



MARCH 2024

# THE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Brazoria, Texas  
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[www.fpcbrazoria.org](http://www.fpcbrazoria.org); First Presbyterian of Brazoria, TX - Facebook

## The Beginning of the Story

*But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. Mark 16:6*

This month is a rollercoaster of emotions in the church year. We start in the middle of Lent. Lent is a time for reflection upon our relationship with God and other people. Through these forty days we think about how to be better followers of Christ.

Many churches put away the "Alleluias" for Lent. They sing no songs which show joy. Some even have a box in which they "lock away" the "Alleluias" for Lent. But the truth is that Sundays are not included in the days of Lent. Sunday is always a feast day because it is the day that our Lord rose from the dead. Lent is a forty-day period beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on the day before Easter, excluding Sundays.

There are many traditions associated with Holy Week. The Sunday before Holy Week is Palm Sunday. This is the day we celebrate Jesus's Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. The day on which the crowd hailed Jesus as king. By Thursday the crowd had begun to turn. It was on this day that Jesus instituted the Last Supper. He washed his disciples' feet. He prayed to have the cup pass from him. He was arrested. He was tried and convicted.

On Good Friday, Jesus was crucified. The death of a criminal. When he died, he gave up his soul to God. He declared, "It is finished." The curtain to the Holy of Holies was torn in two. The day turned black (maybe like the solar eclipse which is supposed to happen on April 8). For a moment, it was as if the whole world was in mourning. The body was hurriedly placed in a tomb because at dark the Sabbath would begin. The Jewish people figured days at sundown one day to sundown the next.

Then there was the long, long, lonely Saturday. Jesus lay in the tomb. It was the Sabbath, so nothing could be done with the body.

Finally, on Sunday morning, the women (or woman if you read John) went to the tomb and found it empty. They were told, "He is not here, he is risen!". Easter is the most glorious day of the year. The world went from darkness and sorrow to joyful and filled with the good news of Jesus Christ! Jesus's death is only the beginning of our story with God.

Every year we celebrate. The good news is that Jesus came as "God with us." He came as one of us, taking our form. He lived among us. He taught us how to live as people reconciled to God. He showed us love and mercy. He rose from the grave and sits at the right hand of God the Father. The story of God's people continues!

*Love, Tracy*

# PRAYER list

## What we prayed for February:

### Prayer Focus:

**Keep in Prayer:** Kelly Gragert, Jack Taylor, Tarver Snedecor, Susan Yates, Evelyn Bucy, Terrell Lanier, Larry Cole, Jamie LeBouef, Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh, Earl and Nelda Gragert, Donna Schroeder, Diana Crocker, Peggy Badders, David Smith, Celia Selman, Cole Buchanan, Jesse and Wendy Abbott, Debbie Floyd, Nancy Bristow, Paula Emmons, Matthew Stephenson, Martha McCrearey, Ricky Morgan and family, McKenna Buchanan, Debbie Sala and family, Pat Whitehead, Marilyn Shockley, Sandra Clarke, Anette Robertson, Linda Lutz, Sharon Teague, Edwina Clingman, Linda McAda, Wynelle Vollbaum, Nancy Oertli, David and Sue McRae, Holly Chrysler, Barbara Ferrell, David Marcum, John Jones and family, Barbara Sullivan.

**Comfort and Hope:** All affected by the violence in Angleton, TX. All affected by the violence at Lakewood Church. All affected by the violence at the Kansas City Chiefs Super Bowl parade. A solution to gun violence (mass shootings) for future generations. Family and friends of Larry Peavler (at his passing). Family and friends of Bill Ayres (at his passing). Family and friends of Kevin and Jenna (Ogburn) Coulter (loss of a baby). Families and first responders affected by the wildfires in Chile. Families affected by the California flooding, mudslides...safety of all that are in harms way. Peace of Christ in our country and the world - Ukraine, Israel, those in war zones, refugees, homeless...

**Other Prayers:** Mike Tinnon and crew safe travel to California, Molly, Paige, Tracy, Bonnie and family, Tami, Melanie, Mercer family, White family, Joyce, Cindy, homeless, elderly, hungry, lonely, caregivers, prisoners, city workers, elected leaders of our government, military and our veterans, First Responders, EMT, firefighters, police officers and their families, our church, our family, our friends, those who mourn, those who celebrate, ...communities of faith.

