

The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

September, 2020

From the pastor



Rev. Drew Travis

Every year about this time we begin to gear up for the fall. These “dog days of summer” finally come to a close and we look forward to some cooler weather and the activities of autumn that arrive with the changing of the seasons. We typically take a step back around the church in the summer as schedules change and vacations occur and we enjoy a bit of Sabbath time before the rush of scheduling resumes and the calendar indicates it’s time to get active again. That’s what *usually* happens each year about this time. But, again, this year is different.

COVID-19 has altered our routines and robbed us of the rhythms that we typically follow. I imagine that you feel that in your lives. My week has been focused on what occurs Sunday mornings for almost 40 years but it all feels different now. In order to get all the elements of online worship plugged in for Sunday morning, we have been recording our worship services on Friday afternoons. It’s hard for this preacher to get a sermon written and ready to present on Fridays! For the many years of my ministry, Saturday nights have been reserved for final touches on sermons and pondering my words and thinking about the worship event the next morning. It’s different to think of worship on Friday and to have the freedom to kick back and relax on Saturday. I even went to an anniversary party this past Saturday night without a concern at all about being prepared for Sunday morning. It’s just different and my rhythms are all off. I miss the way it was before COVID came to visit.

It has caused me to engage in a curious behavior. I have normally lived life looking forward to what is to come. I have focused on the future and engaged optimistically in what that future holds. My energies have typically been spent preparing for what is to arrive next. I’ve been excited about what is to happen next Tuesday and not just focused on getting Monday over with. It’s not that I haven’t been attentive to the present; I’ve just understood the present as a prelude to what is to come. I have set my focus on

future events and allowed that to guide me in the now.

I find myself operating differently these days. I seem to be looking at the calendar as almost something to be conquered. My focus is not on what happens next but, rather, checking items off the list that have already occurred. Rather than looking forward to future events with excitement about the promise they hold, I seem content to merely complete a task and mark it off the calendar. It has changed my focus from looking forward to peering over my shoulder at what has passed. It’s one thing to mark items off the calendar as accomplishments. It’s quite another to view the calendar as simply something to endure in order to move on, thinking, “I’m glad that’s over.”

I’ll be glad when COVID is behind us. I’ll be glad when this election is behind us. I’ll be glad when my annual physical is completed. I’ll be glad when I get this sermon preached. I’ll be glad when this meeting is adjourned. Sometimes the world just feels that way to me. Perhaps it does to you, too.

When I feel a bit down about all that is happening about me, I often return to one of my favorite pieces of scripture from the 30th Psalm: “Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.” It’s an excellent reminder that these things shall pass and that the hope we hold in Jesus Christ is ours in the faith. I am encouraged by these words and I am reminded to look to the future with optimism for what is to come. I look forward to the morning.

See You Online,

Drew

Congregational Care

Annelle Teal, elder
806-736-0158
tealad@sbcglobal.net



Joys & Concerns

Our Church Family

- Martha Farrell has facial pain that has spread downward.
- Virginia Conner is recuperating following a procedure.

Our Extended Family

- Mary Hayden's granddaughter, Tamara Chavez, works as physiotherapist in Miami and has contracted Covid-19. Please pray for Tamara, her husband, and young son.

Inspiration



Prayer of the Month

Pat Collins, Prayer chain coordinator
pat.collins37@yahoo.com



even to know what was truly valuable. But, because he loved us so much, he sent his son, Jesus Christ, to teach us about what was important. ... It's love, of course. Love is the most important thing. There is no measuring or marking-up love. If someone were to think, there's so-and-so, I love him/her a little, what they have said is what-I-really-love-is-myself (and certain others, surely). And, because love infers responsibility for, in the sense of making sure those we love are fed and cared for, we certainly want to choose those we love. And here's the thing, God said we don't have a choice about who we love. We are to love ALL. I guess he is leading by example by loving the best and the worst, the greatest and the least, the one and the all of us.

