

The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

March, 2021

From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgtravis@gmail.com



It's been a wild week at Lake Wobegon. We have all had to deal with the consequences of storms that rolled through bringing extreme cold and ice and snow. Several have been without electricity and have been forced to look for shelter at hotels or with family or friends just to stay warm. Some have just braved it out with fireplaces and many blankets. Others have had no water and have had to rely on the kindness of neighbors to supply them. Still others have sought out friends to allow them the use of their showers to clean up for the first time in several days. It's been an "unprecedented" weather event – to use the word that has seen too much use in the past year. I have heard comments from folk that they shall never forget the "Snowpocalypse of '21." Others are already doing the best they can to forget this past week ever happened. We deal differently with the vagaries of life.

It's Lent. For 40 days and 6 Sundays, we prepare for the coming resurrection of Jesus. There's a movement to these days of Lenten preparation: we make our way from the heaviness of our lives to a sense of joyous celebration. We journey past the cross of crucifixion to discover the unbounded joy of the cross of resurrection. To get there and to fully realize where we are going, there are some things we are called upon to remember. "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." Those are the words that are intoned as we impose the ashes of Ash Wednesday. They are a reminder that in life's time we will return to the Creator.

Remember. Remember who we are, in all our humanness and with all our flaws, so that we may come face to face with the grace of God in Jesus Christ that moves our lives forward in joyous songs of salvation. That often means remembering things we might just forget about ourselves. When I walk by a mirror, I sometimes pause and take a look at myself. In my vanity, I think the image in the mirror is "okay" at a glance. But when I move closer to reflections of myself, I see the flaws and I see more clearly what distance can hide. It's just a truer reflection of myself when I am nearer to the source. In a way, that's what Lent is all about – moving closer to ourselves and our source so we may more fully appreciate the goodness of the grace-filled love of God that offers freedom from our sin. That's the hope of the Easter event. The freedom. The love. The promise. That's the joy.

There's a movement to Lent. We don't stay in the reflection of our flaws just as we don't remain in our sin. These things are forgiven in Christ Jesus. We move to hope by experiencing what it is Christ offers in resurrection. We move through the events of Holy Week to arrive at Easter just as we must move through the introspection of Lent to arrive at Easter hope. Good Friday gives way to Easter.

Sean Dietrich writes a marvelous blog, "Sean of the South." He tells of a letter he received from a father seeking forgiveness from a son he has not seen in 30 years. The father wonders if it is too late. Dietrich responds with a quote from his mother. He says she often told him to remember "tomorrow is a day with no mistakes in it." I like the idea. He says the thought has gotten him through hard times. Even when remembering the mistakes we made yesterday, we can discover today as an opportunity for forgiveness and we may envision tomorrow as a clean slate. It's not too late and there's great hope in that. Remember, tomorrow is a day with no mistakes in it. That's worth remembering.

See you soon – online or in person,

Prayer of the Month

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



We are now in the liturgical time of Lent and I have to admit to having had a hard time keeping my eye on that particular ball because it kept getting lost in the snow and it was, on Ash Wednesday, too cold inside and out, to spend much time seeking it. Somber is a good word to describe our mood and posture and that is appropriate for Lent. Our hearts have been chastened by either our suffering or the suffering of friends and neighbors and the suffering of extended family in North Texas. I don't feel punished; my blessings far outweigh my difficulties, but God definitely has my attention and I am faithful in my prayers, cognizant of the suffering of others, willing to be called upon for help, and sincere in efforts to share my benefices. That said, I can add my failures in doing enough in all of those areas. More of the stuff of Lent, humility.

I am still of the "open hand" rather than the "closed fist" approach for the time it takes to get from the dove-descending to Golgotha, espousing sharing rather than denial because we do, after all, know our rescue by His resurrection denies sin and death and banishes fear. We prepare at the same time to grieve then celebrate, a balancing act that we can't allow to immobilize our efforts in the world.

Bless you on this journey alongside Jesus. He has set his face to fulfill God's mission of our redemption. Check daily on his progress in your heart and mind.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for workers who labored in the bitter cold to restore electricity. Thank you for doctors and nurses whose labors are still massive on our behalf. Thank you for the things and systems that worked in the worst of conditions.

