



# First Presbyterian Church *Tidings*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | 910 N WASHINGTON  
LIVINGSTON, TEXAS | APRIL 2020

## A modern-day parable

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables about the precious being lost and, at great lengths, found again. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like that. But most of us don't shepherd sheep and wouldn't fret over one lost coin. A child, on the other hand...

In fall 2019, as night fell in northern Minnesota, 6-year-old Ethan and his dog wandered off. Family and police grew frantic because the area consisted of fields, woods and swamps. Authorities requested assistance.

The kingdom of heaven, Jesus might say, is like 600 volunteers searching diligently in the dark for a child they didn't know. It's like Steve Fines who, though also a stranger to the boy, grabbed his company's pricy heat-seeking drone and worked the camera for hours, until it detected Ethan huddling with his dog, safe but cold. Yes, the kingdom of heaven — indeed God — is like people giving their all and refusing to quit until the lost one is found.

## Loosed from death

Almost 100 years ago, one-time U.K. poet laureate John Masefield wrote a play called *The Trial of Jesus*. In it, the centurion who oversaw Jesus' execution returns to give Pontius Pilate an official report. When Pilate's wife requests and receives details about the crucifixion, she asks, "Do you think he is dead?" Despite what he had witnessed, the centurion answers, "No, lady, I don't."

Confused, Pilate's wife inquires, "Then where is he?" The man's response: "Let loose in the world, where none can stop his truth."

Indeed, as 2 Timothy 2:9 (ESV) attests, "The word of God is not bound!"

## Church Events

*(Please note all scheduled meetings and events are subject to change or cancellation due to the Coronavirus)*

- **Apr 1<sup>st</sup> - Lenten Soup & Supper Service, 5 p.m., FH**
- **Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> - Evangelism Meeting, 6 p.m., FH**
- **Apr 5<sup>th</sup> - Palm Sunday; Communion Service, 10 a.m.**
- **Apr 9<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday; Seder Feast, 5 p.m., FH**
- **Apr 10<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday Service with Communion; 5 p.m., Sanctuary**
- **Apr 12<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunrise Service, 7 a.m., FH; Breakfast, 8 a.m., FH; Easter Service, 10 a.m.; Fellowship Luncheon after the Service**
- **Apr 13<sup>th</sup> - PW Circle Meeting, 1:30 p.m.**
- **Apr 16<sup>th</sup> - Session Meeting, 5:30 p.m., FH**
- **Apr 17<sup>th</sup> - *Tidings* articles due**
- **Apr 19<sup>th</sup> - Deacons Meeting after the 10 a.m. Service, FH**

# TREBLE CLEF

The LENTEN season is underway with one special number from the choir each Sunday through Easter. You are invited to join us as we celebrate the season.

A special THANK YOU to the choir members that are there each Wednesday and Sunday. Your efforts are very much appreciated. Our prayers go out to the ones

who are traveling and wish them a safe trip back to us. For those who are sick, we pray for a speedy recovery.

The choir will take their summer break starting in June. We will miss having them in the choir loft. They will be back the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in September. Choir rehearsals will start in August.

June, July and August will be our favorite hymn months. Please make your choice on the sheets that are passed out in May.

If you would like to present a solo, duet, quartet or instrumental, please sign up in the choir room for the date you would like to sing. We would love to feature talent within the choir or outside the choir.

The choir covets your prayers as we plan the next step in our journey.

*To Ann Hogg,*  
**936 223-7330**


*Music Director*



?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon until three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does not mention this event?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John

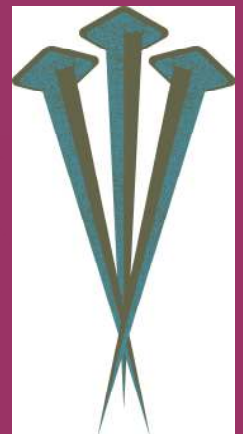


Answer: D (See Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19.)

## +Christian Symbol+

### Nails

Nails symbolize Jesus' passion and suffering because they were used at his Crucifixion. They are often depicted in groups of three because two nails were used to secure Jesus' hands, and a third was used to secure his feet. Three nails are also used to identify Jesus as a member of the Holy Trinity.



## A reason to laugh

The week after Easter, some churches observe Holy Humor Sunday — a tradition dating back to the fourth century. Early Christian theologians coined the term “risus paschalis,” or “the Easter laugh,” saying God played the supreme joke on death. Some believers celebrated Bright Monday, gathering the day after Easter to mock Satan’s defeat.

