



The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

September, 2021

From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgttravis@gmail.com



(As you may know, I've been quarantined at home after testing positive for COVID. I'm doing much better and will be among the living again soon. However, fatigue is my constant companion at present and I'm discovering more brain fog than usual. I have taken my position in front of the computer several times in the past couple of days but I don't seem able to gather my thoughts at present. So, I did some looking at previous articles I've written for The Bridge. This one brought back many good memories and still speaks to my heart. I hope it may provide something meaningful as you read it. It was in the August 2014 newsletter. I'm still quite glad to be in your company at First Presbyterian.)

As I write this for *The Bridge*, I just looked down at my calendar and noticed the date. Thirty years ago today I was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The service took place at First Presbyterian Church in Brownfield, Texas, my first call. I remember that day well. A good friend of mine, Don Jones, read scripture. My mother sang "The Lord's Prayer." My father preached from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 4, verse 7: *But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.* It was a powerful sermon my father preached but, of course, I always thought Dad handled himself well in the pulpit.

The Brownfield church had a huge sanctuary, built in the days when everyone put on their black patent shoes and went to church. By the time I got there the attendance was way down and the town was reeling as Amoco made its decision about moving their offices to a new location. The crowd of 75 or 80 didn't look like much of a crowd that day in that big building. I was glad they were all there that day.

I took vows that day, vows that I have taken seriously. I am quite sure that I have not always lived up to them but I have tried. You have no idea how many times one of you leaves the sanctuary on Sunday morning and comments, "I felt like you were preaching to me today, pastor." Well, most the time I'm preaching to me. How often I am reminded that I am nothing more than an earthenware pot, a clay jar – easily broken and obviously flawed. Thirty years of mounting the pulpit each Sunday morning have given me plenty of opportunity to reflect on my own flaws. Thank God it is abundantly clear that "this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us." That's the message I hope I have delivered faithfully these past 30 years.

There's another anniversary I mark this week: my one year anniversary as your pastor. It's been a wonderful first year and I am extremely grateful to each of you for the marvelous support you have given me and my family. Rhonda and I feel very comfortable in your midst. It feels like home in a way we haven't felt in a long time. And let's be honest – it's good to be back in Texas!

One of the promises I made on July 22, 1984 was to "serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love." I've always loved that question and I am so glad it is asked of teaching elders, ruling elders and deacons. I think there is much energy, intelligence, imagination, and love in our congregation. Now that we've spent the past year getting to know one another and finding comfort in one another's company, I hope that we can stretch ourselves a bit. I hope that we can use some of that *energy* to dive into new ministries. I pray we can use some of that *intelligence* to consider new ways of being the church. I think we may well create a corporate *imagination* that can more fully envision our direction for the future. And I am quite sure that we have the kind of *love* that will take us there. I look forward to what is to come. It's good to be here with you, thanks for the invitation.

See you Sunday,
Drew



Associate Pastor

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



Perhaps it's just my age...really, doesn't something happen right in the middle of your 50s...you're plugging along at a great pace and all of a sudden, you can't remember for the life of you why you're standing in the garage. You know you're in there for some reason, but heaven only knows what that might be. It's only when you find yourself standing in front of the pantry door later wondering why you are *there*, that you remember what you were supposed to be doing in the garage a bit earlier. It's all good. Eventually everything gets done.

So, why am I taking you through this expose' of my mid-50s dilemma? This morning, as I was reading "My Utmost for His Highest" by Oswald Chambers, which is a regular practice of mine, I flipped over to today's reading...or so I thought! Wow! It was good, and it spoke to my heart, and I thought, "There could be some good newsletter content here!" So, upon my arrival at the office, I decided to go ahead and write that (this) article...in advance...a whole week in advance, which never happens! I pulled up the reading on the Internet and it was a different reading altogether, so I did a search and found that, earlier, I was actually reading the devotional for OCTOBER 13th, not August 13th! Good grief!! Now, I would believe that this is a product of my mid-50s brain, except that I believe even more strongly in the sovereignty of God. Clearly, God led me to this reading. That's my story and I'm sticking with it. :)

The devotional gives us a whirlwind overview of Moses' life, from the time he killed the Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew, one of his own people. He hid the body and assumed all was well until the next day, when he realized that his actions were known. Pharaoh called for Moses' head so Moses fled to Midian, where he lived the secluded life of a shepherd and the regretful life of a discouraged would-be rescuer of his Hebrew kin.

