

The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

June, 2021

From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgtravis@gmail.com



The cartoon depicts two windows at a large department store. A store employee sits behind each window waiting to serve the customers as they come. Over one window the word “Compliments” is painted in large block letters. The sign over the other window reads “Complaints.” It’s clear it will be a long, lonely day for the employee behind the “Compliments” window – there is absolutely no one in line. The “Complaints” window, however, has a line that extends around the corner and all the way down the hall.

We seem so much better at offering criticism than we are at providing a compliment. I wonder why? Our eyes seem often to be directed toward the one flaw we can identify in an otherwise flawless presentation. I’m guilty of seeing the less-than-perfect and commenting on the imperfection while ignoring praise for the obvious perfection surrounding the flaw. I do it to myself all the time. I paint a wall in our house and up in the corner of the room adjacent to the 12 foot ceiling, I get a little bit of wall paint on the contrasting color crown molding. The fresh paint transforms the entire room and looks absolutely marvelous but I focus on the tiny brush mistake that no one else will ever detect. One should not be a perfectionist unless one is perfect. I’m not there yet.

I have a collection of short stories that a friend in my first parish gave me years ago. It’s a volume filled with tales of church folk in everyday situations and how we fail miserably at being the church folk we intend to be. The stories are funny. Many of them are poignant. All of them are honest and celebrate the human flaws that make us so very human. Yet, each of the tales celebrates the grace that makes us loved and loveable in spite of our flaws. The stories are reminders that we are more than our imperfections and that by God’s grace we have much for which to be grateful and much to celebrate. My favorite of those short yarns is titled, “I’m More Than a Man with a Droopy Eyelid.” I think that title says it all. There’s more to see here than imperfections.

When asked “How are you?” a friend from my past always gave the same answer without fail. “Grateful,” he’d say. That was all. “Grateful.” At first it bothered me when he replied in that manner. I thought it sounded like a cute phrase he picked up from a waitress at a local eatery. The more I heard him say it, the more it annoyed me. Then it made me feel guilty that I should be annoyed so I started pondering why his reply got under my skin. I decided my guilt was due to my failure to acknowledge my own gratitude. “How are you?” “Grateful.” Well, that’s a heck of an answer, I think.

I’m glad we gain some maturity as we move through this life and I’m grateful that we learn much along the way. I used to think it corny when someone would remind me to “count my blessings.” As I have gotten older, I realize that I can’t even count that high. Goodness, there is much for which to be grateful. So very much. I’m learning to focus on that and attempting to respond to the world and those in it with a grace of gratitude. I’m doing my best to step out of the complaint line and occupy a little space in front of the “Compliments” window. I don’t always remember which line I want to be in but I’m working on it. It feels good. I think gratitude is the beginning of faith. I’m working on that, too. Thank God.

See you Sunday,
Drew

Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder
susanyoung@gmail.com



June Birthdays

- 1 Julia Hinterleiter
- 2 J.D. Finlay
- 3 Bernice Deeds
Kenneth Morgan
- 4 Shirley Shaffer
- 5 Arlona Herbel
Neita Daughtrey
Peggy Lewis
- 11 Lillian Ethridge
- 13 Lorraine Schmitz
- 15 Pepper Davis
Stephen Reinke
- 16 Jack and Jacci South-
ern
- 17 Carol Gadbois
Dana Sutton
Dee Holt
Don Williams
- 19 Ted Goller
- 20 Jim Dean
- 22 Fred J. Crawford
- 25 Gwen Clay
- 25 Bill Lowe
Pam Christopher
- 27 Nancy Blakely
- 28 Ron Deeds
- 30 Bret Diedrich
Edith George
Robert Werbung

June Anniversaries

- 1 Lawson and Linda Allen
- 2 Les and Brenda Staples
- 6 Kim and Janna Sullins
- 9 Paul and Emily Holms
Jimmie and Sherry Johnson
- 12 Jim and Carolyn Stringer
- 13 David and Claudia Southern
- 17 Peter and Sallie Garland
Ray and Carolyn Llewellyn
- 18 Roger and Shawn Deeds
- 19 Mark and Lori Collinsworth
- 24 Mark and Saunya Bishop
Debbie and Greg Schneider