**Sharing the Joy: "Rejoice in hope,...be constant in prayer." Romans 12:12**

**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.



## March Birthdays

3/1 Malia Herrera  
3/6 Vera Whitmarsh  
3/7 Cynthia Hopwood  
3/7 Shane Ezell  
3/8 Savannah Levesque  
3/12 Barbara Patterson  
3/12 Travis "TJ" Twigg  
3/22 Cole Buchanan  
3/25 Sandra Barnett  
3/25 Gene Wilson  
3/29 Kevin Levesque  
3/29 Josh Buchanan  
3/31 Phillip Ezell

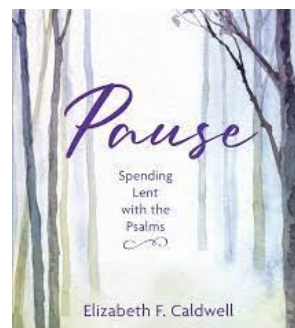


Easter Lilies need to be ordered by March 11<sup>th</sup>. Each will cost \$9.00. The sign up sheet is in the back of the sanctuary or call the church office at 979-798-7757 to arrange for your order.



## Church Directory

Updated Church Lists are available in the back of the sanctuary. If you are out-of-town or unavailable to pick one up, please call the Church Office to make arrangements to receive an Updated Church List.



## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Our Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays after Prayer Group will continue throughout March with our Lenten Bible Study on the Psalms. You are invited to join us on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.




March 24, 2024  
 9:15 Sunday School & Light Breakfast  
 10:30 Worship



Thursday, March 28, 2024  
 6:00 p.m. Worship  
 Communion  
 Meet in the Fellowship Hall.




Sunday, March 31, 2024  
 7:00 a.m. Worship  
 Outside, weather permitting.

**PUZZLE** 

**EASTER MORNING**  
*message*

Early Sunday morning, some women who followed Jesus encountered a great surprise. Solve the puzzle to see what the angels told them.

*Directions: Cross out every other letter in the maze. Write the remaining letters in order to complete Luke 24:5-6, NIV.*



F O N R S T U H C E D L T N I G B  
 " \_ H \_  
 D \_ \_ O U L \_ \_  
 F \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ I V I \_ \_  
 A M \_ \_ \_ T H \_ D E \_ \_ ?  
 H \_ \_ \_ \_ O T \_ E \_ E ;  
 \_ \_ \_ A \_ \_ I S \_ \_ !"  
 S Z H S E A H B R O H Y N W S K I L E P D E A F

LUKE 24:5-6, NIV



**Easter Sunday**  
*Breakfast*

Sunday, March 31, 2024  
 Following 7:00 a.m. Worship



Answer: "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!" Luke 24:5-6, NIV

# CHURCH DINNER and BREAKFAST

Thank you to everyone who brought food to share for our dinner and canned goods for "Tackle Hunger." We collected 70 items and \$111.00 for the food pantry. A special thank you to Cynthia Hopwood for sharing her recipe for her Creamy, Cheesy, Green, Chicken Enchilada soup. If you would like to bring your recipe for what you bring, I would be thrilled to have it to put it in the next newsletter!

This month we will be having both a dinner and an Easter breakfast. The dinner will be held on March 17<sup>th</sup>, St. Patrick's Day, so I was thinking we could bring "traveling cuisine" such as; corned beef and cabbage-Ireland, spaghetti-Italy, sausage-Germany, salad-Mediterranean, etc. Think about where you have traveled and go from there!

Easter is on March 31<sup>th</sup> and breakfast will be held after the sunrise service. Some suggestions could be egg casserole, quiche, muffins, sausage, French toast, donuts, juices and coffee, etc.

Please let me know what you are planning to bring for both events. It helps me have tags ready to share what and who brought the yummy dish. You can call me or just let me know when I see you at church.

Robin Harrington  
979-482-3750

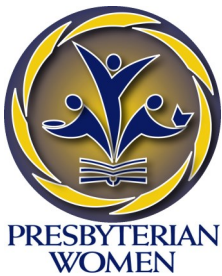
## One Great Hour of Sharing



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 14 - March 31), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

First Presbyterian Church of Brazoria will be receiving this offering during Lent. Please note clearly that your contribution is for OGHS. Thank you very much for whatever support you are able to provide this worthwhile mission.



