



The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

November, 2021

From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgtravis@gmail.com



This past Sunday afternoon, many of us gathered at the church for “Pumpkin Palooza!” It was another event to help us celebrate the 125th anniversary of our sanctuary. It was a great time of fun with the kids and singing a few songs and being entertained by Nancy Worcester and her friends. How much better can an afternoon get? I didn’t even miss missing my nap that afternoon! I appreciate all the work the 125th Committee has done in planning these events and opportunities for us to celebrate together.

One of the songs we sang with the kids as they gathered around on the floor in the front of the sanctuary was “Magic Penny.” I’ve always loved that little ditty. It’s fun to play on guitar, fun to sing in a group, and it has a relevant message to share that’s pretty theologically sound, I think. I don’t know the exact origins of the song, but Malvina Reynolds sang it years ago. It goes like this:

Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.

It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many
They'll roll all over the floor.

I think this is true about love. It comes back to us in myriad ways when we share it with others. Love is the magic penny of faith – the more it is shared, the more one realizes the benefits of love, the more one realizes what has been received. This is not a commercial for the *prosperity gospel*. I pretty much feel that doing good deeds in order to be rewarded materially is heresy. Pennies aren’t magic that way. But love willingly shared with others in gratitude to God will return itself over and over again. Loving teaches us about love itself and helps us to understand the love God holds for us. That is surely something for which to be grateful.

It’s *Stewardship Season*, and we’re preparing for our Consecration Sunday on November 14. We’ll all join for one service of worship that Sunday at 10:00 and we’ll dedicate our gifts to God through this church. We’re not going to gather for a meal this year, but we’ll pick up that tradition again next year. I hope you will all make an effort to be present in worship that day and that you’ll consider carefully what gift of love you may bring to God when we gather. Our giving of gifts – no matter what those gifts may be – is how we share our love of God through this place of ministry. I am excited to see what ways that love will be returned as rewards for our faith.

See You Sunday,



Associate Pastor

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



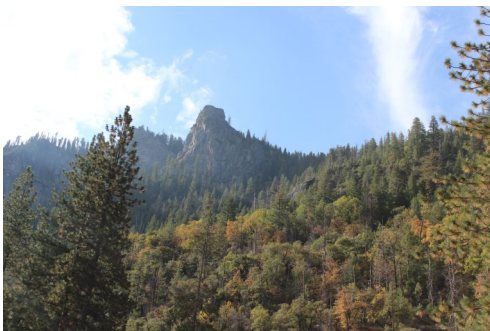
We, Like Trees

During my time at Yosemite earlier this month, I pondered God's might and wondered at God's creation a whole lot...and I wrote a good number of words, too. So, fortunately or unfortunately for you, I may have a good bit of sharing to do. This newsletter is a great place to offload some of my thoughts. I hope you will humor me.

One of the many majestic things about Yosemite is the vast canopy of trees that exist in most of the 1,125 square miles of the park. In some places, the trees are so thick that your distance vision is quickly swallowed up as you gaze into the forest.



Sarah and I wondered, on our first evening in the park, how the trees could survive in such density. How could they extend their roots far enough to find nourishment? How could their roots reach deeply enough to physically support and sustain their terrific, awe-inspiring height? How can they reach up high enough to engage with the sun which provides them necessary energy through the process of photosynthesis? It just seemed so...crowded.



So, as we were ascending a tree-dense trail, I asked Mike the guide how the trees live in such conditions. He told us something that I remembered having heard a number of years before. Mike told us that the trees survive because they intermingle their roots. Doing so not only provides them with physical strength to support their massive height, but it is also a way for the trees to share nourishment with one another. This is how they survive.

The younger trees that have no chance to reach the light yet, simply due to their short stature, still receive the nutrients they need as they slowly grow into their potential. I noticed that, especially, the Sequoias grew branches very high up that first extended horizontally from the tree, as branches normally do, but then, they would take a sharp upward turn, toward the sun. In this manner, they received the sun's energy from numerous points instead of just one at the top of the tree. If trees could be self-serving, it would seem that this would be the ultimate "Me first" move...but when you consider this shared nourishment through intermingling of the roots, the larger, more mature trees, really do help sustain those who can't yet see the sun!

As I pondered this in my tent under the light of my battery-operated lantern that night, I thought about the fact that the Church, in its very best state, is much like these densely populated trees. We are called into community...not into individuality. We are called to intermingle our gifts, our joys, our sorrows, our very lives.




Pastor Brenda continued...

We will not...we cannot...thrive apart from one another at FPC or in the Church Universal. We are not called to sustain ourselves and to grow our own roots separately from others. We weren't designed that way...any more than these ginormous trees.

