

NOVEMBER 2023

THE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Brazoria, Texas



As most of you know, we are having a Bible study on the book of Revelation on Tuesday mornings at 11:00. We would like all of you to feel invited and welcomed to this study. Below is what we studied on October 24, 2023. It is best to read all seven letters at the same time and then they can be examined individually.

Revelation: A Book of Hope and Comfort

Chapter 3

Based on the book by Catherine Gunsalus Gonzalez and Justo L. Gonzalez:

Westminster Bible Companion: Revelation

Revelation 3:1-6 Sardis

Sardis was a relatively prosperous city that had seen better days. Sardis was still fairly affluent because it was the meeting place of several trade routes, and the plains below it were fertile. The church too had seen better days and now apparently was “coasting” on its past achievements. There is nothing mentioned which indicates that anything is wrong, but everything is wrong with it! The words are condemning: “You have a name of being alive, but you are dead.”

The only solution for the church at large is to wake up and be watchful. There are still some “who have not soiled their clothes.” To them it is promised that they will walk with Christ, “dressed in white.” To the rest of the church, the message is that, if they awake, repent and “conquer,” they too will be robed in white, their names will remain in the book of life, and Christ will confess their names—that is, intercede for them—before the Father and the angels.

There are overtones that would constantly remind the believers in Sardis of their baptism. They have the “name” of being alive. Where in the NRSV it says that a few “persons” have not soiled their garments the Greek says a few “names.” Then there is a reference to one’s “name” written in the book of life and also to one’s “name” being confessed before God and the angels.

The baptismal overtones of this message may be seen in its repeated references to white, clean garments. Those who “have not soiled their clothes” have kept the vows of their baptism and their “white robes” as they walk with Christ are the fulfillment of the victory begun at their baptism.

The church in Sardis sounds sadly familiar in our day. In many churches, there is a semblance of life, a sort of “coasting” on past glories and achievements, the sort of assurance that the sentinels on the walls of Sardis must have felt before the city was taken by the enemy. There is nothing wrong with such churches. And yet, everything is wrong with them! The call to Sardis is still valid: “Remember then what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.”

THANK YOU to everyone who has donated to the blessing box, those who have helped filled it, and those who have prayed for it. According to what we hear, this ministry saves lives. Thank you for feeding the hungry and loving your neighbor!!

Love, Tracy

PRAYER list



What we prayed for October:

Prayer Focus:

Keep in Prayer: Richard McLaren, Bruce and Debbie Liddel, Wendy Schaefer, Crystal Boles, Owen Boyd, Marilyn Shockley, Sandra Clarke, John Philps, Anette Robertson, Ginny Raska, Linda Lutz, Kristen Gragert, Linda Taylor, Sharon Teague, Leland Ledford, Edwina Clingman, Brittany Kennison, Earl and Nelda Gragert, Linda McAda, Wynelle Vollbaum, Melodie Kacal, Nancy Oertli, Cole Buchanan, Jesse and Wendy Abbott, David and Sue McRae, Joey Welboan, Holly Chrysler, Shawn Scott, 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 William (Bill) Clarke (at his passing). Family and friends of James Edward Wilson, Jr. (at his passing). Family and friends of Mike Bushman (at his passing). Family and friends of Betty Schlitzkus (at her passing). Family and friends of Bob Loving (at his passing). Family and friends of Bonnie Kersh (at her passing). Families in the Israel-Hamas conflict. Peace of Christ in our country and the world.

Other Prayers: Joyce, Dean Kersh, Mike, Sue Ellen, everyone out trick or treating this Halloween - keep them safe from harm, Operation Christmas Child, rain, city workers, safe travel Jud and Madeline, hungry, homeless, homebound, elderly, caregivers, nursing homes, city workers, 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: "...God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit..." Romans 5:5

How can we pray for you today? If you have a prayer request, please call the church office, Rev. Tracy Williams, Ginny Raska or Linda Matheson.

