



The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

March, 2022

From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgtravis@gmail.com



For the past many months we have been sharing events that celebrate the 125th anniversary of our sanctuary. Our church was chartered in 1879 but our sanctuary was completed in 1896 and the congregation began worshipping in its new home in November of that year. It was in the spring of 1897 that the mortgage was burned and a dedication for the new structure was held. We've long been a congregation that avoided debt and it was a very conscious decision to wait until the note was paid before the building was christened. We've acknowledged this time from building completion to building dedication this past year in the many events that have celebrated our shared life – a life that finds its meaning and spirit in this place of worship.

The Session's desire was to mark this time in our communal history and to celebrate the worship and ministry of our congregation. A committee was selected to plan and implement our celebration. A logo was developed with Emily Graham's help depicting *the past reaching into the future*. We chose Isaiah 54.2 as the guiding scripture of our vision for future ministry: "Enlarge the site of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; do not hold back; lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes." As we celebrate our past, we hold hope that the future will bring a renewed invitation to all those who may gather in Christ's name to receive the good news of the faith. As we recall the blessings of this past, we anticipate the blessings of the future. First Presbyterian Church is a place of ministry and God's presence with us in our past ministry bodes well for the future of our work in this community and world. That is why we celebrate.

So we shared a "Pumpkin Palooza." We recalled our mission with a drive-in movie and gathered items for others. We created a memorial walk, lighting candles for each member we could identify who had graced us with their presence in this place. We gathered to sing some old hymns and to recall that the songs of the faith have taught us of God's love and have instructed us in the ways of God's grace. And, finally, we will gather for a service of worship on March 27 to conclude our celebration of the past and to mark our confidence moving into the future.

First Presbyterian Church will remain a place of ministry in the years and decades to come. God will journey with us as we continue to enlarge our tent and sing praises to God in this sanctuary. The past will be a reminder and will instruct us going forward. I am excited as we reach into the future.

Please make every effort to join us for our *grand finale* on March 27. We will all worship together at 10:00 that morning. Our guest preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Ted Wardlaw, President of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Ted is a marvelous preacher, a consummate churchman, and a very fine human being. You will appreciate his words. Following this special service of worship, we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a shared meal catered by Hard 8 Barbeque. The church will provide the meal but we do need a head count so we'll have plenty of food to share. We'll be asking you to sign up in the weeks to come. I hope that you will come – we need you present at our party!

See you Sunday,
Drew



Associate Pastor

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



Coming out of COVID in the life of the church seems to be a larger and more difficult but similar experience as emerging out of Snowpocalypse 2021. After Snowpocalypse, we re-surfaced from under our multiple layers of blankets, stretched out our backs, and made the first pot of coffee in a very long while. We called the grandkids to ask how to reset our internet connections so we could once again interact with the outside world. As things warmed up, we began checking our pipes with prayers on our lips and in our hearts that they maintained their durability and could still contain the water that would soon be flowing freely again...flowing freely without any regard for whether the pipes had integrity or not. We praised God for bringing us through such a difficult time...even as, in some ways, we praised God for bringing us *to* such a difficult time. It was a time to re-prioritize life...to be thankful for the things we had taken for granted...to consider the fragile side of existence...and to re-emerge with a new vigor, even if the return began with a bit of sluggishness. It takes some time to shrug off the lethargy caused by being still for so long. When it was all said and done, we considered, with some level of grief, our losses, and then we moved forward into the promise of Spring!

As we, First Presbyterian Church of Granbury, continue to re-emerge from the isolation and difficulty of COVID-19, we face some similar feelings. We have praised God for technology that allows us to worship from our living rooms. Even still, we recognize something is missing so we leave behind our bathrobe, slippers, remote, and coffee cups to re-engage with one another in live, corporate worship. We have missed one another. We continue to reach others through technology and are so grateful to remain in contact with those who cannot come through our doors for any number of reasons.

We begin looking at the ways we used to do things. We check the pipes of our programs to make sure the important things we do as a congregation are intact and we cap off the burst pipes of programs that no longer serve us well. We repair and modify those that are beneficial but need reinforcement. We praise God for continuing to bring us through the long season of COVID. We consider anew the most important things...and cast off those not so much. We tire a bit quicker some of the time...but, still, we find we have a renewed spirit and strength having experienced and emerged from this tragedy. Even as we still deal with the grief of such a difficult time and so many losses, we hang on to the promise that Spring is on the way.