Wow! What a mandate. To love all. To help all. Not to pick and choose. To leave our I-must-measure minds at the door and open our arms indiscriminately. Honestly, I am not there. Nowhere close. What? You're not surprised? Neither is God because he knows me, us, inside and out and still, there he is with the love. Indiscriminately.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, in this world filled with strife and anger, let your love fill us. Metaphorically blind us to worthiness and let us love as you do, indiscriminately. Heal us physically of the diseases which ravage our ability to function well as a nation. Help us as a nation return to altruistic service to those in our midst and beyond, as you guide us. Let our children experience the changes we have undergone this year with the ineffable resilience they are known for. Guide the smalls to responsible adults who pledge safety. Guide the older to wise and safe choices. Keep them alive, Father. They are precious to us.

Help us as you always have, Father, as we live through these times, by being ever present for us, bearing our burdens with us, pushing from behind and leading us onward, always, always a thought away. Be with the elderly and help them be flexible, adapting to the different ways of doing the business of life. Keep them mindful so they will protect themselves and others. Bless our church, Father, its ministers, staff, and session. Guide their steps, bolster their spirits, comfort and reassure them of your guidance. None of us can see the path very far ahead of us, but give our church leaders strength and confidence to put each step ahead of the last.

Keep our medical workers strong and healthy. They are bearing such a great burden. Comfort them in their losses. Protect them from the illnesses they treat. Keep them joined at the hip to you as they take every step. They cannot function alone and need you so very much to get them through this.

Guide our country and keep it good, good in your eyes, Father, and that might mean changes we will want to drag our feet to make. Help us be the good men and women this country needs to be great in your eyes.

In Christ's name,

Amen

Pat Collins

We made it! We are officially headed for the cooler months. Hopefully, also, some rainfall. At least we have assurance the calendar continues unchanged. Even with (perhaps), "climate change" messing with our weather, mankind's system and insistence of measurement is unchanged. Each day will be 24 hours, each hour 60 minutes, each minute Knowing the date is important in any mental assessment of us by a medical professional. Even when the days seem a little monotonous as we shelter-in-place to ride out a biological storm that disturbs the United States — the entire world, we are expected to know exactly where we stand amid the construct of a calendar created by men. Wouldn't we really rather know where we stand in relationship to God? But, this is where things get gnarly.

To the omniscient God we worship, there is no time and no space, so there can be no "relation-to." The Is-ness of God is mind-boggling, isn't it? God knew very few were capable of even considering the depth of what this might mean. He knew what a mess we were morally, too. How, although we loved to measure things, we had no clue about how to measure what is valuable —

Congregational Care

Annelle Teal, elder
806-736-0158
tealad@sbcglobal.net



September Birthdays

| | |
|--|--|
| 1 Kim Wylie Winette Lovelady | 15 Jean Goody Jimmy Randles Paula Hicks Raye Kliemann |
| 2 Andy Attaway Annelle Teal | 16 Marcia Sigrist Meg Moore |
| 3 Marty Gump | 17 Libby Teitsma Ron Simpson |
| 4 Wanda Lowe | 18 Brenda Church |
| 5 Lori Collinsworth | 19 Ann McLaughlin |
| 6 Brenda Staples | 22 Alaina Collinsworth |
| 9 Barbara Buffalow | 23 Donna McCleery |
| 10 Jack Burton Sabrina Brownfield | 24 Tommy McHaney |
| 11 Les Staples | 27 Christine Mercado |
| 12 Trisha Chandler | 28 Brenda Towers |
| 14 Peter Garland | 30 John Stahlman |



At care/retirement facilities

Courtyards at Lake Granbury

Mary Skinner

Waterview at Lake Granbury

Ted Dolan
Nita Collinsworth

The Cove at Lake Granbury

Eloise Pauli

Quail Park

Nancy Pauley
John Cheney
Charles Basket

The Oaks of Granbury

CH Tubbs

Autumn Hill Manor (Weatherford)

Dee Holt

Bridgewater Memory Care Granbury

Kathleen Moore

September Anniversaries

| |
|--|
| 2 Connie and Jack Gilmore |
| 5 Jerry and Libby Teitsma |
| 7 Gary and Peggy Lewis Doyle and Jane Seley |
| 8 Marty and Ruth Gump |
| 14 Brenda and Howard Hafner |
| 22 John and Karen Stahlman |
| 27 Doug and Sheila Wood |
| 30 Lloyd and Marcia Sigrist |



At home and/or receiving treatment



Ed Hughes
Martha Ferrill
Ed Smith
Stan Bowlin
Bill Lowe
Jeanie Smith
Jean Haight
Edith George
Warren Rutz

Kathy Long has a new
email address
ksnlong54@gmail.com

Carolyn & Ray Lewellen
683 Cedarbrook Dr.
Twin Falls, ID 83301-7626

OUR **New**
ADDRESS

Stan & Linda Bowlin
1250 W. Pioneer Pkwy
Apt. #1507
Arlington, TX 76013



After a long spring and summer break, we are excited to get started with the PW Horizon's Bible Study, and appropriate F.U.N. Circle meetings. This year we are not printing a comprehensive booklet for PW Programs, as we do not know, over time, how restrictions will change our ability to meet.

