



SEPTEMBER 2023

THE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Brazoria, Texas

Older Adults and Caregivers

"If a widow has children or grandchildren, they should first learn their religious duty to their own family and make some repayment to their parents, for this is pleasing in God's sight." *1 Timothy 5:4*

When my mother was 73, we left our town to go to seminary. She had been a housewife for most of her life. Before she married my father, she had been a telephone operator for AT&T for 5 years. After Daddy died, she found herself a widow at 49. I was still at home and going to school. Mother went to work for Tyson Foods as a switchboard operator in their world headquarters. I think the job lasted about 6 months. Mom didn't take directions well.

I worked for 24 years supporting the two of us. I didn't see it coming. I didn't realize that Mom had dementia. When I decided to move to Austin in order to go to seminary, she refused to believe that we were actually going. I tried to pack as best I could, but she always told me to put her stuff back because we weren't going. She couldn't stay in the house; she didn't have enough money to do that. She would have to come to seminary and stay with me. The seminary agreed that she could.

I started to see big changes in her. She wouldn't go out of the house unless our friend Linda was taking us out to dinner. She sat in her chair all day and watched the television. She did go upstairs at night to the bedroom even though the pain in her knees was incredible.

We moved back to Arkansas, but to Harmony which was 100 miles from where we had lived. I took her to Springdale to see her doctor. But she just kept getting worse. Many days she refused to get dressed and sat in the living room nude. It also served as my office.

It was there that she ended up in a nursing home because I couldn't be there 24 hours a day to take care of her. I finally got her into a Rehab Hospital/Nursing Home in Springdale where she was very happy. Her sisters could visit her and I tried to make the run up there about twice a week.

But this isn't really about me or my mother. Although Bruce never suffered from dementia, a large number of the population will have to deal with some amount of dementia even if it is mild. And where there is an older adult with dementia or some other ailment, there is someone who is their caretaker who needs our help.

One of the things that might help people with dementia (depending upon how bad their dementia is) to seek their advise and wisdom. With age hopefully comes knowledge, skill and wisdom. We can offer to take the older adults who no longer drive to church on Sunday. Just remember that the older we get the longer it takes us to get up and get ready.

One of the things we can do for caretakers is to offer to visit with their charge so they can have some time off. Give them a gift card so they can get something for themselves without feeling guilty. Send them a note or a card of thanks. The card of thanks may not work so well with spouses (I always resented my step-daughters thanking me for taking care of Bruce like there was some option). You could send them a 'Thinking of You' or 'Praying for You' card.

Unfortunately, when it comes time to take care of an aging parent, usually one sibling carries the load. That is not to say that they consider helping their parent a burden. According to the Bible, they have a religious duty to help their parent. Regardless of how well they get along together.

Tracy

PRAYER list...



What we prayed for in August:

Prayer Focus:

Keep in Prayer: Miller Watkins, Kevin Levesque, Brittany Kennison, Earl and Nelda Gragert, Linda McAda, Mary Clarke, Wynelle Vollbaum, Bonnie Kersh, Debbie Liddel, Joan Townsend, Todd Duke, Bill Clarke, Fred Green, Tabitha Orr Degges, DeAnna Reistino, Melodie Kacal, Mary Alice Ingalls and family, Junior LaBreck, Susie Campbell, Nancy Oertli, Michael Cammack, Cole Buchanan, Jesse and Wendy Abbott, David 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 Beth Burke (at her passing). Family and friends of Jacquie Fritz (at her passing). Family and friends of Dr. Nabil Baradhi (at his passing). Family and friends of Cheryl Bobbitt (at her passing). Family and friends of Britney Shurtz (at her passing). Families in Maui, HI affected by wildfires and search for the missing. Families in Cathedral City, CA affected by flooding and mudslides. Peace of Christ in our country and the world.