Please restore safe drinking water and allow people to receive the food and heat they need. Please heal people who are suffering from accident and injury. Please help those recovering from illness. Please inspire those who teach and empower them to go forward and not give up. Let those in mental or emotional difficulty reach out for help. Let the help be there for them. Let people caring for children and finding it difficult find ways to cope and people to relieve them so they can be refreshed and restored. Give people hope in the future, God. Let your presence be known among us all.

Give us strength and courage, oh Lord, to go with you each step of the way.

Amen.



. Hello! .
I'm Gail

Hi! My name is Gail Deckert and I am excited to serve FPC of Granbury as your administrative assistant. I recently relocated to Cleburne after my husband, Dan, retired in December. We have one son and daughter-in-law who live in Fort Worth and we are thrilled to be close to them. I am looking forward to meeting each of you in the days ahead and hope to serve you for a very long time.

Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder
817-573-9153
susanyoung@gmail.com



March Birthdays

1
Marijane Harvey
2
Betty Lynne Dean
3
Craig Lacy
Richard Root
Robert Gadbois
6
Elliott Graham
8
Angela Luersen/Young
Gary Lewis
9
Felicia Peters
10
Norma "Jean" Matthews
11
Ben Mays
12
Elizabeth Clements
13
Gloria Mitchell
Rebecca Bennett
Susan Kidd
14
Curt Armstrong
19
Steven Wilkes
20
Glenda J. Smith
23
Carolyn Llewellyn
Doyle Seley
Mike Cress
25
David Treat
28
Doris Dinkel
Tim Bennett
29
James Witt
Mark Bishop
30
Linda Allen
31
Randy Clements



March Anniversaries

8
Jack and Diana Burton
31
Greg and Sharon Wilemon

At home and/or receiving treatment

Diann McHaney	Martha Ferrill
Connie Darne'	Ed Smith
Lynn Schoeneman	Stan Bowlin
Jackson Fulgham	Bill Lowe
Judy & Curt Farley	Ruth Gump
Winette Lovelady	JD Finlay
Edith George	Jean Haight

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF OUR MEMBERS

- * Dorothy "Dot" Hughes
- * Patricia White,
- * Mark Higgins

CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- * Lynn Schoeneman after experiencing serious post surgery blood clots.
- * Ruth Gump as she continues to heal after a hip revision surgery.
- * CH a Tubbs as he recovers from COVID.
- * Connie Darne as she recovers from 2 knee replacement surgeries.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY CONCERNS

- * CJ Cluck, 8 year old grandson of member Beverly McKusick and nephew of Stephanie Mosley, as he goes through chemotherapy and eventually an amputation for a cancerous tumor on his leg. The cancer has metastasized.
- *The death of Betty Brosman, the mother of Nancy Bennett, and friend to our congregation.

Father, please give healing, comfort and peace to our loved ones and their families.

At care/retirement facilities

Courtyards at Lake Granbury
Mary Skinner
Jimmy & Donna Callahan

Waterview at Lake Granbury
Ted Dolan
Nita Collinsworth

The Cove at Lake Granbury
Eloise Pauli

Quail Park
John Cheney
Charles Basket

The Oaks of Granbury
CH Tubbs

Autumn Hill Manor (Weatherford)
Dee Holt

Associate Pastor

Rev. Brenda Church
rev.brenda.church@gmail.com



March is my favorite month. I love the warmer weather, the longer days, budding trees, butterflies. March is a month that demonstrates to us life...life springing up from winter's death. It's a beautiful and wonderful thing!

As we prepare to fully embrace spring, let us consider the new life that is within us. When we were baptized, we were made into new creations...forever changed. But over time, if we aren't careful, we can forget to remember (yes, that's a thing) our baptism! We can forget that we are new creations...that the old has passed away. We forget to behold that the new has come. What great love the Father has LAVISHED upon us that we would be called God's children...and that is who we are! God doesn't just love us because God has to...God's love is not grudging...no, God LAVISHING love.... extravagant love on us...every day in every way!

As you go about your days, enjoying all of the blessings that Spring has to bring, I encourage you to consider just how greatly you are loved. Recognize just how valuable you are! YOU are created in the very image of God! You have everything you need to live a joyful, confident, radiant and giving life! You are equipped by the Holy Spirit with gifts that are unique to you. And you are never alone! These are just some of the wonderful promises that we have as Christians.

