



MAY 2024

THE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Brazoria, Texas
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How We Worship

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:28-29

If you go to any PC(USA) church on any Sunday, you will find a familiar rhythm to the worship service. We all worship in somewhat the same way. We may have different music. The prayers may sound somewhat different. The sermon probably has a different tone to it. But the order of worship remains fairly consistent.

We get our order of worship from the *Book of Common Worship* and from the *Directory of Worship* section of the *Book of Order* (Part II of the PC(USA) constitution). The following explanation is from the Presbyterian Mission website.

“What is the order or shape of worship? What are the primary actions?”

“The Presbyterian *Book of Common Worship* describes a four-fold shape of worship, consisting of (1) Gathering, (2) The Word, (3) The Eucharist and (4) Sending. Within these four primary movements are secondary parts of worship, such as: (under **Gathering**) Call to Worship, Hymns of Praise, Confession and Pardon, and the Peace; (under **the Word**) Prayer for Illumination, Scripture Readings, the Sermon, [an Invitation to Discipleship], the Affirmation of Faith, [Baptism], and Prayers of the People; (under **the Eucharist**) Offering, [Invitation to the Table, Great Thanksgiving, Lord’s Prayer, Communion of the People]; and (under **Sending**) Songs or Acts of Commitment, the Charge and Blessing. There is broad historical ecumenical consensus on this liturgical pattern.

“The PC(USA)’s *Directory for Worship* offers a slight variation on this structure, describing five actions centered on the Word of God: (1) Gathering Around the Word, (2) Proclaiming the Word, (3) Responding to the Word, (4) The Sealing of the Word in the Sacraments, and (5) Bearing or Following the Word into the World. This characteristically Reformed view of worship emphasizes the centrality of the Word, and frames human actions in worship as a response to God’s initiative. Although the framework is somewhat different, this order of worship is essentially consistent with the ecumenical pattern described above.”

I hope this gives you more information about why we order our worship the way we do. We don’t always exactly follow this order. I’m trying to learn not to be so much a Pharisee—demanding that everything is done exactly so. It’s a hard habit to break. Together we can add little touches to make our worship service unique, while holding on to the traditions of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Love, Tracy 979-267-3761

PRAYER list

What we prayed for April:

Prayer Focus:

Keep in Prayer: Evelyn Bucy, D'Lynn Magee, Sandra Clarke, Earl and Nelda Gragert, Dee Turner, Wendy Abbott, Martha McDonald, Steven Monroe, Roger Patterson, Debbie Piantinada, Susan McCarty, Eileen Overbeck, Lori Comley, Kelly Gragert, Blake Herron, Glenn Vollbaum, Tommy Carter, Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh, Vera Bang, Celia Selman, Cindy Massingill, David Marcum, Jack Taylor, Susan Yates, Terrell Lanier, Jamie LeBouef, Diana Crocker, Peggy Badders, Cole Buchanan, Debbie Floyd, Matthew Stephenson, Ricky Morgan and family, McKenna Buchanan, Pat Whitehead, Marilyn Shockley, Anette Robertson, Edwina Clingman, Wynelle Vollbaum, Nancy Oertli, Holly Chrysler, Barbara Ferrell, John Jones and family, Barbara Sullivan.

Comfort and Hope: DPS office in Brenham, Texas - Family and friends of Cheryl Turner (at her passing). Family and friends of Bradley Dickey (at his passing). Families and victims of domestic and family violence. Families affected by tornadoes in the United States. Families affected by the Taiwan earthquake. Comfort and relieve those challenged by mental illness. Peace of Christ in our country, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Iran, and the world.

Other Prayers: Grant (6 year old), Rhonda Smith, her brother and family, Tracy, Melanie, White family, Joyce, elderly, homeless, hungry, 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: "Be joyful in hope, ...faithful 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.



May Birthdays

5/6 Jessica Navarro
5/11 Addelyn Mercer
5/13 Emmalyn Mercer
5/14 Sandy Tinnon
5/17 Sandra Clarke
5/17 Bonnie DuBose
5/19 Janiece Tischler
5/30 Paige Hyer
5/30 Caitlin (Hyer) Hedrick
5/30 Norma Peterson



May Anniversaries

5/7 John & Linda Matheson
5/18 John & Sandy T. Indian
5/24 Ronald & Jennifer Mercer

October Vendor Fest



OVF is being scheduled for October 12, 2024, from 10-2 p.m. Watch for an upcoming planning meeting date.

Robin Harrington
979-482-3750

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.



BIBLE STUDY

Our Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays after Prayer Group continues on the Book of Revelations. You are invited to join us on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m.

CHURCH DINNER

May's dinner will be held on Pentecost Sunday, May 19th, the theme is the color red. Please let me know what item you will be bringing for this dinner.

Thank you to Sherry Evans and Sandra Barnett for submitting recipes for this month's newsletter!

Robin Harrington
979-482-3750



7 Up Biscuits

Submitted by Sherry Evans

Mix together one 8 oz. sour cream, one small can of 7 Up, 4 1/2 cups of Bisquick (small box). Melt one stick of butter in casserole dish while preheating oven to 425°. Plop spoonful of batter into dish with melted butter. Bake until golden brown.

