

The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

May, 2021

From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgtravis@gmail.com



Anniversaries are fun. They happen once a year, you know. I guess you could celebrate weekly or monthly, too. In fact, when I was young a six-week-long relationship with a girlfriend was cause to mark an anniversary! But mostly, we mark these dates annually. Anniversaries are good cause for celebration, for jubilee, for taking time to think back and remember. We mark birthdays and weddings and baptisms and first days on the job – all the important stuff of our lives.

Some anniversaries are not so much about celebration as they are about marking important dates that need to be remembered. We celebrate July 4th to remind us the importance of our independence and the responsibilities we have to keep our democracy sound. April 21, 1836 is a date every good Texan should recall as the battle cry “Remember the Alamo” marked the final battle of our quest for freedom from Mexico at San Jacinto. We recall December 7, 1941 and the events of Pearl Harbor. September 11, 2001 is a day Americans remember with such familiarity that we refer to it simply as 9/11. These anniversaries are important to our collective identity. They are worth remembering.

Wedding anniversaries are important dates to remember. In June, Rhonda and I will mark 42 years of marriage. Seems hardly possible. I moved next door to Rhonda the summer after we both completed third grade. We had our first date on September 8, 1973 when we were 15. Our eldest daughter will turn 40 this summer. Rhonda hardly seems old enough to have a 40-year-old child. Ours has certainly been a relationship worth celebrating and we will once more this year.

I preached and led worship for the first time here in Granbury on July 21, 2013. It will be eight years this summer that I have been your pastor. Surely seems to have passed quickly to me. That said, I know that several of you are thinking that it seems like it’s been a lot longer than that! It’s a good day to celebrate as far as I am concerned and I hope we’ll share more anniversaries.

I was ordained in Brownfield, Texas on July 22, 1984. For 37 years I have been engaged in ordained ministry in this denomination and I preached for a couple of years prior to ordination. Again, it hardly seems possible it has been that long. The anniversary of my ordination has been an occasion to remember so many in the life of the church that have been important to me along the way. I am humbled as I recall each one. It’s humbling to celebrate my “ordiversary.”

We have a big anniversary to celebrate as a congregation this year. Our sanctuary was completed and services were first held here in April of 1896. If you have your shoes off and can count with fingers and toes, that means our sanctuary is 125 years old this year. The Session is in the process of appointing a committee to plan events over the summer and fall to mark this happening. We want to celebrate as a congregation and involve the community in our celebration since our building is one of the oldest in Granbury. Much history has occurred here. Watch for more news and ways you can participate in the months ahead. We’re going to do this party right and make this an occasion to remember.

I hope this talk of anniversaries sparked some memories for each of you about dates you hold sacred. Take time to honor those dates when they roll around on the calendar each year. And make plans to join us in celebrating the anniversary of our special place of worship. Thanks for being the people of faith you are. And Happy 125th!

See you Sunday,
Drew

Prayer of the Month

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



I believe I have stated my preference for normal in the past. I want church to be normal. I want our study classes to be normal. Social exchanges, normal. Etc., etc. Imagine then how I felt when wandering around the city Tuesday and finding a print of a Maya Angelou quote. Something, something ... 'pursuit of normal,' something, something, 'cause you to miss the amazing that is happening instead.'

Well, the quote I saw wasn't that at all. It was, "If you are always trying to be normal you will never know how amazing you can be." But I interpolated the meaning reflexively to an understanding I think maybe God might want me to have ... and share. You know when you find a bit of truth meant for you; there is something about how your back teeth coming together and you know your eyes have just narrowed that alerts you and puts you in a different zone for some minutes.

Yes, I am afraid we cannot click our ruby red heels together and be at normal, no matter how much you (and your little dog, too) want to be there. When it comes to histories of plagues, there are unpleasant consistencies that quash wild celebrations among the wise and wary. It's just the way it is. But, that said, amazing exists at any moment. We've all felt the lift of watching a child playing. Seeing their excitement exacts the toll of at least a smile. I guess the point of this story is, don't focus on things that aren't the way they "should" be. Let's do our best to find contentment, even joy, in the "different" moments that we are experiencing. And please feel free, any of you, to redirect my focus if you hear the word "normal" issue from me amidst a pouty stream of this-is-not-what-I-want!

