



First Presbyterian Church
300 Burleson,
Smithville, TX 78957

A Message from Pastor Kris

Happy, happy, happy New Year to all of you!!! We enter into 2021 with so much hope. Hope for healing; hope for safety; hope for our families; hope for our country; hope that broken things might be repaired; hope for a better tomorrow. So much needs to be set right; perhaps we feel this more deeply than usual this year. We are more than ready to put 2020 behind us and move into a new beginning.

As we do, as we exercise our hope muscle, we might ask ourselves why it is exactly that we hope? After all, we have been disappointed before. Certainly things have not worked out the way we have wanted. And yet, waking up this morning, the sun out after all that beautiful rain, I hope that you, like me, had a smile on your face and were hoping into the future. Even as you were glancing over your shoulder and seeing what has just happened. Maybe especially because you have been looking back as part of getting ready for the New Year.

God gives us hope so that we might remember and hold in our hearts the way things should be. When we see what has gone wrong and hope that it will come right, we connect ourselves with the Holy Spirit working in the world. As we wish for so much that we see to be made new, as we pray our lists of hopes and hold them close in our hearts, we call out to God's love for help and guidance. We can trust that love to bring us through. So let us begin a new year hoping. We are more than able to do so because we know we are in good hands.

Sunday Schedule

We are open for 11:am worship but not events with food. When we do open completely:

9:45 am – Coffee/Social Hour
10 am Sunday school for all ages 3 to adults – Note: SS for pre-K is now available at 10 am
Worship Service - 11 am
Communion and Covered Dish Luncheon on 1st Sunday each Month when we can safely serve food (See calendar for exceptions)

Church Leadership

Pastor - Kristin Brown-
512.608.4293

Clerk of Session - Leah Saunders

Pastoral Assistant - Susan Guedry
512.304.8082

Piano/Organ/Harp - Monica Miller

Session Members - Leah Saunders, Lisa Maresh, Lisa Altmeyer, Kathy Ford, Monica Miller, Harleigh Altmeyer

Worship - Elder Monica Miller

Mission Outreach - Elder Leah Saunders

Fellowship & Christian Formation - Elder Lisa Maresh

Church Administration - Elder Jane Istre

Web Page, Facebook Page, Newsletter - Elder Kathy Ford -
512.217.5706



January Birthdays

- 01/15 Cory Hurta Williams
- 01/22 Violet Willenberg
- 01/29 Sydney Hernandez



January Anniversaries

- 01/03 Janet Jewell Mark Richter
- 01/26 Nancy & Paul Evans
- 01/30 Lisa & David Altmeyer

**150th Church Anniversay
New Information**

In September 2021 FPC will celebrate it's 150th anniversary!! The session has a formed a subcommittee to plan the celebration. if anyone would like to join the subcommittee please call or text Harleigh Altmeyer at 512-479-5564.

We Need Your Recipes ASAP

In honor of our church's anniversary, the celebration committee decided to put together a cookbook. This will be similar to the 2010 'A Taste of Heaven' cookbook, and will also be used as a fundraiser. If you would like to participate, please email your recipe/s and any history of them to Monica Miller at we4blessed@gmail.com

**Smithville Food Pantry
DECEMBER**

Prepared by Mary Ellen Keathey



Date	Clients	Family Members	New Clients	New Family Members
12/2	112	263	1	5
12/9	139	326	3	9
12/16	134	319	2	4
12/23	closed			
12/30	116	286	1	4
Totals DEC	501	1194	7	22

The Food Pantry can purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank much more economically than you can purchase it at the store, so please consider giving by check/cash or donate on line and mark "for Food Pantry". The number of clients has really grown in the last few months. Please join us in giving to the pantry. If you have questions, please contact Dorothy Dillon.



This Sunday is Communion Sunday. If you watch from home, have your juice and bread ready for this part of the service.

All of our Services in December were broadcast on Face Book Live.

They are also recorded and posted on Face Book and the church web site: www.fpcsmithville.org for later viewing.

We will continue this even though the building is currently open for services at 11 am.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study group will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 AM - Sept. through May. At this time, no food will be served, bring your own snack and drink. You must wear a mask. We will practice social distancing in the Fellowship Hall. The meeting will also be on Zoom if you do not wish to come to the building.

The next meeting is January 12th. The study for this year is "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament." Please contact Susan Guedry or Gwen Morris for more information. Everyone is invited!!

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for the Christmas gift. It is greatly appreciated and totally unexpected. This has been a different year but together we have made it. I truly treasure your love and friendship. Thank you again from my heart.

Love,
Susan.

Dear FPC Friends,

I want to thank you for the nice Christmas gift, so unnecessary but deeply appreciated. It's been a pleasure to make music with and for you, and I look forward to the time when we can all join in song together again.

May the New Year be safe, happy and healthy for you and yours.

Peace be with you all,

Alan Ford

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

TO Everyone who helped clean and decorate the church for Advent and Christmas inside and outside. Among those were Jane, Dorothy, Scott & Leah, Alan & Kathy, Gwen, Esther, many others who helped that I did not mention!!! Everything looked beautiful.

TO Everyone who donated to the SISD family that the church adopted. Especially Leah who bought the gifts and coordinated the wrapping and delivery.

TO Everyone who donated to the Christmas Joy Offering.

TO Everyone - Lisa, Monica, Barbara and Alan for the beautiful Christmas music and the choir for special music.

TO Everyone who come to the church on Sundays to serve as liturgist, light the candles, record the services for Facebook, bring life to the puppets, lead the music, deliver the message and be there in person at the service. And to those who watched the virtual services, too.

NOTE: This is a dangerous thing to do since I'm sure I've left out many of you who participated in these events and more. Please accept my apologies and thanks to all of you!

January 2021

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1 <i>Global Family Day</i> <i>Winter Heating Fuel for Refugees</i> <i>New Year's Day</i>	2
3 2nd Sunday of Christmas 11 am Service with Communion in the Church Building and on Facebook Live	4	5 Epiphany of the Lord	6	7	8	9
10 Baptism of the Lord 11 am Service with in the Church Building and on Facebook Live	11 <i>Human Trafficking Awareness Day</i>	12 10 am - Women's Bible Study	13	14	15	16
17 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 11 am - Service in the Church Building and on Facebook Live <i>Mat. 25: Dismantle Structural Racism/ Race Relations Day/ Racial & Intercultural Justice</i> <i>Criminal Justice Sunday</i>	18	19	20 7:00 Zoom Session Mtg	21	22	23
24 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 11 am - Service in the Church Building and on Facebook Live	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 4th Sunday after Epiphany 11 am - Service in the Church Building and on Facebook Live						