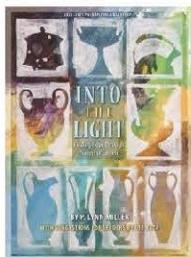
Copies of the Session's rules for Small Group Meetings, as well as the Risk Analysis and Disclosure have previously been distributed to help you decide if you would like to attend in person, or in some cases attend a Zoom Meeting.



We will **NOT** be having the Rummage Sale this fall. Please take any items you want to dispose of to People Helping People or Boys & Girls Club or your favorite charity. **Do not bring them to the church.**

September Activities.

Bible Study – Bible Study Books may be picked up from the office.



- Sept. 8** Morning In-Person Bible Study, Fellowship Hall, 11:00 AM. Contact Sheila Higgins for reservations at 817-579-5722 or smhig35@gmail.com
- Sept. 8** Zoom Virtual Study, 6:30 PM. Contact Rev. Brenda Church for reservations at 817-476-7827 or rev.brenda.church@gmail.com
- Sept 10** Evening In-Person Bible Study, Fellowship Hall, 6:30 PM. Contact Sheila Higgins for reservations at 817-579-5722 or smhig35@gmail.com

Book Circle There will be no meeting in September. Whether to meet or not will be re-evaluated each month. Contact Mary Hayden at 817-579-0290 or msvachh@att.net for more information.

F.U.N. Friends United Naturally, Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM

- Sept. 25** Make Christmas cards for soldiers to send home, Fellowship Hall, 10:00AM. Note: This is the 4th Friday. For reservations, contact Gloria Mitchell @ (817) 909-0326 or gwmitch@sbcglobal.net



Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder

lindaallen33047@gmail.com



Flu season is approaching, and the session has decided to offer a flu shot clinic as we have in previous years. Ron's Pharmacy will send a Pharmacist to administer the vaccine from 4:00PM until 5:30 PM on Wednesday, September 23rd in Fellowship Hall. To maintain a Covid safe environment, here is the procedure we will follow. PLEASE READ IT!!!

- Call or email the church office and tell Shanna that you are coming for the flu shot.
- She will email you a link to the brief paperwork you need to complete sometime before flu shot day. Once you submit it, the pharmacy will have your information. They would prefer that this "paperwork" be done electronically so they don't have to handle a lot of paper.
- If you are not able to receive email, let Shanna know you want to get the flu shot.
- Then call the pharmacist, Angelina Tucker, on her cell phone at 325-200-1906 and she will take your information over the phone.
- If all else fails, tell Shanna you want to get the vaccine and come to the Fellowship Hall on Sept 23rd at 4:00 PM. Wait your turn to come in the back door and someone will help you fill out the paperwork before you get your shot.
- **PARK IN THE PARKING LOT AT FELLOWSHIP HALL AND REMAIN IN YOUR CAR. SOMEONE (PROBABLY BIANCA) WILL LET YOU KNOW WHEN IT IS YOUR TURN TO ENTER THE BACK DOOR OF FELLOWSHIP HALL.**
- Have a seat in the socially distanced chairs. As you move up for your turn, someone will be sanitizing the chairs before and after you.
- The pharmacist will be wearing full protective clothing, a mask, and a face shield. You must wear a mask to enter the building and it must cover your mouth and your nose the entire time you are in the building.
- After you receive your flu shot, please leave by the covered side door. We ask that you do not stay and visit with anyone, as tempting as it might be!
- Please bring your insurance card.

On a different subject, we still have about 20 masks that our sewing group made. They are mostly floral designs. If you still need one, or if you would like extras, just call Bianca Brownfield at 817-751-2319.

