

# The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

July, 2022

## From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis  
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When I was a kid, I worked at Gale's Texaco station on Hiway 87 in Tulia, Texas. Gale Stephens was the owner and worked with us there every day. He ran a real service station. We hustled as soon as a car pulled in to meet the customer and asked, "Regular or Ethel?" We washed windshields and checked the oil. We often checked tire pressure. We embodied Texaco's motto: "You can trust your car to the man who wears the star!" It was my first real job, and I learned much about caring for the customer. We really were a "service" station.

We don't see many businesses like that anymore. Last week, on a trip to return the grandkids to their parents, we stopped at McDonald's to get breakfast. There was no one behind the counter. Rather, there were two kiosks out front with the menus posted. You scroll through the options to place your order. We got it all correct finally and then pushed the big button that said "Pay." I wanted to pay with cash. Silly me, that wasn't an option at the kiosk – you had to use a card. I grumbled and paid out, took a table tent with number 25 and sat at a table to wait for my order to be delivered as I had been instructed to do by the instructions on the kiosk.

A few minutes later, another customer leaned over my table and said, "I think that's your order on the counter." I had ordered to eat at the restaurant; they sacked it all up as a "to go" order. No one called out the number. No one shouted, "Order up!" They just set it on the counter and went back to their business. The only human interaction I had in the place was with the customer who was waiting for his automated order.

On the way home, we stopped at Walmart where they have rearranged their check out area to accommodate more self-serve stations. There were many, many customers but only two clerks checking people out. Everyone else was busy checking and bagging their own groceries and pushing their carts out to the car where they will load the car and leave the cart in the middle of a parking space for someone else to put away. Oh well, I paid out, pulled up to the self-serve gas pumps, filled up my own car, washed my windshield, and headed home.

That afternoon, we decided to go to a movie. I figured it might save time to buy tickets online so we'd be sure to get a seat. I got online, found the movie, went through the process of picking out our seats and pushed "Continue" to purchase our tickets. Senior tickets were \$7.50 apiece so I had already used my razor sharp mind to determine that I'd owe \$15.00. I was surprised when the total came out to be \$21.53. Apparently, tax is added post purchase now along with a "Service Convenience Fee" of \$5.25 for the privilege of doing all the work to purchase your own tickets. Seems like that "Service Convenience Fee" ought to go to me – I did all the work, and they got all the convenience.

As I read what I've written, I realize I sound like a grumpy old guy bemoaning the changing of the world about me. I sound like my father – he'd be proud. It's a self-serve world we live in and a touch free culture. I'll try to get used to it when I do business around town. That said, I think it's a lousy way to do church. Church is not self-serve. It's about serving others of God's children and doing so in the name of Jesus Christ. It's about service we provide for others because that is our calling. Let's not lose sight of that.

See you Sunday,





## Eleazar's Lament

Such lightness...stripped of the constraints of flesh and nerves and bodily need...no pain...no burden.

The spirit *IS* willing...now that the flesh is gone.

Freedom...sweet freedom.

What's that light up ahead...radiating warmth...diffusing peace...the kind that passes all understanding?

Familiar, this light...this joy...this love...

so much like Jesus.

Ah...the Comfort...Peace, Joy, and Hope fulfilled. Eternal life in the presence of loving God...

Now THIS is the life.

Four days of eternity.

Listen!...what's that sound...somewhere in the distance...faint...disturbed...weeping?

Wait...there's no weeping in heaven?

And then...**calamity!**

Clattering bone connecting...

Constricting sinews tightly binding...

Wet muscles slapping into place...

Nerves...and pain...and old injury re-emerging...

Skin stretching, enveloping, imprisoning...

Strips of cloth tightening over every inch of once dead flesh.

What's happening?

"Lazarus."

"Jesus...no, my friend, leave me!"

"Lazarus!!!"

"My Savior!...you promised eternity."

**"Lazarus!!!"**

"My Lord, why? Please don't call my..."

**"...LAZARUS, COME FORTH!!!"**

"But..." (sigh) "Yes, Master, I come."

