

# The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

July, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

I know you are wondering when we will reopen and get back to worshipping in our sanctuary. I wonder the same thing. The session wonders the same thing. That's why I wanted to touch base with an update.

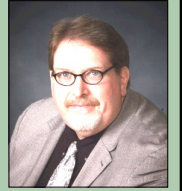
We don't know when we will reopen and do not have a date set. The situation with COVID-19 continues to change almost daily. Numbers of cases, positivity rates, and hospitalizations are each on the rise in many states and they have risen precipitously in Hood County and in Texas this past week. In his news conference earlier this week, Gov. Abbott encouraged Texas residents to wear masks any time they are in public and to practice social distancing. He encouraged us to stay home unless necessity dictated that we go out. Just today, the governor has ordered bars to close and restaurants to operate at 50% capacity or less. No matter how one would like to argue with the numbers, there is a surge in coronavirus cases and it does not appear that we will be beyond this pandemic any time soon.

The Session is discussing and working toward a phased plan that will allow us to eventually reopen when the time comes. We have appointed an *ad hoc* committee of five to work on these issues and to report back to the session for discussion and approval of any recommendations. The five are: Julie Dean (Worship), Roy Schoeneman (Administration), Mike Gulinson (Clerk), Brenda Church and me.

The Session has agreed to reopen the Administration Building on Monday, June 29. Our hours of operation will be Monday-Friday, 9 to 1. The phones will be answered remotely during the afternoon hours. Shanna will be in the office between 9 and 1 and Brenda and I will be in the office as we come and go amid other duties. If you have need to visit the office, please know that we are asking everyone to wear a mask or face covering for the safety of each of our personnel and for your safety, too. We have secured a supply of masks and one will be provided if needed. Please work with us on

## From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis



this matter. Our concern is for the safety and health of each person who works in or visits the office.

The Session has also adopted rules to allow small groups of 20 or fewer participants to gather for in-person meetings. Our desire in doing so is to allow groups (Disciples Study, PW, etc.) to meet in carefully planned gatherings and to have those meetings serve as a model for larger gatherings when the time comes. Guidelines for such meetings are available and will be shared with the groups as they schedule meeting times and locations through the church office. However, due to the spike in numbers we are currently experiencing, we feel it wise to hold up on such group meetings until we are able to discern how things are trending. We will keep you posted as we move forward.

I am aware these past months have been challenging for all of us. I also know that many are anxious to be back in the pew worshipping. We are working toward that end but the time is not yet. Please be in prayer for your pastors and elders who are charged with these decisions. Pray also for those who have been touched by COVID-19 in any way. Reach out to one another and keep in contact with those who may be particularly isolated. Grab a lawn chair, keep your distance and have a conversation with a church member in need of conversation. Do anything you can think of that reminds us we are together in the Spirit and we will be together in the flesh again when it is safe for us to do so. We are practicing physical distancing but that doesn't mean we have to be socially distant. Care well for yourselves and for one another. Call us if you have a need. We'll keep you posted as we move forward.

Grace and peace and all good things,

Drew

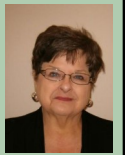
# Congregational Care

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



## Prayer of the Month

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



### Joys & Concerns

#### Our Church Family

- Wynette Lovelady fell and had her knee replaced for a 3<sup>rd</sup> time. She hopes to be home the first part of July.
- Jerry Davis had elbow surgery. More tests will be forthcoming.
- Linda Bowlin had hip replacement surgery on June 15<sup>th</sup> and is recovering at home.
- Virginia Conner went to the ER with an internal bleed. She is home doing well.
- Maureen Walker went into the hospital with very low blood pressure and other symptoms. She is home and feeling better.
- Elliot Graham is recovering after being bitten on the face by a dog.

#### Our Extended Family

- Beverly Williams's sister, Ivadel, had tests done after a mass was found in her left lung.



#### We mourn together the passing of our loved ones.

- Jack Martin passed away May 29. Services were held June 2.
- Pete Pauley passed away June 7 and will have a family-only service later this summer on his birthday, July 11. He will be interred in our columbarium along with his son, Eldon, who preceded him.
- Madison "Matty" Reed passed away June 7 and was laid to rest June 12.

#### Glorious God

We see the beauty of your daybreak, the wonderful blue of open skies, and the blazing glory of your sunset. We hear the songs of birds and know you have given them voice. If we are very fortunate, we see the exuberance of young life in the seemingly tireless bodies of young children as they discover your creations one by one. We are blessed in this world and are thankful without ceasing. We praise your holy name!

All that being true, we still come as a people humbled and reeling from the illness, loss, and danger in the world.