At care/retirement facilities

Courtyards at Lake Granbury

Mary Skinner

Waterview at Lake Granbury

Ted Dolan

Nita Collinsworth

The Cove at Waterview

Jean Haight

The Cove at Lake Granbury

Eloise Pauli

Quail Park

John Cheney

Charles Basket

The Oaks of Granbury

CH Tubbs

AT HOME AND/OR RECEIVING TREATMENT

Diann McHaney, Lynn Schoeneman, Winette Lovelady, Edith George, Martha Ferrill, Ed Smith, Bill Lowe, JD Finaly

CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

* Sheila Higgins in her recovery at home.

* Rita Hart as she deals with the effects of her brain tumor while living at home.

* Wanda Moon as she recovers from knee surgery.

DEATH OF A MEMBER

Stan Bowlin on Sunday May, 23rd. Do keep Linda and the Bowlin family in prayer.

OUR EXTENDED FAMILY CONCERNS

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

* The Younk Family (Susan's late husbands' Family): Niece Peggy's husband Jim on ventilator from COVID for 50 days and doing poorly, bother-in-law Karl as he battles prostate cancer that has now spread throughout his body, nephew Daniel who has exhausted chemo options for stage 4 colon cancer, cousin Russell who mourns the passing of his wife, and sister-in-law Debra as she mourns the passing of her husband from COVID.

SPECIAL BLESSING

Heavenly Father, please surround our family and friends with your comfort, peace and strength. Help us to care for those hurting and in need, being instruments of your unending love.



Associate Pastor

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



Awwww (*long exhale*)... Ordinary Time! It's about time! Ordinary Time is the period of time in the church year that stretches between the major seasons of the church (Advent/Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Easter/Pentecost). There is a brief period of Ordinary Time between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, but that time is so short that we can barely catch a deep breath before plunging back in. So, when the words Ordinary Time hit my ears, I am thinking about the glorious, long stretch of Ordinary time that lies between Pentecost and Advent. Now, THIS period of Ordinary Time is long enough for us to take many deep breaths and to consider anew our lives in Christ as individuals and as a community of faith. Ordinary Time is a Time that represents growth, rest, reconciliation, inspiration, rejuvenation, redirection! It's no accident that the liturgical color for Ordinary Time is green! Ordinary Time represents life... day to day, ordinary life. It is in these periods of day to day, ordinary life that genuine, deep growth often happens.

Just as mountaintop experiences have their very important places in our lives, so do the major seasons of the Church. Without Christmas and Easter, the Church wouldn't exist. It wouldn't need to exist. The very basis of the Christian Church lies in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. However, if we are honest, these busy seasons may not be the places where we experience God's presence most clearly.

We are very likely, if we are paying attention, to experience God most profoundly in the very ordinary, mundane, day-to-day events in our lives. Spending time in a garden and noticing the impeccable beauty of a flower...driving along a highway and coming up over a rise to the sight of a beautiful landscape that simply pours out in front of you...hearing the belly laugh of a small child at home, or in the grocery store, or from the 3rd pew. These are ordinary things that immediately draw our attention. These are the ordinary things that lift our hearts. These are the ordinary things that cause us to praise the Lord, wherever we are, and in the midst of whatever else we are doing at that moment.

Ordinary Time is always special...but I wonder if it's not even more special this year. Perhaps more than ever, we are longing for the things of the ordinary! Perhaps more than ever, we can sense the extraordinary that is showcased most vividly, strangely, in the very ordinary!