In light of that promise, now is a time for us to move forward from our unwelcome “vid-cation” and get on with the life of the church. It’s going to take some work and some dedication...some conversation and re-configuration...some energy, intelligence, imagination, and agape. But, with the Holy Spirit, we have all we need.

I urge you to consider joining a committee or volunteering to help a committee. Our committees are key to the work we do in this place. We need you! We are currently beginning the planning for VBS. They say it takes a village to raise a child...I think the same is true of pulling off VBS. If you’ve helped before and even if you haven’t, please consider engaging this year as we get VBS up and running again. Let me or Sylvia know if you can help.

Warmest blessings,
Pastor Brenda



Outreach and Mission

Bianca Brownfield, elder
biancabrownfield@gmail.com



This year, we will be spotlighting some of our ongoing mission and outreach efforts, both in the newsletter and in a Minute for Mission in the Sunday service. This time it's Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Hood and Somervell Counties. CASA volunteers are trained and assigned by the courts to befriend children who are removed from their homes for protection. CASAs walk with them through their entire period of foster care until, hopefully, they find a forever home. In 2021, Hood County's 55 CASAs served 131 children from 87 families. Our support for them comes through our donation to Mission Granbury, where they clocked a combined 80,224 hours of (unpaid) service in 2021. The coming year will provide more opportunities to reach out in love to our community.

There are several people in our congregation who volunteer or volunteered in the past, this is what Saunya Bishop shared about her experience.

"I became a CASA to help the children in foster care find a safe, loving and permanent home.

As a CASA I spoke and interacted with the child to find out what they wanted. I became the voice of the child in court.

All of my 60 cases did not always end up as I hoped, but it was a very rewarding experience when the child was placed in their forever home."



Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 13, 2022, marking the time when we will "spring forward" one hour to mark the end of standard time.

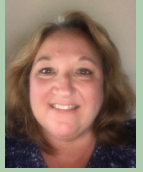
SPRING



Worship

Julie Dean, elder

juliebutlerdean@gmail.com



A Prayer For The World's Children

We pray for children
who put chocolate fingers everywhere,
who like to be tickled,
who stomp in puddles and ruin their new pants,
who sneak popsicles before supper,
who erase holes in math workbooks,
who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those
who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,
who can't bound down streets in a new pair of sneakers,
who never "counted potatoes,"
who are born in places we wouldn't be caught dead,
who never go to the circus,
who live in an X-rated world.

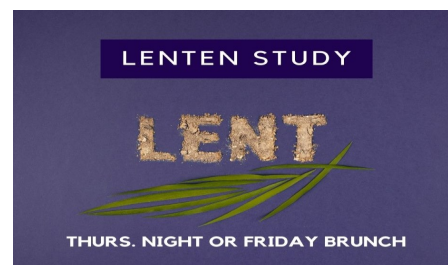
We pray for children
who spend their allowances before Tuesday,
who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at food,
who like ghost stories,
who shove dirty clothes under the bed,
and never rinse out the tub,
who get visits from the tooth fairy, who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool,
who squirm in church and scream in the phone,
whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those
whose nightmares come in the daytime,
who will eat anything,
who have never seen a dentist,
who aren't spoiled by anybody,
who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,
who live and move, but have no being.

We pray for children who want to be carried
and for those who must, for those we never give up on
and for those who don't get a second chance.
In the name of Jesus who loves all the little children of the world. Amen.

Ina J. Hughs

(Ina Hughs is the daughter of the late James A. Jones, Former President of Union Theological Seminary in Virginia.)





Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder
susanyoung@gmail.com



- 8 Jack and Diana Burton
- 31 Greg and Sharon Wilemon

AT HOME AND/OR RECEIVING TREATMENT

Diann McHaney, Edith George, Ed Smith, JD Finlay, Dave Barnett, Barbara Buffalow, Rita Hart, Rene Metcalf, Sheila Higgins, Jim and Theda Deaver, Karen Stahlman, Bill Wood, Susan Higginbotham, Jerry Davis, and Sharon Wilemon

- | | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Marijane Harvey | 19 | Steven Wilkes |
| 2 | Betty Lynne Dean | 20 | Glenda J. Smith |
| 3 | Craig Lacy | 23 | Carolyn Llewellyn |
| | Richard Root | | Doyle Seley |
| | Robert Gadbois | | Mike Cress |
| 6 | Elliott Graham | 25 | Dave Treat |
| 8 | Gary Lewis | 28 | Doris Dinkel |
| 9 | Felicia Peters | | Tim Bennett |
| 10 | Norma "Jean" Matthews | 29 | James Witt |
| 13 | Gloria Mitchell | | Mark Bishop |
| | Rebecca Bennett | 30 | Linda Allen |
| | Susan Younk-Kidd | 31 | Randy Clements |
| 14 | Curt Armstrong | | |
| 18 | Allison Graham | | |

CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Rhonda and Drew Travis as they mourn the loss of Rhonda's beloved father, Carrol Lackey.

Susan Higginbotham as she continues her remarkable recovery. She is back at work and is doing very well. Praise be to God!

Reneé Metcalf as she recovers from spinal surgery.

Barbara Buffalow as she recovers from hip surgery.

Dave Barnett as he deals with multiple health issues.

Rita Hart as she deals with the effects of her brain tumor.

Maureen Walker as she completes her recovery from hip surgery. She is doing well and would love to have visitors at Courtyards!

Jerry and Pepper Davis as they mourn the loss of his beloved sister and as he goes through cancer treatments.

Margaret Gulinson as she recovers from knee surgery.

Carol Gadbois as she awaits medical treatment.

C.H. Tubbs as he deals with health issues.

Lorraine Schmitz as she deals with health issues. She will be returning to her home soon!

Rick Caraway as he recovers from surgery and the doctors work to get his pain under control.

Ann Mitchell's daughter, Claire, who has multiple health issues.

AT CARE/RETIREMENT FACILITIES

Courtyards at Lake Granbury: Mary Skinner, Maureen Walker
Waterview at Lake Granbury: Ted Dolan, Nita Collinsworth
The Cove at Waterview: Jean Haight
Quail Park: Dolores Groom, John Cheney
The Oaks: CH Tubbs, Betty Werbung
Prestonwood Court, Plano: Linda Reed
Town Village Crossing, Arlington: Linda Bowlin
Rosemont, Humble TX: Betty Dean
Martin Crest, Assisted Living Weatherford: Dee Holt
Harbor Lakes: Lorraine Schmitz
Bridgewater Memory Care: Bill Lowe

CONCERNS FOR OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

- CJ Cluck, grandson of Beverly McKusick, on his continued treatments for cancer.
- Jim Dean's parents and sister as they navigate multiple health issues.
- Ruth Ray's daughter, Michelle Ray, as she recovers from a major stroke.
- The mother of Louise Deems as she recovers from a broken elbow.
- Earnestine Sutherland, a church visitor, as she navigates cancer treatments.
- Prayer for Carol Davis' great-grandson, Carter Malouf, 2 years old, who is in the hospital in Lubbock, TX with a disease that happens after a child has COVID.



SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing and your comfort for 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.

WE NEED YOUR HELP: There are times we get calls from members needing transportation to church, doctors, or other appointments. If you could help with this, please let Susan Younk know (817 573-9153 or susanyounk@gmail.com) or contact Gail at the church office.

Worship Attendance January and February 2022					
	<u>Date</u>	<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Combined in-person Total</u>	<u>On Line Attendance</u>
January	1/2/2022	17	46	63	37
	1/9/2022	45	48	93	35
	1/16/2022	14	70	84	49
	1/23/2022	27	36	63	73
	1/31/2022	27	34	61	57
February	2/6/2022	31	55	86	32
	2/13/2022	37	77	114	25
	2/20/2022	49	70	119	30



Prayer of the Month

Wanda Moon Prayer chain coordinator

wanda1az18@gmail.com



Our Father,

"Now glory be to God who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of--infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts or hopes. May he be given glory forever and ever through endless ages...." Ephesians 3:20, The Living Bible

We worship and adore You! We Thank you for the wide world and the universe you set into existence for us to live in and for the many reminders that You are here among us.

