each child. Was this not an act of God?

Thank you for your past involvement and I pray that we can continue to serve God by giving to others.

Chuck Davidson, Mission Chair

IF WE LOVE
ONE ANOTHER,
GOD
LIVES IN US
AND HIS
LOVE
IS MADE
COMPLETE IN US.

1 JOHN 4:12, NIV



Celebrate!



- Hershel & Phyllis Mackey, 02/09
- Rick & Susie Nobles, Jr., 02/14
- Steven & Linda Eckert, 02/23



- Aidan Heredia, 02/20
- Rafael Heredia, 02/20
- Beverly Davidson, 02/21
- Carla Gore, 02/21

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

A "Big Thank You" and "Hug" for all the women that furnished food for our lunch in January, and for all that helped with the set up before and clean up afterwards. Another "Big Thanks" to all who attended our lunch and donated money towards the Presbyterian Women's mission funds for this year. We are waiting on a final count but it appears to be close to \$400. Thank you again!

Plan to join us February 11th, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 2 of the Fellowship Hall, for our Bible Study meeting. Bonnie will be leading us in Lesson 6 of our Study of *God's Promise I Am With You – God with Us Through Our Trials*.

Remember: there will be new pages to color along with our lesson and maybe a special Valentine treat. Call Beverly Davidson (936-969-3277/713-417-4958), or Bonnie Laverty (713-557-0410) with any questions.

LET'S CONNECT!



Online:
www.fpclivingston.com
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Our Sunday Services

- Adult Bible Study – 9:00 a.m., FH
- Worship - 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
- Kid Zone (for children ages 5 & older) - 10:00 a.m., Activity Bldg.
- Nursery available for children ages infant through 4