First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

November 2021

300 Burleson, Smithville, Texas 78957
Phone 512.360.5231

Pastor's Remarks:

From Rev. Kris Brown

After a beautiful All Saints Service (it was so good to see you at our farm on Sunday), I hope you, like me, feel the energy bubbling out of something new just around the corner. Because of our everyday calendar, Christmas feels like the end of the year. But really and truly, Christmas is the glorious moment when we notice more and more fully that we are deep in the process of beginning and beginning again. Maybe that's why we look so forward to celebrating Christmas. We all could use new perspective, renewed hope, new life.

If Advent, which begins at the end of this month (will beginning and ending ever end?), invites us to start moving toward the coming of our King, we spend our time just before Advent looking around us and seeing what might help us on our journey and what would be better left behind. Offering thanks as we make our way through both lists puts a spring in our steps. We thank God for the gifts we have been given that allow Christmas to make its way into our lives. We thank God for the strength and insight that encourage us to let go of what needs letting go, maybe just for a time, maybe this time, forever.

All Saints reminds us especially to thank God for the people who are a little ahead of us, who are alongside of us, who are not too far behind us, who have done so much for us, who have loved and who will love us. In thanking God for our saints, we cannot help but see our private pictures of the world grow. Giving thanks does this; our view opens wide. We begin to understand that we are on the edge of abundance, perhaps not as we have imagined it, but as we, in our heart of hearts, have always wanted it to be.

We find ourselves, maybe quietly, tentatively, or maybe with all sorts of enthusiasm, stepping out toward the light in the distance. As we do, let's thank God for the life we have been given and the life we are about to receive. Such thanks will make a 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
150th Anniversary - Harleigh Altmeyer/Monica Miller
Web site – www.fpcsmithville.org, Facebook, Newsletter – Kathy Ford - kathrynford@austin.rr.com

Sunday Schedules

We are open for 11 am worship, masks are now optional for all fully vaccinated attendees. We will continue our Face Book Live option also. Masks are required in the room above the Narthex where we have some children too young to be vaccinated.

The Following are Now Meeting:
Sunday School -10 am began on September 12
Women's Bible Study – 2nd Tuesday from Sept to May at 10 a.m.
Next meeting Nov. 9th
Please check the website for changes in schedule

When we open completely:
Coffee Hour 9:45

November Birthdays

11-11 – John Saunders
11-18 – Tom Morris
11-23 – Esther Schlortt
11-25 – Wayne King
11-26 – Crystal Hernandez
11-28 – Jeri Nell Winslett
11-28 - Tess Gosselink
11-30 – Harleigh Herrington-Altmeyer

November Anniversary

11-21 – Lilly & Seth Willenberg

Cookbook Info

The new cookbooks are here and ready to purchase for $20. They are available at the church and will be available at a few other locations to be announced later. Beginning in October, Lydia will be selling on the front porch of the church. 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. The cookbook is a fundraiser for our 150th Anniversary. Proceeds will go to building repair and maintenance. It makes a great gift!

CHRISTMAS WREATH AUCTION WILL BEGIN SOON – IF YOU HAVE ANY WREATHS OR WREATH BUILDING MATERIAL, OR WANT INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT HARLEIGH AT harleighmelliott@gmail.com

November Communion

Jane Istre is in charge of Communion for November. 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. November – Jane Istre

December – Barbara Maresh

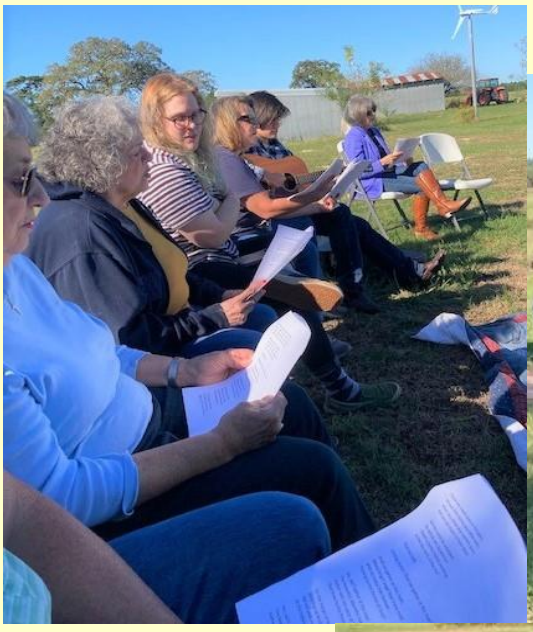
Food Pantry Report – October 2021

Date	Families	Fam.Mem.	New Clients
10/06	10	236	2
10/13	98	241	0
10/20	110	257	0
10/27	110	256	0

