

# First Presbyterian Church *Tidings*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER 2020

910 N WASHINGTON AVE  
LIVINGSTON, TEXAS, 77351

## GROWING THROUGH GRATITUDE

Thankfulness, studies show, has multiple physical, mental and emotional benefits. Psychologist Robert Emmons calls gratitude “fertilizer for the mind” because of its powerful effects.

He admits gratitude isn’t always easy — especially when life throws us curveballs (see the year 2020) — but says it can be most helpful during and after difficulties. Emmons suggests reframing challenges using thankfulness-based language.

Ask, for example: Though I wasn’t grateful for the experience at the time, how can I be now? What lessons did I learn, and how did I grow as a person?

Throughout his letters, the apostle Paul reframes his extensive sufferings and urges us to do the same. “Give thanks in all circumstances,” he writes, “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV).



## SURREPTITIOUS SAINTS

One of the most gracious dispensations of God concerning his saints is their lovely unawareness of sanctity. The nearer they move to him, the more conscious are they of sin. If it were impossible at times not to note their own growth in grace, it were impossible also to forget that it was all by his power. If they could be persuaded to admit their progress and talk of it at all, the language of their heart would be this: “If God could do this in me, he could do it in anyone.”

—W.E. Sangster

## Important Dates and Events

- Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> - All Saints’ Day; Daylight saving time ends
- Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mission Meeting, 11 a.m., FH
- Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> – Election Day
- Nov 9<sup>th</sup> – PW Circle Meeting, FH
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> – Veterans Day
- Nov 12<sup>th</sup> – Session Meeting, 5 p.m., FH
- Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – *Tidings* articles due
- Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mission Sunday
- Nov 26<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day; office closed Nov 26-27.
- Nov 29<sup>th</sup> – First Sunday of Advent





A special thank you to:  
Each of you who has participated by singing specials or performing an instrumental during the virus period. It means a lot to our church family to have this as part of our worship.

We would also like to add other music to our program and invite you to contact me at (936)

443-7866 or sign up on the book that is on the corner of my desk. Two weeks notice is appreciated to allow time to get everything set up and ready for your performance.

We also appreciate the congregation singing along with us to add another level of praise.

Jo Ann Hogg, Music Director

## Secret Sisters

To all you gals waiting to hear how and when you'll become/get a Secret Sister, just fill out your form (blanks are in Sunday School file folder in narthex), or call me at 832-541-5967. Return it BY SUNDAY, NOV. 1, to that same file folder or mail it to me by that date. My address: 202 Rainbow Dr. #10268, Livingston, TX 77399.

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, I'll fold, shuffle and randomly pick a form for each participant. As I record the results I will verify that it's not the recipient's form and put it in the mail to each participant. Coming Soon! Watch your mailbox for the info. on your Secret Sister! Thank you for your patience.

-Jamie Nixon

## "Give Thanks" Blessings Mix

**Bugles:** Shaped like the cornucopia, a symbol of our abundance

**Pretzels:** Arms folded in prayer, a freedom from those who founded our country

**Candy Corn:** The sacrifice of the Pilgrim's first winter. Food was so scarce they survived on just a few kernels of corn a day

**Nuts/Seeds:** Promise of future harvest-only obtained as we plant and nourish with diligence and faith

**M&Ms:** Memories of those who came before and lead us to a blessed future

**Hershey's Kiss:** The love of family and friends that sweetens our lives

Submitted by Georgina Drumm

?? ? Bible Quiz ? ?

After Jesus healed 10 men at one time, how many returned to thank him? What had been their ailment?

A. five; blindness  
B. all 10; deafness  
C. one; possession by demons  
D. one; leprosy

Thank YOU Jesus

Answer D (See Luke 17:11-19.)

## The Simplest Prayer

An eccentric blind man nicknamed Joybubbles reportedly loved Mr. Rogers so much he listened to 10 hours of the TV show daily until he'd heard them all. One night, when Joybubbles was in a kind of awake dream state, he said Mr. Rogers visited him and offered to teach him how to pray.

Joybubbles protested that he couldn't pray because he always forgot the words. To which Mr. Rogers said not to worry; the prayer he'd teach had only three words. "What kind of prayer has only three words?" Joybubbles asked.