Christian Education

Nancy Bennett, elder
nbennett0803@gmail.com



Pastor Brenda, Marla Hill and I had a wonderful time distributing the VBS/Camp-in-a-box materials to 12 children associated with our congregation and 40 children under the care of CPS. The kids had a great time with the boxes and so even though VBS looked very different from the past, it was a success!

Our class based on the book *Who Is My Neighbor: The Good Samaritan as examined through the windows of the Chartres Cathedral* by Stuart Stotts and Nancy Enderle was attended by a dozen members. It was a unique way to view the familiar story and I think many came away with not only a new perspective on the characters within the story but also a new way of viewing art based on Biblical themes. We will be adding this book to the church library in the near future.

Our class based on the book *So you want to talk about race* by Ijeoma Oluo continues to meet Thursday evenings. We have about 20 people from 4 congregations (FPC-Granbury, Central Presbyterian-Waxahachie, FPC-Plainview, St. Stephen-Fort Worth). Please see separate article for review of this book.

Sunday school offerings for Adults will begin again in September. We are looking at different options and hope to reach as many people as we can. Please watch for future announcements. If you are interested in participating, please contact me at ce@fpcgranbury.com or the church office.

The Men's group has restarted again via Zoom – if you want to be included on the list for future activities, please contact Pastor Drew or the church office.

Due to class size limitations, Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will have both in person and Zoom based classes. Pastor Brenda will be leading these classes. Please contact her or the church office if you are interested in participating.

Children's Sunday school will be creating monthly take home bags with activities for our children. If you are interested in helping with the assembly or distribution of the bags, please contact me at ce@fpcgranbury.com or Pastor Brenda.



“Please watch for news regarding which events will occur when we have less restrictions.”