Covid and politics have caused such division in our nation, our community, and even in the Church Universal. How is it that we have forgotten that we, like trees, are to nourish one another. We are to intertwine our hearts, our minds, our strength, and our souls together...for two purposes. First, to glorify God...to truly love God with our whole selves. And second, to edify and nourish one another...to truly love others as, or even more than, ourselves.

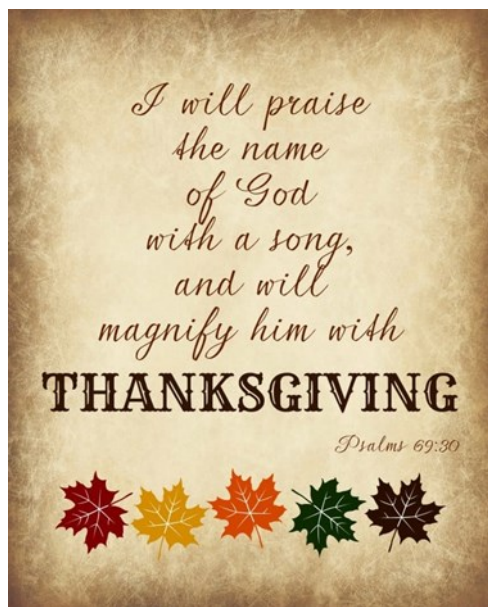
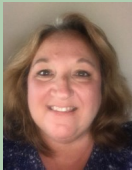
When we live in the light of the things about which we agree, instead of being distracted by things about which we don't, we become better reflections of God's light. We are able to extend our collective branches over and then up into God's light. Then, in our unity, being all fueled up, the Holy Spirit causes us to become different...attractive...to those who don't know God. In such a manner, they will want what we have. They will want to accept Christ and grow in the faith as well! When we are united in God's love and purpose...when we are mature Christians, we can help sustain those who haven't yet seen the Son! Praise be to God!





Worship

Julie Dean, elder
juliebutlerdean@gmail.com



“While Thanksgiving is a national holiday, the tradition of giving thanks at the end of the harvest is a religious event celebrated in most cultures. The national practice of giving thanks in November is therefore quite biblical.

Scripture abounds with thanksgiving to God, for thanksgiving is part of the Christian way of life, no matter what the circumstances.” (PC USA)

The Worship Committee is particularly thankful to God for our church family.

Happy Thanksgiving.



Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder
susanyoung@gmail.com



AT HOME AND/OR RECEIVING TREATMENT

Diann McHaney, Edith George, Martha Ferrill, Ed Smith, Bill Lowe, JD Finlay, Dave Barnett, Mary Hayden, Barbara Buffalow, Rita Hart, Rene Metcalf, Lorraine Schmitz

CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Susan Higginbotham as she recovers from a severe automobile accident requiring multiple surgeries.
- Renee Metcalf as she rec overs form spinal surgery.
- Barbara Buffalow as she recovers from hip Surgery.
- Mary Hayden as she recovers from a broken foot.
- Lorraine Schmitz as she recovers from surgery.
- Dave Barnett as he deals with multiple health issues.
- Rita Hart as she deals with the effects of her brain tumor.
- Sheila Higgins as she recovers from mild pneumonia
- Fran Smith who had knee replacement surgery.

*A thank you . . .
I thank you for all your concern in the past month as we've dealt with my father's death. I am most grateful for your cards and calls and expressions of sympathy and kindness. It means so very much to me and to my family. It is indeed good to be part of this community.
Drew*

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,
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

Weatherford: Dee Holt

CONCERNS FOR OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

- We mourn the passing of Eloise Pauli and hold her family in prayer.
- We mourn the passing of Winette Lovelady, and we hold Howard and his family in prayer.
- CJ Cluck, grandson of Beverly McKusick, on his continued treatments for cancer.
- Osman Reyes, nephew of Eva Zapata, as he recovers from an automobile accident.



SPECIAL BLESSING:

Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing and your comfort to our loved ones that are hurting and in pain. We also ask your blessing for the caretakers, struggling to help their loved ones with patience and perseverance. Give them strength for the days ahead and help them to feel your love and grace. In Christ we pray.