### Presbyterian Women March 24, 2024 following worship

Our Presbyterian Women's Study will continue with Lesson Six: A Person with a Physical Disability Encounters Jesus (Acts 3:1-10) on March 24<sup>th</sup>. We invite you to join us for a light lunch after worship, followed by the Bible Study. Each lesson stands alone, so you do not need to have attended the previous lessons. For more information, contact Ginny Raska.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

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



**Creamy, Cheesy, Green,  
Chicken Enchilada Soup**  
submit by **Cynthia Hopwood**

- 2 1/2 lbs. Chicken - cooked and shredded  
(I use Rotisserie Chicken.)
- 24 oz. Chicken Broth
- 28 oz. Green Enchilada Sauce
- 4 oz. Green Salsa
- 4 oz. can Diced Green Chilies
- 1 cup heavy cream (or) half & half
- 2 cups Monterey Jack cheese

Cook all ingredients in Crock Pot on high for 4 hours.

Garnish with Mexican Blend Cheese, Chopped Cilantro, Jalapenos, Avocados, Sour Cream, and Tortilla Chips.



**Remember the Blessing Box  
and the Food Pantry**

Please bring donations for the Blessing Box and/or the Food Pantry when we have Communion. When you come to receive heavenly food, remember those who have no earthly food to eat. Please bring pantry items.

**Thank you!**



**Sunday  
March 10, 2024  
Daylight Saving Time Begins**

**Thank you to everyone who  
volunteers at First Presbyterian  
Church, Brazoria, in any capacity.  
Everything you do is very  
appreciated.**

**Thank you! Thank you!**



**Samaritan Christmas Shoeboxes**

We are collecting items now for the Samaritan Christmas Shoeboxes. Please save and bring to church items for the shoeboxes as you find them available. There will be a basket in the back of the sanctuary for your donations.

**Thank you!**  
Nancy (R) McLaren

**ATTENDANCE**

	Total	Elders	Facebook
2/4/24	30	6	98
2/11/24	26	6	50
2/14/24	19	6	61
2/18/24	18	5	36
2/25/24	21	6	37

**Lectionary Gospel Readings for March:**

Date	Gospel Passage
March 3, 2024	John 2:13-22
March 10, 2024	John 3:14-21
March 17, 2024	John 12:20-33
March 24, 2024	Mark 14:1-15:47
March 28, 2024	John 13:1-17, 31b-35
March 31, 2024	John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8



**\*\*\* TREASURER REPORT \*\*\***

January Income \$6,366.53  
January Expenses \$5,767.39

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# Our feeble prayers, our Father's response

In *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado recalls the story of Derek Redmond, a 1992 Olympic competitor in the 400-meter race. Halfway through Redmond's semifinal run, a torn hamstring sent him tumbling to the ground. His dad, Jim, immediately ran onto the track. He met up with Derek, who, though crying, had managed to stand and was hopping forward.

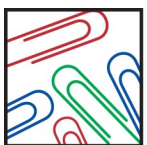
"You don't have to do this," Jim said. But Derek insisted. "Well, then, we're going to finish this together," said Jim, who supported his son as he hobbled to the finish line. The crowd cheered and wept as Derek, with Dad's assistance, finished the race.

Lucado writes: "What made the father do it? ... Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. ... God does the same. Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."



ChurchArt, March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Most Sundays</b>  <b>9:15 Breakfast</b> <b>9:30 Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b>		<b>Every Tuesday</b>  <b>10 a.m. Prayer Group</b> <b>11 a.m. Bible Study</b> <b>6 p.m. Game Night</b>			<b>1</b>  10-Noon Food Pantry	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b>  Communion Bring pantry Items.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>  10-Noon Food Pantry	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b>  Change your clocks! Spring Forward!	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  10-Noon Food Pantry	<b>16</b>  Presbytery of New Covenant Clear Lake Presbyterian Church
<b>17</b>  Church Dinner Session	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  10-Noon Food Pantry	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  Palm Sunday Presbyterian Women  Easter <b>31</b> 7 am Worship Potluck	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>  6 pm Maundy Thursday Worship New Building Communion Bring pantry items.	<b>29</b>  10-Noon Food Pantry	<b>30</b>



**Office  
Hours**

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