PRAYER GROUP

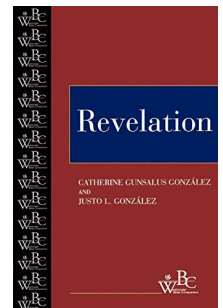
TUESDAY: 10:00-11:00 a.m.

We invite you to join us in prayer.

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

Thank you for supporting this ministry with your gifts of postage stamps and greeting cards.

How can we pray for you today? If you have a prayer request, please call the church office, Rev. Tracy Williams, Ginny Raska, or Linda Matheson.



TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

11:00 a.m.

Revelation

Join us on Tuesdays, 11:00 - 12:00 noon with The Reverend Tracy as we study the book of Revelation: A book of Hope and Comfort.

Studying God's word guides us on our path to life, to growth, and wisdom.

"Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." 2 Corinthians 4:16

CHURCH DINNER

LET US GIVE THANKS...

It is hard to believe, but the holidays are upon us again. Our November church dinner will be celebrating Thanksgiving, and it will be on the second Sunday of the month, November 12th, instead of the third Sunday, due to Thanksgiving being so close to the third Sunday.

We will have a traditional Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. Turkey, dressing, and ham will be furnished. We will need sides such as green beans, corn, sweet potatoes, mac and cheese, rolls, desserts, etc. If you would like to contribute to this special meal, please call to say what you will bring. It doesn't matter if you bring a dish or not, please come and join us.

Thank you everyone for your contributions to our church dinners with set up, food, and clean up. It is greatly appreciated.

May God Bless You All!
Nelda
979-799-7681



All-Church Potluck



Presbyterian Women
Sunday, November 19, 2023
following worship.
Lesson and a light lunch.

We will study Lesson 3:
A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ
Luke 8:43-48

Jesus calls us out of the shadows and
claims us as his own.



Thanksgiving Baskets

Thanksgiving Basket Donations Needed

Thanksgiving Baskets will be given out
November 17th-23rd.

We are in need of donations of chickens
and/or turkeys.

For further questions, please call Nancy
(R) McLaren at 979-248-1283.



Angel
Mini-Market

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

The Angel Mini-Market is raising money for our missions.
We are in need of cookies, cakes, and pies to sell.
We have been working on this since October 8TH and a big
THANK YOU to thank those that have helped.

On Thursday, 11/2, 3:00 p.m.,
there will be an Angel Mini-Market meeting.
Set-up will be Friday, 11/3, 6:00 p.m.
The times can change. If you can make it, please let
Nancy know at 979-248-1283 (cell) or 979-798-9731
(landline). If there is no answer, please leave a message.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

- Instant Potatoes
- Instant Rice
- White Rice
- Juice - Cranberry, Orange, Tomato, etc.
- Pork & Beans
- Soup
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Creamed Corn
- Whole Kernal Corn
- Canned Fruit - Peaches, Pears, Mixed Fruit
- \$ donations to the Food Pantry

In October, we were able to help 54 individuals at the food pantry. Thank you for any and all donations.

"Those who are generous will themselves be blessed..." Proverbs 22:9

Remember the Blessing Box

The Blessing Box is another way we can help hungry people in Brazoria.

Thank you for your support.



All Saints' Day

November 5, 2023

Lectionary Gospel Readings for November:

Sunday's Date	Gospel Passage
November 5, 2023	Matthew 23:1-12
November 12, 2023	Matthew 25:1-13
November 19, 2023	Matthew 25:14-30
November 26, 2023	Matthew 25:31-46

FRAUD ALERT

*****FRAUD ALERT*****

There is a New York number that is texting people claiming to be me and asking them for an apple gift card. I am not now, nor would I ever ask you for money for me personally (aside from my salary). Please block these people if they contact you and under no circumstances give them any money.

ATTENDANCE

	Total	Elders	Facebook
10/1/23	23	4	46
10/8/23	20	5	46
10/15/23	16	3	45
10/22/23	18	5	49
10/29/23	16	3	50



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

September Income \$4,204.44
 September Expenses \$6,242.14



Operation Christmas Child Boxes

The Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Box Pizza Party went well. We filled 29 boxes. Then, we had five more come in today, Wednesday, 10/25. You can still fill boxes until November 11th. The boxes will be delivered on November 13, 2023.