Stone on stone...loudly scraping.

Light squinting newly re-birther eyes.

Astonished sisters...gasping with disbelief.

Undead man...walking, in tangled strips of death.

"Unbind him...let him go!" ...prisoner released

freed to live...destined to experience death again.

Newly unwrapped head now subject to bounty,

obediently submitted to the Lord's will.

"Lazarus, come forth!" ...For there is work to be done.

Have you ever encountered a Scripture passage that is very familiar to you...but just as you are preparing to skim right over it...something new hits you: a new insight...a new thought...a new perspective? Several years ago, as I was perusing the account of Jesus raising Lazarus (aka Eleazar in Hebrew) from the dead, it hit me. How in the world would being raised from the dead be good news to Lazarus? Sure, he'd get to see Jesus and his sisters again...but beyond that, being returned to the constraints of incarnation only to have to eventually die again seems undesirable indeed. I don't know for sure, but I really believe Lazarus had a choice. God rarely forces anything on God's people. Still, Lazarus was called forth for God's purposes...so he came out of that tomb. I have never forgotten this insight, and it has colored my discernment from time to time. Sometimes, just when life seems so comfortable, God shakes things up. It is then that we have to make our choice...do we stay in our comfort...or do we step outside into the fray? It's a good thing to consider.

My recent DMin class provided an opportunity to commit my musings on this passage to poetry. I hope my creative imagination on this passage of Scripture proves meaningful to you. I hope it inspires you to look for the unexpected in Scripture as well! God's Word is so rich and so very alive...and it's right in front of us for the pondering!

--Pastor Brenda

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

*During the 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.*

**Usher Committee:** Elder in charge - Brad Bell

The purpose of Ushers and Greeters is to make all church members and visitors feel welcome and comfortable while attending worship services.

So often I feel as though I am the recipient of the Fruit of the Spirit by exchanging the joy and kindness in a greeting.

I see patience and faithfulness when you sense that the journey of a member to the church threshold was not an easy one. When asked, "How are you today?", often the answer is I'M HERE as though there would be nothing stopping that member from getting to church today.

Experiencing peace and goodness in sharing a conversation and a smile. If you would like to be a greeter, let me know.

## Christian Education

Sylvia Hickey, elder  
sylvia.hickey1969@gmail.com



### **Volunteers Needed!**

A group of volunteers will begin the Library reorganization at 10:00 AM on Thursday, June 30th! If you have items stored in the Library please remove them.

All remaining items will be donated.

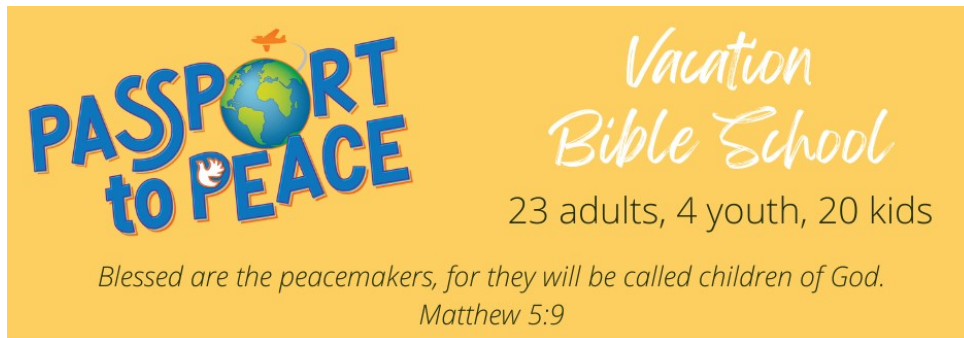
Please join us if you can!



