

OCTOBER 2023

THE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Brazoria, Texas



Showing Thanks

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7 NIV

"A four-year-old was in church when the juice and communion bread were passed out. He was very interested in this and started to get up. His mother leaned over and told him that he was not old enough to partake in Communion.

"Later, when the collection plate came by, he ignored it. His mother again leaned over and tried to coax the nickel out of him. He steadfastly refused, stating, 'If I can't eat, I'm not paying.'"

God welcomes us all to his table without price. We are the only people who have a God who took the extraordinary step of dying for us and rising again. How can we show our gratitude?

We are thankful to God for all he does for us. God has given us life. God has filled our lives with blessings. God has given us beauty to look at, aromas to smell, sounds to hear, the wonder of having a baby wrap their hand around our finger, and delicious foods to taste. "O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in him." Psalms 34:8

What can we do for God in return for all he has done for us? We can give to God of our time, our talents, or our resources. Some people say that they give financially to the church because they are grateful to God for the blessings they have received. Giving is fundamental to being Christian. Giving is an act of worship as well as an act of thanksgiving. We give in response to God's giving.

Giving adds meaning to life. When we give to God, we get a good feeling. There is nothing wrong with feeling good, especially if that feeling comes with acts that follow the example of Christ.

We like to help others. We can be generous. Our church helps people. **Thanks for making this possible.** Your generosity makes it possible for us to help feed the people in Brazoria who are down on their luck. Often these are people who are working, but don't make enough to buy groceries. There but for the grace of God go we.

Giving is a spiritual response to God's gift of salvation. We give because Christ first gave to us. The offering is one more way to express our appreciation to God for the greatest gift of all—our redemption.

Tracy

PRAYER list

What we prayed for September:

Prayer Focus:

Keep in Prayer: Bob Loving, Kristen Gragert, Linda Taylor, Sharon Teague, Leland Ledford, Edwina Clingman, Miller Watkins, Kevin Levesque, Brittany Kennison, Earl and Nelda Gragert, Linda McAda, Mary Clarke, Wynelle Vollbaum, Bonnie Kersh, Debbie Liddel, Todd Duke, Bill Clarke, Fred Green, Tabitha Orr Degges, DeAnna Reistino, Melodie Kacal, Junior LaBreck, Nancy Oertli, Michael Cammack, Cole Buchanan, Jesse and Wendy Abbott, David and Sue McRae, Joey Welboan, Terrell Lanier, Holly Chrysler, Shawn Scott, Pat Shadden, Peggy Badders, Barbara Ferrell, McKenna Buchanan, David Marcum, Faith Peavler, John Jones and family, Barbara Sullivan, Jamie LeBouef.

Comfort and Hope: Family and friends of Ernest Hyer III (at his passing). Family and friends of Anne Polka (at her passing). Family and friends of Jourdan Concepcion and Brian Darden. Families in Derna, Libya affected by floods, two dams breaking; rescue teams search for the missing; concern about spread of disease, a resolution to the issue of governance, for the rebuilding of infrastructure. Families in Morocco affected by earthquake. Families in Florida affected by Hurricane Idalia. Peace of Christ in our country and the world.

Other Prayers: Tracy, Carl and Cheryl, Chase Richburg and family, Sue Ellen, rain, those working in extreme heat, city workers, gun violence, elderly, caregivers for someone with dementia or Alzheimer's, homeless, lonely, hungry, mental health, prisoners, elected leaders of our government, military and our veterans, First Responders, EMT, firefighters, police officers and their families, our church and communities of faith.

Sharing the Joy: "The Lord is merciful and gracious...abounding in steadfast love."

Psalms 103:8

How can we pray for you today? If you have a prayer request, please call the church office, Rev.



The Angel Mini-Market
will be on
November 4, 2023,
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

On October 8th, there will be an Angel Mini-Market meeting after church with a light lunch. We still have space for more vendors.

Any questions, contact
Nancy (R) McLaren
979-248-1283

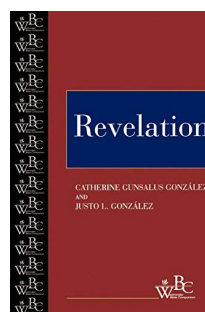


Prayer Ministry

LET US PRAY FOR YOU
Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

You are invited to be a part of our Prayer Group.

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 1 John 5:14



TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY
11:00 a.m.
Revelation
with The Reverend Tracy Williams.



Community Garden

By the time this newsletter is published, the Fall Community Garden should be completely planted. The garden has now doubled in size.

Volunteers are always welcome to help in the garden.

Thank you to Don Bushman, Master Gardener. Also thank you to Ginny Raska, Anita Glisch, and Devon Sophia, Tree Fellers. All of the work on the garden is very appreciated.



Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving Basket Donations Needed

Turkeys or chickens, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, chicken broth, instant potatoes, canned yams, gravy mix, pie crust mix, apple pie filling, and other useful items needed.

Paper bags with a list will be available in the back of the sanctuary. For further questions, please call Nancy (R) McLaren at 979-248-1283.

CHURCH DINNER



All-Church Potluck

POTLUCK

This month's Church Dinner will be potluck. Bring whatever you want to bring to eat on Sunday, October 15th. We will meet together after worship and enjoy what has been provided.

Thank you to everyone who helps in any way: setting up, cooking food, bringing food, getting everything ready, sharing fellowship, and cleaning up afterward.

May God Bless You All!

Nelda

979-799-7681



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Presbyterian Women
Sunday, October 29, 2023
following worship.
Lesson followed by a light lunch.**

**We will study Lesson 2:
The Exorcism in Gerasa
Luke 8:26-39**

**Jesus presence and human
vulnerability can result in a
personal and communal
transformation.**



SUNDAY SCHOOL MATTERS - YOU'RE INVITED

Sundays @ 9:15, LIGHT BREAKFAST - FELLOWSHIP

Join us (all ages are welcome).

We invite you to build a personal relationship with God and His Son, Jesus!

Blessing Box

The Blessing Box continues to help people on a daily basis.

BLESSING BOX items needed: Non-perishable foods. Bottled water. Small snacks (i.e., packaged crackers, cookies, breakfast bars), flip-top canned items...meat, beans, ... Any donations please mark clearly for the "Blessing Box."

Thank you!



Sunday, October 29, 2023

PROPERTY

Building Fund

THANK YOU!!! We greatly appreciate Your gift to the building fund. If you would like to give a gift, please designate "BUILDING FUND."



ATTENDANCE

	Total	Elders	Facebook
9/3/23	21	5	72
9/10/23	15	3	131
9/17/23	19	6	84
9/24/23	17	3	58

Lectionary Gospel Readings for October:

Sunday's Date	Gospel Passage
October 1, 2023	Matthew 21:23-32
October 8, 2023	Matthew 21:33-46
October 15, 2023	Matthew 22:1-14
October 22, 2023	Matthew 22:15-22
October 29, 2023	Matthew 22:34-46



***** TREASURER REPORT *****

August Income \$7,155.74
 August Expenses \$6,205.12



Operation Christmas Child Boxes

Fill the Samaritans Purse Operation Christmas Child boxes with a pizza and salad lunch after church on 10/22/2023. Bring your donations and help pack the boxes. Come and enjoy.



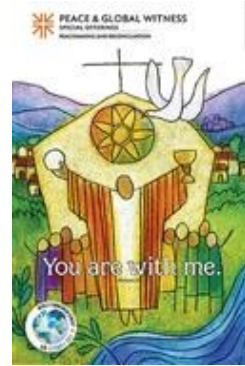
Congregational Meeting

There will be a meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Brazoria, Texas, on Sunday, October 8, 2023, immediately following worship for the express purpose of electing a Nominating Committee.



"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord..." Colossians 3:23

Say YES to being on the Session when called. Serving others gives us a deeper purpose. It helps us establish a connection with others. It allows us to follow God's example. Serving helps us make a difference in other people's lives. - What are your God-given gifts? How do you plan to use them to serve others? Thank YOU.



Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

October 1, 2023

The Peace and Global Witness offering will end October 1, 2023. The 25% that stays locally will go to Shop with a Cop.

Shop with a Cop is an event that focuses on underprivileged children and families within a local community. Police officers spend time with the children and shop with them in a local store. The police officer acts as a chaperone and companion to the children throughout the time of the event.

Thank you for all donations to the Peace and Global Witness Offering.



October 1, 2023



Bounty of thanks

We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer.

And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down; let us not lose the savor of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.

—Robert Louis Stevenson
 —ChurchArt Pro, October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 World Communion Sunday ☺ Kendra Levesque	2	3 ☺ Maria Sanchez	4	5	6 10-Noon Food Pantry ☺ Aleina Sanchez	7
8 Congregational Meeting Angel Mini-Market Meeting ☺ Doris Setzer ☺ Jessica Herrera	9	10	11 ☺ Gail Mikeska	12	13 10-Noon Food Pantry	14 ☺ Gavin Gregory
15 Church Dinner Potluck Session ☺ Barbara Sullivan	16	17	18	19	20 10-Noon Food Pantry ♥ Gene & Ginny Raska	21
22 Pizza Party to fill Operation Christmas Child Boxes	23	24	25	26	27 10-Noon Food Pantry	28
29 Presbyterian Women	30	31	Every Tuesday 10 a.m. Prayer Group 11 a.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Game Night		Every Sunday 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	



The church office will generally be open Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The exception will be holidays.