



The Newsletter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Kilgore, Texas

October 2020

Volume 37 No. 10

FROM THE PASTOR



We've been reading and singing Psalm 19 the last few weeks in worship. Our sung refrain excellently summarizes the theological message of the Psalm: "through the witness of creation, through the glory of the word, you show the way to the kingdom of light, you show the way to eternal life." Indeed, C.S. Lewis considered Psalm 19 to be "the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world" (Lewis, *Reflections on the Psalms*, 63).

The structure of Psalm 19 is framed by verses one and seven: 1) "The heavens declare the glory of God...7) The law of the Lord is perfect." God's speech comes to us through world and word, creation and scripture. In one of his sermons, St. Augustine of Hippo said that creation is God's "great big book." As such, we are to "look carefully at it from top to bottom, observe it, read it...Observe heaven and earth in a religious spirit." Indeed, the psalmist claims that all of creation is like a preacher shouting the glory and grandeur of God. Yet, as William Brown has pointed out, creation's mode of communicative expression is not necessarily verbal and auditory but visual. That is, God's glory in creation is seen, beheld, and observed. In this respect, I believe the natural sciences can serve the purposes of faith. As we probe the depths of creation through the study of physics, astronomy, biology, and chemistry (and other scientific fields), we are able to see and experience the glory of God. Seeing a beautiful sunset or watching the sunrise over the ocean is also a sign and symbol of the God who delights in beauty.

While God speaks to us through the "book" of creation, God also declares Himself through the "book" of the law. Notice how effusive the psalmist is about God's law. The law/precepts of the Lord is/are perfect, reviving the soul (v.7a), sure, making wise the simple (vs.7b), pure, enlightening the eyes (v.8b). The Lord's law is "more to be desired" than gold and "sweeter than honey" (v.10.). The original hearers of Psalm 19 would immediately think of the Torah, or the first five books of the Old Testament, as the object of the Psalmist's admiration and source of the psalmist's restoration and wisdom.

While modern theology likes to distinguish between general revelation (creation) and special revelation (word of God), Psalm 19 does not delineate which should be read in light of the other. The Psalmist does not elevate creation over law, or law over creation. Rather, I see the psalmist calling us to read both "books" of creation and law *together*. To borrow from Brown again, he writes, "Creation as the medium of God's glory prefaces Torah as the medium of God's guidance." Indeed, both books are necessary for a wholesome and faithful Christian life.

A brief word about October. We are starting things off this month with world communion Sunday in morning worship, and a socially distanced Danville Picnic Sunday evening on October 4th. Please come and enjoy good catered food and fellowship. All Sunday school classes are starting up at some point this month, though not all on the same Sunday. More details in the newsletter. God bless you. God keep you.

In Christ,
Will



For August 2020

<u>Month of August</u>	<u>Tithes and Offerings</u>
Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 28,639
Actual Monthly Tithes/Offerings	\$ 63,850
Actual Monthly Expense	\$ 48,063
Overage/(Deficit)	\$ 15,787
<u>For the Year 2020</u>	
Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 229,112
Actual YTD Tithes/Offerings	\$ 275,459
Actual YTD Expense	\$ 331,030
Overage/(Deficit)	\$ (55,571)

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

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Had Bible Study together.
- Agreed to continue with guest organists while Gala is recovering from shoulder surgery.
- The Worship-Fellowship committee will make plans for an outdoor fellowship supper in November.
- Mundt Music will update the sound system some time in October.
- Plans for the Annual Candlelight service will be determined by November.
- Discussed plan for Session members to stay in touch with our church family.
- Prayed for members of our congregation.



Join us for First Presbyterian's Annual

Danville Picnic

Sunday, October 4, 2020 | 5 p.m.
Danville Cemetery Pavilion

**A hamburger dinner will be catered by
The Fillin Station**

**Please RSVP by email (firstpreskilgore@gmail.com)
by Oct. 1.**

First Presbyterian Church Info:

**P O Box 1216
Kilgore, TX 75663
903-984-1502**

firstpreskilgore@gmail.com

**Visit our Website
firstpreskilgore.org**

P W News

We are enjoying beautiful and cooler fall days right now. We usually only have a few of these days so get outside and enjoy them while they last. The Danville Picnic on October 4 will be a perfect time to celebrate fall, and FPC's 170th birthday.

PWCT will meet on Monday October 5 at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall.

Advent is just around the corner, and our annual poinsettia sale is underway. A form is in this newsletter for your order or contact the church office. Let's make sure our sanctuary is full of color this Christmas season.

