

First Presbyterian Church

Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | 910 N WASHINGTON AV
LIVINGSTON, TEXAS | JUNE 2020

TOO GREAT TO GRASP

For more than three decades, St. Augustine of Hippo toiled over the mind-boggling doctrine of the Trinity. According to legend, one day the church father was strolling along a shore, wrestling with this puzzle. He saw a boy running back and forth, using a seashell to pour water from the ocean into a hole he'd dug in the sand. When Augustine asked what he was doing, the boy proclaimed, "I'm going to pour the entire ocean into this hole!"

"That's impossible," replied Augustine. "The sea is so great, and

the shell and the hole are so little."

"That's true," the boy said. "But it would be easier to draw all the water out of the sea and fit it into this hole than for you to fit the mystery of the Trinity and his divinity into your little intellect."

Indeed, only through faith can we accept the infinite nature of our Three-in-One God; for our finite human minds, it's simply too great to grasp.



Special Dates

- June 7th – Trinity Sunday
- June 14th – In-person Church services resume, 10 a.m.; Flag Day
- June 20th - First Day of summer
- June 21st - Father's Day

OUR FATHER

You sum up the whole of New Testament religion if you describe it as the knowledge of God as one's holy Father. If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God's child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.

—J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*



TREBLE CLEF

MISSING IN ACTION ... Our awesome choir started their vacation early this year due to the health crisis that has stopped us doing things we normally do.

Our church will reopen June 14th. We urge any of our choir members to come and sit in the choir loft to help lead the congregation. There won't be specials until approximately September. We will be wearing

masks so make sure you have one.

Ginger Chapman will be playing the piano for hymns, and I will be directing the choir and congregation. Thank you Ginger for your work during the taping sessions.

My new phone number is 936 433-7866.

Jo Ann Hogg, Music Director




Volunteers Needed

- *What?* to serve on this year's Nominating Committee
 - *Why?* to help select church members for leadership roles in the future
 - *When?* to begin work this summer to make recommendations later
 - *Qualifications?* believer in Christ; willingness to serve; Church member
- Contact Chuck Davidson or Ann Wilkins if interested or for more information.

?? ? **Bible Quiz** ? ?

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Which of the following are mentioned in the list that follows?

- A. a time to teach, and a time to learn
- B. a time to mourn, and a time to dance
- C. a time to fast, and a time to eat
- D. a time to work, and a time to rest



Answer: B (See Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.)

Seeing stars

The stars shine over the mountains,
 the stars shine over the sea,
 The stars look up to the mighty God,
 the stars look down on me;
 The stars shall last for a million years,
 a million years and a day,
 But God and I will live and love,
 when the stars have passed away.



-Robert Louis Stevenson

+Christian Symbol+ Olive

The olive branch is a symbol of peace, harmony



and healing. Olive trees provide shelter, as well as oil used for ointment and consecration. The olive branch also represents deliverance from hardships and anxiety because a dove brought an olive leaf back to Noah's ark after the flood ended (Genesis 8:11).





Remember the Drop Cloth

"Put on the whole armor of God"
Ephesians 6:11

Never have we as a society been made more aware of the need to protect ourselves from disease-filled microorganisms as we have during the severe precautions we have been obligated to take during the recent pandemic. Regardless of how we may feel about these extreme steps, the intention was to protect all of us from a super virus as much as possible.

Life is full of potential hazards that can take place if proper preparations are not made to protect against those hazards. For example, just like masks can protect us from viruses, drop cloths can protect things that we value from becoming permanently stained or covered with paint when they are in place. Some of us have to learn the hard way, however, and I confess that recently I was one of the "some of us." What is there about the ego that says, "Oh, I am such a careful painter that I won't spill or drip paint. I really don't need a drop cloth"? That was my mindset recently as I was painting some doors (without any drop cloth or covering in place) and within two minutes, to my horror, I saw splotches of paint fly from my brush and soak into one of my wife's favorite porch pillows. You might know it was oil-based paint so a water cleanup was not going to happen.

