



The Newsletter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Kilgore, Texas

August 2020

Volume 37 No. 8

FROM THE PASTOR

I've seen several memes on the internet that try to capture the rollercoaster that has been the year 2020. For example, one said "If 2020 were a drink, it would be battery acid." The year we expected at the beginning is definitely not the year we've experienced so far, and it does not look like the second half of the year will be notably better given the lack of a vaccine, the dwindling economy, and the coming elections. Over the last few months we've seen how quickly things can change; how fast plans can be turned upside down, how disruption can seemingly come out of nowhere. This COVID-19 pandemic has been yet another stark reminder of how little we can control in our lives. Feelings of security are wonderful, but it does not take very much, we've all learned, for such feelings to be pulled out from under us. We also regularly face the ups and downs of our own lives, let alone facing the treachery of a pandemic. In these times of challenge and uncertainty, we need an unshakeable foundation upon which we can rest.

While our current moment has brought on an onslaught of challenges and difficulties that none of us expected, the good news, however, is that we are not the only ones who have been cast into life's hurricanes. I've been reflecting on the Old Testament book of Lamentations. Lamentations is a collection of laments remembering the siege of Jerusalem in 586 BCE by the Babylonians. The destruction of Judah and its aftermath was not pretty at all; people were taken from their homeland, religious and cultural institutions were destroyed, and those who remained in Judah lived under foreign occupation.

The poems contained in Lamentations speak the language of raw human suffering, pain, and horror as a result of the collective damage brought on by Babylon. Yet, the writer of Lamentations does not lament without hope, for these two things always go together: "*But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him.'*" Even when we are in the depths of hardship, we can rest in the steadfast love of the Lord that **never ceases**. As we navigate these coming months, with their myriad of challenges and difficulties, my hope and prayer are that we would take these words from Lamentations and apply them to our hearts. We have God's faithfulness and mercy to depend on, and that will be enough to get us through the hard times.

I have a few updates for our life together at First Presbyterian. First, while staff will be available during normal working hours should someone need a meeting, I will be reducing the hours that the office will be open. Starting the first week of August until all normal activities at the church resume, the office will be open Monday through Friday (the office will be closed on Fridays until September) from 10am until 2pm. If you have any questions about this, please contact me. Second, Blake, the CE Committee, and I are in conversation about how we can resume Sunday School and other opportunities for fellowship in the fall that maintains safety of those who participate. More information will come as plans are made. In the meantime, may God bless you richly.

In Christ,
Will





For June 2020

<u>Month of June</u>	<u>Tithes and Offerings</u>
Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 28,639
Actual Monthly Tithes/Offerings	\$ 23,884
Actual Monthly Expense	\$ 45,576
Overage/(Deficit)	\$ (21,692)
<u>For the Year 2020</u>	
Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 171,834
Actual YTD Tithes/Offerings	\$ 180,829
Actual YTD Expense	\$ 244,901
Overage/(Deficit)	\$ (64,072)

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

Reminder

Please use:

**P O Box 1216
Kilgore, TX 75663**

when mailing checks to the church. Please do not use street address.

Thank you!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session did not meet in July. They will meet again during the Annual Session Retreat the end of August.

Monthly Missions

This Month we will be supporting
Camp Gilmont!

We are a Member Church for Camp Gilmont, and as such we would like for you to consider supporting its incredible and wide spread ministry.

We are asking for support of the continued life and ministry at Gilmont.

We are especially asking that you consider being a monthly donor, and supporting the camp throughout the year.

If you would like to make a donation through the church, please make your check out to First Presbyterian Church, and please print Camp Gilmont in the memo line.

Rally Day 2020!

Rally Day will be virtual this year! Tune in to the Facebook Page on September 6th for a message of what to expect this fall in Christian Education. We will have more information on how Sunday School Classes will be meeting, and what our normal fall programming will look like. Please join us in prayer as we approach the fall!

P W News

Look for news about Presbyterian Women in your email soon. The Coordinating Team will meet on August 3 to decide on what to do about several things including Circle meetings and installation of officers.



We are delivering Meals on Wheels for the next few weeks.

Thank you to everyone who donated for the purchase of school supplies for 1300 KISD students. Thank you to those who helped bag the supplies. Since there is no One Stop Registration this year, the supplies were all left at the school to be distributed by teachers.



When the quarantine began, I never dreamed it would last as long as it has. We've all missed our regular schedules and many of us need to check our calendars daily to remind us of the day of the week!

Worship has certainly been different for us and will probably look different for a while. I am grateful for Lindsay Farrow, Taylor Owings, and Blake Stephens, who help lead singing in absence of our choir. I am grateful for this congregation and the support that you show me. Yes, worship is different these days, but I know that our God is faithful and we will emerge on the other side of this quarantine with a renewed spirit. After each Sunday worship service, I remind myself that we are one week closer to returning to "normal."

Blessings,
Gala

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Prayers for our members:

Joel Camp
Nicholas Little

Juliana Maynard
David Nixon

Prayers for friends and family of our congregation:

We are saddened in the death of Stephen Terrell.

Joe Brown
Tom Brown
Lynda Crittenden
Linda Curkan
Jane Ann Gibson
Ashley Haden
Kenzie Hyatt
Tim Jones
Jim Lockhart
Jimmy Love
Donna Marshall
Rex McCubbin
David McElroy
Dayne Neal
Nathan Purvis

Bill Pybas
Charlotte Reed
Gordon Reed
Glenda Reid
Alan Rhodes
Cecelia & Roland Sanders
Sharon Schoenemann
John Squier
Jamie Stephens
Danny Strickland
Billie Clower Watson
Carly Wimberley
Charles Wimberley
Scotti Wood

Friends & Relatives in Service to Our Country

Jacob Conner
Brent Duvall

Robert Gray
Gavin Jackson

NEEDED FOR PCHAS CLOSET

August: School Supplies

Youth Ministries!

Sr. High (9th-12th) Youth Event!

**August 16th
5pm to 7pm**

**We will get together at the Meadowbrook Pool
for fellowship,
swimming, food, and a devotional.**

**Parents: Check your email for safety procedures
and more information for the event.**

Jr. High (5th-8th) Youth Event!

**August 15th
5pm to 7pm**

**We will get together in the church side yard for
fellowship, games, food, and a devotional.**

**5th graders are being promoted to the Youth
Group a year early this year.**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Kilgore

TO EVERYONE AT THE HOME OF:



3 Karen Waldo
7 Mike Anthony
Jake Mobbs
9 Richard Rorschach
10 India Stroope
12 Tom Waldo
13 Abby Hattaway
Thomas Hattaway
15 Cissy Covnet
17 Payton Day
18 Helen George Bolt
Dan Phillips
24 Shelby Linton
25 Jeanne Johnson
Steven McBryde

26 Sydney Rodgers
28 Roland Johnson
Libby Laird
29 Garrett Stanley
31 Chad Gorman