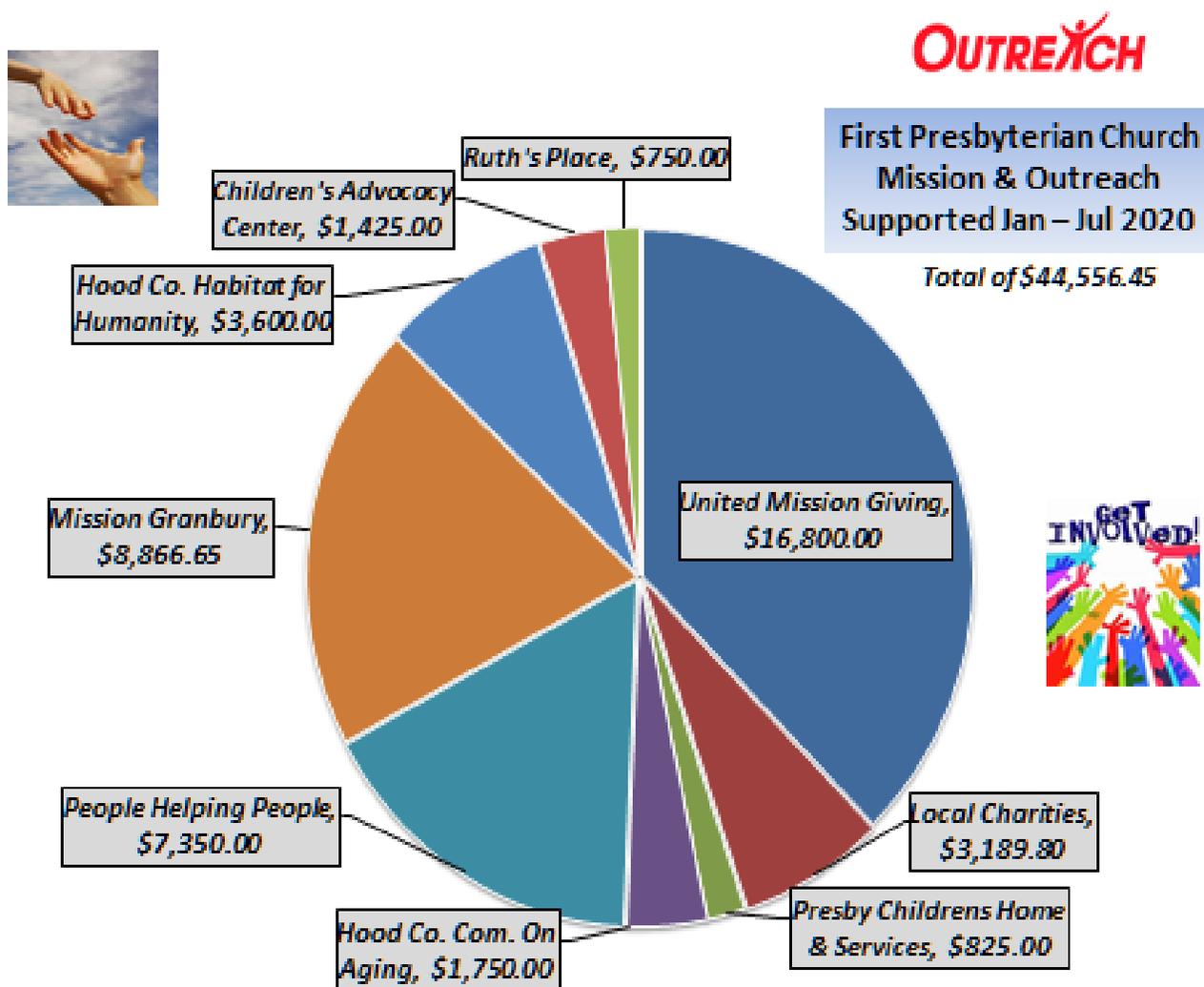
SEPTEMBER 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|------------------------------|--|--|---|---|--|----------|
| 30 8:45 AM Online Worship | 31 | 1 10:00 AM Invitation to Sacred Space 10:00 AM Jeanell Morris Bible Study Circle | 2 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study-Zoom 5:30 PM Invitation to Sacred Space | 3 12:00 PM Invitation to Sacred Space | 4 Shanna vacation day | 5 |
| 6 8:45 AM Online Worship | 7 Labor Day-Office Closed for Holiday | 8 10:00 AM Invitation to Sacred Space 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Clergy Group | 9 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study-Zoom 5:30 PM Invitation to Sacred Space | 10 10:00 AM Worship Committee Meeting 12:00 PM Invitation to Sacred Space | 11 | 12 |
| 13 8:45 AM Online Worship | 14 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM PW Coordinating Team | 15 10:00 AM Invitation to Sacred Space 5:30 PM Session | 16 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study-Zoom 5:30 PM Invitation to Sacred Space | 17 12:00 PM Invitation to Sacred Space | 18 | 19 |
| 20 8:45 AM Online Worship | 21 Bridge Articles Due | 22 10:00 AM Invitation to Sacred Space 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Clergy Group | 23 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study-Zoom 5:30 PM Invitation to Sacred Space | 24 12:00 PM Invitation to Sacred Space | 25 Shanna vacation day 10:00 AM FUN Circle | 26 |
| 27 8:45 AM Online Worship | 28 | 29 10:00 AM Invitation to Sacred Space | 30 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study-Zoom 5:30 PM Invitation to Sacred Space | 1 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Melody Belles 12:00 PM Invitation to Sacred Space 5:30 PM Facilities Planning Committee | 2 | 3 |



YOUR FAITHFUL AND DEDICATED SUPPORT TO THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE CHURCH IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

With your generous support, the church has provided financial assistance from the Mission & Outreach budget to the organizations as shown in the following chart. These are ministries that we can all be proud of supporting during this most difficult time.



Record of Giving and Budget Need:

Updated Year-to-date (Jan – Jul 2020) Giving: \$359,644.35

Year-to-date (Jan – Jul 2020) Budget Need: \$314,425.72



Back in February, I was asked to lead the Presbyterian Women's Bible Study for the 2020/2021 year. I excitedly accepted! But I have to admit that when I discovered that the subject of the Bible Study was lament, I was a bit disappointed...you might say I took part in a brief "lament" of my own! I mean, really, who wants to do a Bible Study on something as depressing as lament!?! Can't we talk about the miracles in the Bible or the coming Kingdom...something a bit more exciting than lament?

Little did I know then that the subject of lament is quite possibly the most relevant thing that we could study this coming year. 2020 has been such a challenging year that it actually compels us to desire to learn the discipline of lament. It's been a year of loss...a year of fear...a year of separation...a year without face to face worship...a year of sorrow...it's been an empty year. This is a year when more than a few of us have probably asked God the question "Where are you in all of this?" So, it's good to remember that even though he was a man after God's heart, King David often asked God where God was during the times he was fleeing for his very life, striving to be faithful to God even in the midst of great trouble. Most of the Psalms present a strong sense of lament...a crying out to God for resolution...a crying out to be heard...deep lament. Interestingly, however, most Psalms end in the height of praise...a loud "Hallelujah" to God for the faithfulness God has shown in the past which will surely flow into the future!!

