



The Newsletter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Kilgore, Texas

March 2023
Volume 40 No. 3

FROM THE PASTOR

I have heard people offer several excuses as to why they do not go to church. One of the most prescient excuses is that the people who go to church are no better, sometimes even worse, acting than those who do not belong to a faith community. While I roll my eyes at such a shallow excuse, I grant that hypocrisy is one of the church's most significant public relations problems. What is hardly ever mentioned or recognized is that hypocrisy has plagued the people of God from the very beginning.

Jesus' disciples were hypocrites. Just before Jesus was arrested and taken to trial, he told his disciples, "You will all become deserters" (Mark 14:27). The disciples could not believe this, so all of them declared that they would never deny or desert Jesus (Mark 14:31). However, their unconditional commitment to Jesus was short-lived. Mark tells us that when Judas showed up with the chief priests, scribes, and elders who were there to arrest Jesus that "all of them (the disciples) deserted him (Jesus) and fled" (Mark 14:50). The disciples had become deserters.

How often do we commit to one course of action, but when the heat is on, we do something else? How often do we say that we will love God and neighbor, but when the time comes to honor that commitment, we do not live a life of love but of self-centeredness and conceit? How often do we say we will practice generosity but live a life of greed? How often do we promise Jesus to follow him all the way, but our commitment to him is easily crushed under the weight of life's challenging circumstances? The story of the disciples becoming deserters is also our story, too. We say one thing and then do another. Lent provides an excellent time to consider how we desert Christ. As we move through these forty days, I want to challenge you to examine yourself: how are you falling short of your commitments to Jesus Christ?

The bad news is that we fail repeatedly. But, even for disciples who have become deserters, there is good news. Right after Jesus predicted that his disciples would desert him, he proclaimed a word of Easter good news: "But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee" (Mark 14:28). What, or rather who is on the other side of our failure to follow Jesus? The resurrected Christ who, through love and righteous judgment, restores and repairs the relationship. That is the good news we will celebrate in just a few weeks. Easter is coming. Thanks be to God!

To God Be The Glory,
Will





Youth Sunday February 5, 2023

The youth led the Sunday morning worship service, and the Interim Director of Youth Ministry preached the sermon. Thanks to all for your dedication.

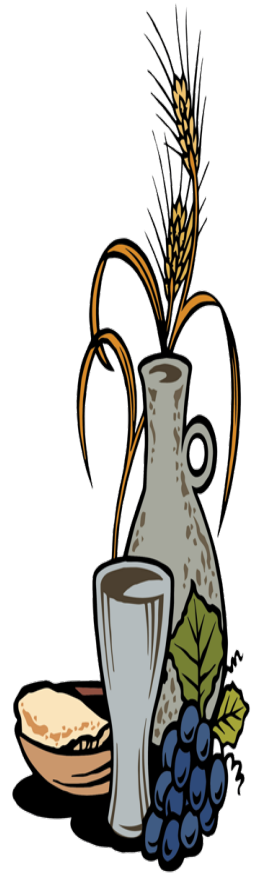
Youth
Grace Friesen
Kimber Gage
Natalie Lightfoot
**Interim Director of
Youth Ministry**
Cheyenne Kirkpatrick

Midweek Manna

**Beginning
March 1**

**6:00 p.m.
Communion
in the Chapel
each Wednesday
in Lent.**

**6:30 p.m.
Supper in
Fellowship Hall.**



Monthly Missions



Rahab's Retreat and Ranch is a voluntary, faith-based discipleship program serving victims of human trafficking, women who have been physically, emotionally and sexually abused and women battling addiction. Rahab's Retreat is open to all women including those with children, from all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds free of charge.