Zesty Sausage Squares

Submitted by Sandra Barnett

1 c. Bisquick	1 onion, chopped
1/3 c. milk	2 c. cheese, grated
4 T. mayonnaise, divided	2 (4 oz.) cans chopped green chilies
1 lb. hot sausage	1 egg, beaten

Mix Bisquick, milk, and 2 tablespoons mayonnaise. Spread in a greased 9" x 13" pan. Saute sausage and onion until done; drain and spread over Bisquick mixture. Combine egg, green chilies, remaining mayonnaise, and other ingredients. Spread over sausage mix. Bake at 375° for 25 minutes. Servings: 8.



PENTECOST

May 19, 2024

Please wear **RED** to church on Pentecost.

We will be collecting the Pentecost offering.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS



Remember the Food Pantry and the Blessing Box

Please bring donations for the Food Pantry and/or the Blessing Box 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!

Items currently in need:

eggs,
small containers of bleach,
small containers of dish soap,
1 lb. white rice,
canned tuna fish,
canned sardines,
large packages of toilet paper, and
large packages of paper towels.

Thank you!



Presbyterian Women

Our Presbyterian Women's Study will not meet in May due to scheduling issues.

We will resume with Lesson Eight in June.

Feed My Lambs

A Feed My Lambs planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, at 6:00 p.m. We will be setting the start date and making other plans for the summer. As always, we need volunteers for a variety of tasks: preparing sandwiches and hot dogs, sacking lunches, folding agape, delivering meals. We welcome donations of your time and talents as well as monetary contributions. Please make out checks to Feed My Lambs. For any questions, please call Ginny Raska at 798-1628.



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
3/31/24	28	6	153
4/7/24	12	5	63
4/14/24	25	6	97
4/21/24	19	4	92
4/28/24	19	4	50



*** TREASURER REPORT ***

March Income \$8,868.06
March Expenses \$6,637.27



Feed My Lambs Summer Lunch Program

The Feed My Lambs Summer Lunch Program is a program in Brazoria for preparing and delivering sack lunches to children in our community who are in need of a nutritious meal. We need your help in this endeavor and appreciate any volunteer effort that you may be able to offer. Please indicate below all of the areas below where you would like to help. A schedule for the summer program will be developed and given out as soon as it is created. Don't miss this opportunity to serve your Lord by feeding His sheep. Please give this your prayerful consideration.

I will be happy to serve in the following manner:

_____ Financial (Please make checks payable to Feed My Lambs)

_____ Food donation (cookies, drinks)

_____ Food Preparation: Best days _____ Mon. _____ Thurs.

_____ Bag room: Best days _____ Mon. _____ Thurs.

_____ Delivery: Best days _____ Mon. _____ Thurs.

Do you have a delivery route preference? _____

_____ Agape Preparation/donation of paper

Name _____

Address _____ City _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Email address _____

Church affiliation _____

Dates you are unavailable _____

Please return this form to your church office or mail it to the First Presbyterian Church at PO Box 70, Brazoria, 77422. Donations may also be sent here.

Lectionary Gospel Readings for May:

Date	Gospel Passage
May 5, 2024	John 15:9-17
May 12, 2024	John 17:6-19
May 19, 2024	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 26, 2024	John 3:1-17



A House United

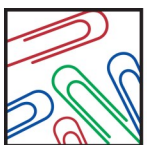
When President Lincoln declared in 1858, “A house divided against itself cannot stand,” he was echoing Jesus. Scribes thought Jesus was casting out demons by Satan’s power, so Jesus responded, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ... If a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand” (Mark 3:23-25, NIV). There are countless modern examples: Civil wars. Families torn apart. Business partners going separate ways. Even churches splitting.

Jesus used the “house divided” image to point out the nonsense of the scribes’ words. It takes someone *other than* the “strong man” (v. 27), or demon, occupying a space to cast that demon out. Evil can’t drive out evil. Sin isn’t stronger than sin. Hate doesn’t solve hate. Violence doesn’t end violence. Two wrongs don’t make a right.

Jesus came to “bind” evil with goodness, conquer hate with love and teach us the same. Throughout the gospels, Jesus treats *all* people with love — even those who oppose him — so that, in the end, we all will be a house *united* by God’s goodness.

—Church Art Pro, May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday 9:15 Breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	Every Tuesday 10 a.m. Prayer Group 11 a.m. Bible Study 6 p.m. Game Night		1	2 6:00 Feed My Lambs Planning Meeting	3 10-Noon Food Pantry	4
5 Communion	6	7	8	9	10 10-Noon Food Pantry	11
12 Mother’s Day Honoring Graduates	13	14	15	16	17 10-Noon Food Pantry	18
19 PENTECOST -Wear Red- Church Dinner	20	21	22	23	24 10-Noon Food Pantry	25
26	27 Memorial Day Church Office Closed	28	29	30	31 10-Noon Food Pantry	



Office Hours

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