Have you ever been in a place of deep lament...wailing out to God because of a heart-wrenching situation only to find that in the midst of the lament, your heart begins to lift, your eyes begin to dry, your voice transforms from emitting sobs to singing praises? Even in the middle of this interesting turn, you may wonder why it's happening. Nothing has changed. The storm of life that brought you to your knees still rages! You still have no certainty about the outcome of your trouble. Yet, you sing!

While none of us like the idea of having reason to lament, I believe the truth remains that lament leads to joy, and peace, and comfort. When we have finally exhausted all of our human ability and strength and control and all that is left to do is lament, it is then, and sometimes only then, that God's peace shines through. Once we get ourselves out of the way and recognize that without God, we are without hope, it is then that God shows up in mighty and unexpected ways...ways that our intellect really can't fathom but that our spirits recognize. And in our spirits' recognition of the presence and peace of God, our bodies and hearts are triggered to respond in grateful praise. You see, it really is true that sometimes God calms the storm and sometimes God lets the storms rage but calms God's child in the middle of it.

I wasn't excited about the topic of lament for this Bible Study, but now, all these months later, I can't wait to see how God will reach straight out of the Biblical truths in this study to touch our aching hearts with God's presence and God's peace! We may need to reserve the last 10 minutes of our hour together each time...you know...for the singing, of course!

Brenda

Outreach and Mission

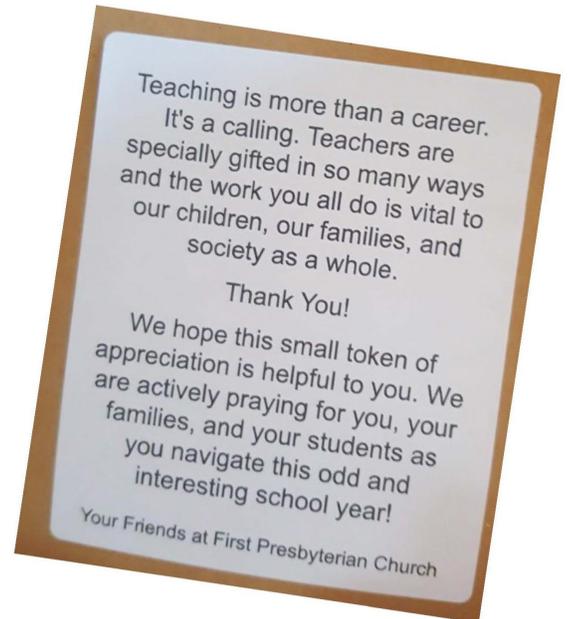
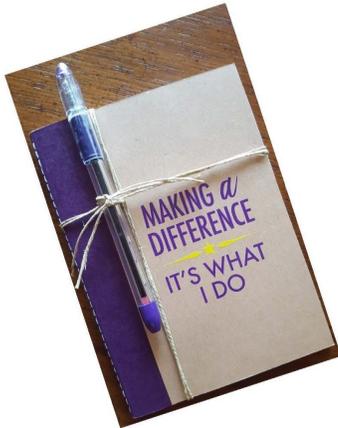
Bianca Brownfield, elder
biancabrownfield@gmail.com



We participated in a Granbury Chamber of Commerce gift bag to 125 new teachers in Granbury ISD!

We made a little gift of a pen and small notebook with a gift card to Paradise Cafe inside.

Our Pastor Brenda wrote a beautiful note of appreciation and blessing from our congregation that we used as a bookplate inside the notebook.



F.U.N. Circle

Gloria Mitchell,
F.U.N. Circle coordinator
gwmitch@sbcglobal.net



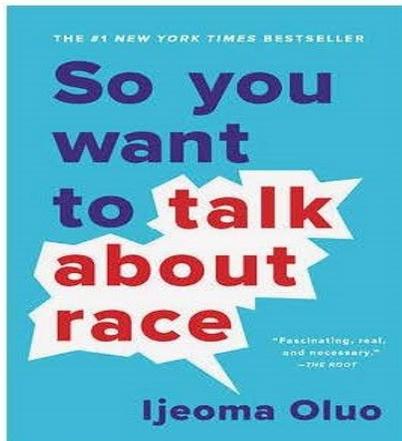
FUN Circle is meeting in September!! Come help us make Christmas cards for soldiers (overseas) to send home, and see some church members again. Our meeting will be at 10:30 on September 25.