I am so thankful for each one of you. You have blessed by life tremendously in the past year...even with COVID, I have felt your love! I also know that you are a giving community of faith...always willing to sacrifice for others, seeking to do the right thing, generous with your time, your talent, and your wealth. I look forward to seeing the ways in which this congregation will continue to be a blessing in this time and place as we move away (hopefully) from COVID with gratitude to the new and exciting opportunities God has for us!

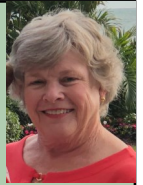


**Maureen Walker
celebrated her 96 birthday
with her church friends
driving by to honor her.**



Presbyterian Women

Margaret Gulinson
PW Moderator
mgulinson@gmail.com
682-936-2312 (H) 214-868-7455 (C)



God watches over us and has put us in community. And building community, which is one of the commitments in our PW Purpose, is our mission focus this year.

PW has not been able to meet, except occasionally. At Bible Study, Circle and PW Meetings we usually take up an offering for the Least Coin, Mission Pledge and sometimes the Thank and Birthday offerings. Most offerings (church wide) are down this year because of resulting COVID issues, job losses, fewer in-person meetings, etc.. So, I am including some information on where our offerings are being put to good use in our communities this year. I have highlighted the **Birthday Offering** here with information from the PW *Horizon's Magazine*. I like this offering because you can see and read about the projects where your money is being spent. Below are the projects listed and the amounts of money needed to fund each one.

Mission Pledge, Presbyterian Women's Annual Fund, makes possible every mission, program and resource of PW. **Fellowship of the Least Coin** is a global ecumenical women's prayer movement, praying for peace justice, and reconciliation among families, communities and worldwide. **Birthday Offering**, which celebrates our history of generous giving since 1922, is coming up in May.

If you are interested in donating to the Birthday Offering or one of the other PW offerings, you may do so on-line at: <https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/giving-funding/give/>. Or you may send a check payable to First Presbyterian Church, and mail to Stephanie Mosley, C/O First Presbyterian Church Office, 202 Pearl Street, Granbury, TX 76048. Write which PW offering (Mission Pledge, Thank, Birthday or Least Coin) in the memo line.

2021 BIRTHDAY OFFERING of Presbyterian Women

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted the people, and will have compassion on suffering ones.
Isaiah 49:13*

Recipients

The Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women celebrates our history of generous giving. Launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States, the Birthday Offering has become an annual tradition. It has funded more than 200 major mission projects that continue to impact people in the United States and around the world. While the projects and donation amounts have changed, Presbyterian Women's commitment to improving the lives of women and children has not. We ask for your support so that PW can continue funding mission projects like the ones selected for 2021. Give as you have been blessed, generously and as led by the Holy Spirit. Give through your PW group or online at www.presbyterianwomen.org/give.

Garden Gate Ranch, Inc. Education Center Renovation
www.gardengateranch.com
Des Moines, Iowa
\$150,000

Garden Gate Ranch is a Christian organization that provides safe housing and restorative and transitional services for women who have been sexually exploited and their children. In the spring of 2020, Garden Gate Ranch opened a newly reconditioned home that was expected to reach full capacity within a few months. Garden Gate Ranch inhabits a large area and plans are in place to fully utilize this area to support women and their children. The Birthday Offering will assist Garden Gate Ranch in their mission by providing a separate education center for programming, therapeutic services and vocational rehabilitation.

Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc. Gymnasium Capital Improvements
<https://mdmat.org>
Stone Mountain, Georgia
\$77,061

Located in the most diverse square mile in North America, Memorial Drive Ministries, Inc., a partnership between the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and six other churches, provides a welcoming environment for the vibrant ministries that call the Memorial Drive campus home. The Birthday Offering grant will provide a desperately needed roof to replace one that leaks into the gymnasium, where sewing, karate, dance, frisbee, badminton, basketball and other after-school activities take place. This costly but necessary fix will ensure that Memorial Drive Ministries can continue to provide a place of welcome to diverse worshipping communities and innovative community services.

Nkhoma Mission Hospital Women's Health Center/OBGYN Theatre
www.nkhomahospital.com
Nkhoma, Malawi
\$129,145

The Nkhoma Mission Hospital in Nkhoma, Malawi (located in southeastern Africa) offers affordable, accessible healthcare services for all, inspired by the love of Jesus Christ. The Birthday Offering grant will provide funds to build an obstetrics- and gynecology-specific operating room next to the existing prenatal and maternity wards. This new theater will help reduce maternal deaths caused by having to move patients a significant distance across the hospital's grounds. This theater expansion will aid in the hospital's goals of becoming more self-sustainable by expanding the surgical services that are offered and living into its vision of being a leader in quality, Christian healthcare and training in Malawi.