When Jesus walked the earth, most of the time, he did ordinary things among ordinary people. Yes, there were some miracles here and there and, no doubt, he personified a love so deep that it amazed everyone...comforting most even as it confounded some. But, mostly, Jesus was engaged in the ordinary...eating, sleeping, having conversation, walking...lots of walking, making friends and some enemies, living, laughing, loving. He did the things you and I also do. In fact, the Gospel accounts often depict Jesus asking people and demons alike not to speak of his miracles or his divinity. Jesus wanted to reach the most ordinary of the ordinary and he did that by spending most of his time being...well, ordinary. I think we are called to be that kind of ordinary, too!

I am ready for Ordinary Time: a time when we can slow down and allow the Spirit to speak to us in new and exciting ways...a time when we can reflect on the ordinary-ness of our very Extraordinary Lord! Pull up a lawn chair and join me! Welcome to the wonder of the mundane!

Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder
lindaallen33047@gmail.com



The church picnic on May 15 was a lot of fun. Between 50 and 60 church members came bringing all the side dishes and desserts for a brisket dinner. It was great weather and good company. Knowing human nature, it won't be long before we start taking being together for granted. That hasn't happened yet, and it was such a joy sitting together and visiting over good food.

If you missed the picnic, you will have another opportunity to gather in Fellowship Hall for the post **July 4th parade BBQ lunch** at the church. We will have BBQ sandwiches and hot dogs with all the fixings. If you have family or friends in town, please bring them! The parade will actually take place on **Saturday, July 3rd** and the BBQ lunch at Fellowship Hall will take place after the parade is over. Here is a great summer salad recipe.

Orzo Salad with Tomatoes, Feta Cheese, and Green Onions

- ¼ c Red Wine Vinegar
- 2 T fresh lemon juice
- 1 t honey
- ½ c olive oil
- 6 c chicken broth
- 1 lb orzo
- 2 c red and yellow teardrop or grape tomatoes halved
- 1 7oz package crumbled feta cheese (1 ½ c)
- 1 c chopped fresh basil
- 1 c green onions sliced
- ½ c pine nuts, toasted



Whisk vinegar, lemon juice, and honey in small bowl. Gradually whisk in oil. Season vinaigrette with salt and pepper to taste. Cover to store. You can make this 2 days ahead.

Bring broth to boil in a large heavy saucepan, stir in orzo, reduce heat to medium, cover partially and boil until tender but still firm to bite, stirring occasionally. Drain. Transfer to a large wide bowl, tossing frequently till cool. Mix tomatoes, feta, basil, and green onions into the orzo. Add vinaigrette, toss to coat. Season with salt and pepper if needed. Good to make 2 hours ahead and let stand at room temperature. Add pine nuts, toss and serve at room temperature.

This makes a lot and keeps several days in the refrigerator. Wonderful salad to take to a pot luck or a picnic.

Prayer of the Month

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



Have you ever noticed how much stuff it takes to keep yourself comfortable and happy? The older I get, the more things it takes and the less I value the things it takes — even though I want them and think I “need” them. Let’s kind of list them.

Temperature should be constant and comfortable. Humidity should be carefully managed and kept low. Then there is seating. Chair should be not too high or too low, nor too soft or hard. And then there is foot elevation. Well, certainly the feet should be up, right? Then, upon what should you gaze? A nice view out the window? A big TV screen? A beautiful painting? Or are you reading? Do you need separate glasses for that? If I am going to read much, I like a little stronger magnification. If I am sewing and need to thread a needle, I need even stronger glasses. Maybe now you’ve noticed a jagged edge on one of your nails. Do you need a file or an Emory board? Maybe clippers? The phone just rang and you need to write down some information, so paper, pencil or pen. I mentioned TV before and I now have multiple remotes which must be kept close at hand. Being good Christians, we want at least one Bible or inspirational reading nearby. If we are studying the Bible, we might want notations that focus on nuances of translation. Or maybe you are curious about the sociological underpinnings at the time of Christ and you need a specialized Bible for that (I guarantee you, there is one). Please don’t think this list of nearby “things” is comprehensive. I haven’t addressed special interests or hobbies that require “keeping up with,” by book or magazine. This adds another category though: things we “want to,” “should,” or “need” to read (as opposed to what we actually do read).

