



JUNE 2023

THE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Brazoria, Texas

Beginnings

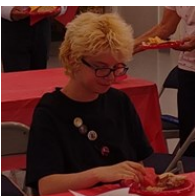
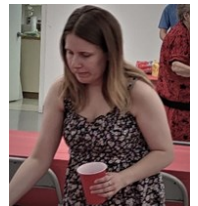
"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being!"
2 Corinthians 5:17

The last Sunday of last month (May 28) was Pentecost. We celebrated the birthday of the universal Church. It was also a celebration to welcome our three new members into the church. They aren't strangers to us. McKenna Buchanan is in church every Sunday. Kristen Gragert comes quite often. Cole Buchanan has been unable to join us much because he has been working on Sundays.



Cole is working at the Port of Freeport. He is a very hard-working young man. He is also very devoted to his faith in Jesus. In all honesty, I don't think our music is exactly his style. When I first talked to Cole, he was into rap music; in fact, Cole was writing rap! The talents which God has given to Cole are numerous and outstanding. He is a real credit to our church. He is the son of Robin Harrington.

Kristen is going to the University of Houston-Clear Lake where she is working on a bachelor's degree in anthropology. She has a huge love for animals. She often comes to church with her Mom, Kelly, and sits on the row with her grandparents, Earl and Nelda Gragert. Kristen helps with the lighting of the candles for church and reads Scripture in worship. We are proud of the contribution Kristen makes to our church. She is also the daughter of Tom Gragert.



McKenna is working at Wendy's in Lake Jackson. She too has a great love of animals. McKenna has a cat and a dog, Bella. She loves to do diamond art. McKenna helps with the lighting of the candles for church, reads Scripture in worship, and visits members with me on Thursdays. If you would like a visit from McKenna and I, just give me a call and I'll get it set up. McKenna's enthusiasm for church is delightful. She is the daughter of Robin Harrington.

The garden is beginning to produce. This harvest is from Tuesday, May 30. We have yellow crookneck squash, zucchini squash, cucumbers, and hot banana peppers. The garden also has tomatoes, eggplant, okra, and bell peppers growing. We have lots of green tomatoes. Our eggplant got a slow start because the insects were eating on it; but our homemade insect repellent seems to have done its job. Our okra was planted from seed but it's beginning to grow (after little Gene and Ginny replanted it). Our yellow bell peppers are having a rough time of it. I think some varmint has tasted it and found it good. But the rule is you always plant enough for you and enough for the critters.



Your sister in Christ,

Tracy

What we prayed for in May:

Prayer Focus:

Keep in Prayer: John Devens, Terrell Lanier, Gene Wilson, Holly Chrysler, Joan Townsend, Nancy (R) McLaren, Shawn Scott, Pat Shadden, Leo Taylor, Kevin Levesque, Steve White, Peggy Badders, Britney Shurtz, Wendy and Jesse Abbott, Sue McRae, Bobby Harrington, Barbara Ferrell, McKenna Buchanan, Michael Cammack, David Marcum, Faith Peavler, John Jones and family, Lonnie Johnson, Brenda Jackson, Earl and Nelda Gragert, James McLaren, Michelle Ebinger, Barbara Sullivan, Thomas Kopecky, Beth Burke, Shawn LaBreck, Jamie LeBouef.

Comfort and Hope: Families of 19 children died in Mahdia Secondary School's dormitory fire in Guyana, Venezuela. Mexico City - Safety for some 3 million people who live in towns and villages adjacent to the Popocatepetl volcano. Family and friends of Reverend Tracy Williams (passing of her uncle). Families challenged by serious and chronic mental and emotional illnesses. Families in Allen, TX - 8 killed, 10 injured at bus stop. United Kingdom - King Charles III and Queen Camilla and royal family. Families affected by extreme weather - 7 dead, dozens injured in Illinois dust storm pileup; tornado destroys more than 100 structures in Virginia Beach. Victims of shooting in Cleveland, TX. Peace where there is gun violence. Peace of Christ in our country and the world - United States, Sudan, Ukraine...

Other Prayers: Olga and family, Andrew, Timothy, Nancy, Fred, Sue Ellen, Hazel, Paula, families traveling this summer, Feed My Lambs, safe travel for Reverend Tracy, mothers and grandmothers, teachers, students taking STAAR tests, 2023 graduates, elected leaders of our government, city workers, elderly, caregivers, homeless, hungry, military and our veterans, First Responders, EMT, firefighters, police officers and their families, our church and communities of faith.

Sharing the Joy: "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace..." Galatians 5:22

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.



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

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

TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study is temporarily suspended for the summer. Summer Reading: Challenge yourself to read the Bible, it will strengthen your faith. I encourage you to continue Daily Bible reading as it maintains our connection with God through his written Word. It reminds us of his character, promises, our dependence on him, and our future together.

