

# First Presbyterian Church *Tidings*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
910 N WASHINGTON AVE  
LIVINGSTON, TEXAS 77351  
APRIL 2024

## The joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or

kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of

fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*



## Christian symbol

**VICTOR'S CROSS** — Also called the conqueror's cross, the victor's cross is composed of the Greek cross, recognized by its four equal arms, adorned with Greek letters in each quadrant. The top left letters stand for Jesus and the top right letters stand for Christ (the horizontal lines above them indicate that they are abbreviations). The four letters across the bottom spell the Greek word for conqueror.



## Special Events

- Apr 3<sup>rd</sup> - Administration Meeting, 9 a.m., AB; Mission Meeting, 11:15 a.m., FH
- Apr 7<sup>th</sup> – Communion Worship Service, 10 a.m., Sanctuary
- Apr 10<sup>th</sup> – Session Meeting, 3 p.m., FH
- Apr 14<sup>th</sup> - Fellowship Luncheon after the Service; Liturgist training after luncheon
- Apr 19<sup>th</sup> - *Tidings* articles due



# Meet Susie Gearing

Susie is the wife of Ray Gearing, a retired Presbyterian minister who attends our church. Susie is bedridden and has been for over 3 years. She has a disease called multiple system atrophy which means her muscles won't work. I asked her when she first came to know Jesus and invite Him into her heart, mind and life as her Lord and Savior. Like many of us, Susie was raised in a church family who believed the fact that Jesus is the Son of God. What she didn't know was there is a difference in believing that as a fact and believing in and having a personal relationship with Jesus, the Word of God made flesh. At this time she was a single mother with 3 children. Taking Jesus into her heart,

mind and life as a real relationship as her Lord and Savior changed her outlook on life from one that all of life was under her control and what she couldn't control was her problem, to the outlook that she looks to God in and through all circumstances in life as He leads her down the path. This decision not only changed her outlook on life, but saw her through a tragedy of losing her teenage son to a hang gliding accident.

When she was told she had this disease she didn't know what it was until she looked it up on the internet. Susie agrees with the apostle Paul in that contentment is a choice. Instead of fear or anger, Susie chose peaceful contentment knowing God

***We have decided to have Greeters at the Sunday services. We are having a volunteer meeting on April 4th, at 2 p.m. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, or if you are interested and cannot attend, please call either 936-327-1278 or 832-319-8152. Hope to see you there.***  
***-Donna Swanson***

## Susie Gearing (continued)

was in charge and knew what is best for His purpose and glory in her life.

Yes, she would like to be out sharing the love and peace of God with others, but she can't. However, she can share the love and peace of God with those who come to visit. When you come to see Susie in her room, you immediately feel the peace and love of God. It not only fills the room but it shows on her face and in her beautiful smile. Feel free to give Ray a call and make a time to come meet Susie for yourself. She loves to hear what God is doing through others and would love to meet you. She does prefer a call before visiting, and afternoons are best. Susie Gearing is a beautiful woman and saint of God through Jesus Christ.

