

First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

Our Mission: Connecting with God and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the community.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

543 East Freeman St. Duncanville, TX 75116 (972) 298-3043 fax: (972) 298-5312 info@fpcd.org www.fpcd.org

CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein,Pastor

Jennifer Johnson Administrative Asst

Nyadia Thorpe, Choir Director

Dameron Growe Brittany Haywood Susan Walters Accompanists

Sean Russell, Sound Room Technician

> Ana Ortiz Liliana Ortiz Nursery

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Counting My Blessings

In the early months of the pandemic, my workplace sponsored several webinars for sustaining good mental health. Between my faith, my family, and this additional support, I was able to hold it together with a clear head and a thankful heart.

It was at one of these webinars a healthcare professional suggested writing down the things you are grateful for on a calendar. While I thought this was a great idea in theory, I was a dismal failure at remembering to write something down each day.

As the Lenten season approached, I wondered what I could do this year to help me be more mindful of the season, of the sacrifice, and of the ultimate joy of the resurrection. I tried several things, but without consistency.

Then, one night after I'd read my devotional, I was praying and thanking God for all my many blessings, and it finally hit me. While it's true we've experienced challenges and adversity over the past year, we are staying the course. And, in the midst of our journey, although we've seen sorrow, we've also seen great joy. This past year has forced us to hold a mirror up to ourselves. We've seen the flaws, but we've also seen the blessings our Lord grants us - and that's something to be joyful about! For example, the way families, friends and congregations came together to help each other during "Snowmeggedon".

So I began a diary, a Counting My Blessings Diary. I keep a notebook by my bedside, and each night I write down three things I'm grateful for that day. Sometimes it's just something simple, such as being able to breathe clearly. Sometimes it's just having air conditioning or a working car. Other days it's full sentences, capturing something much more memorable. Some days I'm too exhausted and forget, but the next day I'm right back on it. It's not a chore. It's a reminder of the goodness and faithfulness of God.

I'm reminded of a song sung by Rend Collective, *Counting Every Blessing*.

I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing, Letting go and trusting when I cannot see.

I am counting every blessing, counting every blessing, Surely every season you are good to me.

We have so many things to be thankful for, so I'm counting my blessings. Hope you are as well.

Brenda



Easter Sunday 2021



















Think Tank Memo

TO: All Church Friends and Community Minded Saints

FROM: Think Tank

MEMO: There is an urgent need to reach out to the community in big and small ways. FPCD needs any and all hands on deck to spread God's love to Duncanville. Should you decide to accept this Mission, please join us Wednesday, May 12 at 7:00pm in Fellowship Hall to strategize!

This memo will not self-destruct!!!

In all seriousness now, FPCD should and, hopefully, will come up with some ways in which we can impact our community. My hope is that, after having lived "remotely" during Covid, our community will have a hunger to return to church, to return to fellowship and to return to safe gathering together.

All communities have emotional, social and financial needs. FPCD can help meet some of these needs in our community. Think Tank would love to have your input to how we can do that. Some thoughts are:

- Another "End of School Bash" for the community
- A 4th of July cookout for the community
- A Movie Night for the community either inside the church or on the lawn
- Diaper drives/Food drives/Baby Formula drives for the community
- Park/street/yard clean ups
- Your suggestions??????

The more ideas, people and help we have, the more God can use FPCD to do His work.

Please join us!

The Epistle 4



GOD provided the perfect CORNERSTONE, reflecting the ledge stone colors. Labors of LOVE provided a visual link to the SANCTUARY beyond. Psalm 118:22





21.