Our prayer:

Thank you, God, for letting us last until this time of corporate, in-person worship. We praise and thank you, our sense of appreciation honed sharply by the empty church pews that our ministers preached to, faithfully. Please let this time of respite from widespread illness and death last. Let people be cautious in their comings and goings and exercise their mask-muscles and hand-washing expertise when needed. Let the surcease where realized, refresh our health care workers. Let them come through strengthened by the tasks they overcame. Give them the sense of their own courage and let it sustain them into long and productive lives. Father, help us all recognize and accept our strength found in you. We are never apart, but let our oneness be an awareness that inspires our ideals and infuses our action.

We pray in the name of our resurrected Lord, Jesus. Amen.

Pat Collins



Congregational Care

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



May Birthdays

- 2 Edward Smith
- 3 Pamela Wurtz
Kim Sullins
Nancy Worcester
- 4 Reann McHaney
- 5 Scott Wylie
- 7 Margie Reynolds
- 8 Pat Luley
- 9 Robert Luersen/Young
- 10 Stan Metcalf
- 11 David Teal
- 12 John Briese
Julie Dean
- 13 Lawson Allen
- 14 Jean Haight
- 16 LuAnn Attaway
- 18 Jimmie Johnson
- 20 Carrie Luersen/
Young
Steve Wilmeth
- 21 Becky Kubiak
- 25 Ruth Ann Jewell
- 27 Elizabeth Chandler
Linda Reed
Paula Jenkins

May Anniversaries

- 5 Richard and Mary Lee McCarthy
- 10 David and Annelle Teal
- 13 Hank and Pamela Wurtz
- 18 Edward and Fran Smith
- 19 Emily and Tony Graham
- 22 Beverly and Charles McKusick
- 23 Earl and Connie Darne'
- 28 Jan and Marlin Massengale
- 29 Doris and Carl Dinkel



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

John Cheney

Charles Basket

The Oaks of Granbury

CH Tubbs

Autumn Hill Manor (Weatherford)

Dee Holt

At home and/or receiving treatment

Diann McHaney, Lynn Schoeneman, Winette Lovelady, Edith George, Jean Haight, Martha Ferrill, Ed Smith, Stan Bowlin, Bill Lowe, JD Finlay

WE MOURN THE PASSING OF OUR MEMBERS

- * Elinor Foote

CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- * Sheila Higgins in her recovery at home.
- * Maureen Walker as she recovers and mourns the death of her friend Elinor.
- * Rita Hart as she deals with non-cancerous brain tumor.
- * Wanda Moon as she prepares for knee replacement surgery on the 27th.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY CONCERNS

- * CJ Cluck, 8 year old grandson of member Beverly McKusick as he continues chemotherapy.

SPECIAL BLESSING

- * The birth of Allison Kay Graham to Tony and Emily Graham.
- * Lynn Schoeneman's blood clots have cleared by 95%.

Heavenly Father, please surround our loved ones and their families with your healing peace and comfort.



Getting Together Again, Finally!



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

**All Women of the Church are invited to the
PW Luncheon Featuring the Rainbow Room**

Date: May 14th, Friday

Time: 10:00 AM

**Program: Rainbow Room presentation by Brigitte Eichler
Election of Officers**

Place: Fellowship Hall

RSVP: Pat Luley, paluley@gmail.com, (817) 776-1481

Reservations are required for Box Lunches

\$ Donations for lunches appreciated, but not required.

Masks Are Required.

Also, at our May 14th meeting, we will be electing our 2021-2023 officers. The Search Committee consisting of: Margaret Gulinson, Julia Hinterleiter, Pat Luley, Beverly McKusick and Stephanie Mosley confirmed the following slate of officers:

Moderator Nancy Worcester

2nd Vice Moderator Ruth Gump

Historian Nancy Worcester

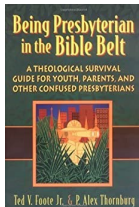
The following will remain on the Coordinating Team for their second year:

Treasurer Stephanie Mosley

Secretary Beverly McKusick

Rotating off the Coordinating Team will be Moderator, Margaret Gulinson, 1st Vice Moderator, Saunya Bishop, and Historian, Julia Hinterleiter. We thank them for their dedication and extended service during the Covid-19 year.