# Vacation Bible School

Emily Graham

**W**hat a great week of Vacation Bible School! We had more than 20 volunteers, more than 20 kids/youth ranging from ages 1 to 14. It's safe to say that we all had a wonderful time. Thank you to our volunteers for their hours of work preparing for and participating in VBS. This year we hosted our own kids, grandkids of members, and a few community members. We sang songs, did crafts, played games, learned lessons, and ate snacks! Each day, the kids learned a new way to be peacemakers. We learned that peacemakers listen and learn, notice the needs of others and seek help, act creatively to keep everyone safe, respond to conflict without using violence, and take action when people have been hurt.



**Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.**

**Matthew 5:9**



Thank you to **Emily Graham** for this article and for all the planning! Shout out to **Nancy Bennett** for jumping in to take the lead, huge thank you to each and every volunteer and to all of FPC whose donations make VBS possible. 'Thanks be to God' for making this year's VBS a success!



## Prayer of the Month

Gloria Mitchell chain coordinator  
glomitch5300@gmail.com

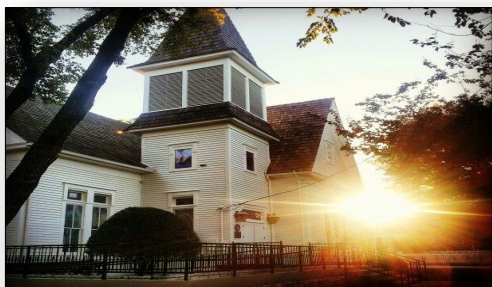


I feel very blessed to be the one sending prayer requests. Many of our church members send prayers for our members and sometimes for their families or friends. Many of the prayers have been answered, and I have been told that the recipients of the prayer requests could feel the prayers of many.



We are very fortunate to have Drew Travis and Brenda Church as our pastor and associate pastor. My friend in Washington and her fellow church members have not been as fortunate. Their recent pastor had been very inadequate at the pulpit, possibly due to dementia. That went on for many months, and they lost members during that time. They are now in the process of reading resumes to pick a new pastor.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunity many of our members had last week to teach the children about you and about different ways to make peace. Please help them remember the lessons they learned. Guide the rulers of countries like Russia, to create peace instead of war. And help us all to grow our faith stronger and allow your spirit to guide us. We ask in Jesus' name, Amen.



**Take Note: June 5 through  
September 4  
Summer worship schedule:  
One service on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

## Presbyterian Women

Nancy Burks Worcester, moderator  
nancybw@gmail.com



On Sunday June 5, we were happy to install two new officers for our Presbyterian Women board. Your officers are: First moderator: Nancy Worcester; Second vice-moderator: (programs) Ruth Gump; Third vice-moderator: (hospitality) Pat Luley; Secretary: Connie Darne'; Treasurer: Brenda Hafner; Historian: Nancy Bennett

We will be planning a meaningful and fun year for you beginning with our first general meeting in September.

I would like to personally thank the committee for the great honor of being designated an honorary lifetime member to Presbyterian Women. The lovely words Nancy Bennett read about me will remain ever in my heart



## Welcome Kenton Sorke!

Just as the organist search committee was feeling like we'd hit a brick wall, God sent us Kenton Sorke. Yes, God, we hear your lesson... patience ... all in Your time. I hope by now you have all had the pleasure of hearing Kenton play during worship. Since we all want to get to know Kenton better I've asked him a few questions.



How did you become interested in playing the organ?

*I wanted to study with a particular teacher, Devon Howard, upon my return to the U.S. after living in Austria. I had studied classical piano with Lucio Maier at the University of Regensburg and wanted to direct my studies in a more practical direction.*

What is your favorite piece to play?

*Playing the music of J.S. Bach is an experience difficult to describe in words. Especially the fugues. Technically, they are quite challenging, but the most rewarding.*

Who is your favorite composer?

*I enjoy anything that expands my perspective as a musician. In undergrad, I focused a lot on medieval keyboard music. Bach is a lot of fun to play, and I also enjoy the color modern composers use to build interest.*

What's the best concert you've ever been to?