Other Prayers: Carl and Mabel, Laura, Judi, Sue Ellen, teachers, students and families, rain, farmers, ranchers, elderly, homeless, lonely, hungry, those working in extreme heat, 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: "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing..." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17

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.**

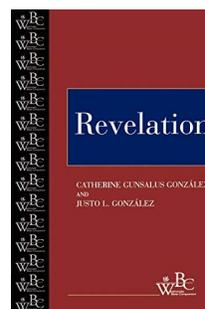
If you know someone that would like a booth to sell their works, please let Nancy (R) McLaren know. We need vendors.

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



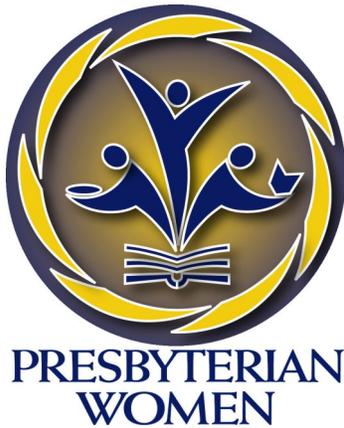
SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Do you know someone that needs school supplies? We've got them. Let us help them so they will have the supplies they need for school.



TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

The Reverend Tracy Williams will be teaching from the book **Westminster Bible Companion: Revelation**. Written to offer comfort, to aid those trying to understand their faith (i.e., face daily challenges of life and death, injustice and idolatry rampant in our society). Revelation is of great relevance in our lives today.



CHURCH DINNER

OLE' OLE'

How about some Mexican food for September church dinner! Let's bring our favorite Mexican dish to share. September's dinner will be on the 3rd Sunday, which is September 17th. Also, we will be asking for donations at our lunch to help our building fund, which is running low. So, let's all come out and enjoy an excellent church service and donate to our building fund. (All donations appreciated no matter how large or small.) Mexican food to be enjoyed and shared by all.

Once again, I want to thank Everyone for the food and clean up at the dinners. A special thank you to my daughter, Linda Taylor, for the work she did helping at the church for setup and cleanup. Earl and I have been a bit under the weather and are struggling to get around. We have been missing being at church on Sunday but hope to be back soon.

Thank you everyone for all you do and may God Bless You All.

Nelda
979-799-7681

Presbyterian Women's Purpose

Everything we do as an organization and as a community is guided by our PW Purpose, and that includes ministry, resources and relationships.

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- to support the mission of the church worldwide,
- to work for justice and peace, and
- to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

Invitation to Presbyterian Women's Bible Study:

We believe that our women's ministry is a key element of personal growth and a place we build up generations of women who study the Scriptures.

2023-2024 PW/HORIZON'S BIBLE STUDY - Sacred Encounters (The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts) by Olive Mahabir
September 24, 2023 - Sunday following Worship (Light Lunch) -Lesson One: Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter (Scripture: Luke 1:1-24, 39-45)
Part of our Presbyterian Women's Purpose is to "nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study."





SUNDAY SCHOOL MATTERS - YOU'RE INVITED

Sundays @ 9:15, LIGHT BREAKFAST - FELLOWSHIP

Invite your neighbor, a friend, bring your children, grandchildren... Sunday School is important for everyone. Every serious Christian knows that Bible study is not optional but essential. We do not require you to read, all participation is voluntary. If you would like to teach a class - say YES to this important ministry of our church. Learning is a process that continues throughout life, and learning has **no age limit**. Whatever your age, there is always something new to learn.

Blessing Box

BLESSING BOX items needed: Non-perishable foods. Bottled water. Small snacks (i.e., packaged crackers, cookies, breakfast bars), flip-top canned items...meat, beans, ...

It's the best feeling in the world. It's a joy to be able to serve people. There is no reason for anyone to go hungry. God says to Abraham: Genesis 12:2...I will bless you; ...and you will be a blessing.

Most Christians are familiar with the term "blessed to be a blessing." It refers to the fact that God has blessed us, and He desires for us to bless others as well.