Please pray for every girl and boy receiving a shoebox gift and hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Bless the labors of local volunteers and pray for the safety of Operation Christmas Child volunteers serving in areas where people may be hostile toward Christians.

Thank you to all who donated to and helped with this worthwhile mission.

Nancy McLaren
979-248-1283



SUNDAY SCHOOL

**You are invited to study God's word on Sunday.
9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Everyone is welcome (all ages).**

Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life.
Proverbs 10:17



November 5, 2023

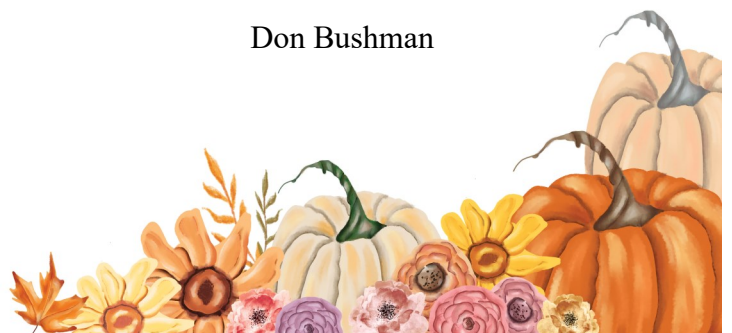


There will be an annual meeting of the congregation of
First Presbyterian Church,
Brazoria, Texas, on
Sunday, November 19, 2023,
immediately following worship
for the express purposes of
electing elders, electing trustees, and
receiving the 2024 budget.



Thank all of you so much for your prayers and support.
Mike went home very peacefully on October 13th.

Don Bushman





What's your November?

For Davey Blackburn, a pastor in Indiana, one particular month has brought "the highest of highs and the lowest of lows." He was born in November, moved to a new church in November 2011 and learned he'd be a father in November 2013. But two years later, in November 2015, Blackburn's wife and unborn second child were murdered during a home invasion.

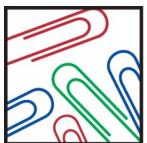
Despite that painful tragedy, the pastor determined not to "let the enemy have a claim over November" or "steal the many beautiful memories I once held" about it. Since then, his church's worship team recorded an album one November, he proposed to his second wife another November, launched a new ministry one November and welcomed another child the following November.

That journey, Blackburn says, is evidence of God's faithfulness to replace a spirit of despair with a garment of praise (see Isaiah 61:3). And it's an important reminder for the holiday season, with all its memories and traditions. Just as God wants to heal and restore, Blackburn writes, "Your [deceased] loved one would not want your 'November' to haunt your memory forever."

Blackburn, author of the forthcoming book *Nothing Is Wasted*, says everyone has a November but can choose what to do with it. Instead of letting your November haunt, you can let God use it to heal.

Stephanie Martin, ChurchArt Pro, November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship			1	2	3 10-Noon Food Pantry 6:00 Angel Mini-Market Set Up ☺ Peggy Badders	4 7 a.m. Set-Up ANGEL MINI-MARKET 10:00-2:00 Clean Up ☺ Jr. & Nancy LaBreck
5 Communion Daylight Saving Time Ends	6 ☺ D.K. Hopwood	7	8	9 ☺ Sunny Gregory	10 10-Noon Food Pantry	11
12 Church Dinner - Thanksgiving Session	13 ☺ McKenna Buchanan	14	15	16	17 10-Noon Food Pantry ☺ Tarver Snedecor	18 Presbytery Meeting
19 Annual Congregational Meeting Presbyterian Women	20	21	22 Church Office Closed	23 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	24 10-Noon Food Pantry ☺ Marisol Sanchez	25
26	27	28	29 ☺ Doug Peterson	30 ☺ Jaxson Tinnon	Every Tuesday 10 a.m. Prayer Group 11 a.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Game Night	



Office Hours

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