Calendar



Bible Study

Being Presbyterian in the Bible Belt, written by Ted V. Foote Jr. & P. Alex Thornburg, is a theological survival guide for youth, parents, and other confused Presbyterians.

Come join us for a lively discussion! Rev. Brenda Church is offering In-Person meetings for our Bible study during March, April and May. You can attend one of the meetings listed below.

- May 11** **11:00 AM**, In-Person Bible Study, in Fellowship Hall. Contact Rev. Brenda Church for reservations at (325) 669-9904 or rev.brenda.church@gmail.com.
- May 11** **1:30 PM**, In-Person Bible Study (due to social distancing, this is a closed small group at Pat Collins' home). Contact Pat at (817) 280-0211 or Pat.collins37@yahoo.com
- May 14** **10:00 AM** PW Program, Election and Lunch

I'm looking forward to getting together again, getting acquainted with our new members and seeing everyone in person!

Blessings to all,
Margaret Gulinson



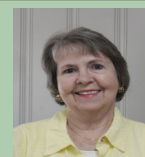
First Presbyterian Church

Watch for the Library re-opening in the near future!

*To engage our interest and minds.
To deepen our understanding.
To develop Godly character and living.*

F.U.N. Circle

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



FUN Circle will be meeting at 10:00, Wednesday, May 26, in Fellowship Hall to plan activities for September '21-May '22. Come join us for coffee and bring your ideas.



Associate Pastor

Rev. Brenda Church

rev.brenda.church@gmail.com

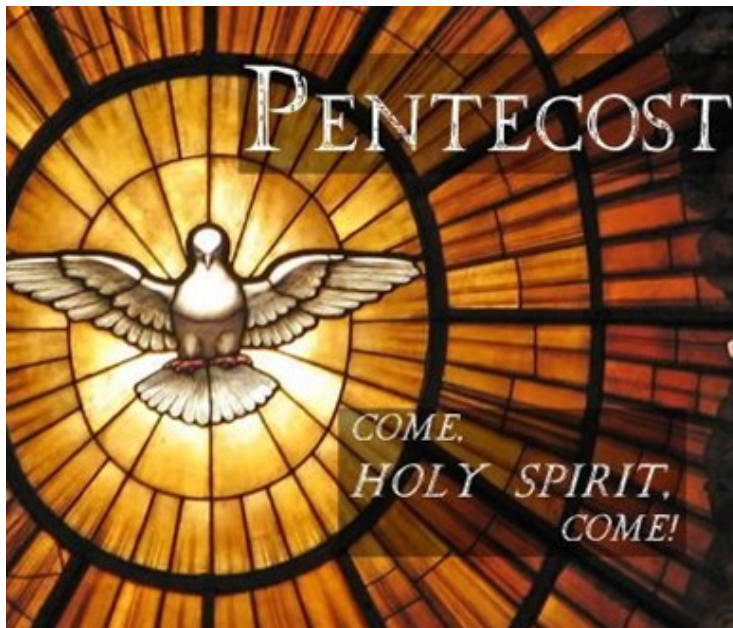


Community... There's just nothing like it! It's a necessary thing! Even God exists in Triune community...Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. When Jesus lived on earth, he hung around with his own set of community. His tight circle of three, his broader circle of twelve, and his massive circle of untold numbers of disciples, were all part and parcel to Jesus' ministry. They were a source of encouragement, laughter, life, and, of course, some level of discouragement as well. Most communities are all of those things and more. We, as a church, are community. We encourage one another, we laugh together, we live life together, we serve together, we struggle together, we seek God and good together, as one community.