Chambers pointed out that Moses was not wrong in sensing that he was being called to rescue his people, it's just that he launched out early, under his own power, and made a bit of a mess of things. But as is often true, God restored Moses in a wilderness situation. For 40 years, God allowed Moses to live and grow into fellowship with Gods-self...but Moses had to go from life in Pharaoh's palace to virtual obscurity in the wilderness, and this, all due to one untimely action.

Chambers says "We may have the vision of God and a very clear understanding of what God wants, and yet when we start to do it, there comes to us something equivalent to Moses' 40 years in the wilderness. It's as if God had ignored the entire thing..." Moses must have thought his vision of God's destiny for his life had been all wrong...but just at the right time, after a long-standing period of growth, God *did* call Moses to service...to that very service Moses had first envisioned...Moses *would* be a rescuer of his Hebrew kin.

Moses was hesitant at the burning bush of his calling, because his spirit had been refined and he had learned that all of his abilities and the calling on his life, belonged to God and not to him. He had learned to wait, and to listen, and to seek to know God...above seeking to know God's calling. God encouraged Moses...a lot...to emerge from his obscurity and finally to do that which God had created him to do.

I wonder, is there some passion of yours that you have long since abandoned because you felt as if you had heard wrongly...since it seemed that God simply wasn't in it with you? Maybe God was just allowing you time to "get into God's stride." Maybe what felt like discouragement was really growing pains! Lean in and listen. We can learn from Moses...and Elijah...

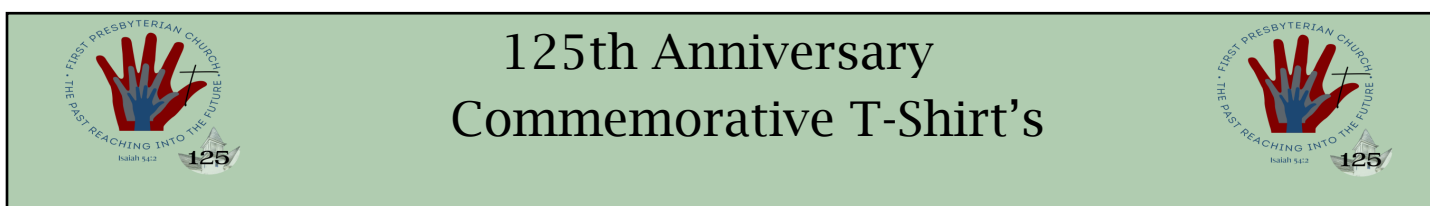
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See, when I realized I had the wrong devotional, I checked out today's as well. One of my very favorite sections of Scripture is 1 Kings 19, which is the story of Elijah's deep depression upon having been an instrument in defeating the prophets of Baal in a grand display of God's might and power! He was on a mountaintop and then, just as quickly, found himself in a valley...much like Moses I think. As God was working to restore Elijah to himself, God appeared to Elijah (his burning bush of sorts). God sent a great wind, an earthquake, and a fire...but God was in none of those. Where was God? God was found in the קוֹל דְּמַמַּח דַּקָּה -- Hebrew pronounced "qol d'mamah daqqah". This Hebrew phrase is debated but most often translated "still small voice." However, I love the NRSV, which translates this phrase, "the sound of sheer silence." Sounds akin to Moses' wilderness to me.

If you are finding yourself in a place where all you hear from God is the sound of sheer silence, keep listening...you are very likely being prepared for something more remarkable than you ever imagined... and it just might have something to do with that early passion, long since abandoned.

Be encouraged! YOU have purpose and God is working...sometimes silently. Perhaps, God is working to get you into God's stride. So, bask in the wilderness of the sound of sheer silence...for God is in such things!



Dear church members,
We will be selling t-shirts commemorating the 125th Anniversary of the church building. The cost will be \$20.00 per shirt. The shirts will be in a heather gray with the screening in maroon (not orange as the mock up shows) and dark blue.

We will set up a table outside the church, before and after services, with the order form and some sample shirts to make sizing easier. Please check this out and support our church!

The 125th Committee



Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder
susanyoung@gmail.com



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

September Anniversaries

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



AT HOME AND/OR RECEIVING TREATMENT

Diann McHaney, Winette Lovelady, Edith George, Martha Ferrill, Ed Smith, Bill Lowe, JD Finlay, Dave Barnett, Paula Jenkins, Donna Callahan

At care/retirement Facilities

Courtyards at Lake Granbury:
Mary Skinner

Waterview at Lake Granbury:
Ted Dolan, Nita Collinsworth

Prestonwood Court, Plano:
Linda Reed

The Cove at Waterview:
Jean Haight, Eloise Pauli

Town Village Crossing, Arlington: Linda Bowlin

The Oaks: CH Tubbs

Quail Park: Dolores Groom,
John Cheney,

Heartis, Webster TX: Martha Ferrill

Rosemont, Humble TX: Betty Dean



CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Dave Barnett for multiple health issues.
- Rita Hart as she deals with issues related to her tumor
- Earl Haberkamp as he receives a pacemaker.
- Lorraine Schmitz as she deals with severe back and leg pain
- Paula Jenkins as she recovers from knee surgery.
- Winette Lovelady had a fall which resulted in a broken hip. She is expected to move from the hospital to rehab shortly.
- Drew as he recovers from COVID
- Sympathy to Judy Rose for the loss of her mother.