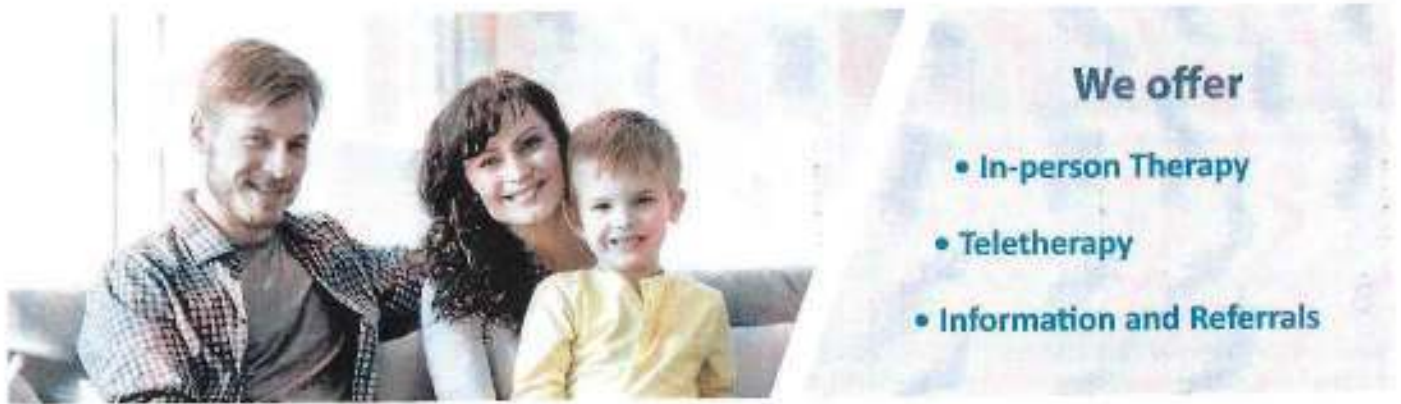
- Ginger Chapman



Jim Gill and John Hirling performing on March 10<sup>th</sup> at COSI concert in FH.



## The Counseling Center at PCHAS



### We offer

- In-person Therapy
- Teletherapy
- Information and Referrals

The Counseling Centers at PCHAS provide strength-based clinical support to individuals and families. Our philosophy of care is to meet our clients where they are and to focus on treatment goals that lead them to a path of growth and healing.

Counseling provides the opportunity to process emotions related to life events and other stressors. We validate a person's emotions and assist them in creating healthy coping skills and self-regulating techniques.

### Counseling Services Includes:

#### Individuals:

anxiety, depression, trauma,  
grief and loss, relationships

#### Couples/Families:

communication, infertility, grief  
and loss, conflict resolution  
skills, Pre-Marital Counseling

#### Children/ Adolescents:

adoption, foster care, trauma, play therapy, social skills,  
bullying, divorce, relationship skills, executive functioning  
skills, anxiety, depression, ADHD, grief and loss

#### Support Groups:

adoptee support group, grief and loss, major life changes,  
social skill building, teen support groups

Therapy is offered virtually or in-person

Family Centered

Strength Focused

Goal Driven



*Individuals learn how to develop healthy boundaries and relationships, and to identify negative or illogical thinking that contributes to feelings of hopelessness.*

*Adults and children develop a more positive outlook on their life and gain hope for a brighter future with guidance from a trusted, unbiased resource. Our work is Christ-centered in that we work compassionately and not in judgment of our clients.*

## Program Location:

**10242 Greenhouse Rd., #501  
Cypress, Texas 77433**

To make an appointment,  
please call **281.949.8694**

### Referrals

PCHAS receives referrals for individual, family and group therapy from local professionals as well as other agencies, schools and mental health facilities. PCHAS provides counseling services to its clients in a non-threatening manner as part of our effort to strengthen families and keep them together.

PCHAS therapists do not offer psychiatric services such as medication management but work with local providers to ensure a smooth continuum of care. If a client's needs cannot be met by The Counseling Center, a referral will be made to an agency or provider better equipped to accommodate the presenting needs or concerns.

### Fees

Funding for counseling is accepted from several private insurances and self pay. If electing self-pay, PCHAS accepts several forms of payment, including checks, money orders, debit cards and major credit cards.

### PCHAS in the Community

PCHAS established its Counseling Centers to contribute to the mental wellness of the communities it serves. In addition to counseling, PCHAS offers an array of programs that serve children and families including Foster Care & Adoption, Single-Parent Family, Child & Family and Transitional Living for Young Adults.

## Suicide Hotline

If you or someone else is considering suicide please  
call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at:

**988**



Presbyterian Children's  
Homes and Services™

[pchas.org](http://pchas.org)



# Mission Team Update

Your Mission team met on March 6th, with seven members present.

