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In this Season of Thanksgiving

*I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify Him with thanksgiving.
 Psalm 86:12*

In several weeks, the week of Thanksgiving will be here. Sometimes in our present-day culture, Thanksgiving is way more about receiving than giving. During Thanksgiving week, we receive a couple of days of vacation, days of football, excessive amounts of food. These days are not intended as a launching pad to our pre-Christmas shopping. It's not about fall or an American obsession of turkey and cranberry jelly.

Thanksgiving is about gratitude. Thanksgiving is about recognizing the presence of God in everyday life. Thanksgiving is about stopping to kneel before the Source of all that is good, to express our gratitude. Thanksgiving is gratitude in action. It is about turning our eyes from our gifts (blessings) to rest upon the goodness of the Giver. Thanksgiving is an act which connects us to the eternal God and as such, it anchors us to something that will last forever.

This is what that small, bedraggled band of Puritans understood on the first American Thanksgiving nearly 400 years ago. They were no strangers to sorrow. Persecuted for their faith and having to leave their native country, they had survived a terrible sea voyage only to arrive in New England just in time for a brutal winter. More than half of the original Pilgrims died during that first winter. The next fall, Edward Winslow described the celebration now known as the first Thanksgiving "...for three days we entertained and feasted...And although it be not always so plentiful as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want."

Let's start *Thanks-living* today, let's not wait until Thanksgiving Day. Let's recognize the gifts we have been given each day from coffee in the morning until rest in a comfortable bed at night and with a thankful heart glorify God through loving expressions to others. And when Thanksgiving Day arrives we will give thanks for the blessings we all have—living in a country where freedom is guaranteed and schooling is a given, not a dream, where we can move from place to place without being arrested, and where we have so much more than can only be imagined by millions of others. When we give thanks for home and family, we will remember the greatest gift of all which we can never lose: God, God's love through the gift of Jesus Christ! Thanks be to God.

Your Communications Team



Flames from a wildfire burn in Napa, California, on Monday, October 9, 2017.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has reached out to all of the California presbyteries impacted by the recent series of wildfires. During October, the deadliest and most destructive wildfires in California history destroyed over 7000 homes and buildings and took 42 lives. Of the wildfires, Jim Kirk, PDA's associate for national disaster response stated "What is most tragic is the loss of lives from the fires. PDA stands ready to help the presbyteries and congregations of California respond and recover once the first responders have completed their work. Please join us in prayer for those impacted, threatened and those working tirelessly to preserve life.

If you would like to support recovery efforts in the wake of wildfires, you may donate online at PC(USA) or you may mail a check (please write DR000165 on the memo line) to: Presbyterian Church (USA), P O Box 643700, Pittsburg, PA 15264-3700. You may also call 1-800-872-3283 to donate by phone.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Georgetown, Texas, an "exurb" of Austin, is one of the first cities in the country to be 100 percent powered by renewable energy? When the old power contract was up in 2012, the city managers sat down to look at their options. They realized that wind and solar power are more predictable. The prices don't swing up and down like oil and gas. The city signed a contract and knows what the bill is going to be for the next 25 years. That is especially appealing in a place like Georgetown where a lot of retirees live on fixed incomes. The decision to go with renewables was both a business decision as well as an environmental decision. The mayor of Georgetown says the decision was because of their love of green—green rectangles (money) and green energy. Renewable energy is becoming cheaper because of renewable technology; 90 percent of the cost associated with it is the initial capital investment because you don't pay for the fuel. The power generated from the sun and wind is essentially free. In a few years, solar is set to become the cheapest power source on earth. (CBS News-Money Watch 7-27-17)

Caring for our environment is not a Republican thing, a Democrat thing, or an Independent thing: it is what's best for our planet, our country, and our world. May it be so.

The C.E. Green Team



H.I.M. Thanksgiving Food Drive

October 29 --- November 20



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

On October 31, five-hundred years ago, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses condemning the corrupt practice of indulgences to the door of the castle church in Wittenberg, Germany. This single act by one young man marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, a worldwide movement which is still being felt today. It left hardly a sphere of life untouched. This great reformer had triumphs and setbacks that affected his adversaries and allies alike.

It was an important time that brought about great change and a new way of thinking.

The Reformation is still significant for us as Presbyterians and for other churches in the Reformed faith tradition. The Reformation continues to motivate our goals in Christian education. We are always being reminded that we are instruments of change—always reformed and always reforming.

Please feel free to let us know what you would like us to change or give more emphasis to in Christian education.