CONCERNS FOR OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

- CJ Cluck, grandson of Beverly McKusick as he deals with his cancer and amputation of his leg.
- Peggy Bowman, niece of Susan Younk, as she mourns the passing of her husband from COVID.
- The Family of Louise Murray as they mourn the passing of Louise's nephew from COVID.

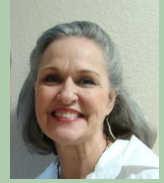
SPECIAL BLESSING: Howard and Winette Lovelady and Dave and Dennie Treat, celebrating 50 years of marriage.

Heavenly Father, please be with those who are grieving and in pain. Surround them with your loving arms, giving them comfort, strength and healing. Amen.



Presbyterian Women

Nancy Burks Worcester, moderator
nancybw@gmail.com



Presbyterian Women are excited at the prospect of safely meeting again. We recently handed out our beautiful new event brochure with all our upcoming events. Many thanks to Emily Graham for putting it together for us.

Last Saturday a hearty group of early risers met at 8:30 for the kick off to our Bible Study entitled "What My Grandmothers Taught Me", led by Rev. Brenda Church each first Tuesday of the month in the Fellowship Hall. Books are available. Contact Brenda for more information.

We will be hosting our regular monthly meeting on Friday, September 10 at 10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will hear Alysha and Michael Reed of Couch Surfers Ministry. This is a new outreach for us and we hope to have a good crowd. As always, the men of the church are welcome at any Presbyterian Women event.

Bridge, Book Circle and F.U.N. circle are gearing up. Please refer to your new events brochure for more information. If you need help with anything PW related or if you need an events brochure, please contact Nancy Worcester at 817-578-0478 or Ruth Gump at 817-894-4943.

Nancy Burks Worcester
Storyteller & Ventriloquist



Property

Derek Faulkner, elder
pdfaulkner@charter.net



Property committee meets every second Monday of the month, 9:00 a.m. at the Square Café.





Membership

Marla Caraway, elder
marlahill1001@gmail.com

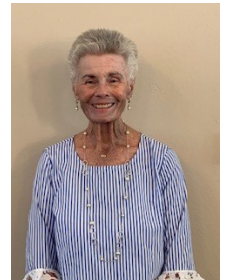


We welcomed six new members into church on August 8th, and another on August 15th. Please take a moment to get to know them better!



Darin Smith – Darin grew up in Duncanville, and moved to Granbury to the Sky Harbor area a little over a year ago. Darin works with USDA and is a Range Management Specialist. He enjoys the hobbies of fishing and other outdoor activities. Darin has a number of friends and family in the area and says that coming to FPC has brought him a sense of “coming home”. Darin grew up in Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church and tells us that his grandfather was very instrumental in the life of that church, along with being a State Senator! He sees himself as a helper and is ready to help out as he can. Welcome, Darin!

Janice Ragonese – Janice is originally from New Jersey. She and her husband Les, made Granbury their home about 6 years ago. Prior to living in Granbury, they lived in Grapevine where they were close to their daughter. Janice and Les have two daughters, one in Grapevine and one in Missouri. Janice worked in the banking industry in South Carolina prior to retirement. She enjoys walking, reading, sewing, and is a member of The Granbury Newcomers Club. Janice has two spoiled adopted cats. She came to FPC through acquaintances and looks forward to getting to know us better! Glad to have you, Janice!

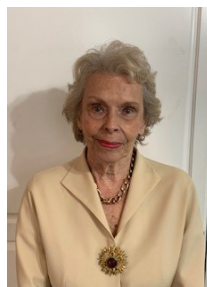
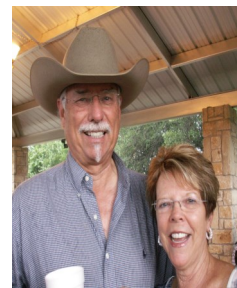


Eva Zapata – Eva is a long time resident of Granbury. She is originally from Stephenville and moved to Dallas for a time, but found it too large. She wanted smaller schools for her children, so in 1984 they moved to Granbury. Eva worked as a caregiver and her hobbies include making jewelry. Eva was invited to our church by her good friend, Ann Mitchell and was drawn to the community because the church “accepts you just the way you are.” Eva has been participating in the life of the church since before the events of last year put things on hold. She has worked with Vacation Bible School and with the Rummage Sale. We are so happy to have Eva with us and look forward to getting to know her better!