I need community! So, my move to Granbury followed way to quickly by a world-wide pandemic, was quite a wallop to quenching my need for community. I am ready to get back to it! Thankfully, I was able to get a good dose of community this past weekend at a Women's Retreat in Abilene. This is an annual deal for me, except, of course, for last year. It was wonderful to gather together with friends I am close to and friends that were new to me...and about 400 other women that I didn't get around to meeting in three short days. Even still, all of them, for me...community! There is such power and encouragement when we gather together, sing together, pray together, cry together, share burdens together, study together, ponder together, and laugh until we cry again... together!

It's no accident that God decided to use a thing called the Church Universal to spread the word about the Word and to glorify God even in our imperfection. It's no accident that God sent a community of stumbling, fumbling disciples into all the world to make disciples, to baptize, to teach...to create a larger and larger community of believers! (Matthew 28: 19-20) Think about how much easier it would have been for God to just declare: "Let there be believers" and there would be believers! But God instead chose to send God's disciples throughout all time...that's you and me, too...into all the world to make community, in God's name.

As we emerge from the safe places to which we have fled, let us be found loving completely, living boldly, proclaiming unashamedly, believing fearlessly...and in so doing...making God-glorifying community! We don't have to be perfect! But we do need to be rooted and grounded in Christ. We need to be intentional about our own faith if we hope to answer the call to Jesus' Great Commission here in our own time. Let us not be found so concerned with ourselves that we miss the amazing and wonderful chance to spread the Good News and to help expand the body of Christ, the Church...our Community! There's just nothing like it.



On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit descending in a mighty rush of wind and flame to inspire the church's proclamation of Christ's rising and to empower its mission and ministry to the world. (See Acts 2:1-13; see also Joel 2:28-32.)

The notion of Easter as a season of 50 days ending at Pentecost is patterned after the ancient Jewish festival of seven weeks that extended from the beginning of the barley harvest (on the second day after the beginning of Passover) to the end of the wheat harvest at the Festival of Weeks *Shavuot* (see Deuteronomy 16:9-12).

The Festival of Weeks later came to be called Pentecost ("50th day") by Greek speaking Jews. In Jewish tradition, Shavuot also marks the giving of the law to Moses at Sinai; this liturgical link may inform Paul's discussions of the law and the Spirit (see Romans 8, 2 Corinthians 3 and Galatians 3).

Pentecost is new creation

An excerpt from the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 117-119): According to the Day of Pentecost story in Acts 2:1-13, God gave the gift of the Holy Spirit to empower witnesses to the resurrection. Sounds from heaven, cosmic language, the rush of a mighty *ruach* (wind, spirit, breath) invaded the house in which the apostles gathered, and appeared to them as a burning fire. Tongues of fire touched their nerve centers. A power — the unseen power of God — moved among them and gripped them. The Holy Spirit is unseen, like the wind, which is why the Old Testament calls it *ruach YHWH*, "the wind, or breath, of God" (cf. John 3:8). The Spirit is the "unseenness of God" working among us.

On the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God's gift of Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, helps us to comprehend what God is doing in the world, and empowers us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God's plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10). Without the gift of the Spirit, Christ's church dries up and withers away, and we are left with only our broken selves. With the gift of the Spirit, all things are possible. A spirit-filled community of faith opens eyes to needs in the world and sees its missing as God's new people. The Day of Pentecost is the climax of the Great Fifty Days of Easter, celebrating as it does the gift of the Spirit to the body of Christ — the church.

*"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
And you will be my witnesses"*



GIFTS FOR OUR NEIGHBORS AT THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

On the 24th of March, members of the Outreach and Missions committee had a "work party" to prepare 86 gift bags that included a beautiful coloring book, colored pencils, mixed nuts and Easter chocolates.

On April 1st, we delivered a gift bag for each household AND 30 hams for the households that requested one.



CARING FOR CASEWORKERS

APRIL 2021

Every April we partner with The Rainbow Room of Granbury to care for the Employees of the Hood County Department of Family and Protective Services. We stock their break room with snacks and water. And each year, we give an individual gift to each employee. This year, we gave them nice insulated cups and a \$10 sonic gift card.



 ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

2021 Contribution
\$884

Thank You

How wonderful it is to be a part of this body of Christ - today and everyday, but especially when God calls someone you love home to be with Him. Jerry had just finished climbing up on his workbench to install a large light he had crafted. He had just ridden his brand new scooter around the neighborhood when he woke the next day with a bad cough that turned out to be Covid 19. The Christmas tree lights twinkled each night as he rallied to sit in the living room, but the day after Christmas he needed more care in a hospital. He died with his family around him on January 6th. In spite of Covid 19 you brought food and called and sent cards and memorials. I still feel the love and concern you extended to me and his children. It meant so much to me and to them. I've relocated to the Denton area, but you are still my church family. Thank you again for your love and concern during a very difficult time.

Carol Boyd

Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder

lindaallen33047@gmail.com



IT'S PICNIC TIME!

The number of Covid 19 cases in Hood County has continued to track downward and because of that the session has voted to allow food to be served. However, there are rules that must be followed. At a buffet, for instance, the food must be plated by people wearing masks and gloves. Those going through the line cannot serve themselves. Serving drinks follows the same rules. With all that in mind, we have been given permission to have our church picnic.

WHERE? 200 Bahama Court (Lawson and Linda Allen's house on the lake. It is 2 streets behind Wylie's in The Shores)

WHEN? Saturday, May 15th, starting at 5:30 PM until ?

WHAT WILL WE SUPPLY? BBQ, ice, bottled water, condiments, tables, and some chairs

WHAT DO WE NEED YOU TO BRING? A side dish or dessert to share (please bring it in a disposable container)

Any other beverage you would like besides bottled water, camp chairs, yard games. You might also want to bring fishing equipment, life jackets for children, swim floats, and S'more supplies.

There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet in the Narthex and a bulletin insert for a couple of weeks to remind you of the details.



Bridging the Gap with Volunteers

The FPC Admin office is building a list of volunteers that would be willing to come to the office to help with answering the phone, assist with occasional church mailings, and a variety of other opportunities as they arise.

One of my favorite quotes by Helen Keller *"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much,"* has inspired me to volunteer and I hope it will inspire you as well.

If you would like to volunteer please give me a call at 817-573-2337 or send an email to office@fpcgranbury.com

The office is open each week day from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Stop in or give me a call if there is anything I can do for you.

Blessings,
Gail



MAY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 Brenda Continuing Education 8:45 AM In Person Worship - Live Stream Worship via Facebook & YouTube 11:00 AM In Person Worship	26	27	28 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study - FH	29 2:00 PM Elaine Sparks Innumment	30	1
2 8:45 AM In Person Worship - Live Stream Worship via Facebook & YouTube 11:00 AM In Person Worship	3	4 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Clergy Group	5 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM-1:00 PM Men's Study - FH	6	7	8
9 8:45 AM In Person Worship - Live Stream Worship via Facebook & YouTube 11:00 AM In Person Worship	10	11 11:00 AM PW Bible Study- FH 1:30 PM Pat Collins home	12 12:00 PM-1:00 PM Men's Study - FH	13	14 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM PW Election of Officers	15 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Pauley Innumment 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM Hughes Innumment
16 8:45 AM In Person Worship - Live Stream Worship via Facebook & YouTube 11:00 AM In Person Worship	17	18 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Clergy Group 5:30 PM Session	19 12:00 PM-1:00 PM Men's Study - FH	20 Bridge Articles Due	21	22
23 8:45 AM In Person Worship - Live Stream Worship via Facebook & YouTube 11:00 AM In Person Worship	24	25	26 10:00 AM FUN Circle 12:00 PM-1:00 PM Men's Study - FH	27	28	29
30 8:45 AM In Person Worship - Live Stream Worship via Facebook & YouTube 11:00 AM In Person Worship	31	1 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Clergy Group	2 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM-1:00 PM Men's Study - FH	3	4	5

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.

Allison Kay Graham

Join us as we welcome and
celebrate Baby Allison.

Fellowship Hall
Sunday, June 6th
at 3pm

Tony and Emily have requested books.
Please feel free to write a little note to the
Grahams inside.

Allison has a lot of hair! If you'd like to
bring a ribbon or a hair bow, she will be
well supplied!!

Or Gift cards are always useful



To:

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