First Presbyterian Church Duncanville, Texas

April 18, 2021



Digital Sign Project Dedication

First Presbyterian Church - Duncanville Digital Sign Landscape

"Designer's Mission Statement and Inspiration"

As Christians, we are commanded to point others to the Cross, and to the message of hope in our salvation through Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. *Romans* 4:25, *Romans* 5:6-8, *John* 3:16

Somewhat ironic is that the Cross seems oriented towards the brilliant light of the setting sun, which is a reminder of Christ's Light shining through us, into a world filled with darkness. John 8:12

- Designing a sign bed in response to the contemporary architectural forms (specifically, the pitched, triangular steeple cap supporting the Celtic Cross) was the primary objective, both aesthetically and spiritually.
- Drawing attention to the digital sign board from vehicles and pedestrians passing from seven different angles without obstructing or competing with the flashing messages was critical to the church's outreach.
- Selecting materials that (after established) could withstand droughts, and that would require minimal grooming and care was essential.
- Creating a strikingly simple but cohesive 'finishing touch' to a sign which stood isolated in a vast expanse of open land was necessary to stay in keeping with the surroundings, yet add a little pizzazz to suggest lively and innovative ministries offered at this Church.

The tip of the bed's long, triangular shape points to the Steeple and Cross, as well as the only door visible from the street. Although this door is not a primary entrance to the Sanctuary, it reads as a "narrow gate" through which we all must go to receive eternal life. Matthew 7:14

The three Texas Red Yuccas represent the Crosses at Calvary, as well as the Triune Godhead. The blooms also represent Christ's blood shed to pay for our sins. They will provide nourishment to bees, butterflies and hummingbirds, just as Christ's shed blood still nourishes our souls each time we take the sacraments at Holy Communion.

Oklahoma flat slab boulders were used to anchor the three points of the triangle, representing solid ground on which the church stands. A more shapely boulder was used within the bed interior to represent God as our rock and fortress. 2 Samuel 22:2 (The small linear stone nearby marks the junction box location for easy access when electrical maintenance is required.)

Gray Basalt "Tejas" Rock requires no water and provides texture and color compatible with the ledge stone sign base. Placement of the plants and boulders provide a gentle rhythm from all vantage points.

It is my prayer that this statement in the landscape will serve to attract and welcome neighbors into the church such that lost souls will be won for God's Kingdom.

In Christ,





May 2021

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
	4 ! 11 1 18 1	Apr 2021 A T W T F S 1 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 2 13 14 15 16 17 9 20 21 22 23 24 6 27 28 29 30	Jun 2021 S M T W T 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 17 20 21 22 23 24 27 28 29 30	4 5 11 12 18 19		11:00 AM Memorial Service for Sam Fithian	
9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service in-person and ONLINE	7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal on ZOOM	4 7 PM Think Tank	5 Lifeline Screening in the Fellowship Hall 8 AM - 5 PM	6 7 PM - Community Conversation	7	8	
9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service in-person and ONLINE	10 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal on ZOOM	11 7 PM Sarah Circle	7:00 PM Member Care Meeting	13 7 PM - Community Conversation	14	Newsletter Articles Duel	
9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service in-person and ONLINE	17 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal on ZOOM	18	7:00 PM Session Meeting	20 7 PM - Community Conversation	21	22	
9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service in-person and ONLINE	The Sandwich Project Bring your Sandwickes for the Homeless 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal on ZOOM	25	26	27	28	29	
9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service in-person and ONLINE	31 (Office Closed for Memorial Day) 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal on ZOOM						



"For I know the plans I have for you,"

declares the Lord,

"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to

give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

.m.q 0£:2 —

Fearless Youth Group
Fearless Youth

.m.s 21:9 — .m.s 02:01 — Christian Education Worship Service

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 543 EAST FREEMAN STREET DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116 (972) 298-3043 / (972) 298-5312 info@fpcd.org

May Birthdays

If we've missed your birthday and you would like us to include it in this "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact us at (972) 298-3043 or info@fpcd.org. Thank you.

Clint Benford, May 5 Steve Bayless, May 7 Lucy Russell, May 13 Marna Bayless, May 22 Gary Walters, May 22 Alexander Gaskins, May 31



2021 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

Receipts Expenditures March \$86,254* \$43,588**

Jan-Mar \$121,925*** \$107,913****

*\$41,807 of this for building fund **\$22,093 of this for building projects ***\$46,577 of this for building fund ****\$52,748 of this for building projects