"Thank you, God," Mr. Rogers replied.  
—adapted from *The Wired Word*

## +Christian Symbol+

### St. Andrew's Cross

This cross is a symbol of humility and suffering. It first came into use during the Middle Ages. According to tradition, St.



Andrew was crucified while preaching in Greece. He felt unworthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus, so he begged that his cross be made differently. St. Andrew's cross is the national cross of Scotland. It's also called Cross Saltire.



# SOMEWHERE

By Tommy Fluker

Should a teardrop fall it will quickly vanish  
Yet the sadness from whence it came will often  
languish

Will a cry for help go unheeded  
Or will an answer come that's sorely needed

Will memories last or fade away  
For youth is fleeting and turns to gray  
When petals fall from yesterday's rose  
There's always rain and wind that blows

Smiles that come will never last  
All that's new will be the past  
A mother's love will never die  
Someone will laugh a child will cry


A voice shall shout another sing  
Someone will cast away another bring  
An arm will strike another embrace  
Someone will turn away another face

The sun will rise and greet a day  
Clouds shall come then fade away  
Night will fall and stars to shine  
One shall hunger another dine

Somewhere there's drought elsewhere a flood  
In deserts there's sand somewhere there's mud  
Somewhere a leaf falls and sails on the breeze  
Someone will hurt another please

Somewhere a dog barks and children play  
Somewhere people kill and others pray  
Somewhere a tree falls that's stood for years  
Lightning will strike as a summer storm nears

A baby is born another life's over  
One stays put another's a rover  
Someone takes leave another a wife  
Someone seeks God to be in their life



## Glad gatherings

The first Christians met together over a meal. Today church families still gather to break bread and thank God.

Follow the instructions below. Then write the remaining words in order from left to right and top to bottom to complete the verses.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	They	found	broke	bread	acts	in
2	houses	their	homes	beautiful	and	round
3	ate	world	beginning	together	follow	thought
4	with	numbers	glad	happiness	lesson	and
5	thanks	sincere	disciples	gathering	hearts	tradition
6	celebrate	good	praising	Christian	God	river

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ . ACTS 2:46-47, NIV

Answer: They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God. Acts 2:46-47, NIV

## A meaningful month

Consumerism can prevent us from noticing needs, writes Walter Brueggemann (The Prophetic Imagination). A culture steeped in materialism and greed can "block out the cries of the denied ones ... so that no one discerns misery alive in the heart of God."

In November, we celebrate Thanksgiving, Christ the King Sunday and the start of Advent. What does it mean that Christ is our King? How can we truly give God thanks and prepare for Jesus' coming? It's a good time to ponder what hurts God's heart — and how we can help.

If someone is lonely, perhaps we can invite them to Thanksgiving dinner. If we sense inequality saddening God, we might advocate for fair policies. If God is in pain because some of his children have too little, we can share our resources. In so doing, we welcome Christ the King among us, and give him meaningful thanks.

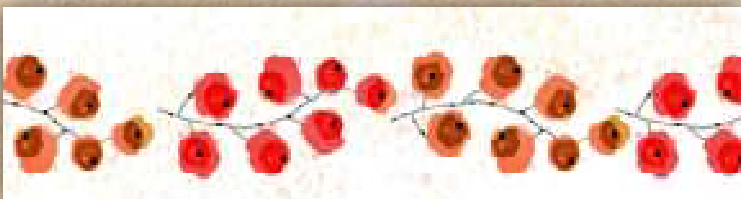


<u>Administration</u>	<u>Congregational Care</u>	<u>Property</u>	<u>Outreach</u>	<u>Worship</u>
Finance	Christian Education	AV System	Evangelism	Communion
Communication	Fellowship	Buildings	Funding of Organizations	Greeters
Office	Luncheons & Special Events	Equipment	Service Activities	Music
Personnel	Membership	Grounds	PCUSA Offerings	Worship Service
Stewardship	Nursery			Ushers

## Christ our feast

Christ is not only a remedy for your weariness and trouble, but he will give you an abundance of the contrary, joy and delight. They who come to Christ do not only come to a resting place after they have been wandering in a wilderness, but they come to a banqueting house where they may rest, and where they may feast. They may cease from their former troubles and toils, and they may enter upon a course of delights and spiritual joys.