We ask that You be with those in authority over our country. Give them the knowledge, intelligence, intuition and faith to make decisions beneficial to our country and the world. We also ask these things for our church leaders and volunteers for the furtherance of Your kingdom. May they take directions from Your mind to theirs as they listen intently for Your will, that the next 125 years glorify You and be beneficent to the community and to the world through our outreach.

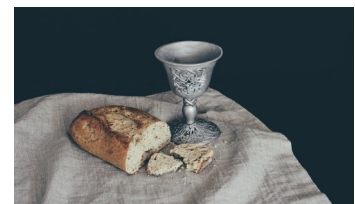
Please be with those in Your sphere who do not yet acknowledge the sacrifice of Your Son for the forgiveness of sin. Help them learn about Your love in gentle ways and come to know there are better ways of living through dependence on You, Your Son, and Your Holy Spirit.

In those moments when we doubt, help our unbelief, that we may hold tightly to Your word as spoken to us in the Bible.

Be with those in our congregation who are hurting, for whatever reason. Let them know we have compassion for them and pray for Your Loving Spirit to comfort them. Please watch over us all and protect us and our loved ones and keep us from harm. Be especially with the children we hold in our hearts and help them grow into the adults You would have them be.

We earnestly pray these things in Jesus' name, Amen.

The Communion Guild is responsible for preparing the elements the day before communion is served and for cleaning up after communion is served. We are looking for volunteers to join our group. If you are interested in joining the Communion Guild, please contact Pat Luley (817-776-1481) paluley@gmail.com for



F.U.N. Circle

Gloria Mitchell, F.U.N. circle coordinator

gwmitch@sbcglobal.net



FUN Circle, Wednesday, March 23 at 10:00.
You are in for a real treat!
We'll be having a style show by Stuff and Nonsense,
followed by a pot luck lunch. Come one, come all!

But the *Fruit of the Spirit* is
love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness and self-control.

When looking around our church and thinking of the beautiful souls that are part of the congregation, the above scripture verses come to mind. Our congregation is so gracious at ministering to the needs of others and lending a hand with whatever needs to be done. Seeing faith in action makes our church a place for all!

During our Session retreat, we examined how we glorify God and show the 'fruit of the spirit' within the works of our church. Each month, a different elder will write about his or her faith in action and what is being done within his or her committee.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE. Elder in charge: Susan Younk

How are we caring for our members who are home bound or in care facilities?

We make sure they know they are not forgotten, but vital members of our church family.

We make frequent calls to check on the members and their caregivers.

We provide transportation to appointments (if needed) and try to give support in any way possible.

If COVID numbers allow, we visit our members regularly. and serve monthly communion.

Cards are sent monthly, and Christmas and Easter gifts are distributed to our dear friends .

How do we care for our general worshipping church community?

Cards are sent out to members on their birthdays and anniversaries.

We try to stay informed of any health issues or surgeries members face and, to those, we offer support, call and send cards. We communicate those needs to appropriate staff.

The prayer chain is in place for anyone who asks for prayers.

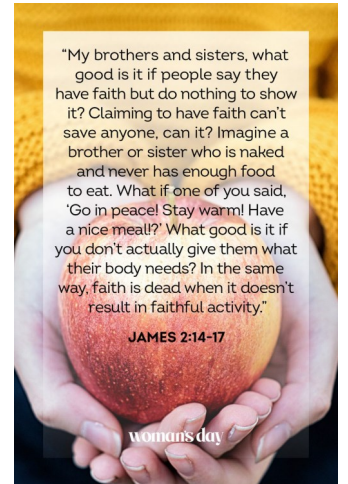
We make contact with those who have lost loved ones and check in with them to see how they are doing.

We look for ways we can be of service to our members.

We are so very thankful for the volunteers who provide for the care of our church community and, as you can see, there are multiple ways of serving. If you would like to volunteer or if you are aware of a need we are missing, please call Susan Younk at 817 573-9153 or email susanyouнк@gmail.com.

