

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2021



Pastor's Paragraphs

Normally I would use this space to write some devotional type message, something uplifting or seasonal. This time of year I would write about Lent and Easter. But not this year! This article is all about news. *Good news!* And couldn't we all use a big dose of good news!

To begin with, you may have heard the announcement yesterday on our live-streamed service that the Session voted to go back to in-person worship on Sunday, February 21. That is great news! I, for one, am more than ready to see your smiling faces in the pews. Hopefully more of you will be in attendance as people are beginning to get the vaccine. Now we are looking forward to the day when it is safe for everyone to attend with no masks and sitting side by side!

And as we begin to re-open even more, the committees will be able to meet in person. Most of the committee moderators will stay the same as last year, but we have three new moderators: Beth McHenry-Pope will moderate the CE committee, Larry Davis will moderate the Personnel committee, and Susan Andrews will moderate the Diaconate. Many thanks to them for agreeing to moderate these important committees. Beth is very anxious for the children to be back in Sunday School, and hopefully that will happen in the near future. These are the other moderators:

Dan Boyles - Stewardship and Nominating

Cordell Klein - Worship

Stephanie Jackson - Evangelism

Kurt Andrews - Building and Grounds

And last but not least, we have scheduled the Ordination and Installation of Officers for these dates:

Elders - Sunday, February 21

Deacons - Sunday, February 28

Please mark these dates on your calendar and be in attendance to welcome these who have very faithfully agreed to serve for the next three years.

The years ahead will be very important in the life of our church. We were just beginning to grow in numbers - we had 7 new members in 3 months before we had to close because of the virus. And our programs and ministries were busy with what we do best - serving others! Please pray for these new and returning officers as they lead us toward a bright future of ministry to the community and each other.

Faithfully yours,
Dianne

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

9:00 a.m. Frick & Frack Sunday School - Zoom

MONDAY

6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Annex

WEDNESDAY

6:30 p.m. Bible Study-Zoom

THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. Angel Quilts

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY, February 7

11:00 p.m. Worship/Communion - On Line

MONDAY, February 8

1:00 p.m. PW Coordinating Team Meeting - Zoom

TUESDAY, February 9

10:00 a.m. Beck/Greisser Circle - Fellowship Hall/Zoom

5:15 p.m. Diaconate Meeting - Zoom

THURSDAY, February 11

6:30 p.m. Zelle/Moore Circle - Zoom

SUNDAY, February 14

11:00 p.m. Worship - Sue Ellen Hall
On Line

WEDNESDAY, February 17

Ash Wednesday

THURSDAY, February 18

5:15 p.m. Session Meeting - Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, February 21

*11:00 p.m. Worship - Sanctuary/On Line

SUNDAY, February 28

*11:00 p.m. Worship - Sanctuary/On Line

(*Please enter the sanctuary from the main doors on Pecan Street or through the handicap door on 6th Street. The doors to the fellowship hall will be locked. We want to be sure only the sanctuary is used so it can be sanitized before next Sunday. Thank you for your understanding about our need to keep everyone safe.)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Buddy Bell	17 Claire Norton
4 Bailey Davitt	19 Robert Ransdell
9 Mark Bryant	24 Lary Walker
9 Taylor Sexton	27 Debbie Veon
14 Lisa Norton	

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

2 Carla & Randy Lacy
8 Chris & Ronnie Walraven
14 Ann & Denzer Burke
20 Dee Dee & Beth McHenry-Pope
27 Kathy & Ned Stewart

Congratulations to Laura Lee (Lacy) & Connor Sparks on their wedding on December 31, 2020. We all wish Laura & Connor the best!

Year End Financial Report
Income - \$276,576.00
Expenses - \$217,397.00
2021 Pledges - \$181,240.00



Presbyterian Women

February 2021

PW Coordinating Team: Monday, February 8, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. - Zoom

Beck/Greisser Circle (in-person and Zoom): Tuesday, February 9 at 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship Hall/Zoom

Zelle/Moore Circle: Thursday, February 11 at 6:30 p.m. - Zoom

EVERGREEN PROJECT

Since the project began last summer to help Evergreen spruce up the new building they purchased on Walnut Street, much has been accomplished. Over twenty-five people from our church and a few friends of our church have either physically helped, donated items, and/or given generously financially. It has been a joy to see the progress and Evergreen staff has been so grateful for every effort. And what a magnificent new environment for the residents when they are able to return on a daily basis.