Christian Education Ministry Team:

Jimmy Chapman, Tolly Dill, Claudia Morgan-Gray,
Kathy Porter and Bert Lowe, Team leader



RECIPE CORNER

Baked Apple Chips

2 Tbsp. Granulated sugar
4 Granny Smith Apples (cored/sliced into thin rounds)
1 Tbsp. cinnamon

Directions: Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Whisk the sugar and the cinnamon together. Add the apple rounds and toss in the cinnamon sugar to coat. Arrange the apple rounds in a single layer on the baking sheets. Bake until browned and crisped. Approximately 2 hours. Remove, cool and enjoy!



MISSION AND OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

MISSION

Our Peace and Global Witness offering totaled \$535!! This generous gift will enable the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. Our local church will keep 25% (\$133.75) of this offering for peacemaking ministries of our choice. Thanks be to God!

Coming in December is our final special offering, Christmas Joy Gift.

OUTREACH

Our Neighborhood Party was held Saturday, October 28th from 4-6:30pm in the church fellowship hall. Look for a summary of our party in the December pipeline.

Thanksgiving means thanks!! Thanks to God for the many blessings in our lives. Giving to others is a great way to show our thankfulness during this time of Thanksgiving. Your outreach team would like to announce that the collection of food items for our HIM food drive will run between OCTOBER 29TH and NOVEMBER 20TH. A collection box will be in the narthex with a list of food items for purchase. As you know, HIM uses this food to help those who are in need of food for Thanksgiving. Let's show our thanks to God by giving to families in need this Thanksgiving season!

Also, right around the corner is our Christmas season and with it brings two great outreach giving opportunities. HIM food baskets and Rusk State Hospital Angel Tree. Starting Sunday, November 26th and ending Monday, December 18th, we will once again help those in need this Christmas.

Thank you for all you do for others!

Jan Pennal, chair





“Great Relationships have two qualities to them: 1st – the ability to appreciate the similarities; 2nd – the ability to respect the differences”

We have some dates to have you mark on your calendars for upcoming events at or with FPC.

As we've mentioned in passing, Fellowship Committee will be working hand-in-hand with the Finance and Stewardship Committee on the Annual Stewardship Luncheon on **Sunday, November 19th** following service. Tom Weaver and his merry group have planned a wonderful catered in meal – and the Fellowship Committee is going to be providing the desserts. In addition to sharing a meal together, we will also get to hear presentations from the sitting Elders on the state of the church – where we are and where we are going. Right now it may seem somewhat of a roller coaster ride – but our highs far outweigh our lows on the ride. So, hang on and buckle up – the best is yet to come.

Please also save the date to join us on **Sunday, December 10th** for our **Annual Christmas Lunch**. This potluck tradition will begin after service. The Fellowship Committee will be providing the entrée/meat dish for this event and each of you will bring your favorite (or our favorite) potluck dish. We have so many good cooks in our congregation and circle of friends that it is always exciting to see and sample the dishes brought to share.

Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year and we will be honoring this day with our regular service and with a candlelight evening service. The Fellowship Committee will be hosting a small pre-service dessert & coffee (wassail and hot chocolate too) reception in the Fellowship Hall prior to the evening service. Please make plans to attend.

As always, remember that FELLOWSHIP MATTERS!

FPC Fellowship Team

Claudia Morgan-Gray, Mary Lowe, Fonta Conway, Jan Mims, Lavonne Schauwecker, Bob Schauwecker, James Nicholson, Judy Andrasko, Lsha Stanley

Please mark your calendars and Save the Date of Sunday November 19th. Right after church service, we invite you to join us in the Fellowship Hall, to see, hear and feel what God has planned for our church in 2018. We will break bread together and enjoy a prepared lunch of turkey and all the fixings (and the Fellowship Committee is bringing dessert!) And, as has been tradition, we will take a look back at the accomplishments of all of our working committees for the year 2017 and a look forward to what will be a new and exciting direction of our church. We will share with the congregation budget information and desired directions of our working Committees by members of your Session.

The food will be good – the presentation will be short – the information will be valuable – your presence will be appreciated.

God bless you,

Your Faithful Stewardship & Finance Committee



COUNCIL ACTIONS

October 19, 2017

- Worshipped and prayed together
- Discussed scholarship funding
- Heard Commissioner's Report for Sept. 30th Grace Presbytery Meeting
- Reviewed Camp Gilmont Visioning Dinner
- Discussed Neighborhood Party October 28
- Discussed Stewardship/Annual Congregational meeting/ lunch on Nov. 19
- Discussed Christmas lunch on December 10
- Discussed Christmas Eve services on Sunday, Dec. 24
- Reviewed search for organist
- Heard results of Peace and Global Witness offering--\$535
- Updated Operations Manual
- Heard PNC Report
- Discussed Nov. 5 election of elders and CONC

DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER:
Tom Weaver

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation: Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Jan Mims, Debbie Murphy, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Mark Reeves, Bob Schauwecker, Patsy Snelgrove, Sue Williams, Session and Congregation of our church during this transition time

Connected Family: Billy Tapley (Bert's brother) and Dorothy Maloney (Kathy's mother)

For all the people who have been affected by hurricanes, floods, wildfires, and earthquakes

Prayer 
Request

WORSHIP TEAM

Your Worship Team met this month and discussed the upcoming Advent/Christmas season. The last Sunday of December is Christmas Eve. After discussion, we decided to plan Lessons and Carols for that Sunday. There will be a short devotional. For the evening, we will plan to have the usual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5:30 pm. Advent begins the first Sunday in December. Pulpit Supply is lined up for November and December. Prepare for a very special service by two members on November 26, which we are sure will be enlightening to all of us.

Holy Communion will be celebrated November 5, 2017, and there will be a Congregational meeting on that date for electing new elders and the Church Officer Nominating Committee (CONC) for 2018. Rev. Kathy Collier will officiate.

Our Organist/Choir director has taken his new position as Organist at First Presbyterian Church, Longview, and thankfully, is continuing to program our digital organ for our Sunday services. Several members are stepping up to train to "play" the organ each Sunday. We are continuing to learn more about the MIDI Assistant to be able to use it to provide music for our services, until other choices can be made. Our choir continues to practice and hopes to sing regularly and continue to lead our congregation in song. We are fortunate to have so many of our members take part in worship in one way or another, and we thank each of you for your presence each week.

Lynn Tieken, Chair



Worship Committee




**HELP US TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WE
ARE HERE! LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HENDERSON, TEXAS.**



HURRICANE HARVEY/BEAUMONT AREA

I was invited by a PDA friend of mine to join a work team she was leading to Beaumont Texas last week. She pastors two churches: one in Sacramento, CA. and one in Truckee, CA., (1 & 1/2 hours' drive apart). She has more energy and passion than two normal people. In total, there were 17 persons including me. We bunked and had our evening and breakfast meals at St. Andrews Presbyterian in Beaumont. We also made our own individual sandwiches in the mornings before departing for work. There was a couple (members there) who knew Jane Fahle very well. We did "mucking out" work in 5 different homes in the Beaumont, Vidor, Rose City, & Sour Lake areas. Mucking out is removing all floor covering, sheet rock, and insulation from the walls. We also did ministry of presence (listening to their stories) which is so important for the survivor's journey back to a "new normal". The mandatory evacuation order came too late and many people had to be evacuated by boat. One couple where we worked said they were evacuated by boat from their second story window. I saw very few neighborhoods that did not have debris piled up at the curb, including refrigerators, washers, driers, etc. The flooding did not spare nice neighborhoods or poor neighborhoods. I share this story with you emphasize that the people of this area desperately need help now and months and even years to come, to recover their lives. Please volunteer to help by going on a work trip, or contribute to PDA, American Red Cross, or another reputable agency of your choice. Pray for these individuals. Another way I suggest is to provide scholarships for people who are physically able to go on a mission trip. The team I worked with paid \$400 each. This money paid for their food, lodging at the church, rental of two vans, etc. They also paid for their own individual transportation costs, to and from. If you have ever entertained the idea of volunteering for a trip like this, I encourage you to go for it. You will return home very tired but fulfilled. I repeat myself saying God's work is not necessarily done efficiently in our eyes, but I am convinced He is pleased with the efforts and the outcome.

John W. Tieken



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Reminder						
Bring H.I.M. donations the First Sunday of every month			1	2 <i>Christian Education Mtg. 10:00am</i>	3 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	4
			Mitchell Hillin		Lsha Stanley	Suzanne Cross
5 <i>Communion</i>	6 <i>Home Communion</i>	7 <i>Choir Practice 5:30pm</i>	8	9	10 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	11 <i>Henderson's Heritage Syrup Festival</i>
<i>Bring H.I.M. Donations</i>				Jane Fahle		Veteran's Day
12	13	14 <i>Choir Practice 5:30pm</i>	15	16 <i>L.E.A.N. Mtg. 2:00pm</i>	17 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	18
		Kelly Weaver		<i>Session Meeting 6:30pm</i>		Mary Ann Chapman
19 <i>Stewardship Luncheon</i>	20	21 <i>Choir Practice 5:30pm</i>	22	23	24 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	25
<i>Congregational Meeting</i>				Patricia Price		
Debbie Wasson				Thanksgiving Day		Bob Ratliff
26	27 <i>Presbyterian Women Meeting 11:30am</i>	28 <i>Choir Practice 5:30pm</i>	29	30		
	<i>Pipeline Deadline</i>					