*Picking a single concert is far too difficult, but this year I've really enjoyed following the Van Cliburn competition as well as attending alt-J, Jacob Collier, and Lady Gaga's Jazz and Piano residency in Las Vegas. Vadym Kholodenko's (2013 Cliburn gold medalist) recital at TCU and Paganini's 24 Caprices performed on viola were super impressive. I also try to stay active within the Fort Worth AGO.*

What do you do for work when you're not playing our organ?

*I'm Chief Scribe for Harris Southwest Emergency Room. My team of about 40 pre-health students provides non-clinical support so the providers can acutely focus on excellent care.*

When is your birthday and what are your favorite flavors of cake and ice cream?

*November 23. A warm, gooey chocolate chip cookie sandwich filled with peanut butter ice cream sounds amazing. I guess that also confirms my affinity for Reese's peanut butter cups.*

Would you like to share something about your family?

*I grew up near Cleburne on a few acres with horses, cows, and a rotating menagerie of other animals. My parents still live there and welcomed a new litter of toy Australian Shepherds last week. My brother works at an avionics facility in Arlington.*

What's the best way to start the day?

*On the right side of the bed! ;)*

What's your favorite movie of all time?

*I enjoy a wide variety of films but if I had to settle with one, I'd go for BBC's Sherlock series with Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman.*

Do you have hobbies or interests outside of music?

*I. Love. Food. Especially plant-based cuisine. Some of my favorite dishes include homemade pasta with seasonal sauces, PB&J "wings" from a few magical plants and some chemistry for texture, and InstantPot cheesecakes. I also love dogs, but am too busy to have one of my own yet.*

Where is your favorite place you have traveled to and why?

*I lived in Austria for a year, so the small town I stayed in will always hold a special place in my heart.*

Where would you like to travel that you've not been to?

*The Middle East and Central Asia will always be high on my travel list. I'm visiting family in Germany later this summer and am excited for a few excursions to new regions—especially new cuisine.*

If you unexpectedly have a free day what would you do?

*First, pretend to sleep in but I'm more likely to start scrolling through recipes online. Then, I'd figure out which local organs are available and spend some time with one. Music is nothing if not alive. The quirks of a tracker organ always push me to become better. To close out the day, sharing a seasonal home cooked meal with friends would be perfect.*

What is your educational background?

*I was homeschooled until high school when most of my courses were dual credit. I then moved to Austria for a year abroad. Moving back to the U.S., I finished my degree with honors in keyboard studies with pre-med, German, and history minors in 2020.*

**Attendance May and June**

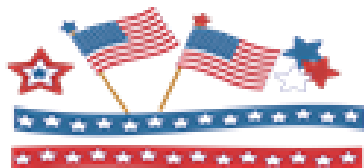
	<u>Date</u>	<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>Combined in-person Total</u>	<u>On Line Attendance</u>
May	5/29/2022	32	102	<b>134</b>	<b>29</b>
June	6/5/2022			<b>115</b>	<b>31</b>
	6/12/2022			<b>101</b>	<b>42</b>
	6/19/2022			<b>108</b>	<b>45</b>

## Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder  
lindaallen33047@gmail.com



### FPC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



**Fourth of July Picnic:** Join members, friends, neighbors, and families on the lawns of the Administration, Memorial, and Fellowship buildings to enjoy the Granbury July 4<sup>th</sup> parade. Bring chairs and get your place early for the parade which begins at 10:00 AM on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. Barbeque and hotdogs will be served beginning at 11:15 in Fellowship Hall. We welcome donations of cut-up ready-to-eat fruit or cookies. Please

bring these to Fellowship Hall before the parade.

**Small Group Dinners :** We have a group of members and friends of the church who are participating in small group dinners this summer. We will start another group in September for the fall. Get-togethers can be dinner, breakfast, brunch, or lunch in your home or at a restaurant, whatever works best for you and your group. They are a wonderful way to get to know each other! Sign-up will be in the narthex by mid-August.

Here is a recipe that would be a delicious addition to any July 4<sup>th</sup> gathering.