Racial injustice plagues our country continually and we know, really, the entire world. Human minds exist to categorize and assess value for our furtherance and safety. But, without your grace and direction, it seeks stasis. Without your power we will be unable to overcome the habitual mind that keeps us mired in an unjust system. Father, we beseech you, aid us in the mission of mercy and justice. Help us find ways to change ourselves so this country can be a fair and safe haven to all its people.

We are still engaged in fighting to control a pandemic, Father, and ask that people find it in their heart to wear masks in public, though they be miserably hot and uncomfortable in our Texas heat. We wear them for the protection of each other, but so many seem disinterested in doing this. It is troubling and perplexing. Please soften their hearts. It has also become easy to forget the frequent and thorough hand washing recommended for safety. Remind us to remain fully conscious to the times we handle groceries, mail, and packages and send us to the sinks. It will eventually come to us why we are standing there.

Bless our families and friends, God. Keep them safe. Bless our church, its leaders and servants. Guide their decisions and give them confidence that they are hearing your words in their hearts. We pray for all who are sick and are grieving, and rejoice with those in celebration for recovery, new life, and long-life.

In thanksgiving for the redemption you gave us through Christ, we pray all these things.

Amen

Pat Collins

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tealad@sbcglobal.net



## July Birthdays

<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>
Cindy Akers Peters	Joe Ethridge
Emily Graham	<b>18</b>
Lynn Silvestri	Debbie Schneider
<b>5</b>	Pat Collins
<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>
Carol Davis	Anita Heiser
<b>6</b>	<b>20</b>
Dosna Barden	Betty Simpson
<b>7</b>	Bianca Brownfield
Roy Schoeneman	Dorothy Hughes
<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>
Helen Furr	Elaine Sparks
Meghan Teal	<b>25</b>
<b>9</b>	Max Jewell
Andrea Kennedy	Rhiannon Orbe
Jay Thomas	<b>26</b>
<b>11</b>	Judy Rose
Hank Wurtz	<b>27</b>
<b>12</b>	Nancy Wilmeth
Anne Mays	Sharon Wilemon
Carol Hengels	<b>28</b>
Gilbert Andia	Ruth Gump
<b>13</b>	<b>29</b>
Dan Crise	Shawn Deeds
<b>14</b>	<b>30</b>
Derek Faulkner	Sylvia Hickey
<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>
Earl Darne'	Ray Llewellyn



## 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

Ruth Garrett  
Nancy Pauley  
Marilou Schairbaum  
John Cheney  
Charles Basket

### The Oaks of Granbury

CH Tubbs

### Autumn Hill Manor (Weatherford)

Dee Holt

### Bridgewater Memory Care Granbury

Kathleen Moore

## At home and/or receiving treatment

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



## July Anniversaries

<b>3</b>
Bill and Laneal James
<b>7</b>
John and Hannah Briesse
Linda and Charles Sommervill
Jacci and Jack Southern
<b>8</b>
Mike and Pam Christopher
<b>17</b>
Jimmy and Margie Randles
Richard and Sue Root
<b>18</b>
Earl and Sandy Haberkamp



Jane and Doyle Seley  
new address:  
1116 Dove Hollow Road  
Granbury, TX 76048

OUR **New**  
ADDRESS

Pat White's new address:  
3408 Marianna  
Granbury, TX 76048

## Administration

Roy Schoeneman, elder  
wrschoeneman@charter.net

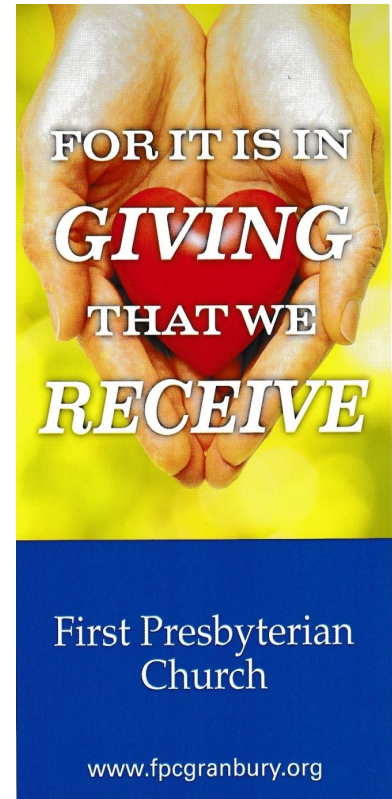
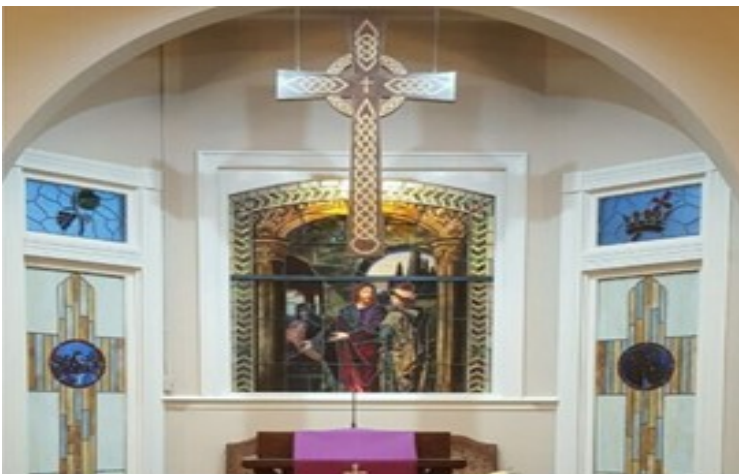


