

First Presbyterian Church

300 Burleson

Smithville, TX 78957



A Message from Pastor Kris

Maybe more than in any other year, we are all impatient for Spring to arrive. Tomorrow. Even this afternoon, if possible. February has ensured that Easter will seem sweeter than ever. And yet, at least around my house, February has left a pile of work that needs to be done so that we might be prepared for better weather coming: dead plants to remove everywhere in our yard, windows and cars to wash, and laundry (and more laundry) to do, laundry that piled up as we waited for a plumber. In order for us to enjoy Spring, we are deep in a sort of pre-Spring cleaning. It's frustrating and a bit of work, but we have to clear out the debris to make room for flowers we hope to see.

In one sense, this is what Lent is. We walk together through the wilderness, let go of what we need to let go of, ask God to clean our hearts and minds, settle down into the work of repentance that we trust will lead to new life. After the joy and sparkle rising up of Christmas then Epiphany, Lent may feel hard; we may want to skip it altogether and just get to Easter.

And yet, if we were to do so, we would miss so much. Our Lenten time helps us open up to the growth God hopes for us. As we make our way through the weeks leading to Easter this year, I invite you (along with me) to take some time to be quiet, to pray, perhaps to spend a few minutes each day with eyes closed and hearts open, and ask God what is that you (I will be asking the same question) have done, what have we left undone. God will help us get back on the right path. But let us spend some time looking for, as best as we can, the dead wood that ought to be cleared, the burdens we might throw away, the broken places in our lives that need mending. The glory of Easter is just around the corner. Dear Lord, show us how to be ready.

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

9:45 am – Coffee Hour
10 am Sunday school for all ages 3 to adults – Note: SS for pre-K is available at 10 am now

Worship Service - 11 am
Communion on First Sunday
Church Leadership Pastor -
Kristin Brown- 512.608.4293

Clerk of Session - Barbara Maresh

Pastoral Assistant - Susan Guedry 512.304.8082

Piano/Organ/Harp - Monica Miller

Session Members Lisa Maresh, Lilly Willenberg, Kathy Ford, Monica Miller, Harleigh Altmeyer, Jane Istre

Worship & Christian Formation -Lisa Maresh, Monica Miller

Mission Outreach/Fellowship
Kathy Ford, Lilly Willenberg

Church Admin Jane Istre

150th Anniversary -Harleigh Altmeyer, Monica Miller

Web Page, Facebook News
Kathy Ford - 512.217.5706

150th Anniversary Celebration News:
EASTER BASKET SILENT AUCTION



Calling all members of the church! We need your help making baskets to donate for our online Easter Auction Sale! If you have a little time and a little money, please consider choosing a basket theme below and buying some items around that theme and putting together an auction basket that we can sell online in a silent auction.

Themes available: Movie Night, Doggy Treats, Chocoholic, Kid’s Easter basket, Date Night, Baby Basket, Home and Garden, Sport, Survivalist, Stuffed Animals, and lots more!

Please let Harleigh know via text/call/email know if you would like to donate a basket or donate funds to make a basket.-512-749-5564 or harleighbellott@gmail.com

Please drop off your completed donation baskets at the church on Saturday March 20th. Harleigh will takes pictures to post online March 21st. More explanation about the online silent auction to come! AND take time to continue sending recipes to Monica Miller at we4blessed@gmail.com for the Anniversary cookbook. The book must go to the printer soon!

Smithville Food Pantry

Prepared by Mary Ellen Keathley



| Date | Client | Family Members | New Clients | New Family Members |
|--------|--------|----------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 02/03 | 114 | 278 | 1 | 3 |
| 02/10 | 116 | 276 | 1 | 3 |
| 02/17 | Closed | Due to | Weather | |
| 02/24 | 140 | 308 | 1 | 1 |
| | | | | |
| FEB. | 370 | 1,232 | 3 | 7 |
| TOTALS | | | | |

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 or cash or donate online 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.

Women’s Bible Study

The Women’s Bible Study group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 am September 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 next meeting will be Tuesday, March 9th. The study for this year is “Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament. Everyone is invited!!

Born Again Emporium:

<https://www.facebook.com/BornAgainEmporium/>

Here are the Rules of Operation for now and the immediate future: Donations accepted M, W, Friday 10AM to 2PM only.

Open for sales -Friday 9AM to 2PM [Until further notice: CLOSED Saturdays]

*No one under 16 years of age allowed in store until further notice

*Please bring your mask

*6 Feet Social Distancing enforced

*Inside Store Capacity to 35 adults at a time

*We supply Hand Sanitizer at the door

*No Restrooms available

Closed for Holy Week from March 29 to April 3rd.

