



First Presbyterian Church

Tidings

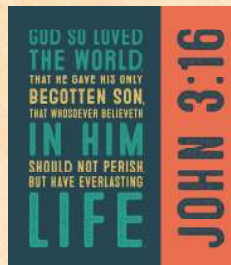
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | 910 N WASHINGTON AVE | LIVINGSTON, TX 77351
OCTOBER 2020

THE BEST MEDICINE

Near the end of his life, Protestant reformer Martin Luther suffered debilitating headaches. When told about a costly medicine that might offer some relief, Luther smiled and said, "My best prescription for head and heart is that 'God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.'"

That Bible verse became a refrain for Luther on his deathbed.

"What Spartan saying can be compared with this wonderful brevity," he said of John 3:16. "It is the Bible itself!" After repeating the words of that Gospel-in-a-nutshell verse three times in Latin, Luther exclaimed, "They are the best prescription for headaches and heartaches!"



Important Dates

- Oct 1st - Session Meeting, 5 p.m., FH
- Oct 4th - World Communion Sunday; Peace & Global Witness Special Offering
- Oct 5th – Mission Meeting 11 a.m.

A SINGULAR FOCUS

When we try to focus on too many things at once, sometimes we end up doing nothing well. During a visit to their house (see Luke 10:38-42), Jesus tells Martha that only one thing is needed and that Mary has chosen rightly. Surely Jesus doesn't mean that quiet devotion is needed while serving others is not. But when we let ourselves get "worried and distracted by many things," we may lose sight of the one crucial thing: love.

St. Francis is credited with the following quote: "God came to my house and asked for charity. And I fell on my knees and cried, 'Beloved, what may I give?' 'Just love,' God said. 'Just love.'"

And in Galatians 5:6 (NRSV), St. Paul writes, "For in Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love." Amid all the worthy pursuits that fill your days, remember to choose rightly — by choosing love.

Secret Sisters

Shall we keep Secret Sisters going? I hope so.

There is a lot of comfort in knowing that someone is thinking of me, praying for me. I've also found that taking my mind off my own needs and praying for a secret sister made me feel better.

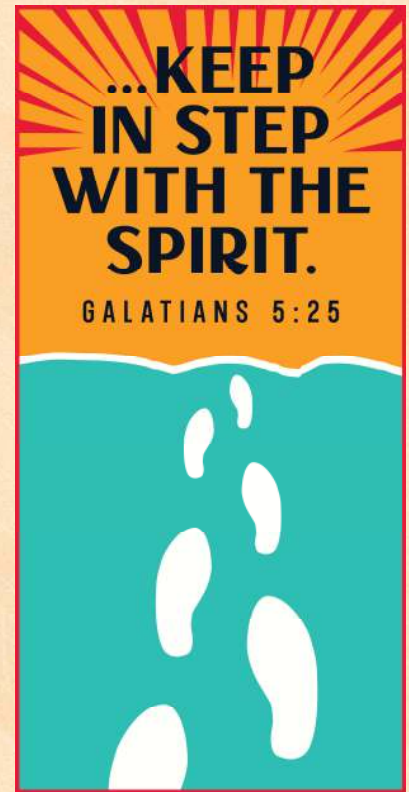
If COVID-19 and other factors make going to church or shopping/making a sister gift & delivering it just too much hassle - let's look at keeping this SIMPLE.

May we consider connecting through cards and letters, using US Postal Service? Wrap and deliver no packages his year? We could make it our focus to pray for one another - on a deeper, more sister specific level. I encourage you to share your ideas by writing them on your S.S. Questionnaire or by calling or texting me at 832-541-5967.

Some of you who attended the Revelation

Ice Cream Party took questionnaires to fill out. There is a burgundy and floral folder on the Secret Sisters shelf in the narthex where I collect them. More forms are in that folder for your use. Take and complete the questionnaire, fold in half and slip into folder's left pocket. Or, mail it to: Jamie Nixon, 202 Rainbow Dr. #10268, Livingston, TX 77399. I'd be happy to mail you a form. Phone number is above.