*New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Used by permission.

26 **Horizons** January/February 2021

Travis brothers serving as clergymen in different Granbury churches

ASHLEY INGE [HOOD COUNTY NEWS](#) Saturday, February 13, 2021
Reprinted with permission from Hood County News



Brothers Doug and Drew Travis have a tighter bond than some siblings, but that might have something to do with their profession.

Drew has been a preacher at First Presbyterian Church Granbury for about eight years. Now, as of last month, his brother, Doug is the new priest of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church on Acton Highway.

Although it may sound odd to be both brothers and leaders of two different churches only 10 minutes apart, it's the norm for the Travis family.

"Every Travis male in our line of the family for four generations has been an ordained minister, with the exception of one, who was the director of the Presbyterian Children's Home in Waxahachie for over 30 years," Drew said. "It's the family business in a lot of ways."

"I fought it," Doug said, "Truthfully when I was a very young man, I desperately did not want to be ordained. So, what do you do with a liberal arts undergraduate degree and you don't know what to do with your life? You go to law school."

"I was praying one night, and I had a profound experience that this is what I was supposed to do. I was overwhelmed with a sense of peace and I knew going to law school was a big mistake. I needed to get back with my first love, who was God."

According to the duo, Doug is the "good brother" while Drew is the "honest brother." They have maintained a great relationship over the years as evidenced by their sense of humor and witty personalities.

"The Travis' are just not terribly creative and we're not imaginative in our vocational choices at all," Drew said, with a laugh. "The reality is, I felt that sense of peace when I made the decision (to become a pastor), but I haven't had any peace about it since."

There are a lot of similarities theologically between Presbyterianism and Episcopalian religions.

"If you look at the history of our denominations, the truth of the matter is, both churches come out of the reformation," Doug said. "The Episcopal Church is the church of England and North America. Presbyterian Church are the folks who came from Scottish descent, so a lot of this goes back to 16th century origins."

Drew said, "Both denominations take their names from the way that we govern ourselves."

"And," he added, with a grin, "they are both large names that are hard to spell. There'd be more Episcopalians and Presbyterians if they could spell the name of the church."

Drew said it will be interesting to serve parishes in the same community as his brother.

"There's no telling what we'll mess up together," he said, chuckling. "Even having a family full of clergies, we were glad that Doug went into the Episcopal Church because it gave us somebody to talk about. The rest of us were Presbyterian. It's interesting when we all get together. Often, conversations do center around things theological ... but we're not bland."

“The Travis’ have been called a lot of things, but I’ve never heard any of us called bland,” Doug chimed in. “I heard people desperately wish we were more bland.”

Their residences are a 30-minute drive apart Drew in Abe’s Landing and Doug in Pecan Plantation.

Doug, 67, has been married to his wife, Pam, for 45 years. They have two daughters: Sa-sha, who is an actor/singer/dancer and Nyssa, who is a psychotherapist. Nyssa has two sons.

Drew, 62, married Rhonda, the “girl next door” and they have six children — five daughters and a son: Britton, Kristin, Jordan, Jesse, Hailey and Dylan — and 15 grandchildren.

“Nobody explained to them how to stop,” Doug joked.

Doug was the dean and president of the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest in Austin until he retired in 2013. Since then, he has served as the interim priest in several Episcopal Churches, including Albuquerque, Dallas and Abilene.

Drew and Doug are excited to be working closely with each other in the near future.

“I think there’s an opportunity for things for us to do together as congregations which will strengthen our presence in the community for both churches,” Drew said. “It’ll be fun in these last years of ministry to have this opportunity to work together. That’s unique. It’s not often that brothers end up in the same community serving two parishes of two different denominations.”

“To spend the last four years of my active career as a priest working with Drew is going to be wonderful,” Doug added.

“It’s the family business in a lot of ways.” Drew Travis Pastor, First Presbyterian Church Granbury.



Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder

lindaallen33047@gmail.com



Since we still can't be together to have a fellowship dinner, I am going to share one of my favorite recipes with you. My family loves it and it is often requested as a meal when we can be together. Hope you enjoy it too!