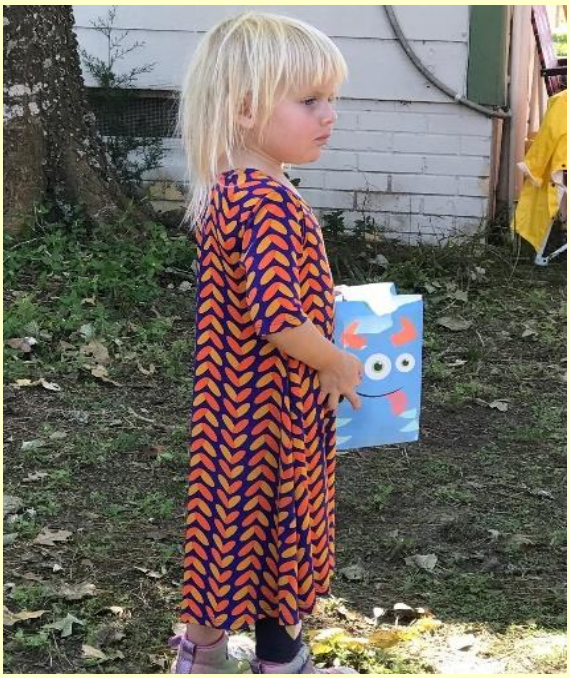
Remember to bring your donations for the food pantry on First Sunday. There are envelopes if you prefer to give money. Actually, The Food Pantry can purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank more economically than you can purchase it at the store.

Reminders:
BAE – Work Nov. 8-13 on Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat 9am-2pm
Women's Bible Study – Nov. 9, 10 a.m.
Bell Choir – Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Daylight Saving Time ends Nov. 7

Sunday at the Brown Farm
More pictures/videos will be posted on the web site soon!
It was a wonderful service!!



HOOPS
USA



Be a light to those who are waiting

100,000+ people are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants, and hundreds of thousands more are in need of corneal and tissue transplants.

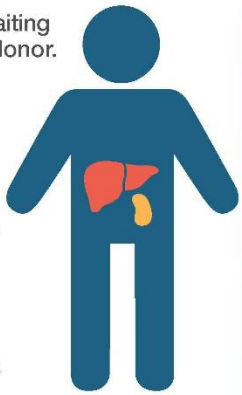
Deceased Donation

Organ	Eye	Tissue
Save up to	Restore sight to	Heal more than
8	**2**	**75**
lives	people	people

Living Donation

3-5 years is the average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor.

of patients waiting are in need of a kidney.



Living donors can provide a kidney or a portion of their liver to a waiting patient.*

**Living donation is not included in your deceased donor registration.*

More than **39,000** organ transplants from 18,300 donors gave new life to patients in 2020.

More than **66,000** corneas were provided for sight restoring transplants in 2020.

58,000 tissue donors provide lifesaving and healing tissue for transplant each year.

Top 5 Frequently Asked Questions

Does registering as a donor change my patient care?
No. Doctors work hard to save the patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is organ donation an option.

Will I be able to have an open casket funeral if I donate?
An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors.

Does my religion support organ, eye and tissue donation?
All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.

November 14, 2021 is National Donor Sabbath

Does my social or financial status play any part in whether or not I will receive an organ?
A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on many factors, including: blood type, body size, how sick they are, distance from donor hospital and time on the list. Race, income, gender, celebrity and social status are never considered.

Why register your decision to be a donor?
You can save up to 8 lives and heal more than 75 people. Your registration also relieves your family of the burden of making the decision at a time of sadness and grief.

What can I do to increase organ, eye and tissue donation?

1. Register your decision to be a donor at **RegisterMe.org**.
2. Tell your family and friends about your decision to *Donate Life*.
3. Ask others to visit **DonateLife.net** to learn more and register.

Data from Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) as of Summer 2021. Donate Life is a registered service mark of Donate Life America. *© 2021 Donate Life America*

November 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
	1 **All Saints' Day**	2 *Honest Patriotism for Christian Citizens* Election Day	3	4	5 *World Community Day*	6
7 **24th Sunday after Pentecost** 11 am Service with Communion in the Building and on Facebook Live *Caregiver Sunday* Daylight saving time ends	8	9 **10 a.m. Women's Bible Study**	10	11 *Veterans Day*	12	13
14 **25th Sunday after Pentecost** 11 am Service In the Building and on Facebook Live *Hunger and Homelessness Sunday/National Donor Sabath*	15	16	17	18	19	20 *World Food Day*
21 **Christ the King/Reign of Christ** 11 am Service In the Building and on Facebook Live ***Eradicate Systemic Poverty,***	22	23	24	25 Happy Thanksgiving	26	27
28 **1st Sunday of Advent** 11 am Service in the Building and on Facebook Live	29	30				