## **YOUR FAITHFUL AND DEDICATED SUPPORT TO THE FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE CHURCH IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

### ***Record of Giving and Budget Need:***

Updated Year-to-date (Jan – May 2020) Giving: \$284,582.09

Year-to-date (Jan – Jun 2020) Budget Need: \$268,847.75



## **VIRTUAL WORSHIP**

The highly contagious nature of COVID-19 may have temporarily closed our doors to church worship, but God has opened a new door for our church to worship through the camera lens of virtual worship services conducted each week on Facebook and YouTube. Our church's virtual service attendance numbers continue to show an impressive on-line following. It is our sincere hope that this form of worship is providing "church together" until the time that we can all safely come together again in the wonderful Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Granbury.

**THANKS TO THOSE THAT MAKE IT POSSIBLE:** Many thanks for the compassionate care, love, and talents of Pastors Drew and Brenda in preparing and leading our virtual worship services each week. We are all very grateful for the musical talents and dedication of Marty Gump and Jane Seley for providing music support and for Nancy Worcester and "friends" inspiring children's church for kids of all ages. Emily Graham's technical skills, creativity, and dedication in recording, editing, and posting the services has greatly enhanced the church's virtual worship experience. A big THANK YOU to all!!!!



# Presbyterian Women

Margaret Gulinson

PW Moderator

mgulinson@gmail.com

682-936-2312 (H) 214-868-7455 (C)



July 2020 Bridge Article

Margaret Gulinson

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

As we wait patiently (or not so patiently) to re-open the church and start meeting in small groups again, we need to go ahead and plan for what we will do if we do get to meet again in September. We look forward to Rev. Brenda teaching our Bible Study, *Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament, on September 1<sup>st</sup>! But, what else will we do?*

What programs do we want to plan? What books does the Book Circle want to read? What events does the F.U.N. Circle want to plan? What would be a good retreat topic? We want to have another Rummage Sale, but what can we do to raise money if we cannot have it?

Our officers will be planning for the fall, throughout the summer, no matter what happens. If you have any suggestions or ideas you would like us to consider, please let us know.

Moderator	Margaret Gulinson
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Moderator	Saunya Bishop
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Moderator	Patricia Luley
Secretary	Beverly McKusick
Treasurer	Stephanie Mosley
Historian	Julia Hinterleiter

Continue praying for one another and connecting via phone, email or social media as we endure our separation and social distancing.

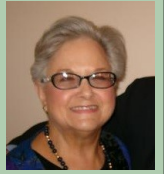
Presbyterian  
Women  
Living for Jesus

The logo for Presbyterian Women features the text "Presbyterian Women" in a serif font, with "Living for Jesus" in a smaller sans-serif font below it. To the right of the text is a stylized graphic consisting of a grey cross and a pink circle.

# Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder

[lindaallen33047@gmail.com](mailto:lindaallen33047@gmail.com)



I bet you are wondering why I chose this photograph for my Fellowship article. It shows a picture of a toddler walking down a road. You can't see the end of the road and he is taking baby steps. When I saw this picture, I thought it was perfect! After all, our church is traveling down a Covid – 19 road and we don't know when we will see the end. Maybe the road will get safer with a vaccine. In the meantime, we must take baby steps to stay safe. The session has decided that our next baby step is to re-open small group meetings. Groups like the Men's Bible Study, The Prayer Group, The Book Club, PW's Bible Study, Disciples' Bible Study, the Circles of PW, etc. The group must be one already active and consist only of church members, those who have expressed an interest in membership, or those with a long-standing affiliation with the church. To meet in these

groups, there are a lot of rules that must be followed to make them low risk. Rev. Drew and Rev. Brenda will be sharing a lot of information with you regarding the rules and the risks. If you are a member of one of these groups and they decide to meet, you will have to decide for yourself if you will be comfortable with the rules and risks. Is it like it used to be? No. Is it wonderful to see each other in person? YES!!!