- 4 Matthew & Andrea Kennedy
Robert & Lynn Silvestri
- 10 Roy & Lynne Schoeneman
- 14 Daniel & Cynthia Fick
- 22 Wayne & Karen Delyea
- 28 Gardner and Carol Davis

- 4 Bill James
- 10 Susan Higginbotham
- 14 Juanita Morgan
- 17 David Southern
- 21 Brenda Wilkinson
- 24 Jo Beth Ross
- 26 Carolyn Stringer

- 7 Barbara Sloan
- 11 Tom Sykes
- 15 Allen Hardin
- 18 Gay Hanlin
- 22 Richard Hicks
- 25 Sarah Bennett
- 27 Priscilla Allen



Prayer of the Month

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



The Book Club read for October was Being Mortal by Atul Gawande. It was not a pleasant read. Instead, it was confrontative but also informative. It should probably be sent out to all citizens with their notice of eligibility for Social Security. It would probably save the country billions. The book obliquely asks us to describe what we consider to be the minimum requirements for us to achieve a quality of life worth living. And then, what trade-offs we are willing to make to have what we consider that quality of life worth living as we face our personal “end times.” Tough stuff. I haven’t pinned that down for myself. My mind skitters away after only minutes of contemplation on the subject. The life drive among us old farts is amazingly strong, and although we are cognizant of the slowing of our steps, we don’t want to correlate that with the waning of our days — that we are now, undoubtedly, on the inexorable path to the end of our days. Unbelievable!

After finishing the book (a copy of which is in the church library), I sought something easier on my spirit and settled on The Gift of Years, Growing Older Gracefully, by Joan Chittister, It also contains information about aging and, again, not all of that news is good. But equal parts of it is. This is a book meant to be read slowly and contemplatively and addresses in forty short chapters topics not exclusively in the realm of the aged but which are, instead, universal. At the end of each chapter is a statement describing the burden of that particular topic, followed by a statement of the blessing that also accompanies the topic (for example, “fear”).

We know from our lives in Christ that God never forsakes us in tribulation and always continues to bestow blessings on us. It can be challenging to find the blessing, but find it we can — with God's help. Of course, this is as true as we live our waning years, as it has been all our other years. God is for us and we are for God. I need constant reminders some days to find what is good, to expect to hear good news, to look outward instead of inward and to reach out in spirit and in prayer to others, for others.

Our Prayer — Be with us Father and help us age gracefully. Let us be well prepared for our “end times” so that our minds can dwell more and more on you and what you would have us do today to help others. When we watch the news, shore our hearts to believe you are acting in all lives. Lead us to be of service as we are called. Bless and relieve all who suffer, heal all who are ill, make your presence felt to the lonely and grieving. Bless the children and keep them safe and well. Bless our church and it’s leaders. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.



Presbyterian Women

Nancy Burks Worcester, moderator
nancybw@gmail.com



THIS IS MY STORY

Presbyterian Women Fall Retreat

Friday, November 5

10 am - 3 pm

Led by Rev. Dr. Christie Robbins

\$10, includes lunch

RSVP to the church office



Church Garage Sale Report

Thank you to everyone who helped to make this year's garage sale a success.

Total proceeds from the sale was \$4,044.46.



Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder
lindaallen33047@gmail.com



We are in hopes that the next Fellowship event will be an all-church lunch on December 12th. This is the date for the Choir Christmas Service, and we're keeping our fingers crossed that the Covid count for Hood County continues to come down. We would like to have our chili lunch. The decision will be made at the next session meeting, which is usually on the third Tuesday of the month.

Meanwhile, it will soon be time to plan your family Thanksgiving. I'm sure you all have the green bean recipe that calls for cream of mushroom soup and Onion rings. If you would like an alternative green bean recipe, try this one.

GREEN BEANS

5 cans green beans – drain beans in a colander and lay in a 9 X 13 dish.

In a small saucepan bring to boil:

1 stick of butter

2 cloves of minced garlic

1/2 cup brown sugar

3 T soy sauce

Boil until sugar is dissolved. Pour over green beans and mix well.

Crumble 6 slices cooked crisp bacon over the green beans (optional)

Bake at 325 till very hot. I have also microwaved this and also heated it in a large saucepan with the sauce. Add the bacon later or omit it.



Sunday, November 7th
All Saints Day and End
Of Daylight Saving Time





125th Anniversary



We were thrilled to see the wonderful turnout for the Pumpkin Palooza on October 24th. Twenty to thirty children attended as well as that many or more adults. Pastor Drew warmed up the audience with song and guitar after which our wonderful Nancy Worcester entertained the children with Waco and Crocodile. As we adjourned outside, games and refreshments abounded, and a great time was had by all.

We want to thank all the volunteers that helped make this event possible. From making the treat bags, to helping with games, to set up and clean up... we thank you so much!

MISSION AND MOVIE NIGHT. Thursday, November 11th at 6:00. Come have a nostalgic night at the Brazos Drive-In as we watch *The Polar Express* - a movie for all ages. The movie and box dinner from Chick-fil-A are complimentary with a donation of socks, hat, gloves or \$\$\$ to the Presbyterian Night Shelter. Bring your lawn chairs if the weather is nice and enjoy the show. All are welcome to come. Dinners must be reserved by November 4th by calling in to the office or filling out the insert in the bulletin and placing it in the offering plate.