STROGANOFF SANDWICH



1 unsliced loaf French bread

1 lb. ground beef

¼ c chopped green onion

1 c sour cream

1 T milk

Grated cheddar cheese

1 t Worcestershire Sauce

1/2 t garlic powder

Butter or margarine, softened

2 tomatoes, sliced

1 bell pepper, cut in rings

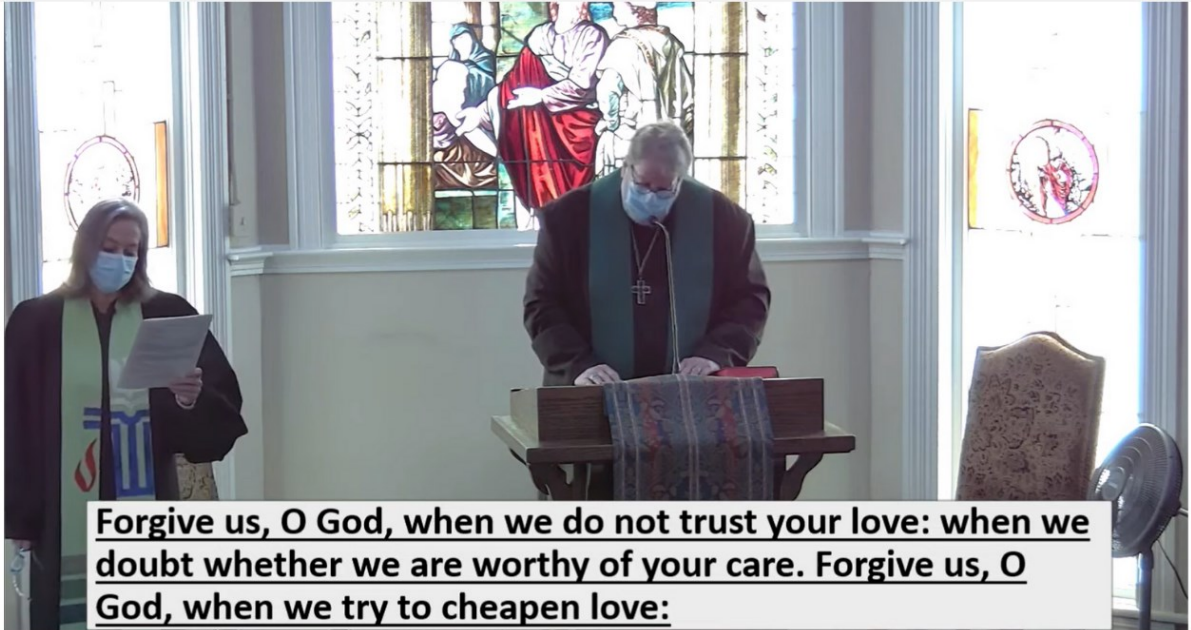
Cut loaf in half lengthwise; wrap in foil. Heat at 375 for 10 or 15 minutes. In skillet cook beef with onion until meat is brown; drain off fat. Stir in sour cream, next 3 ingredients, and ½ t salt; heat, *but do not boil*. Butter cut surfaces of bread.

Spread half of hot meat mixture on each loaf half. Arrange tomato slices alternately with bell pepper rings atop meat. Sprinkle grated cheese on top. Place on baking sheet; bake at 375 until cheese is melted. Makes 8 servings.

Hint: I use the foil that the bread was wrapped in to line the baking sheet for a “no mess” clean up.

CONNECT WITH US ONLINE

Facebook • YouTube • FPCGRANBURY.ORG



Forgive us, O God, when we do not trust your love: when we doubt whether we are worthy of your care. Forgive us, O God, when we try to cheapen love:

SERVICE

Each Sunday at 8:45 am we debut our service on YouTube and Facebook. You can ALWAYS go back and watch later - all of the services are archived.

Services are currently recorded in advance and edited together, but that process is subject to change. One thing is certain - we will continue to worship with you Sunday mornings.

COMMUNITY

Join us at facebook.com/fpcgranbury for updates, photos, prayers, and more. And don't forget to like and share our posts.



OFFERING

Don't forget that you can give online at fpcgranbury.org/give

You can make a one-time offering, or you can set up recurring payments using your bank account or debit card.