On the first day of April, remember that “we are fools for Christ” (1 Corinthians 4:10, NIV). Then later in the month, take time to smile and laugh, knowing that victory is yours, thanks to Jesus.





FROM OUR  
**PASTOR**

## Don't let them do it, Ed

A young boy was coming home from fishing in his favorite fishing brook when he stumbled and fell into some briars, skinning his knee and leg. Though it was painful he didn't give it much thought and went on doing what any young boy would do on a summer day. That night he went to bed, and when he awoke in the morning the pain in his leg had increased and it had begun to swell. Still not taking it too seriously he went about his day playing with his friends and enjoying his summer. The next day, however, things were much worse; the pain now unbearable and the swelling now serious. His parents took him to the doctor, and after examining the leg the doctor told the boy and his parents that the infection was so advanced that he might have to amputate the leg. "What does that mean?" the boy asked. "It means that we might have to remove your leg, son," said the doctor. The boy replied with tears in his eyes, "No, no, you will not cut off my leg." While the parents continued talking with the doctor the boy called his brother into the examining room and said, "Don't let them do it Ed, don't let them. If they put me to sleep don't let them take my leg off."

As the parents continued to talk with the doctor they noticed their son Ed standing at the door of the examining room with his legs spread apart, his arms crossed, and a determined look on his face that said, without words, 'you will not cut my brother's leg off'. The doctor told the parents that he had done all that he could do and to take the boy home, but that if he were not better in the morning then the leg would have to be removed to save his life. Being a strong Christian family, they went home and Ed urged his parents to pray and to call the church to have them pray. They did, and somewhere in the middle of the night the boy's fever broke, and in the morning the swelling began to go down. Over the next few days the leg healed normally and everyone thanked God for His healing. Many years later, when Dwight David Eisenhower was elected President of the United States in 1952, a reporter stated to his mother, "You must be very proud of your son." To which she replied, thinking also of her other son, Ed, "Which one?"

God is a bit like brother Ed, isn't He? When the world says we are going to remove your joy, or peace, or faith the Holy Spirit spreads His legs, crosses His arms, and says, "Not on my watch."

Blessings, Pastor Joe MacDonald



As I write this report, I do not anticipate having a Mission committee meeting on April 6th. I do expect the church to remain closed to groups of 10 or more for several weeks. I pray that each of you stays as healthy as possible and that basic supplies are available. Check the local paper or county websites for updates on health and safety guidelines.

I do anticipate Camp Cho Yeh operating in June so if you do have young ones who might want to attend camp, either overnight or during the day, tis time to check out camp sessions while you have the time at home. Go to [www.cho-yeh.org](http://www.cho-yeh.org) to get details; we will be able to assist with funding for children and grandchildren of our members. Let me know once you are registered.

If we do return to church prior to April 12th, which is Easter, we will participate in the One Great Hour of Sharing. If not, do what you can to help those in need and keep in contact with family and friends. While a bat may have begun this virus, God can help us overcome it. Follow both local, state, and Federal alerts and take care of those close to you.

Chuck Davidson, Mission Chair

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

As we write this message we are praying all will be better so we can gather again for our meeting on April 13, 2020.

All women of the Church and all friends are welcome on April 13th, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 2 of the Fellowship Hall for our meeting and lesson. This eighth lesson will be *Love Carved in Stone – Words of Love: Speak Truthfully* as we continue to look at the Ten Commandments this year.

There are no hostesses for April, but snacks will be provided after the meeting.

Call Beverly Davidson (936-969-3277/713-417-4958) or Bonnie Laverty (713-557-0410) with any questions.

# Celebrate!

## APRIL Birthdays

- Joe MacDonald, 04/04
- Joan Fluker, 04/09
- Larry Ketterling, 04/11
- Elena Walrath, 04/11
- Karen Palmer, 04/12
- Joyce Houck, 04/14
- Evin Howell, 04/16
- Fred Durham, 04/23
- Rose Osborne, 04/26
- Debra Dawson, 04/30
- Bonnie Laverty, 04/30
- Donna Swanson, 04/30

## APRIL Anniversaries

- Jerry & Rosalind Wiedman, 04/23
- Mark & Jane Nye, 04/29

## “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face;  
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

—Elizabeth C. Clephane



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### Our Sunday Schedule

- “Signs of the Times” (Pastor Joe’s Class) - 8:45 a.m., FH, Rm. 2
  - Kid Zone - 9:00 a.m., Rm. 202, AB
  - Middle School - 9:00 a.m., Rm. 206, AB
  - Adult Bible Study – 9:00 a.m., FH, Rm. 1
    - Worship - 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
  - Nursery available for children ages infant through 4