TOUR OF HOMES Friday, December 3rd. A special service will be held for the saints who have gone before us as we light luminaries for the Walk of Remembrance. More details to follow.



Outreach and Mission

Bianca Brownfield, elder
biancabrownfield@gmail.com



Christmas Gifts

Join the Missions and Outreach Committee as we fill Christmas gift bags for our neighbors. We will provide gifts for the adults and the families living in the housing authority homes just north of our church.

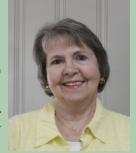
There will be ornament cards in the narthex on November 21st and 28th and you can choose items that you'd like to donate.

*We will gather all the items on **December 5th.***



F.U.N. Circle

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



FUN Circle is going to decorate our church, inside and out, on November 22 at 9:00. Some of the male church members will be there to bring the boxes out of the attic and do the work on ladders. But we need your help for the rest.

I can hardly wait to see the Chrismons we made in September on the Christmas tree.



Christian Education

Nancy Bennett, elder
bennett0803@gmail.com



Sunday School for our children will begin again with Advent! I know it is hard to believe, but the first Sunday of Advent is **November 28th**. We have chosen to use Illustrated Ministries curriculum – *God With Us*. The website describes the material as follows:

The stories of Advent are stories for hard times. Jesus was born amid upheaval and historical change and among people who seemed powerless. But when the world feels hopeless, Advent reminds us God is with us.

- *In chaos, God is with us.*
- *In suffering, God is with us.*
- *In uncertainty, God is with us.*

In whatever our family endures, God is with us.



This Advent resource invites your family to explore the ways in which Emmanuel, God-with-us, brings hope, peace, joy, and love to your home and community, especially during hard times. Use this Advent guide to center your thoughts on the ever-present hope that sees us through change and challenge. Each week you will explore how the good news of God-with-us changes our perspective and gives us courage for each day. We rejoice in Jesus' birth because God is with us!

We will have Adult devotional materials that can be downloaded as well.



Stewardship

Jack Gilmore
gil429169@aol.com



God's blessing of seasonal change has brought the welcome cooling of Fall. Fall also brings the start of FPC Granbury's 2022 Stewardship Pledge/Estimate of Giving Pledge drive. We owe all our talents and treasures to God, sharing them with our church and the world is what we as Christians do.

Our Church especially needs your help after another COVID-19 year of difficult and trying times for the congregation. Fortunately, multiple vaccines are allowing the country and our church to see light at the end of a long tunnel. However, our Hood County COVID cases remain stubbornly high and once again it will not be safe to hold a Consecration Celebration Luncheon.



We are mailing out the Stewardship Pledge/Estimate of Giving Cards this week. Please give thoughtful prayer and consideration as you complete them. Bring your pledges to the church on Consecration Sunday, November 14. This will be a single service at 10:00 AM

Jack Gilmore
Stewardship Elder



November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	1 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bridge Circle - FH 6:30 PM AI-Anon	2 10:00 AM PW Bible Study - FH 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH 2:00 PM Trinity Mission Party	3 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM Men's Study 5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal - FH 6:30 PM Choir Practice - MH	4	5 All buildings in use today 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM Office Parking Lot in use 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Women's Retreat PPC	6 10:00 AM Communion Guild
7 8:45 AM Worship 9:30 AM - 1:00 PM COVID Booster Shot Clinic - FH 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH	8 9:00 AM Monthly Property Meeting - Square Cafe 6:30 PM AI-Anon	9 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Granbury Knitting Guild - FH 10:00 AM PW Officers Meeting in Admin Building	10 12:00 PM Men's Study 5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal - FH 6:30 PM Choir Practice - MH	11 Movies and Mission - Brazos Drive-in Theater 10:00 AM Mission & Outreach Meeting - FH	12	13
14 10:00 AM Consecration Sunday - One Service	15 6:30 PM AI-Anon	16 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH 5:30 PM Session	17 10:00 AM Book Circle - The Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig 12:00 PM Men's Study 5:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal - FH 6:30 PM Choir Practice - MH	18	19 7:00 PM Saxophone Quartet - Earl Haberkamp - Sanctuary	20 Bridge Articles Due
21 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	22 F.U.N. Circle Deck the Halls 6:30 PM AI-Anon	23	24 6:30 PM Choir Practice - MH	25 Thanksgiving Day	26	27 4:00 PM Whitney's Wedding
28 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	29 6:30 PM AI-Anon	30	1 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal - FH 6:30 PM Choir Practice - MH	2	3 Christmas Women's Luncheon - FH Handbells Program Path of Remembrance	4 Path of Remembrance 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