Jamie Nixon,
Secret Keeper



Revival Food Pantry Statistics

Month	Family's Served	Individual's Served
2019		
May	186	304
June	163	501
July	173	489
August	159	529
September	208	661
October	186	559
November	261	888
December	214	707
2020		
January	154	504
February	159	559
March	159	557
April	115	378
May (Tornado)	700	2372
June	201	941
July	228	532
August	217	418

There Once was a Man

By Tommy Fluker

There once was a man, paused at death's door
Who said, get me thru this Lord, and I'll come back
once more

Everything's gone great for me, that is, up until
now

I'll be back in your house Lord, and that's my vow

There once was a man, who meant what he said
You've answered my prayers, or I'd surely be dead
I'll be back in your house Lord, just you wait and
see

It's so good to know Lord, you're always there for
me

There once was a man, though given back his life
Lived just as he had before and blamed it all on
strife

I'll be back in your house Lord, don't give up on me
Though I can't say for sure, just when that will be

There once was a man, who watched the years roll
by

Who finally kept his vow, Lord, and that man was I

Special Offering: Peace and Global Witness October 4, 2020

First Presbyterian Church in the past has generously supported the four (PC)USA Special Offerings, but due to COVID, we have not participated in the One Great Hour of Sharing or the Pentecost Offering. Your Mission Committee would like us to be part of the Peace and Joy Gift Special Offerings (October 4 and December 20), thus this letter.

This year's theme is "May the God of Peace give you peace at all times in all ways" (2 Thessalonians 3:16) as we have all faced discord, anxiety, health and financial concerns, perhaps even fear in 2020. We must embrace God's reconciling love for all of us, and one way is to be active peacemakers in our own communities.

Gifts this year help fund educational assistance for our veterans, support the works of those in missions around the world, and will help provide assistance to local, Presbytery/Synod and international peace and witness efforts.

- 25% of offerings remain local and will be sent to the Revival Food Pantry
- 25% will be sent to our Presbytery and synod
- 50% goes to the Presbyterian Mission Agency

Please consider writing a check to "First Presbyterian" and insert "Peace" in the note space. Donations may be made all of October. On your own or with family and friends, may you with God's help strive to find peace within, in your relationships, in your community and in all of your social interactions.

Chuck Davidson, Mission Chair



A grateful "thank you" to those who have taken, filled, and wrapped a shoebox (or two) for the Port of Houston seamen. While the Seamen's Center accepts boxes year-round, our goal is to deliver them for use by our Presbyterian chaplains in early December, so the more filled the more happy seamen.

Your Mission committee (next year's Outreach Committee) met on Sept. 15th and worked on the 2021 budget which will include discipleship, evangelism, continued organizational support and possibly some special service projects. Some of these may not have budgets such as Special Offerings via (PC)USA, but input and participation from you is always appreciated. We are all working in a transition period so God will give us guidance and hopefully a vision for the future. The October meeting is set for the 5th at 11 a.m., in FH, and anyone may attend.


We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the Center of Hope, along with craft items for the Alabama-Coushatta Head Start program, and eyeglasses for Lions International. KFCE and the Revival Food Pantry are both up and serving the greater Onalaska community. Bonnie Laverty is our link to KFCE and she loves finding new shoes etc. in the Narthex. Revival in August served 217 families and 418 individuals. Please check the Narthex bulletin board for recent letters and notes from various organizations you help support.

Chuck Davidson, Mission Chair

Bible Quiz

In Jesus' parable about people who hear and live by God's words, on what did the wise man build his house?

- A. rock
- B. sand
- C. grassland
- D. soil that was free of rocks



Answer: A (See Matthew 7:24-27.)

Celebrate!

OCTOBER Birthdays

- Tommy Fluker, 10/01
- Ann Wilkins, 10/05
- Paul Laverty, 10/08
- Gavyn Heredia, 10/13
- Barbara Neal, 10/13
- Jim Meyer, 10/15
- Sean Sessums, 10/26
- Pam Stoops, 10/29

OCTOBER Anniversaries

- Tommy & Joan Fluker, 10/05

QUOTES

“One can never consent to creep when one feels an impulse to soar.”

—Helen Keller

* * *

“Faith consists in believing what reason cannot.”

—Voltaire

* * *

“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you’re doing the impossible.”

—Unknown

* * *

“Nothing [is] more truly artistic than to love people.”

—Vincent Van Gogh



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Our Worship Schedule

Sundays - 10:00 a.m.