Jim and Joanne Wallis – Jim and Joanne may already be familiar to you. They wasted no time jumping right in. They have been married for 55 years and the Presbyterian Church has been central in their daily lives since. Their son, Andrew has recently moved to the area with his wife, Andrea. They have 4 grandchildren. Their daughter Aimee was an ordained Presbyterian minister and along with her husband, founded a Youth Mission in North Carolina. Sadly, Aimee passed away in 2013. Aimee and her husband, Rev. Bill Buchanan have two children. Jim and Joanne both graduated from The University of North Texas. Jim is retired from a career as a Human Resources Specialist, and Joanne is a retired Accountant. The Wallis’s are actively serving on our 125th Anniversary Committee and are excited to get to know us better. We are so happy to have Jim and Joanne in our church family!



Sherry Johnson – It seems odd to call Sherry a “new member.” Sherry and her husband, Jimmy have been in Granbury for nine years. Sherry grew up in Duncan, Oklahoma and after graduating from Baylor, Sherry started a 25 year teaching career while Jimmy served as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Waco. After retiring, Sherry and Jimmy moved to De Cordova to live by the lake and a golf course. They have two daughters, one in Dallas and one in Chicago, and four wonderful grandchildren. Sherry’s favorite thing to do is sing and she is a member of three choirs. She also loves to read and enjoys the PW Book Circle. Sherry says that Jimmy served three churches in his career and there are people at FPC Granbury from each one of those churches, which offered a lot of support from day one. Jimmy and Sherry are “Presbyterian through and through” and love FPC. Even though Sherry is not really new to us, we’re so happy to officially claim her!



Nita Collinsworth— Nita moved to Granbury about two years ago to be near son, Mark and his wife Lori who are long time members of FPC. She now lives at Waterview in town and enjoys all the activities they have to offer, which is a lot! Nita lived most of her life in Birmingham, Alabama and transferred her membership to FPC from her church in Birmingham. Nita had five children, and tragically lost one daughter to cancer. She has ten wonderful grandchildren who stay in touch with her often. She loves family gatherings at Mark and Lori’s farm. Other than her activities at Waterview, Nita enjoys reading and playing Bridge when she can.

Prayer of the Month

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



By Emily Dickinson

“Hope” is the thing with feathers — That perches in the soul —
 And sings the tune without the words — And never stops - at all —
 And sweetest in the Gale is heard — And sore must be the storm —
 That could abash that little Bird That kept so many warm
 I’ve heard it in the chillest land — And on the strangest Sea —
 Yet never — in Extremity, It asked a crumb from me.

I saw a headline on August 21 about Afghanistan losing hope amid the violent takeover by the Taliban. Then another about deadly mudslides in Mexico, another: raging forest fires on the West Coast; and another: flooding on the East Coast. People in those locations must find it difficult to hold onto hope. All the more reason for us, whose lives are by comparison, stable and safe, to hold it for them. Emily Dickinson speaks of hope as an archetype, it seems to me. God created man with hope in his heart. It is part of his nature. God asks that we hope in him. There are thirty references in Psalms alone, exhorting us to hope in the Lord. I exhort you this month to make hope the focus of your prayers, asking God to blow a soft breath across the embers of hope of those who are extraordinarily burdened at this time.

Heavenly Father — bring hope to our weary world. Let inroads be made against the Covid viruses and let lives be spared. Let doctors and nurses bear the burden of greater numbers. Let teachers cope with on-line courses and students with masks. Make our schools safe. We pray for Pastor Drew and ask that his Covid infection remain mild and that he avoid any of the harsher aspects of the disease. Let his vaccination, indeed, all our vaccinations, do their job and protect us from great illness. We pray for those who are ill, those who are dying and those who have no one to pray for them. Father, kindle enough hope in us so that we can aid those searching for a will to continue. Let them find that God-given spark within them and let them claim and recognize that it is from you. In Christ’s name, we pray these things.
 Amen





Outreach and Mission

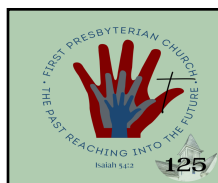
Bianca Brownfield, elder
biancabrownfield@gmail.com



We have done a lot of good in our community over this last 8 months. The work the we support at Mission Granbury and People Helping People helps people in need everyday.