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:30 Grace Notes 6:00 Midweek Manna–Chapel 6:30–Supper in Fellowship Hall	2 5:00 Visitation–Evangelism in the Library 6:00 Handbell Choir	3	4 Sat. Bread Maryanne Harris
5 Communion 9:30 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Choir rehearsal	6 9:30 PW Coordinating Team– Parlor	7 5:30 Administration Comm–Parlor	8 Grace Notes 6:00 Midweek Manna–Chapel 6:30–Supper in Fellowship Hall 7:00 Night Circle in Parlor	9 6:00 Handbell Choir	10	11 Sat. Bread 20/20 Vision Ministry
12 9:30 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregational Meeting Choir rehearsal	13 KISD– SPRING	14 BREAK– --- 12:00 Noon Circle · Lunch in the parlor	15 ----- 6:00 Midweek Manna–Chapel 6:30–Supper in Fellowship Hall	16 ----- 6:00 Handbell Choir	17 -----	18 Sat. Bread John & Debby Leppert
19 9:30 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Choir rehearsal	20	21	22 Grace Notes 6:00 Midweek Manna–Chapel 6:30–Supper in Fellowship Hall 7:00 Session– Parlor	23 6:00 Handbell Choir	24	25 Sat. Brad St. Paul's Episcopal
26 9:30 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Choir rehearsal	27	28	29 Grace Notes 6:00 Midweek Manna–Chapel 6:30–Supper in Fellowship Hall	30 6:00 Handbell Choir	31 <i>Bach's Lunch</i> 11:30 Sack Lunch–Fellowship Hall 12:00 Noon Organ Concert	



Notes from the Session

The Session held it's Regular Stated Meeting February 15, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

The meeting began with a devotion and prayer.

The Clerk presented the 2022 Statistical Report, and a request for transfer of membership for J Mitchell to FPC, Tyler. Both were approved.

The Pastor informed Session members of the new lists of names from the church directory that were divided and put in their folders. They will keep in touch with their assigned members throughout the year. He challenged the Session to invite someone to church in the next month.

CE-Missions

- * The Easter Egg hunt will be held on Wednesday, April 5 after Grace Notes. All children and parents are invited to come and enjoy pizza and outdoor activities.
- * Monthly Mission for March is Rahab's Retreat
- * VBS will be a Day Camp held at Camp Gilmont June 26 - 30. Children will leave the church at 8:00 a.m. each morning and return at 5:00 p.m.

Stewardship-Budget

- * An updated pledge report was presented which includes 52 pledging units totaling \$371,309.
- * Jan Wylie reported on the recent gift to the church, which includes land and a property downtown Kilgore

Visitation-Evangelism

- * The committee is working on updating the information in the visitor bags.

Worship-Fellowship

- * The committee recruited members to be in charge of the meals during Midweek Manna.
- * Two upcoming baptisms were presented for approval.



Tithes and Offerings for Month of January

Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 33,500
Actual Monthly Tithes/Offerings	\$ 78,837
Actual Monthly Expense	\$ 45,281
Overage/ (Deficit)	\$ 33,556

For the Year 2023

Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 402,000
Actual YTD Tithes/Offerings	\$ 78,837
Actual YTD Expense	\$ 45,281
Overage/ (Deficit)	\$ 33,556

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

- 1) Lennon Thrower, daughter of Jeff and Abbie Thrower, date to be determined.
- 2) Brooks Mauldin, son of Clayton and Allie Mauldin, scheduled for May 14.

Both were approved.

Will reported on the recent Presbytery meeting which included the vote to hire Rev. Christopher Lee as the new General Presbyter, and Kyle Walker as the new Stated Clerk.

The Consent Agenda was approved, which consisted of the previous minutes, and the financial report for January.

Session members shared joys and concerns, and prayed together for those on the prayer list, and members of our congregation.

Sarah Camp
Clerk of Session



***Thoughts and prayers
Family and friends of FPC***

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| * Haley Lemming Banks | * Raymond Bazinet |
| * Jami Bird | * Patrick Braly |
| * Joe Brown | * E J Chowdhury |
| * Elizabeth Collins | * Shauntell Copeland |
| * Lynda Crittenden | * Linda Curkan |
| * Carly Faulkner | * John Fout |
| * Mary Lee Going | * Laura Guzman |
| * Ashley Haden | * Chester Hardy |
| * Bob Harris | * Lucy Harrison |
| * Kenzie Hyatt | * Zoe Kelt |
| * Rita Knox | * Nikki Lafitte |
| * Shirley G Latham | * Michelle Lemming |
| * Dianne Lyle | * Donna Marshall |
| * Ward McCollum | * Rex McCubbin |
| * David McElroy | * Carla McKnight |
| * Abbi Melton | * Dayne Neal |
| * Larry Perkins | * Amanda Presley |
| * Katie Ramo | * Jerry Richardson |
| * Margaret Roberts | * Ken Rucker |
| * Charlotte Sechrist | * Chris Spinks |
| * Katie Wylie Stovall | * Kai Tucker |
| * Donna Vanderwoude | * Cindy Venable |
| * April Watson | * Stewart White |
| * Larry Willis | * Linda Willis |
| * Carolyn Woods | |

In Service to our Country

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| * Jacob Conner | * Brent Duvall |
| * Robert Gray | * Gavin Jackson |
| * Stone Smith | |



**P W
News**



Yes, it's that time of year again! Spring is almost here! (March 20, 2023)

Your PWCT will meet Monday, March 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor.