—Jonathan Edwards



## Audio/Visual

We are looking for some good people that would like to be a part of our services. We have a great group of men doing the Video Presenter part of the service: Paul Laverty, Jay Walrath, Mark Nye and Doug Palmer. These men are doing a great job and we want to thank them for their service. We have David Sessums and Glenn Drumm doing the sound/video work with Mark Nye volunteering to learn the program. We desire a few more men or women to help in this area. Contact Glenn Drumm if interested in helping to do the Sound program.

Just want to give a big THANK YOU to Paul Laverty for his work in providing the speakers for our Sunday Services.

Chair—Glenn Drumm



# Property

*Friends, when life gets really difficult, don't jump to the conclusion that God isn't on the job. Instead, be glad that you are in the very thick of what Christ experienced. This is a spiritual refining process, with glory just around the corner. (Peterson)*

There has been a lot taken place since our last Tidings in July.

1. Had the buildings exterminated.
2. Had the fire extinguishers inspected.
3. The A/C coils in the unit on the 3rd floor of Activity Bldg. had a leak and froze up. When it thawed it leaked through the ceiling of Rm 2 causing ceiling damage. The coils have been replaced. Ceiling will be repaired.
4. The water damaged the desk in Rm. 2, it is being worked on.
5. The storms in September blew off the flashing around the hot water heater vent on the Fellowship Hall. It is being replaced.
6. The same storm caused an electrical surge to the two security lights on the south end of F.H. bldg., burning them up. Have been replaced.
7. Working on the freezer gasket in F. H.
8. Lawn mower broke down for the 3rd time this year. It has been repaired. Made a special request of Session to purchase a new heavy duty mower. It is not rated as commercial mower, but has a lot of the same parts as a commercial mower. Original cost \$5,840, but have found a dealer to sell it to us for \$4,400. Session approved the purchase. A couple of members have already offered to give funds to the purchase of the new mower. If you would like to also give to this purchase, make check out to church, put mower in memo line. Thank you.

*I bless God every chance I get; my lungs expand with his praise. I live and breathe God; if things aren't going well, hear this and be happy;  
-Psalm 34:1-2*

Glenn Drumm, Property Chair



Your Mission committee (next year's Outreach Team) will meet on Monday, November 2, at 11 a.m., in the FH. Anyone may attend. Our primary focus will be on the budget for 2021. We will also discuss whether or not to participate in this year's Empty Stocking program run by the Polk County Emergency Health Board.

Did you know that last year, the Polk County board disbursed \$21,186.00 to help with medications and health transportation to those eligible families needing emergency assistance? We allocated \$2,250.00 in our budget to help them serve 682 people in 2019.

Our current shoebox drive will end at Thanksgiving and hopefully the seamen at the Port of Houston will start getting them in early December. A special thanks to folks like Nina Dobyms and Jamie Nixon for doing 4-5 boxes a week and to all others who have participated. One problem however, we are running low on empty shoeboxes, so, feel free to donate them too. KFCE has been our chief shoebox donor, so thank you, Bonnie.

May I also thank those who donated to the PCUSA Peace-making special offering?

On Nov. 22nd Mission has volunteered to be responsible for the Word during that Sunday service; we plan on inviting 3-4 folks from local organizations we/you support and having them tell us/you what they are doing. Be prepared to learn how your support is helping folks in this community.

Chuck Davidson, Mission Chair



# Celebrate!

## NOVEMBER Anniversaries

- Glenn & Lee Waybright, 11/01
- Jay & Elena Walrath, 11/27

## NOVEMBER Birthdays

- Patricia Heldenbrand, 11/02
- Justin Howell, 11/05
- Karen Jorgensen, 11/11
- Beth Hancock, 11/12
- Chuck Davidson, 11/19
- Virginia Key, 11/22
- Kathy Nobles, 11/22
- Sam Gore, 11/30

## QUOTES

"The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest."

—William Blake

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"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love."

—St. Therese of Lisieux

\* \* \*

"Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you have not; remember that what you now have was once among the things you only hoped for."

—Epicurus



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## Our Worship Schedule

**Sundays - 10:00 a.m.**