Thus far the library has new shelves stocked with books organized and color-coded so it is easy for the books to be returned to their proper place. The small adjoining room has two comfy chairs and lamps for those who wish to sit and read.

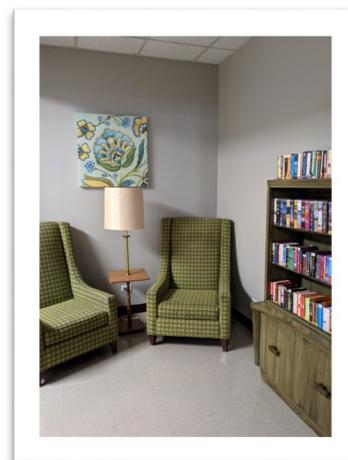
The kitchen is clean and cabinets are stocked with baking pans, utensils, silverware, glasses, dishes, and a full set of cookware (thanks to all who saved Albertson's stamps). Evergreen has been given a grant to help promote healthy nutrition which will help add more items to the kitchen.

The "quiet room" has a new rug, bean bag chairs, and a sensory wall hanging designed to help anyone having a tough day and just needs some quiet time alone.

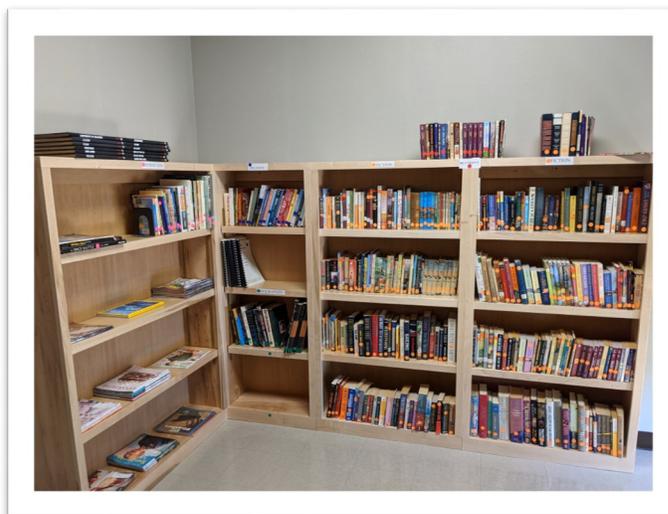
The exercise room already had some equipment and donations from our church added two treadmills.

Words on paper cannot express enough gratitude to all who have helped, contributed goods, and/or given financially. Thank you each and every one.

'Tis a work in progress as there is more with which we can help. Just let it be known if you would like to be involved in any way. Believe me, you will be the one receiving the blessing. An open house is being planned when all can come to see the glorious wonders God's workers have accomplished with His help.



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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Find us on
Facebook

[FPC Texarkana](#) *or*

[First Presbyterian Church—Texarkana, AR](#)

Church Staff

Rev. Dianne Brown, Pastor

Michael Odom, Organist-Choral Director

Leah Doughty, Christian Ed. Consultant

Rebecca Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Roy Thomas, Custodian

Nancy Jackson, Clerk of Session

Beth McHenry-Pope, Moderator of Diaconate

Dan Boyles, Church Treasurer

Betty Anthony, Church Co-Treasurer

The Season of Lent

Lent began as a period of preparation for baptism. In the early centuries, adults who felt drawn to the Christian church were welcomed into something like an apprenticeship during which they were mentored in the Christian belief, worship and prayer practices. The final weeks led directly to baptism, which was celebrated on Easter, the great day of resurrection. Part of the preparation for baptism included the discipline of fasting. For example, doing without meat, or abstaining from food for one or more meals. In an act of solidarity, those who were already church members joined those who were fasting. This is probably the origin of the custom of giving up something for Lent. The point was to enter voluntarily into a spiritual exercise intended to deepen one's prayer life and heighten anticipation of the great festival of the resurrection. If "giving up stuff" raises spiritual consciousness and serves as an aid to prayer, to meditation, and reclaiming one's baptism, that's good. Fasting, undertaking some other spiritual discipline, or giving up things are simply a means toward the end of deepening the spiritual life.