Circles are conducting necessary business via email or telephone at this time, and are not meeting in person yet. Your circle moderator will contact you with details as soon as decisions are made about meetings.

Sarah Camp
Moderator

The Night Circle will have it's first "Brown Bag" meeting of the year on Wednesday, October 14 in Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:00 pm.

So, bring your own supper, and join us for Fellowship and Bible Study.

Co-Moderators
Coleen Clower
Janie Terrell



THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS



Prayers for our Members:

We are saddened in the death of Jay McDaniel.

- * Joel Camp
- * David Nixon
- * Nicholas Little

Prayers for friends and family of our congregation:

- * Joe Brown
- * Linda Curkan
- * Jane Ann Gibson
- * Kenzie Hyatt
- * Tillman Latham
- * Donna Marshall
- * David McElroy
- * Nathan Purvis
- * Charlotte Reed
- * Glenda Reid
- * Cecelia & Roland Sanders
- * Danny Strickland
- * Carly Wimberley
- * Scotti Wood
- * Lynda Crittenden
- * Legene Gay
- * Ashley Haden
- * Don Kiser
- * Jimmy Love
- * Rex McCubbin
- * Dayne Neal
- * Bill Pybas
- * Gordon Reed
- * Alan Rhodes
- * Sharon Schoenemann
- * Jamie Stephens
- * Billie Clower Watson
- * Charles Wimberley

Friends & Relatives in Service to Our Country

Jacob Conner
Brent Duvall

Robert Gray
Gavin Jackson



NEEDED FOR PCHAS CLOSET

September: Bathroom cleaner

Children and Youth!

Sunday School Starts Back
October 4th

Children's Sunday School (K-5th)—11:00 am
Youth Sunday School (6th-12th)—9:00 am
Both Classes will be taught by Blake



Danville Picnic—October
4th @ 5:00pm

We will have food, fellowship, and more!
Please RSVP with the office by October 1.

Trunk-or-Treat
October 25th @ 2:00pm

TRUNK
or
TREAT

Come and join in the fun!
If you would like to decorate a Trunk, contact Blake.
More info to come by email.

Monthly Missions



This month we will be supporting Evergreen Life Services @ Camp Gilmont.

When Hurricane Laura hit Louisiana, the residence of Evergreen Life Services had to evacuate. After Laura dissipated it left many people without a place to stay, and the state infrastructure damaged. Many of those living in Evergreen Life Services homes without a place to return to. That is where Camp Gilmont stepped in! Gilmont hosted 80-100 guests for over a month as their homes were repaired, and the state infrastructure was restored! What a blessing!

As you can imagine having 70 special needs adults and their caretakers move to camp for over a month means a lot of expenses. Please consider supporting Evergreen @ Camp Gilmont this month.

Gilmont is raising funds to reduce the invoice to Evergreen Life Services for their clients stay at Camp Gilmont. If you would like to learn more about this partnership, please see Blake (Member of Camp Gilmont's Board of Directors) Thanks for your support of these amazing ministries!



Children's mission project putting together "Gifts of the Heart Kits" and learning more about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



Pastor Will "Kickin it" with Middle School youth after completing Mission Project.

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

TO EVERYONE AT THE HOME OF:



- | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Amy Bates
Wes McCollum | 17 Debby Leppert |
| 4 Carey Murphy | 18 Bill Terrell |
| 6 Cameron Clower
Juliandra Gladden | 19 Avery Gorman
Beverly Russell |
| 9 Isabel Waldo | 21 Leah Lowery Gulley |
| 10 Ronnie Spradlin | 22 Cheryl Laird |
| 11 Ryan Griffin
Ann Thrower | 23 David Castles |
| 13 Steve Schnarr | 24 Brent Brown
Kathryn Dean |
| 14 Sarah Garasic | 28 Burke Green |
| 15 Clarence Laird
Lexi Rowe
Ouida Smylie | 30 Tamara Mankins
William Richard |



First Presbyterian Church Poinsettia 2020 order form

10" - \$30.00

14" - \$80.00

Please return this order form with your payment to the offering plate or church office before November 15.

10" x _____ = \$ _____

14" x _____ = \$ _____

Make payable to Presbyterian Women

First Presbyterian church
P.O. Box 1216
Kilgore, TX 75663
903-984-1502



In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Anonymous _____

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Names in memory of, or in honor of will be printed in the worship bulletin each Sunday during Advent. Anyone who purchases a poinsettia will understand that they will be used for the purpose of decorating our church. The date they may be picked up for personal use will be forthcoming. There will not be names on the individual plants.

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