Linda Matheson
Christian Education



Presbyterian Women

**YOU are invited to attend
Sunday, June 25, 2023
following worship**

**We will study Lesson 8:
Sabbath and Justice
Light lunch provided**

**Scripture:
Isaiah 58**





CHURCH DINNER

JUNE CHURCH DINNER

Hello everyone. Hope all the ladies had a wonderful Mother's Day and congratulations to the graduating seniors.

Our June church dinner will be on the 2nd Sunday of the month, June 11th, due to Father's Day being on the 3rd Sunday. We want to make sure Dads can spend that day with their families.

We do have a theme for June. It is "PICNIC." If weather permits and it is not too hot outside, we may set up tables outside and enjoy the great outdoors. If not able to set up outside, we will have an indoor picnic. So, bring your favorite picnic food, or just your appetite, and let's enjoy ourselves.

Thanks to all the help everyone gives every month.

God bless you all.

Nelda
979-799-7681

PROPERTY

- **LADDER SAFETY is important.** A new step stool and a 6' ladder have been purchased to keep our family of faith safe (i.e., light maintenance, kitchen, event décor...). Located in the Fellowship Hall closet.
- **BUILDING FUND:** A recent unplanned event in the Fellowship Hall - water flooded the restrooms and the nursery, the expense has reduced our Building Fund. Please consider a gift to the church - designate your gift for the Building Fund. Thank you for your generosity.

Owen Boyd, Property and Grounds



THANK YOU

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive
National Association of Letter Carriers
May 13, 2023

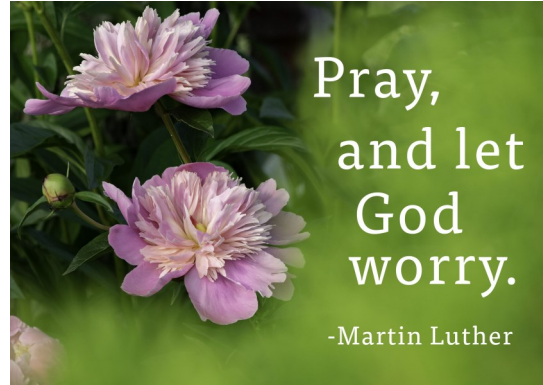
Thank you to the Brazoria Letter Carriers for their gift of non-perishable food to our Food Pantry.

Jim Barnett,



FEED MY LAMBS

Feed My Lambs will begin on June 5th. We will deliver lunches on Mondays and Thursdays. 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 @ 799-8036.



TRINITY *Sunday*

June 4, 2023

ATTENDANCE

	Total	Elders	Facebook
5/7/23	24	5	120
5/14/23	20	4	183
5/21/23	26	7	110
5/28/23	23	6	138

Lectionary Gospel Readings for May

Sunday's Date	Gospel Passage
June 4, 2023 Trinity Sunday	Matthew 28:16-20
June 11, 2023	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26
June 18, 2023	Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)
June 25, 2023	Matthew 10:24-39



*** TREASURER REPORT ***

April Income \$9,917.85
 April Expenses \$17,227.78



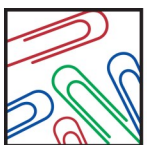
Going the second mile

In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, he teaches, "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile" (Matthew 5:41, NRSV). Back then, Jews were subject to Roman rule and often compulsory service. Commoners could be forced to fetch water, carry baggage and perform other menial tasks. So Jesus suggests that rather than complying with gritted teeth and muttered curses, people offer to carry the pack a second mile as well.

These days, the second (or extra) mile denotes going beyond what's expected or required, whether in effort or kindness. In *Going the Second Mile*, Mel Blackaby describes the concept as "the difference between living as a good person and enjoying life as a child of God." He explains, "When you 'do your best' for someone, you go the first mile. When God does his best through you, you experience the second mile. This can happen only when you let Christ in you take over and empower you to accomplish what is impossible by your natural abilities. While others see you on the first mile, they see Christ on the second."

—adapted from *The Wired Word* —ChurchArt Pro, June 2022

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 6 p.m. Game Night		1 ☺ Ronald Mercer ☺ Jud McNeill	2 10-Noon Food Pantry	3
4 Communion ☺ Sam Tischler	5 10:00 Feed My Lambs	6 ♥Jim & Sandra Barnett	7	8 10:00 Feed My Lambs	9 10-Noon Food Pantry	10 No Name Festival	
11 Church Dinner Session	12 10:00 Feed My Lambs ♥Jesse & Wendy Abbott	13 ☺ Michael Wilson	14	15 10:00 Feed My Lambs	16 10-Noon Food Pantry	17	
18 Father's Day	19 10:00 Feed My Lambs	20 ☺ Ginny Raska	21 ♥Keith & Tami Brown	22 10:00 Feed My Lambs	23 10-Noon Food Pantry ☺ Emily Buchanan	24 ☺ Ricardo Herrera ♥Owen & Nancy Boyd	
25 Presbyterian Women	26 10:00 Feed My Lambs	27 ☺ Kitty Reynolds	28	29 10:00 Feed My Lambs	30 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.