#### BAKED BEANS

4 slices bacon cooked and crumbled  
Reserve 2 T bacon grease and sauté 1/2 c chopped onions in it

Combine the bacon and sautéed onions with:

2 lbs Pork & Beans  
2 T brown sugar  
1 T Worcestershire Sauce  
1 t mustard

# Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder  
susanyoung@gmail.com



2 Cindy Akers Peters  
Emily Graham,  
Lynn Silvestri  
5 Carol Davis  
6 Donna Barden  
7 Janice Ragonese  
Roy Schoeneman  
8 Helen Furr  
Meghan Teal  
9 Andrea Kennedy  
Jay Thomas  
11 Hank Wurtz  
12 Anne Mays  
Carol Hengels

13 Dan Crise  
Liz Lacy  
14 Derek Faulkner  
15 Earl Darne'  
17 Joe Ethridge  
18 Debbie Schneider  
Pat Collins  
19 Anita Heiser  
20 Betty Simpson  
Bianca Brownfield  
25 Max Jewell  
Rhiannon Orbe  
26 Judy Rose  
27 Nancy Wilmeth  
Sharon Wilemon  
28 Ruth Gump  
29 Shawn Deeds  
30 Sylvia Hickey



3 Bill & Laneal James  
7 John & Hannah Briese  
Charles & Linda Somervill  
Jack & Jacci Southern  
8 Mike & Pam Christopher  
Craig & Liz Lacy  
Les & Janice Ragonese  
17 Jimmy & Margie Randles  
Richard & Sue Root  
18 Earl & Sandy Haberkamp

**AT HOME AND/OR RECEIVING TREATMENT**—Edith George, Bill Lowe, JD Finlay, Dave Barnett, Rita Hart, Rene Metcalf, Sheila Higgins, Jim and Theda Deaver, Bill Wood, Sharon Wilemon, Lorraine Schmitz, Janice Ragonese, Peggy Losher, and Carol Gadbois.

We mourn the passing of Ed Smith, and pray for his beloved wife Fran.  
We mourn the passing of, Ron Simpson, and pray for his beloved wife Betty.

## CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

**Marina Kuyl** as she battles some health issues.

**Janice Ragonese** as she seeks treatment for a sprained knee.

**Pastor Drew Travis** who has health issues.

**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 continues to recover from hip surgery.

**Carol Gadbois** as she awaits medical treatment.

**Claire Mitchell Copeland** who has multiple health issues.

**Lorraine Schmitz** as she receives Hospice care at home.

**Rick & Marla Caraway** as he recovers from hip surgery, and she deals with health issues.

**Richard McCarthy** as he seeks treatment for eye care.

**Tom Sykes** as he mourns the loss of his mother, Mary Sykes.

**Wanda Moon** having difficulty with pain after knee surgery.

**Derek & Vanessa Faulkner** as they mourn the passing of Barbara Faulkner, Derek's mother.

**Bill & Kay McMillan** as she recovers from knee surgery and he deals with health issues.



## AT CARE/RETIREMENT FACILITIES

### Courtyards at Lake Granbury

Maureen Walker

### Waterview at Lake Granbury

Ted Dolan, Nita Collinsworth

### The Cove at Waterview

Jean Haight

### Quail Park

Dolores Groom, John Cheney

### The Oaks

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

### Bridgewater Memory Care

Bill Lowe

### Lewisville Estates:

Fran Smith

## CONCERNS FOR OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

- **Janis Thornton**, daughter of Juanita Morgan, as she seeks cancer treatment.
- **Kent and Lora Reeves**, son of Peggy Losher, as he recovers from multiple surgeries and gun shot wounds.
- **CJ Cluck**, grandson of Beverly McKusick, on his continued cancer recovery.
- **Jim Dean's** parents and sister as they navigate multiple health issues.
- **Earnestine Sutherland**, who is having cancer treatments.
- **The Ukrainian family** that has been part of Marla Caraway's daughter's life, as they shelter from the siege.
- **Daniel Lopez**, son-in-law of Drew & Rhonda Travis, as he recovers from surgery.
- **Bill**, son-in-law of JD Finlay, as he deals with throat cancer.