Our next COSI event is set for May 9th, with Jimmy Simmons performing at 5pm. The Jim Gill/John Hirling event was outstanding.

The “One Great Hour of Sharing” special offering ends on Easter Sunday and the next PCUSA special offering is Pentecost, set for May 19th. The Revival Food Pantry in Onalaska will be sent 40 percent of those May donations. Also, we continue to accept peanut butter, mac and cheese, etc.

We hope to set up a Mission Sunday soon and update

membership on some of the local organizations we support. Review letters, etc., on our bulletin board in the Narthex.

Please check out elsewhere in this edition the new counseling center set up by PCHAS. Pass it on to anyone who might want to get some guidance.

Hechos Dos hopes to fill a container stored at COH and head south once it is full and funds are secured. Small items can be stored in Room 1 of FH.


Our next Mission meeting is set for April 3rd, at 11:15 a.m., in Room 2 of FH.

Chuck Davidson, Chair

**Bible Quiz**

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples – twice – when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. “Love one another as I have loved you.”
- B. “Peace be with you.”
- C. “The last shall be first and the first shall be last.”
- D. “I am risen!”



Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21)

## Superimposed love

Maybe you’ve heard how salvation is like a total solar eclipse: God doesn’t see our sins because Jesus’ holiness covers them completely. Or maybe you’ve heard how trials can cause an “eclipse of faith.”

At WorldChallenge.org, Pastor Gary Wilkerson explains that in Greek, eclipse means “I am absent” or “I cease to exist,” because people once thought the gods temporarily extinguished the sun. “For Christians, a ‘spiritual eclipse’ is a dark hour when God seems to be absent from our lives,” Wilkerson writes.

Wilkerson points to Peter being sifted like wheat, Elijah and Jeremiah facing extreme discouragement, and David collapsing morally. Amid Satan’s attacks, “God seems completely absent,” writes the pastor. “In that dark moment of eclipse, the devil has created such chaos we can’t possibly see a way out.” During times of testing, Christians must cry out to God and trust his faithfulness.

Completing the eclipse analogy, Wilkerson shares Titus 3:4, the “love of God our Savior appeared” (NIV). The Greek meaning of appeared here is superimposed, he writes. God looks on our fraught-filled times of eclipse and “superimposes his divine love over us.”

# Dr. Jimmy Simmons in Concert

## See the famous Jimmy Simmons in concert for free!



Dr. James M. Simmons, President Emeritus, Lamar University, recording artist and conductor, will perform live, in concert on Thursday, May 9 at 5:00 at First Presbyterian Church, Livingston. Dr. Simmons has performed with some of the most well-known celebrities in the entertainment world. Some of the impressive celebrities include Frank Sinatra, Burt Bacharach, Dionne Warwick, Ray Charles, Rosemary Clooney, Natalie Cole, The Four Tops, Dinah Shore, Connie Stevens, Eddie Arnold and many more. Dr. Simmons has his recordings (CDs) available on Amazon and iTunes.

Come and enjoy an hour of fabulous  
music and fellowship.  
First Presbyterian Church is located at  
901 N Washington, Livingston.



# Administration Team

We met on March 6th at 9 a.m., with six members present. We opened with prayer.

A discussion was held on the purchase of the new sign, which has been ordered, at a cost of about \$25,000, and our donation thus far is about \$16,000. The rest will be paid for out of the checking account. Donations are encouraged to make up the rest. It will be installed on the same post as the old sign, by Joe Palmer and David Sessums, saving us the installation fee.

We discussed an advertisement in the new maps the Chamber of Commerce is selling. All were in favor of it. Price is \$550.00, and 10,000 copies will be printed. The ad will run for three years. It would be paid for out of promotion/PR budget.

We talked about live streaming our church services. Paul Laverty is checking this out.

Donna Swanson thinks we need a greeter each Sunday at the main door. She will bring this idea up at the next Worship Team Meeting.

Our next meeting is April 3rd, at 9 a.m., in the Activity Building.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Lou Anderson

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## Meeting on April 8th Canceled.