Now comes the part that affirms that although most of us have all this stuff stacked around us, as we’ve aged, all of these things have little value compared to what is truly valuable in our lives: Families, relationships, health, security, faith, faith, and more faith. In fact, I’ll go one further about all those “things,” the “stuff,” — they now have a negative worth. That’s right. Negative worth. They must be cleaned or otherwise maintained, and they must be kept up with. It does no good to have something if you can’t find it when you need it. So, it must be categorized and organized and easily accessible. This gets burdensome. See? Negative worth. I think of Scrooge before his redemption, when he sees the ghost of Marley dragging the heavy chains around and warning Scrooge of his sure fate lest he not cast off the love of money and embrace his fellow humans.

Cautionary tales are a method of teaching through awakening recognition of ourselves somewhere in the mix of the story and then illustrating a way out. Scrooge found his way out through service and generosity to others. Is there any other way?

Prayer

We give thanks to you, Our God. Thank you for our return to worship and all that worship nourishes in our hearts. Thank you for being the light at the end of every tunnel. Bring your light into India and other countries bearing great burdens of illness. Let Palestine and Israel grow in their tentative efforts to cease fire. Let peace prevail there and in other areas of armed conflict. Help us remember to keep in prayer for peace and the betterment of the world.

Awaken in us a love of simplicity, Father. Keep us mindful that the stuff in our lives doesn’t add to our worth in your eyes. You look upon us, just us, and love us. Help us Father see one another without the accoutrements, carefully gathered, and when we recognize the true need, love, enable us to love wholeheartedly and without judgment. Lighten our grip on “our things” and let us share where we see need.

We ask all these things in the name of Christ and praise your holy name.
Amen.

Pat Collins



Membership

Marla Caraway, elder
marlahill1001@gmail.com



The Membership Committee is excited to announce our upcoming **New Member and Prospective Member Dinner!!** We're moving forward with the dinner that had to be postponed during Covid. We have joyfully welcomed a few more new members and some visitors, as well.



Please be our guest at a dinner for **NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS**
Sunday, June 13th at 6:00 PM, Fellowship Hall

Hope you will join us for a fun informational evening of fellowship.

Please RSVP by Sunday June 6th

Marla Caraway, Membership Committee, 817-422- 2169 (call or text) or marlahill1001@gmail.com

We hope you'll take this opportunity to meet other new members, visitors, and session members. Lots of information will be provided on how you can become active in our church community. Dinner will be provided, and we promise it won't disappoint!

Instant
Church Directory™
Online

Be on the lookout for some
exciting updates for our Membership
Directory!

It's actually very easy to download our online church directory app! From your Smart phone, go to your APPS store. Search for "Directory". Yes! Just "Directory"!! You will see an app called "INSTANT CHURCH DIRECTORY" with a small green church icon. "GET" that. It's free.

You'll need to create a password. Be sure to use the email address that the church office has on file. Once it downloads, you can open it and see the amazing things you can do here. For example, if you want to contact me, you can search for my name, then click on my picture. From there, you have the option of texting me, calling, or emailing me. Right from the app! You can also click on the "staff tab" to contact all of our staff. Under the tab "groups" you can access specific neighborhoods and see who lives near you.

We hope to add tabs for "new members" and other useful categories. I just can't express to you the excitement I had once I figured this little tool out. I hope you'll try it!

It's been so nice to see smiling faces again, spend time together in worship, and fellowship with each other as we go about serving our FPC community, and our brothers and sisters outside our church. I was reminded today what a big impact a personal phone call, or face to face greeting can be. It can be so easy to shoot a quick text or email in our fast paced, tech driven world. I'd like to encourage us all to reach out to each other with a phone call or face to face greeting. It means so much.

**"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
Romans 15:7**

Worship

Julie Dean, elder
juliebutlerdean@gmail.com



COVID numbers continue to decline! Am I the only one who feels like singing?