**SPECIAL BLESSINGS:** Dee Holt & Lorraine Schmitz as they celebrate their 90th birthdays. Edith George as she celebrates her 101st birthday. Margaret Gulinson's surgery was successful and she is doing well.

**For those hurting and in pain, we ask your blessing and your healing. 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.**

If you know of anyone who needs to be contacted for a care or concern, please email me at [susanyoung@gmail.com](mailto:susanyoung@gmail.com)) or contact Gail at the church office.



Please remember to **lock all doors**, if you are the last person to leave any of the FPC buildings. For all our safety!

# Stewardship

Dan Crise, Elder  
dancrise13@gmail.com



**S**tewardship is commonly considered to be the prudent and responsible guardianship of something generally of great value that is entrusted to one's care. For Christians, stewardship is about recognizing the gifts from God we that are entrusted with as His stewards and what we should do with them. Understanding and practicing good stewardship of God's gifts is a vital part of our faith in Jesus Christ as our savior. If we look at various examples of biblical scripture, it becomes clear that we are encouraged to use the gifts we have received from God for use in service to Christ. The Bible tells us, ***"Like good stewards of the grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."*** (1 Peter 4:10 NRSV)

As people of faith, we often tend to associate and consider stewardship in terms of pledging financial support to the ministry and mission of our church in a singular event on Consecration Sunday in November of each year. However, true stewardship for Christians is more than just pledging our gift of money once a year.

Stewardship is a year-round commitment. In addition to financial resources, we all have been bestowed with gifts of time and talent that we should share throughout the year. In thanks and gratitude for the Grace of God, we're called upon to use those gifts of time and talent as well as our treasure for the care and benefit of others in our congregation, our community, and beyond. Exercising faithful stewardship demonstrates our love for God and each other.



# 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 Hood County children in foster care who need help getting gear to head back to school every year.



Every summer, we support their work by donating gift cards for local shoe stores so that kids can pick out their new shoes. We are gathering gift cards for Rack Room Shoes or if you'd like to contribute in the offering plate, you can mark your donation for "shoes" and the missions committee will buy the cards.

If you'd like to contribute, bring your donations to Sunday worship on the July 10th or July 17th.

# July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook 11:00am Missions Lunch - FH 3:00pm Ron Simpson Funeral	<b>27</b> 5:30pm AL-Anon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Friends of Bill W. - MH
<b>3</b> Communion Today 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>4</b> Church office Closed Fourth of July Lunch Following the Parade - FH 5:30pm AL-Anon	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00am CE Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Friends of Bill W. - MH
<b>10</b> Second Sunday Inquirers Summer Choir 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>11</b> 9:00am Monthly Property Meeting - Square Cafe 1:00pm - 3:00pm Memorial Hall - Pecan Bookmarks 5:30pm AL-Anon	<b>12</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Granbury Knitting Guild - FH	<b>13</b> 9:00am - 1:00pm PEO Meeting - FH 4:00pm - 6:00pm Choir Workshop - Memorial Hall	<b>14</b> 10:00am - 2:00pm Blood Drive - Donate if you can! 11:00am Outreach and Mission	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Friends of Bill W. - MH
<b>17</b> 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>18</b> 5:30pm AL-Anon	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Bridge Articles Due	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Friends of Bill W. - MH
<b>24</b> Summer Choir 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>25</b> 5:30pm AL-Anon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Friends of Bill W. - MH
<b>31</b> 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>1</b> 5:30pm AL-Anon	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:00am CE Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Friends of Bill W. - MH 3:00pm Goodman/Smith - Wedding

Watch this space for changes to our calendar. View current calendar on our website [FPCGranbury.com](https://fpcgranbury.org) and Click on Calendar at the top of the page. Or click on the link below <https://fpcgranbury.org>

Summer worship schedule begins Sunday, June 5 and continues through September 4: One Service at 10:00 am.



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.**

**IMPORTANT  
REMINDER**

**June 5 through September 4  
Summer worship schedule:  
One service on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

**To:**

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