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MARCH Birthdays:

03/11 JIM PATTERSON

03/11 JAN RINEHART

03/27 SCOTT SAUNDERS

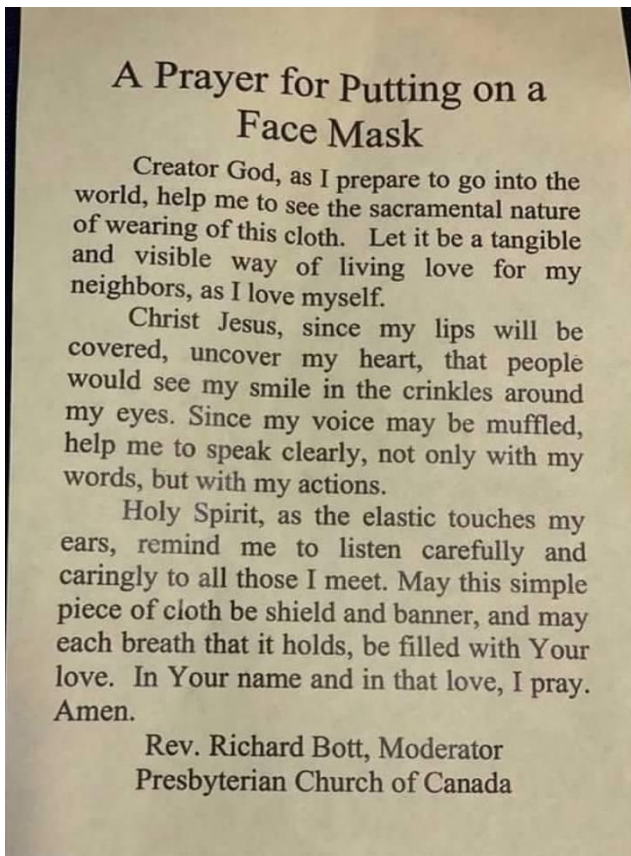
Anniversaries:

03/11 JENI & JORDAN BELL

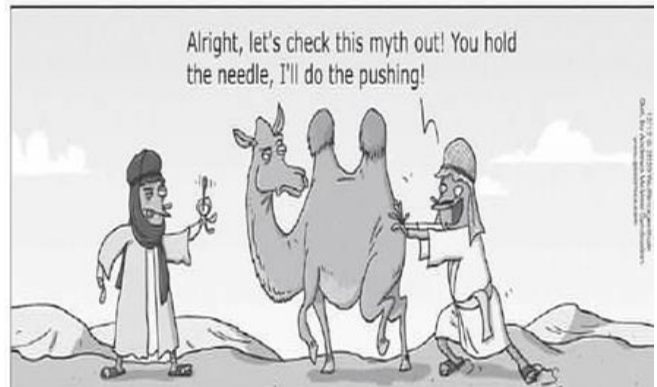


All of our services in February were broadcast on Face Book Live for those who don't feel comfortable attending in person. They are recorded and posted on Face Book and the church web site: www.fpcsmithville.org for later viewing. We will continue this even though the building is currently open for services at 11 am.

We are averaging 30 attending in the building and many, many more on our Face Book page!!



WUMO



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| March 2021 |
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Sunday
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|--|---|----------------------------|---|
| | | | | | <i>World Day of Prayer</i> | |
| 7 3rd Sunday of Lent 11 am Service with Communion - Service at the Brown Farm and on Facebook Live <i>Celebrate the Gifts of Women</i> | 8 <i>International Women's Day</i> | 9 Women's Bible Study 10 a.m. Fellowship Hall | | | | 13 |
| 14 4th Sunday in Lent 11 am Service in the Church Building and on Facebook Live <i>Self -Development of People</i> Daylight Saving Time Begins | | | | | | 20 <i>Easter baskets for auction due</i> <i>Mr. Rogers Day</i> |
| 21 5th Sunday in Lent 11 am Service in the Church Building and on Facebook Live <i>Justice Advocacy Sunday</i> | 22 <i>World Water Day</i> <i>Garden Well</i> | 23 Session Mtg 7:pm | | | | 27 |
| 28 Palm/Passion Sunday (Holy Week begins) 11 am - Service in the Church Building and on Facebook Live <i>Matthew 25: Build Vital Congregation Sunday</i> | 29 Monday of Holy Week | 30 Tuesday of Holy Week | 31 Wednesday of Holy Week | | | |

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