**Stay tuned for all the details from Drew and Brenda.** In the meantime, keep visiting over the backyard fence, across the driveway, on the boat, and anywhere outside that you can stay 6 feet apart. Brown bag food is OK, but no sharing. You don't even have to wear a mask if there is a breeze. If you are indoors, Masks, Masks, Masks, 6 feet apart, and no food.

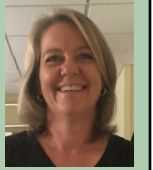


THANK YOU to all who took their time and used their talent to make facemasks for our congregation and for others during this pandemic. You have been as Jesus' hands and feet to us and to the community. It's always treacherous to begin naming names, so apologies in advance if anyone is missing...but our thanks go out to Linda Allen, Nancy Worcester, Mary Gourley, Pat Collins, Jamie Sanders, Brenda Hafner, and Bianca Brownfield. Your gift is appreciated and your love is apparent! – Your Church Family

# Associate Pastor

Rev. Brenda Church

rev.brenda.church@gmail.com



I feel like we may be stuck in the middle of a Twilight Zone episode! The Church not gathering just seems so unbelievably odd! I get it...but I would have never imagined any of this. It's just one in many things 2020 has to offer that should have us thinking and praying like never before. Covid still rages...anger and hatred continue at a fever pitch...finger pointing has become the norm. This year has us feeling out of control. And maybe that's a good thing...because truth is...we never were or will be...in control. God is in control of all things. So, with that huge mantle of responsibility off of our shoulders, the question remains: "What is our role to be in all of this...each one of us and all of us as a body?" What is God up to and what is our part in it?

I was out walking my neighborhood in Abilene one evening, a couple of weeks ago, discouraged in some ways...wrestling in other ways...anticipatory, maybe even excited, in still other ways...about all that is happening. So, as I walked, I asked God to show me something of Godself. In less than a minute, out of the calm evening, the wind kicked up so hard behind me that small tree limbs were hitting me in the back of the legs as they flew past me. A reasonable person would have taken the shortest path back home...but I had just asked God to show me something of Godself...so I stayed the course...walking along in the midst of the developing storm...seeing the power of the lightening and the wind and the roar of the thunder...the trees bowing low as if God were right there. God WAS right there! And I continued to walk my pre-determined path, speaking out loud to God, amazed at the beauty all around me! The rain started in earnest a bit before the end of my path, but I was compelled to linger in God's midst...so when I got home, I proceeded out to my back patio, where I continued to be amazed at the power that God was displaying. Soon, the electricity went out and I glanced over at my window and saw Zoe the cat standing on the ledge inside the house, wide-eyed, wondering if Mom had finally lost her marbles. So, I went in and laid flat out on the floor in front of the window of my empty master bedroom and watched the display for a good bit of time longer...just asking God for wisdom...and thanking God for Godself!

It hit me in those two hours that no human...no man...no woman...no black person...no white person...no green alien...not Hitler...not Billy Graham...NO person...no virus for that matter... can turn a blue-skyed day into a frenzy of power and activity and wind and rain and flashing light...but God can...in the twinkling of the eye! Praise be to God!

God is already victorious and so are we...so what now? What is our part? I am listening for that answer to my heart and I encourage you to do the same! I don't have the answers...but what I do know is that our battle is not against flesh (of any color) or blood (of any nationality). Rather, is against the spiritual forces of evil. We need to understand that well and be unified in our fight against these defeated forces that still try to trip us up! Boy, are they trying hard to kill, steal, and destroy in 2020... BUT....GOD.....!!!!

Full Disclosure: The storm was not a complete surprise, except for the fact that storms usually approach Abilene and then split to the north and the south leaving us bone dry. We believe it when we see it. This storm had been brewing over Sweetwater for a couple of hours before and the occasional lightening was visible in the distance from soon after I began my walk...so it didn't come out of nowhere (although, with God, it could have!) but the effect on me was the same. God showed me something of Godself that night...and I have since had a restored level of peace. May we be united even in our diversity. May we seek to love instead of to accuse. May we reach out to those who are different from us and learn from them. May we leave a legacy of peace. Above all, may we glorify God in every single thing we do! It's the very least we can do!

DUTCH WILKINSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP GOLF  
TOURNAMENT SCRAMBLE

When - 11 JULY 20 AT 8:00 AM

Where - The NUTCRACKER Golf Club  
9500 Orchard Drive, Granbury, TX 76049 (in Pecan  
Plantation)

Cost- \$ 85 per player which includes a hamburger lunch  
paid when registering before 1 July  
Hole in One Cash Prize

SIGN UP Deadline 1 July

Email: [jaeckle.j@gmail.com](mailto:jaeckle.j@gmail.com)

Mail checks : John Jaeckle, 9607 Champions Dr,  
Granbury, TX 76049

Provide Name, Phone Number, Email of  
Team Members

On line Pay Option : PayPal to HSC Aggies

To:

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