The Noon Circle will meet March 14, 2023 in the church parlor for lunch at 12:00 p.m.

The Night Circle will meet on March 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor following Midweek Manna Supper in Fellowship Hall.

Remember we will start our Easter Lily Sale on Sunday, March 5, 2023.

Forms will be in the church office. You may pick up a form, fill it out and return it with appropriate ck/cash to Jo Little or the box found in the church office. Lilies will be available for pick up after church on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023.

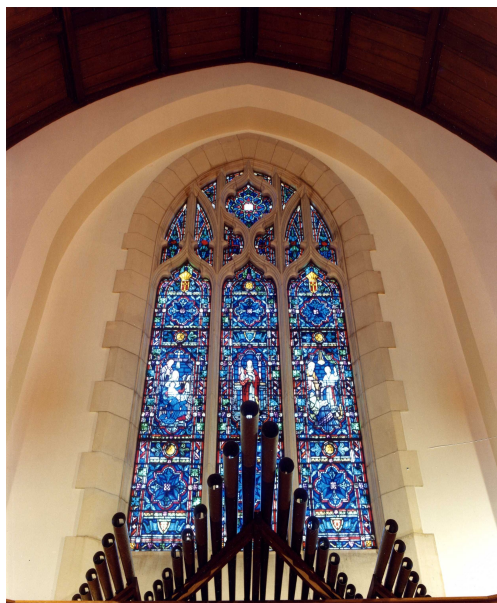
Prayers for a wonderful Spring 2023!

Jackie Fout
P W Moderator

**Saturday
Bread
Schedule:**



- March 4: Maryanne Harris
March 11: 20/20 Vision Ministry
March 18: John & Debby Leppert
March 25: St. Paul's Episcopal



Longview Symphony Orchestra
Presents

Bach's Lunch

Featuring Organist, Gala Strunk
Friday, March 31, 12:15 - 1:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
Kilgore, Texas



Photos from the Organ Concert
of Weston Jennings February 5th.

The concert featured the premier of the
commissioned piece by Composer,
Jace Mankins in celebration of the restoration
of the Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ of
First Presbyterian, Kilgore.





Members and Friends
of First Presbyterian Church, Kilgore.

This Easter season, Presbyterian Women will be offering our members and friends of FPC Kilgore an opportunity to purchase a ten inch pot of Easter Lilies. Our hope is that our Church Sanctuary will be abloom with lilies for Easter Sunday. You will be able to purchase lilies In Memory of someone, In Honor of someone, or you may purchase lilies anonymously.

Proceeds will be allocated to support the current and future ministries of our Men of the Church and Presbyterian Women.

Please place your completed order form with payments in the offering plate during worship, drop it off in the church office, or mail to FPC-Kilgore, PO Box 1216, Kilgore, TX 75663.

FPC Presbyterian Women and Men of the Church thank you for your participation.

First Presbyterian Church Easter Lily Form 10 inch Easter Lily plants are \$ 40.00 each



_____ x 10" pots @ \$40.00 each = _____

Return this form with your payment to the offering plate or the church office by April 2.

Make checks payable to **Presbyterian Women**

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Anonymous _____

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Anyone who purchases an Easter Lily will understand that they will be used for the purpose of decorating our church. Easter Lilies may be picked up in the Sanctuary after the service on April 9, 2023.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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903-984-1502

Email: firstpreskilgore@gmail.com

Web page: firstpreskilgore.org

Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Kilgore

March



March Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Garrett Lightfoot | 10 Sharon Nestleroad |
| 2 Chris Gratton | 20 Sarah Camp |
| 3 Carolyn Martin | 24 Garrett Schleier |
| 4 Natalie Lightfoot | 26 Josie Atchley |
| 5 Linda Sartor | 27 Janie Henley |
| 7 Jerry Hall | 28 Janie Dickerson |
| 8 Terry Stembridge, Jr. | |