*First Presbyterian Church
Granbury, Texas*

303 W. BRIDGE ST
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817-573-2337



Labyrinth & Spiritual Practices



A labyrinth is an ancient symbol. Today many people equate the word labyrinth with maze but there is a singular difference. A labyrinth is not designed to confuse the person that is walking the labyrinth. There is just one way to enter, arrive at the center, and be led out. The purpose of the labyrinth is to provide a path of spiritual renewal and prayer.

Labyrinth walking is a practice used by many faiths. Walking the labyrinth slowly quiets the mind and focuses on prayer. Finger labyrinths and virtual labyrinths offer an opportunity for the same practice when there is no availability to a full-sized labyrinth.

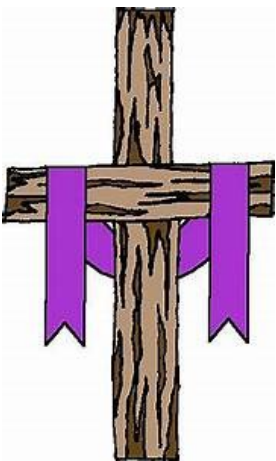
Traditionally, there are four steps to walking a labyrinth:

- Remember – before entering the labyrinth, take time to reflect on gratitude for your life; consider if there is something troubling you;
- Release – walk into the labyrinth; quiet your mind and open your heart; walk at your own pace along the path;
- Receive – standing in the center of the labyrinth; this is the place of reflection; pause and stay as long as you like;
- Return – walking out of the labyrinth; walking out using the same path as you went in; you may experience peace or excitement; each experience is different!

Here are a couple of labyrinths in our area that are open to the public:

- First Christian Church (next to Tractor Supply on Hwy. 377) – open to the public
- Chandor Gardens – Weatherford – follows same schedule as gardens
- Meditation Garden @ National Vietnam War Museum – Weatherford; open daily

A Lenten Journey to Peace and Wholeness



Journey Toward Jerusalem each Wednesday at 6:30.

Please see blast dated February 17 for details about the Lenten Journey. If you sign up, materials will come to you each week. If you cannot find the blast, please call the office and we will forward it to you. FPC office phone (817) 573-2337.

Sunday Night Lenten Devotional Zoom Conversations at 6:30 every Sunday in March

Additionally, Pastor Brenda will be hosting a Zoom session for anyone who has found the week's materials to be meaningful and would like the ability to discuss them in a small group. You may attend the Zoom session each week or you may decide to only attend particular ones, as the materials speak to your spirit. All who are interested in the Zoom call for each week will need to

RSVP so we can send the link to you. Our first Zoom session started this past Sunday, 2/22, and will continue through Palm Sunday at 6:30 p.m. Please call or text Pastor Brenda at (325) 669-9904 by 5:00 pm Saturday to reserve your spot on this week's Zoom call!

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

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:45 AM Online Worship via Facebook & YouTube 6:30 PM Lenten Devotional Zoom Conversations	1	2 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM Session Meeting (Postponed from Feb)	3 6:30 PM Journey toward Jerusalem Online worship via Facebook & YouTube	4	5	6
7 8:45 AM Online Worship via Facebook & YouTube 6:30 PM Lenten Devotional Zoom Conversations	8	9	10 6:30 PM Journey toward Jerusalem Online worship via Facebook & YouTube	11	12	13
14 8:45 AM Online Worship via Facebook & YouTube 6:30 PM Lenten Devotional Zoom Conversations	15 Bridge Articles Due	16 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Clergy Group 5:30 PM Session	17 6:30 PM Journey toward Jerusalem Online worship via Facebook & YouTube	18	19	20
21 8:45 AM Online Worship via Facebook & YouTube 6:30 PM Lenten Devotional Zoom Conversations	22	23	24 6:30 PM Journey toward Jerusalem Online worship via Facebook & YouTube	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday 8:45 AM Online Worship via Facebook & YouTube 6:30 PM Lenten Devotional Zoom Conversations	29	30	31 6:30 PM Journey toward Jerusalem Online worship via Facebook & YouTube	1 Maundy Thursday Worship	2 Good Friday	3

Watch this space for changes to our calendar. View current calendar on website <http://fpcgranbury.org/> Click on calendar at the top of the page.



Daylight Saving Time Starts Sunday, March 14, 2021, **2:00:00 am** clocks are turned forward one hour to Sunday, March 14, 2021, 3:00:00 am local daylight time instead.

To:

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