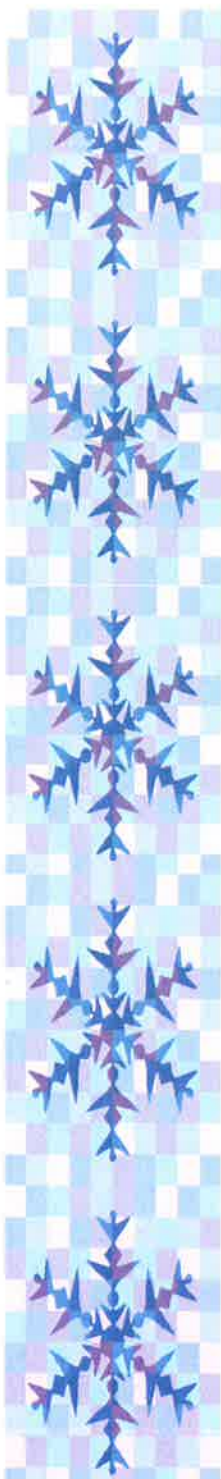


The Newsletter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Kilgore, Texas

January 2021
Volume 38 No. 1

FROM THE PASTOR



We've probably never been as excited to see a year end and a new one to start. The fact that we are on the other side of 2020 is itself reason alone to give God our thanks and praise. Indeed, the experience of 2020 has me reflecting on how drastically our lives can change so quickly. We never imagined the shutdowns, travel bans, school and church closures, having to socially distance and wear masks, not to mention all the other unforeseen interruptions in our own lives. One thing is for certain, and that is, as much as we would like it to be, the future is not. We like certainty because it gives us a sense of control. However, as I study the Scriptures, certainty does not occupy a place among the Christian virtues.

God does not call for certainty. God calls us to have trust: "trust in the Lord with all your heart" (Proverbs 3:5). Trusting in God does not mean that we are to embrace a naïve optimism that life is going to be great all the time. No, trusting God is to live with the confidence that Jesus Christ, Immanuel, is with us in the good and bad. I do not know exactly of 2021 is going to be better than 2020. It is my hope, but it is not a certainty. What I do know is that Jesus Christ has already gone ahead of us. Because I believe that Jesus Christ is in front of us, that he goes before us, I am able to face an uncertain future with hope and peace.

While a lot about 2021 is uncertain, we can rest assured that we will continue to faithfully be the church of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, and service. What it will look like remains to be seen, but I believe by the mid-late spring we will begin to return to some semblance of "normal." In the meantime, we will continue to worship and gather as we can in a way that upholds the safety of everyone. I want sincerely to thank you for your flexibility with all the changes we've experienced regarding worship and safety protocols during these last several months. Speaking for the entire staff, it is very much appreciated.

I want to close my reflection with a New Year prayer:

O God, helper in our past and hope for our future: hold our good intentions, free us from that which keeps us from the good and enable us to move into this new year with your love behind, beside, and before us. In Christ, we pray. Amen.

Wishing you a blessed '21,

Will

Stewardship

	<u>Tithes and</u>
	<u>Offerings</u>
<u>Month of November</u>	
Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 28,639
Actual Monthly Tithes/Offerings	\$ 26,268
Actual Monthly Expense	\$ 43,817
Overage/ (Deficit)	\$ (17,549)
<u>For the Year 2020</u>	
Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 286,391
Actual YTD Tithes/Offerings	\$ 342,861
Actual YTD Expense	\$ 448,824
Overage/ (Deficit)	\$ (105,963)

Thank you for your tithes and offerings!
Without your faithful giving, ministry and
missions would not be possible.

P W News

Thanks to everyone who helped with gifts for the Evergreen residents.
The Coordinating Team will meet again Monday, February 1.
We are looking forward to the New Year!

Blessings
Sarah Camp, Moderator

Session Highlights

- Had Bible Study together.
- Received a thank you note from Sarah Camp.
- Approved transfer of membership for Nathan and Beth Abernethy to Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, Sandy Springs, Georgia.
- Heard report from Will which included dates for Officer Training on January 10, and Officer Ordination/Installation on January 20.
- Approved wedding of Allison Akins and Landon White in our sanctuary May 15, 2021.
- Approved motion to start back in person worship on December 20 requiring masks.
- Prayed for members of our congregation.





**Thoughts and Prayers
for our Members:**



- * Verner Laird
- * David Nixon

- * Nicholas Little
- * Tine Zapata

- * Dalton Mixon

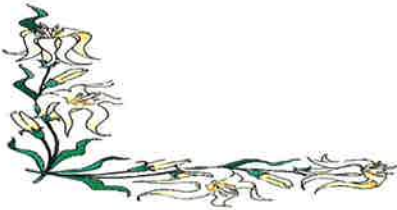
**Prayers for friends and family
of our congregation:**

- * Raymond Bazinet
- * Max Brant Crim
- * Hunter Hardeman
- * Kenzie Hyatt
- * Donna Marshall
- * Dayne Neal
- * Gordon Reed
- * Sharon Schoenemann
- * Billie Clower Watson

- * Sylvia Bolding
- * Linda Curkan
- * Johnece Fout Hardeman
- * Don Kiser
- * Pat McCrory
- * Larry Perkins
- * Glenda Reid
- * Jamie Stephens
- * Larry & Linda Willis

- * Joe Brown
- * Legene Gay
- * Tillman Latham
- * Rex McCubbin
- * Bill Pybas
- * Cecelia & Roland Sanders
- * Danny Strickland
- * Carly Wimberley

- * Tara Castles
- * Ashley Haden
- * Jimmy Love
- * David McElroy
- * Charlotte Reed



**Friends & Relatives in Service
to Our Country**

Jacob Conner
Brent Duvall

Robert Gray
Gavin Jackson



**Monthly Mission for January
is Helping Hands.**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PO BOX 1216

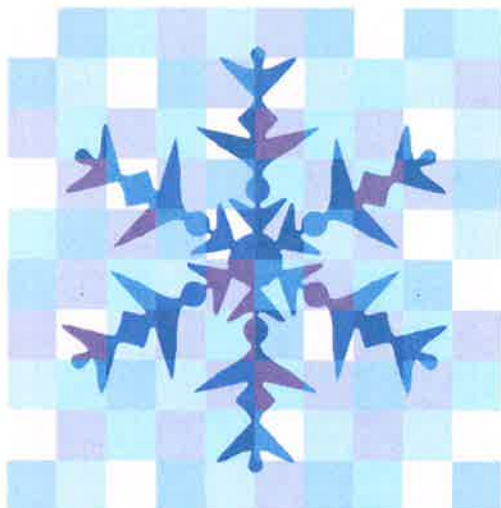
KILGORE, TEXAS 75663

903-984-1502

Email: firstpreskilgore@gmail.com

Web page: firstpreskilgore.org

Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Kilgore



- 3 Leo Lowery
- 7 Melody Ansley
- 8 Elliot Brown
- 10 Chris Thrower
- 12 Jayden Mankins
- 18 Bobby Jack Huey
- 20 Jenny Baggett
Jan Warren
- 21 Graham Tyra
- 22 James Murphy
Jennifer Stanley
- 25 Suzie Anthony
Jackie Fout
Kamryn Mann
- 26 Laci Laird