Due to the solar eclipse that day, many have plans to be out of town for better viewing. Make sure you have the correct glasses if planning to view this eclipse to avoid any eye issues.

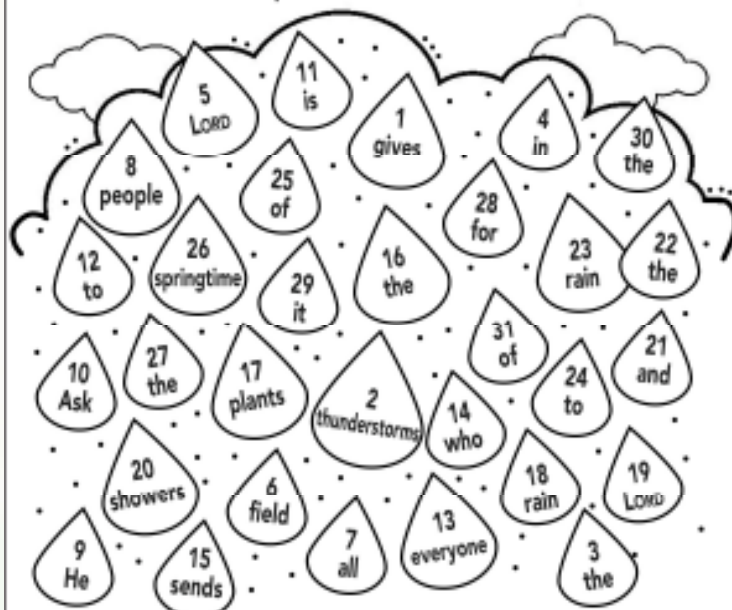
In May we will combine lessons eight and nine. We will also be taking up the Birthday Offering.

We still need someone to decide and coordinate a sewing project for 2024. Maybe over the summer? Contact Bonnie if you are willing to volunteer.

-Beverly Davidson

# Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



\_\_\_\_\_ 10 \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 28 \_\_\_\_\_ 18  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_ 22 \_\_\_\_\_ 26 \_\_\_\_\_ ;  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 29 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 15  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 27 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 31 \_\_\_\_\_ 23  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 12 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 21 \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 25  
 \_\_\_\_\_ 30 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 24 \_\_\_\_\_ 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Zechariah 10:1, NIV

Answer: Ask the LORD for rain in the springtime; it is the LORD who sends the thunderstorms. He gives showers of rain to all people, and plants of the field to everyone. Zechariah 10:1, NIV



# Celebrate!



- Rev. John & Terri Hirling, 04/13
- Jerry & Rosalind Wiedman, 04/23
- Joan Fluker, 04/09
- Larry Ketterling, 04/11
- Elena Walrath, 04/11
- Karen Palmer, 04/12
- Joyce Howard, 04/14
- Evin Howell, 04/16
- Fred Durham, 04/23
- Debra Dawson, 04/30
- Bonnie Laverty, 04/30
- Donna Swanson, 04/30



## Quotes

“The cross is both the symbol of our salvation and the pattern of our lives.” —Brennan Manning

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“Blossom by blossom the spring begins.” —Algernon C. Swinburne

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“If you are ignorant of God’s Word, you will always be ignorant of God’s will.” —Billy Graham

\* \* \*

“Do something you really love in the most adventurous place you can and make sure it helps other people.” —Diane Sawyer



Website:  
[www.fpclivingston.com](http://www.fpclivingston.com)  
Email:  
[fpclivingston.com](mailto:fpclivingston.com)  
Phone: (936) 327-8381  
Fax: (936) 327-4719  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., M-F

**Sunday Schedule**  
**Friendship Bible Class - 9 a.m.**  
**Worship - 10 a.m.**  
**Adult Bible Study - 11 a.m.**  
**Wednesdays**  
**Prayer Group - 1 p.m.**  
**Adult Bible Study - 2 p.m.**