Furiously I tried to use mineral spirits to get the paint off the pillow but all I did was smear the paint and add a nauseous aroma to the pillow. Needless to say, that was not one of my more intelligent moves of the day. The deserved consequence will be the replacement of that pillow with a new one as soon as possible. The most painful part of that experience was not so much a stained pillow as the honest realization of my laziness to not be prepared. I am sure you all know that painting something is not hard, but the real work is getting everything ready to paint (clean and prepare the surface, mask off the things you do not want to paint, put down a drop cloth etc.). I thought I could short cut the preparation by "being careful." I could almost hear a little voice in my head after I splattered paint on the pillow say, "How's that working for you?"

The apostle Paul says that there is a critical "spiritual drop cloth" called the armor of God. Because we have an enemy that doesn't just want to soil our life but destroy it, we cannot afford to not have it in place. All the particulars are in Ephesians chapter 6. Don't ever think that you can take short cuts in preparation for life. Remember the "drop cloth."

Blessings, Pastor Joe MacDonald

Property

We are not isolated souls, singular, lonely, called and engaged in a solitary effort. We are members of a great Company, and whether we think it or not, we pray in Company.

-John Lynch

It has been a busy month even though there are no church services or meetings. The church property has needs to be met.

Here are a few items above regular maintenance:

- 1.Cleaned/shampooed steps at North side of Act. Bldg.
- 2.Replaced A/C capacitor on F.H. dining room air conditioner.
- 3.Repaired commode in Sanctuary restroom.
- 4.Had lawn mower repaired.
- 5.Replaced osmosis filters in kitchen.
- 6.Had property exterminated
- 7.Sprinkler system put back in service.
- 8.Replaced A/C filters.
- 9.Repainted water stain on ceiling in church parlor.

Prayers for the community take precedence over those for ourselves...and he who sets its claim above his private interests is especially acceptable to God.

-Flavius Josephus

We miss our community of believers and pray for their safety during this time. We pray that we will once again be able to come together in Corporate Worship.

Glenn Drumm, Property Chair

Love — the best prayer

He prayeth best who loveth best
All things, both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

-Samuel Taylor Coleridge



Celebrate!

JUNE Anniversaries

- Tom & Ruth Dominy, 06/03
- Jere & Sarah Hamilton, 06/08
- Ervin & Patricia Herrmann, 06/13
- Glenn & Georgina Drumm, 06/15
- David & Robin Sessums, 06/16
- Harry & Judy Bristol, 06/27

JUNE Birthdays

- Jamie Nixon, 06/01
- David Hancock, 06/03
- Jere Hamilton, 06/07
- Betty Baker, 06/09
- Sarah Hamilton, 06/13
- Shona Heredia, 06/22
- Patricia Herrmann, 06/23
- Jo Ann Hogg, 06/25
- Gene Jensen, 06/25
- June Moore, 06/27
- Jay Walrath, 06/27

MISSIONS HEADLINES

What a spring/summer, right? While no Special Offerings have been done since our closure, we did get one email requesting funds for a wood chipper to be used in Guatemala. I have authorized Mission to expend \$450 from the designated Congo Mission Fund Balance to be used to assist in this purchase. Your Mission committee has not met recently, but for sure our prayers have gone to those impacted by both COVID-19 and the Onalaska tornado, and our funding to Center of Hope is being used to help folks in the greater Livingston community. A special thanks to both Robin Sessums and Mark Nye for continuing to send out our donations to local agencies who continue to serve those in need.

I suspect some of you will be returning to church once it opens in June, and I want you to know that now is the time to consider purchasing/donating shoes and socks for Kids Free Clothing Exchange. We do need to begin collecting these for August distribution. A container in the Narthex can be used for your donations.

Stay home, or if out, be safe and practice the appropriate behavior. Mission will not meet in June, but hopefully by July will meet in person.

Chuck Davidson, Mission Chair



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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