Blessings to you all!

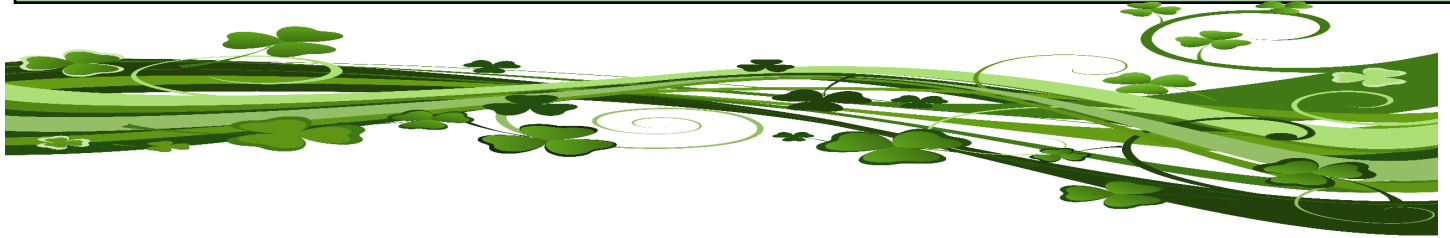
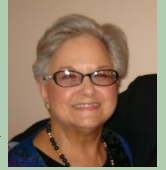
Susan





Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder
lindaallen33047@gmail.com



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Fellowship opportunities within the church are picking up! By the time you read this, we will have already had our 125th Anniversary Hymn Sing and Pot -Luck Luncheon. Looking forward to March 27th, we will be celebrating the last event in our 125th Anniversary which will conclude with another luncheon. The Lenten season will begin with Ash Wednesday and the White Breakfast, hosted by Presbyterian Women. Then, we will be gathering every week during Lent for your choice of two different Lenten studies. What a blessing to be together!

The recipe in this newsletter is for a cake brought to our last Presbyterian Women's meeting by Emily Holmes. She brought a Heath Bar Cake that got raves and the ladies all wanted the recipe. Emily graciously sent it to me. Thanks, Emily!

HEATH BAR CAKE

Shared Recipe from Emily Holmes

- 1 pkg Chocolate Fudge cake mix
- 1 can Eagle Brand Milk
- 1 jar caramel ice cream topping
- 12 oz tub (more or less) Cool Whip
- 4 Heath Bars crushed or part of a package of toffee bits (in the baking aisle)

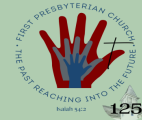
Heath bars are easier to crush if frozen; toffee bits are lots easier

Make cake according to directions on box. Bake in a 9X13" pan. While still hot, poke the top full of holes with a wooden spoon handle. Pour Eagle Brand Milk over the top then the caramel ice cream topping. REFRIGERATE OVERNIGHT. The next day spread Cool Whip on top. Sprinkle with toffee bits. YUM!!!!





125th Anniversary



Dear Friends,

By the time you read this, we will have celebrated a Hymn Fest with the potluck following. We hope you enjoyed the special time together. The painting of the church will have been auctioned off and you have received a presentation of the labyrinth we hope to build in the city park. Lots of good things happening!

So, what is next? On Sunday, March 27th at 10:00 AM we will have the final 125th Celebration. Esteemed pastor, Ted Wardlaw, will be preaching that morning on looking forward in our faith. Details of that will follow. After the service, we will adjourn to Fellowship Hall for a catered meal. The meal (barbecue) will be provided by the church, but we will ask for a head count so we can order the food. We will place inserts in the church bulletins and send out a blast for the meal count. It should be a very special day and we hope you will all plan to join us for fellowship and worship.

It has been such an honor to work on this committee. The team has done an amazing job and I thank them for all their hard work!

Grace and Peace to you all! Susan and the 125th Team



Christian Education

Sylvia Hickey, Elder
sylvia.hickey1969@gmail.com



It's been an interesting time for the last couple of months learning all the facets of the Christian Education Committee. There are things I had no idea this committee was responsible for! Nancy Bennett, I salute you for a job well done for the past 9 years! Now, I'm coming to the congregation with both news and requests for help and your participation. We have exciting things on the horizon, so get ready!