Happy days are here again,
The skies above are clear again,
Let us sing a song of cheer again,
Happy days are here again!

While we move forward with cautious optimism it certainly seems as though life is finally returning to a new normal. As we gather we should all be mindful that there are those who may not feel as comfortable as others with less strict guidelines. Please take this into consideration as you interact with others. A slight change from what we are accustomed to during the summer months, we will continue having two services this year. This will allow for smaller numbers in each service. Have a wonderful summer!



First Presbyterian Church

LIBRARY

From the Archives - June 2012



Dear Family,

June is going to be my last month on staff at FPC Granbury, and so I won't get another chance to write a newsletter article. So I won't pass up this opportunity.

Speaking of opportunity, I would not have had nearly as much of it as I have had these last 5 years if you all had not shown such kindness. When I was first brought on as the youth director, the church gave me a job. Before that, I had no job, and my family was visiting food pantries and living in a borrowed home. Somewhere along the way, the church gave me something else. It gave me hope. Like many of us, I had been hurt by a church and was not particularly looking to pursue ministry full time. Yet, the arms that embraced us here and the love of the people convinced me that it is possible for a church to be Christ-like and care for each other. As if that was not enough, you all saw something in me that I had been unwilling to accept. You saw a calling. You eased the way for me to return to school and encouraged my way into ordination. I learned what it meant to be a Presbyterian, and as a result, I chose the PCUSA not only for my job, but for my home.

When our car broke down, you helped us get another. When we couldn't afford insurance, you stepped up. When we were hungry, you fed us. If I continue to write, I could no doubt fill many pages of newsletter with exactly how much you have done, how amazing you are, and how grateful I am. It will suffice to say that I owe you all far more than I could ever repay, and I will take your kindness to the grave with me as an undying example of what it looks like when people decide to be the church of Jesus Christ for each other. I can only give you my promise, as partial fulfillment of that debt I owe to you, that I will make every attempt to be as faithful to the churches I serve as you have been to me and mine.

I will never forget you, for how does one forget their parents?

With so much love,

Chad

Presbyterian Women

Nancy Burks Worcester
PW Moderator
nancybw@gmail.com



Welcome to summer! I am so pleased to begin my term as moderator for PW. I want to admit up front that I have NO idea what I'm doing. I have little hope of catching up to the level of leadership modeled by Margaret Gulinson, but I will do my best. I am very lucky to have Ruth Gump as vice-moderator and she will hopefully keep me on task, Ruth was presented a lifetime membership into Presbyterian Women on Sunday, May 16. Congratulations, Ruth! Pat Luley continues as second vice-moderator, Beverly McKusick continues as secretary. Nancy Bennett will be our new historian, and Stephanie Moseley continues as treasurer.

We met on May 14 to install these officers and also to thank our outgoing officers Margaret Gulinson, Pat Luley and Saunya Bishop for their leadership. Our program was given by Bridgette Eichler of the Rainbow Room. This wonderful mission provides food, clothing and other necessities for caseworkers in the office of Family Protection Services as well as to foster families. Our thanks to them for this great service.

FUN CIRCLE! BOOK CLUB! PROGRAMS! I know we have all missed these things!

Fun circle continues under the leadership of Gloria Mitchell. Join us this Wednesday May 26 at 10:00 as we make our plans for the upcoming year.

Book Circle will begin a new year with Linda Somervell at the helm. Stay tuned for that information.

Bridge Circle: Lorraine Schmitz will have more information to follow.

Bible Study Coordinator will be Marijane Harvey. Bible study under the leadership of Rev. Brenda Church will meet the first Tuesday of the month. Study info will be announced soon.

Trinity Mission Birthday coordinator will be Sherry Johnson (at this time only one person will be allowed each month)



Here is a list of programs for the upcoming year: (subject to change)

June*July*August - summer break.