Note: this is a **Friday**.

Gloria Mitchell FUN Circle Chair

F.U.N. CIRCLE

Library committee - book review by Nancy Bennett



The author, Ijeoma Oluo is a writer and speaker whose work on race has been featured in the *Guardian*, the *Washington Post*, *New York Magazine*, the *Stranger*, and more. Ms. Oluo says in her introduction that “as a black woman, race has always been a prominent part of” her life. This might seem like an obvious statement, but for many of us, we do not really understand what that means. She continues saying that it affected how she dressed, where she felt comfortable, what music she enjoys. But it also was the jobs that were hiring until she walked in the door, the bosses who said she was too loud or the comments that her hair was too ethnic.

There have been several books written recently about systemic racism in our country, but the author’s perspective is unique. She addresses the issues of racism head on and provides specific solutions to discussing them. She does not pretend that a simple conversation will cure all our issues, but she does clearly lay out her arguments about why they exist. Historical information is often included and contributes

to the topics of discussion. The author does her best to discuss issues from multiple points of view addressing common issues like, how to talk about affirmative action, why police brutality is about race and why I can’t touch her hair. She dissects the issues and clearly speaks to the reasons why these issues have continued to exist for people of color in our nation.

I read this book in preparation to participate in the zoom class currently being taught by Sharon Curry. One of the realizations that I had about my own privilege came while reading the chapter on whether police brutality is about race. During my years of commuting long distances in the DFW metroplex, I had noticed a common theme that many of the people driving slowly in the right lane were women of color. I had assumed that they were not comfortable driving on the highway. And although my basic observation was valid, my bias told me that they were just “bad drivers”. What I now realize is that I did not understand the whole picture. If I drove worrying about being pulled over, singled out of a pack of vehicles all traveling the same speed, questioned about what I had in the trunk (my backpack), asked if I was on drugs (when I wasn’t and never have used them); if I knew that the statistics show that black drivers are 23 times more likely to be pulled over than white drivers, and are roughly twice as likely to be searched as well as more likely to be ticketed and arrested under the speed limit, then I too, would probably drive in the right lane at 5 mph under the limit. My point is that my bias about the slower drivers had nothing to do with their skills, but I did not understand that. I’ve been given a pass from a cop for a headlight being out, I’ve been motioned to slow down in a residential area, I’ve been questioned at traffic accidents without ever feeling as though I had to prove my story. But I wonder if those same minor violations would have been handled like that if I were a woman of color? The author clearly wants us to wrestle with these thoughts and she makes it clear that in her opinion, talking is just the first step. She understands that conversations about race are difficult for all involved. But she also knows that talking can lead to action and action gives us hope.



Our first in person Bible Study will be on Tuesday **Sept. 8 at 11:00 in Fellowship Hall**. There will be a **Zoom meeting on Tuesday Sept. 8 at 6:30p.m.** Please reply to **Pastor Brenda** if you are going to attend the Zoom meeting.

We are also going to have an in person evening **Bible Study meeting on Sept. 10 at 6:30 p.m.in Fellowship Hall**.

This year's study is **Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament**. Lesson 1 is The Heart of Lament.

If you are attending in person remember to wear a mask and bring your own wipes. You are asked to sanitize your hands and also the table & your chair when you arrive & when you leave. You are welcome to bring a drink.

You may pick up a copy of the Bible Study book at the Church Office. Shanna is there from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Monday - Friday. Brenda is happy to deliver a Book if needed.

Please **RSVP to Brenda for the Zoom meetings and to Sheila for the in person meetings**.

You may read the Year Book of Prayer found at <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook/>

Blessings,

Sheila 817-579-5722 smhig35@gmail.com

An Invitation to Sacred Space



Tue 10
Wed 5:30
Thurs 12:00

Our sanctuary will be open for
quiet reflection and meditation.

Masks and social distancing
required.

To:

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury
202 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048