First, if you are interested in serving on the C.E. committee or being involved with any of the C.E. activities, please contact me!

Our Sunday School classes, both Adult and Children, led by Richard McCarthy and Nancy Worcester, respectfully, are doing very well, but we are planning a second Adult class to provide some choice in curriculum. An Ad Hoc committee has been formed to organize a survey, to learn more things, including, what our members are interested in studying, and learn what can enhance more church-wide participation.

Next, Lent is almost here! The two Adult Lenten studies are very interesting. Each have different days, times, and topics to help broaden participation. You could even attend both, if you would like. Please remember to sign up and get your books ordered.

Remember Vacation Bible School? The 2022 VBS is in the works and we are planning to have an early June school so please watch for information, sign up, and ways to help. WE NEED FOLKS ASAP to help with VBS.

And don't forget the Nursery. We are building a wonderful group of ladies (and we could always use more) to work with our professional staff, so parents can attend classes, practices and worship. We want to do things by the rules, but don't let that scare you – all training is easy and online!

I think what I'm trying to explain is there is a lot here at First Presbyterian Church for each of you to participate in. We are just needing to find out what are your interests! Please watch for information, dates, times, etc. because it's all about planning C.E. events for our church Family – and that's YOU. Please note, there are many other projects and programs I haven't even mentioned, like the Library or conferences and camps, Presbyterian Women and Men, the list goes on, so Stay Tuned! But in the meantime, contact me if you know you'd like to serve!



March 2022

27 10:00 AM Hymn fest - One service - Part of our 125th Celebration 11:00 AM Soup and More Luncheon - 125th Celebration	28 Drew - Out of the office 10:00 AM FUN Circle - Fellowship Hall 6:30 PM Al-Anon	1 Trinity Mission Party 10:00 AM PW Bible Study - FH 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Set Up Fellowship Hall for White Breakfast	2 7:30 AM - 10:30 AM Serve White Breakfast 8:30 AM Ash Wednesday White Breakfast - FH 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study - Admin Building 4:00 PM Choir Practice - MH 5:30 PM Handbells Rehearsal	3 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study - Fellowship Hall - Forgiveness	4 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lenten Bible Study - Big O's - The Universe in 57 Words 6:00 PM Nancy Worcester - Fellowship Hall	5
6 Communion Today 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book	7 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bridge Circle - FH 6:30 PM Al-Anon	8 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH	9 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study - Admin Building 4:00 PM Choir Practice - MH 5:30 PM Handbells Rehearsal	10 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study - Fellowship Hall - Forgiveness	11 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lenten Bible Study - Big O's - The Universe in 57 Words	12
13 Daylight Savings Time 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book	14 9:00 AM Monthly Property Meeting - Square Cafe 6:30 PM Al-Anon	15 Drew - Out of the office 5:30 PM Session - Admin Building	16 Drew - Out of the office 10:00 AM Book Circle - The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study - Admin Building 4:00 PM Choir Practice - MH 5:30 PM Handbells Rehearsal	17 Drew - Out of the office 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study - Fellowship Hall - Forgiveness	18 Drew - Out of the office 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lenten Bible Study - Big O's - The Universe in 57 Words	19 Drew - Out of the office
20 Bridge Articles Due 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book	21 6:30 PM Al-Anon	22 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH	23 10:00 AM FUN Circle - Stuff and Nonsense style show potluck - FH 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study - Admin Building 4:00 PM Choir Practice - MH 5:30 PM Handbells Rehearsal	24 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study - Fellowship Hall - Forgiveness	25 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lenten Bible Study - Big O's - The Universe in 57 Words	26 Set up for PW Rummage Sale
27 Homecoming Service 10:00 AM 125th Celebration - Rev. Dr. Ted Wardlaw and Hard 8 Barbeque Catered Lunch	28	29	30 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study - Admin Building 4:00 PM Choir Practice - MH 5:30 PM Handbells Rehearsal	31 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Lenten Bible Study - Fellowship Hall - Forgiveness	1 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM Lenten Bible Study - Big O's - The Universe in 57 Words	2

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.
The Bridge deadline is the 20th of each month.**



To:

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