September 16: Couch Surfers Ministries

October 1-2: Rummage Sale

November 18: Retreat with Rev. Dr. Christie Robbins

December 16: TBA

January 20: Ruth's Place speaker

February 17: TBA

March 2: White Breakfast

April 1-2: Rummage Sale

May 19: Election of officers

Outreach and Mission

Bianca Brownfield, elder
biancabrownfield@gmail.com



THE RAINBOW ROOM OF HOOD COUNTY WORKS WITH CPS CASEWORKERS AS WELL AS CASAS TO IDENTIFY CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE WHO NEED HELP GETTING GEAR TO HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL.

IN 2018, WE PARTNERED WITH THE RAINBOW ROOM TO SUPPLY GIFT CARDS FOR SHOES! WE GAVE SO MANY THAT WHEN WE ASKED IN 2019, THEY STILL HAD A SUPPLY. THIS IS A GREAT WAY THAT WE CAN PARTNER WITH THE WONDERFUL SOCIAL WORKERS AND CHILD ADVOCATES WHO DO SO MUCH TO HELP THESE VULNERABLE CHILDREN.



JUNE 20TH OR JUNE 27TH

IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE, PLEASE BRING RACK ROOM SHOES GIFT CARDS TO EITHER SUNDAY SERVICE.

Allison Kay Graham

Join us as we welcome and celebrate Baby Allison.

Fellowship Hall
Sunday, June 6th
at 3pm

The Grahams have requested clothes 6 months and up or books are always appreciated.

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



Christian Education

Nancy Bennett, elder
nbennett0803@gmail.com



Grow in Faith. Have Fun. Change the World.

Vacation Church School will look a little different this year! We are using materials from Sparkhouse *ReNew: The Green VBS* based on Mark 4:1-9 The Parable of the Sower. Please watch for more information throughout the summer as we journey through this beloved parable.

Want to help? Call or email the office and let us know!



VIRTUAL: SPIRITUAL EXILE AND SEEDS OF PROMISE: WITH JOHN PHILIP NEWELL

In his widely acclaimed series '*Spiritual Exile & Seeds of Promise*', John Philip Newell explores the yearnings that have led countless numbers of people into an experience of exile from the religious traditions of their inheritance, whether in literally leaving church or in looking well beyond its bounds for vision and nourishment.

Register now for a virtual event Ghost Ranch:

<https://www.ghostranch.org/events/spiritual-exile-and-seeds-of-promise/>

The Date is June 5 from 11:00 am. To 12:15 pm. The **cost is \$40.00** (Option to add \$20 to offer scholarship support to others or subtract \$20 to those who need support or are on a fixed income.)

The presentation by John Philip will be followed by a shared online meditation as well as the opportunity to submit questions and comments to the moderator of our livestream gathering, some of which John Philip will be able to respond to during the one-hour session.

Participants will be sent the Zoom link prior to the program. Unable to attend at that time? Those who register will have access to the recording for a window of time.

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	31	1 Drew - Vacation 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Clergy Group	2 Drew - Vacation 11:00 AM Membership Committee Meeting	3 Drew - Vacation	4 Drew - Vacation	5 Drew - Vacation 10:00 AM Communion Guild
6 Drew - Vacation 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Baby Shower - For Emily Graham	7 Drew - Vacation	8	9 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM PEO Meeting 10:00 AM Staff Meeting	10 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Personnel Committee	11	12
13 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book 1:00 PM Emergency Plan Ad Hoc Committee 6:00 PM New Member Dinner	14	15 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM Clergy Group 5:30 PM Session	16	17	18	19
20 Bridge Articles Due 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book	28	29	30	1	2	3 10:00 AM Communion Guild

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.



Celebrating Birthdays

To celebrate your birthday (or that of a family member or friend), and in thanksgiving for God's gift of grace, please consider making a gift of your own, in the amount of \$1 for each year of your (or your honoree's) life, to sustain the permanent endowment funds of the church.

Please notify the church office when you make your gift that it is a birthday offering. If honoring someone else, please so note. If giving online, please provide this information in the "Notes."



Any announcements for inclusion in the bulletin need to be received by Thursday noon.

To:

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