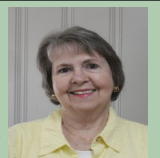
Also our support of the Hood County caseworkers in April and back-to-school gift of shoe gift cards will help to care for our kids in foster care.

It is such a joy to be a part of this wonderful work that our missions and outreach budget supports.



F.U.N. Circle

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



Our first FUN Circle meeting for 2021-2022 will be on Wednesday, September 22.
We'll be making Crismons for the Christmas tree that sits in the sanctuary.

No artistic talent or special skills necessary. Please come help make the Crismons or come to watch and join us for pot luck lunch.
Yes we'll have pot luck lunch instead of bringing our own.



Christian Education

Nancy Bennett, elder
bennett0803@gmail.com



First Presbyterian Church,

First I'd like to thank everyone for giving me the opportunity to go to Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center again this year. Last year due to COVID-19 I wasn't able to go. This year I got to go, and as always I had a blast! Camp was of course different because there were COVID regulations, such as wearing a mask in the cafeteria and at worship. I was a little upset that we only worshiped twice a day instead of 3 times as in previous years. I learned more in depth about Noah, Job, and Jonah. The weeks message to us campers was about forgiveness and letting God guide us through hard times and being able to forgive who or what has happened around us. I also got to learn about the struggles my fellow cabin members had been going through and was able so share my own.

Every year I get to connect with the girls in my cabin deeply. And it's a different type of bond you are able to make at church camp. I love going to camp because after a year I struggle with being able to understand what Gods message is to me. It helps me open up and let him in further into my life and I'm forever grateful that I'm given a chance to go to camp. Thank you.

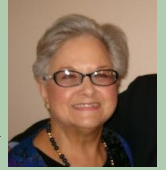
Angela Young





Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder
lindaallen33047@gmail.com



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As we transition from summer into fall,
here is what is happening with
Fellowship.

This would normally be the time to start the sign-up for the Small Group Dinners for the Fall months. However, due to the extremely high Covid count in Hood County and the fact that our hospital is full and transfers to neighboring hospitals are not possible, we are going to delay for one month. We will re-evaluate for October, praying that the count will drop to a safe level.



The Flu Shot Clinic is scheduled for Sunday, September 26. Walgreens will be in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM on that day. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex when it is closer to time.

We are looking forward to taking part in the church's 125th anniversary celebration! Please watch the church calendar for more information!



CORN SALAD

3 cans Shoepeg corn, drained

Green onions chopped, including the green stems (to taste)

Mayonnaise to mix

Flavors improve if made ahead of time and chilled.

September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	30 6:30 PM Al-Anon	31	1 5:30 AM Choir Practice - Sanctuary 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study	2	3	4 10:00 AM Communion Guild
5 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	6 6:30 PM Al-Anon	7 Trinity Mission Party 10:00 AM PW Bible Study - FH 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH	8 5:30 AM Choir Practice - Sanctuary 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM PEO Meeting - FH 10:00 AM PW Coordinating Team - FH Sunday School Room 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study	9	10 10:00 AM PW - Couch Surfers Ministries - FH	11
12 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	13 9:00 AM Monthly Property Meeting - Square Cafe 6:30 PM Al-Anon	14 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Granbury Knitting Guild - FH 5:30 PM Mission & Outreach Meeting - FH	15 5:30 AM Choir Practice - Sanctuary 10:00 AM Book Circle - Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study	16	17 7:00 PM Horns and History - Sanctuary	18
19 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	20 Bridge Articles Due Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 6:30 PM Al-Anon	21 Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH 5:30 PM Session	22 Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 5:30 AM Choir Practice - Sanctuary 10:00 AM FUN Circle 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study	23 Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 10:00 AM Personnel Committee Meeting - Admin Building	24 Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 8:00 AM Set up for PW Rummage Sale	25 Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 8:00 AM Set up for PW Rummage Sale
26 Brenda - Vacation Large Sunday School - Reserved for Garage Sale 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM Flu Shot Clinic	27 Brenda - Vacation Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 8:00 AM Set up for PW Rummage Sale	28 Brenda - Vacation Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 8:00 AM Set up for PW Rummage Sale	29 Brenda - Vacation Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 5:30 AM Choir Practice - Sanctuary 8:00 AM Set up for PW Rummage Sale 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study	30 Brenda - Vacation Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 8:00 AM Set up for PW Rummage Sale	1 Brenda - Vacation Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 8:00 AM PW Rummage Sale	2 Brenda - Vacation Large Sunday School - NW Corner - Reserved for Garage Sale 8:00 AM PW Rummage Sale 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.



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. Bridge deadline is the 20th of each month.



To:

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