

First Presbyterian Church Smithville Newsletter

February

2022

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Pastor's Remarks:

From Rev. Kris Brown



Ah, so much is around the corner! I am reading in the news that by late Spring, Covid mostly should be in our rearview mirror. While we've surely hoped for something like this before, it doesn't seem that any other variant is lurking around that will set us back again. For me, it feels a little easier to navigate the next couple of months with such a picture ahead. But whatever happens, we thank God our church is keeping its head above the water. With God's help, let us continue to share the light and love of God in our dear community.

By God's grace, we will do what we can. And because we are together, thank God, we have the opportunity to experience the joy and peace of God along the way. Our liturgical calendar reminds us that no matter the ruckus around us, we walk together through the very best story. As we leave Christmas behind us, deep in the Sundays of Epiphany, we might try better to notice God's presence in our everyday lives. Maybe through some quiet prayer, maybe through worship, maybe by just opening our eyes and ears a little wider. In the midst of all that is pressing, we are forever being invited to take God in.

Epiphany, which begins when the magi find the baby in the manger, reaches out to us here and now. If we remember, even sing about, the gifts they bring, we might also imagine how they felt about the gift they received. It turns out that in the middle of their no doubt hectic, fragile, up and down lives, the best thing that they could do was to get on their camels and follow that star. Thank God, we, like they, have been given the gift and gifts we need to make our way forward.

Of course, I'd love to ride a camel. No camel being present though, I suppose I (and you) will have to make do with getting to what's next as best as we can. No matter. In our current choppy waters, in what I hope will soon be smooth sailing, we will make it through as we pay close attention to who is with us. Looking for God even here and even now, we will find God. And this will make all the difference.

Church Leadership

Pastor - Rev. Kris Brown - 512.608.4293 Email - kribrown1001@gmail.com

Clerk of Session - Barbara Maresh - Email - bvmaresh@yahoo.com

Pastoral Assistant - Susan Guedry - Email - sguedry85@gmail.com

Music Director - Lisa Maresh - Email - lisamaresh@yahoo.com

- Piano/Organ/Harp - Monica Miller
- Trumpet - Alan Ford/Wayne King

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

Worship & Christian Formation - Lisa Maresh/Monica Miller

Church Administration - Jane Istre

Mission Outreach & Fellowship - Kathy Ford/Lilly Willenberg/Harleigh Altmeyer

Fundraising Committee - Harleigh Altmeyer/Lilly Willenberg

Web site - www.fpcsmithville.org, Facebook, Newsletter - Kathy Ford - kathrynford@austin.rr.com

Sunday Schedules

We are open for 11 am worship. Given the recent uptick in Covid cases, we ask that you help us keep everyone as safe as possible in church. Please wear a mask. There will be some available inside the Narthex. We will continue our Face Book Live option also.

The Following are Now Meeting:

Sunday School -10 am new study started Jan 9th

Women's Bible Study – 2nd Tuesday from Sept to May at 10 a.m.

Next meeting Feb. 8th

Please check the website for changes in schedule



February Birthdays

- 2/08 - Cade Hurta
- 2/18 - Mark Winslett
- 2/19 - Cara Hurta Sweeney
- 2/22 - Lisa Maresh



February Anniversaries

2/16 - Jane & Willie Istre

Fundraiser Info

The new cookbooks are here and ready to purchase for \$20. They are available at the church and the Smithville Library. Contact Monica Miller for additional info. There is one correction: pg. 105, Pistachio Pudding Cake - add- 1 sm. pkg. pistachio pudding mix to the CAKE ingredients list. This is in addition to the package in the FROSTING ingredients. The correction is being made to the unsold books.

Bricks with your name, initials, or verse, are available for purchase. They will be laid to form a remembrance of our 150th anniversary when we see how many we have.

The information is in the Narthex and the order form and pricing information is on the web site www.fpcsmithville.org

A spring “Fun Bun Run” is being planned for Saturday April 9th. Watch for more info.

There items/events are to raise funds for our go building repair and maintenance.

February 6th Communion Schedule

Barbara Maresh is in charge of Communion for February. She will prepare the communion table, pick up the glasses at the end of the service, wash and put away the service trays. Monica Miller has volunteered to bring the bread and juice for ALL communion services. Thank you, Monica! If you cannot be at church when it is your turn to be in charge of the preparation for communion, please ask one of the other Elders to serve in your place.

Food Pantry Report - January 2022

Date	Families	Fam. Mem.	New Clients
01/02	98	222	3
01/12	101	254	2
01/19	107	257	1
1/26	122	278	0

Remember to bring your donations for the food pantry on First Sunday. There are envelopes if you prefer to give money. Actually, The Food Pantry can purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank more economically than you can purchase it at the store.



NEWS FROM SUSAN GUEDRY

Adult Sunday School will continue the study of Max Lucado's "You'll Get Through This" during the month of February. Beginning March 5, we will do a six-week Lenten study, "What Wondrous Love is This." It is Holy Week in Word and Art. We will look at Jesus' last week through the art of John August Swanson. The class starts at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited.

The Women's Bible Study group will meet Tuesday, February 8 at 10:00. This month the study will be on Bathsheba.

BAE is open Friday and Saturday from 9-2. Donations are taken only on Friday and Saturday from 9-2. Our next week to work is February 21-26

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events:

Sunday, February 27th - Annual Congregational Meeting immediately following service, then early Fat "Tuesday" Pancake luncheon (previously this was done in combination with Ash Wednesday.)

Wednesday, March 2nd - Ash Wednesday Service at 6 pm. - imposition of ashes by Pastor Kris

Sunday, March 6th - First Sunday in Lent. Letting Go Hymn Sing at the Brown's Farm, weather permitting

Saturday, April 9th - (hopefully) 5k Fun Bun Run

Sadly, Pastor Kris's email, along with those of other Mission Presbytery folks, has been hacked. Please do not respond to any email asking for money or gift cards. Instead, immediately mark any such email as spam and discard it.

February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
		1 <i>World Interfaith Harmony Week begins</i>	2	3	4	5
6 5th Sunday after Epiphany Worship Service 11 a.m with Communion In the building - also on Facebook Live	7	8 Women's Bible Study 10am	9	10 <i>Thursday in Black</i>	11	12
13 6th Sunday after Epiphany Worship Service 11 a.m - In the building and on Facebook Live <i>Camp & Retreat Sunday</i>	14		16 Zoom Session meeting 7:30 pm	17	18	19
20 7th Sunday after Epiphany Worship Service 11 a.m - In the building and on Facebook Live <i>Universal Day of Prayer for Students Presbyterian Media Sunday</i>	21 BAE <i>Presidents' Day</i>	22 BAE	23 BAE	24 BAE	25 BAE	26 BAE
27 Transfiguration of the Lord Worship Service 11 a.m. - In the building - Annual meeting followed by Pancake Lunch Also on Facebook Live	28					