I believe in Sunday School. I hope you do too. The Fall quarter - The Present Word - GOD'S LAW IS LOVE - The lessons focus on New Testament texts that radically reinterpret the significance of the Mosaic law for those who love Christ and respond in faith. Unit 1, "Love Completes, Law Falls Shore" on the Gospels of Luke and John.

Linda Matheson
2023 Christian Education



To the minister, church musicians, and church members:

Thank you for all the attention and companionship you have provided in my absence especially Mary Alice Ingalls and Rev. Tracy Williams. I appreciate all of you.

Thank you,
Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh

ATTENDANCE

	Total	Elders	Facebook
8/6/23	16	4	81
8/13/23	17	5	85
8/20/23	25	6	77
8/27/23	18	5	53

Lectionary Gospel Readings for September:

Sunday's Date	Gospel Passage
September 3, 2023	Matthew 16:21-28
September 10, 2023	Matthew 18:15-20
September 17, 2023	Matthew 18:21-35
September 24, 2023	Matthew 20:1-16



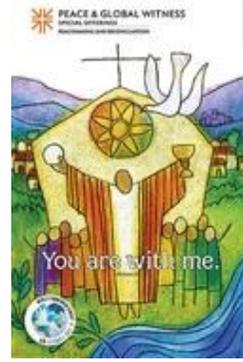
***** TREASURER REPORT *****

July Income \$6,178.47
July Expenses \$6,188.87



Operation Christmas Child Boxes

The Operation Christmas Child boxes are in the Fellowship Hall. We will work on them now through November 15th. You can take boxes to fill or donate items. There is paperwork on the table by the boxes with directions, suggestions, etc. Thank you in advance for any help you can provide with this mission.



Peace & Global Witness Special Offering

"You are with me." Psalm 23
October 1, 2023

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith—a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together.

Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world. We begin at the communion table, with our siblings in every time and place, and we celebrate the peace we find there and commit to building a more just and peaceful world. God is with us...and God in Christ is with us through the Sacrament of Communion, celebrated on World Communion Sunday. We are not alone. Peace begins with each of us.

25% of the Offering stays with local congregations, 25% with mid councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions, and 50% supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

PUZZLE

A PATH TO PRAYER

God's Word offers lots of insights about how to pray.

Directions: Use the code to fill in the blanks and complete a Bible passage about prayer.

**ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
ZYXWVUTSRQPONMLKJIHGFEDCBA**

R G S Z M P N B T L W

V E V I B G R N V R

I V N V N Y V I B L F

R M Z O O N B

K I Z B V I H U L I Z O O

L U B L F R Z O D Z B H

K I Z B D R G S Q L B

K S R O R K K R Z M H

1:3-4, NIV

Answer: I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy. Philippians 1:3-4, NIV



A prayer for guidance

Lord, take me where you want me to go;
 Let me meet who you want me to meet;
 Tell me what you want me to say,
 and keep me out of your way.

—Rev. Mychal Judge,
 FDNY chaplain and the first official casualty on 9/11

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 (resumes 9/12) 6 p.m. Game Night			1 10-Noon Food Pantry	2
3 Communion Angel Mini-Market Planning Meeting	4 Labor Day Church Office Closed ☉ Wynelle Vollbaum ☉ Austin Tinnon	5	6	7	8 10-Noon Food Pantry	9
10	11	12 11:00 am Bible Study Resumes	13	14	15 10-Noon Food Pantry ☉ Kylo Levesque	16
17 Church Dinner Session ☉ Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh ☉ Gabriel Herrera	18 ☉ Michael Cammack	19 ☉ Mike Humphrey	20 ☉ Madeline McNeill	21	22 10-Noon Food Pantry	23 ☉ Delores Ward Thompson
24 Presbyterian Women ☉ Tami Brown ♥ Richard & Nancy McLaren	25	26 ♥ Alan & HuNoMi Rodda	27	28 ☉ Jamie LeBouef	29 10-Noon Food Pantry	30



Office Hours

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