



THE NEWSLETTER

A Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Brazoria, Texas
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PREACHING GOD'S WORD

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth." 2 Timothy 2:15

Education has always been important to Presbyterians. So, it's no surprise that an educated clergy is important to Presbyterians. Since the beginning of Presbyterianism, seminary was required for clergy. That's three years of schooling beyond college. Its purpose is to teach those aspiring to the clergy how to 'rightly explain the Word.' This includes how to translate the ancient texts from Greek and Hebrew, as well as how to compose and present a sermon.

After coming to America, prospective ministers were required to return to Scotland for 3 years training. In 1812, Princeton was established as the first seminary in America. This was prompted by the establishment of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church which originated during the Second Great Awakening. Frontier Presbyterians faced a shortage of formally educated ministers, while other denominations successfully sent minimally trained preachers to the frontier. In response, the Cumberland Presbytery in Kentucky began ordaining men without the formal education required by the Kentucky Synod, leading to conflict and the eventual dissolution of the presbytery in 1806. In 1810, the rejected ministers organized an independent Cumberland Presbytery, which rapidly developed into the Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

The PC(USA) practice of commissioning ruling elders to limited pastoral service developed in response to practical needs in mission and church growth, evolving over several decades. In the 1980s some presbyteries commissioned laypeople to lead worship, preach the gospel, and administer the Lord's Supper (if authorized) and called them "Commissioned Lay Preachers." At that time there was no requirement of being an elder.

By the 1990s the term was changed to "Commissioned Lay Pastor" and candidates had to be PC(USA) elders. Functions expanded to include administering Baptism, moderating the session, having voice and vote in presbytery meetings (as a ruling elder commissioner), and officiating marriages when permitted by civil law.

The Commission Ruling Elder (CRE)'s responsibilities include watching over the people, providing for worship, and nurturing the congregation, with specific activities approved by the presbytery's Committee on Ministry. They receive training which is overseen by the Committee on Ministry in the local Presbytery. Candidates must be PC(USA) ruling elders, endorsed by their home church, and complete a psychological evaluation. Just as Ministerial candidates do.

In all cases, these candidates receive extensive training. Their training is not as extensive as that of a Minister, but it sometimes encompasses two years with training many weekends. They usually practice under the supervision of a Minister of the Word and Sacrament (MWS). They are to the ecclesiastical world; what nurse practitioners are to the medical world. One would hope if they found themselves in trouble in the congregation, they would seek advice from a MWS.

When a MWS or CRE is absent and no trained replacement can be found, it is up to the members of the congregation to fill the pulpit. This responsibility should not be placed upon the shoulders of one or two members. Several of the members of this congregation have been trained to speak in front of a group of people (maybe students). Even if you haven't, there are some of you who have a natural 'gift of gab' who could do a fine job.

If you are interested, not in becoming a CRE, but in receiving training to preach or preside over communion, our Presbytery is having a class for ruling elders who are interested on Saturday, August 8. 9am to noon is preaching. Noon to 1pm is presiding. They will be taught by the Rev. Mark Plunkett, Co-Pastor of Spring Branch Presbyterian Church. You may contact Mark at mark@springbranchpres.org for more information or to sign up for the course.

Love, Tracy 979-267-3761



What We Prayed For In July

Keep In Prayer:

J.J. Giddions, Gail Chrysler, Dwight and Janice Stahl, Jamie LeBouef, Shaun LaBreck, Sandra Clarke, Charles Brown, McKenna Buchanan, Jim and Sandra Barnett, Ken and Sandra, Gragert, Marilyn Shockley, Jan Weber, Katie Weber, Tommy Carter, Mary Ruth Rhodenbaugh, Betty Thacker, Paul Erwin, Debbie Cole, Lowesa Terral, HuNoMi Rodda, Steve Pruett, Alvis Jacks, Nancy Oertli, Debbie Piantinada, Barbara Ferrel, Cindy Massingill, Nancy Boyd, Jeri Ann Jones, Chase Richburg, Vahnessa Kelly, Wayne Raska, Carol Reed, Pam Jurries, Heidi Walters, Nelda Gragert, Delry LeBouef, Maria Pedraza, Norma Peterson, Jr. and Nancy Olene LaBreck, Pryah Radar, Chris McNutt, Julie Taner, Lynette Williams, John Indian, Treney and Belinda Allen, Linda McAda, Jan Weber, Katie Weber

Comfort and Hope: Family and friends of Dwight Stahl (at his passing). Family and friends of Billye Riggs Downing (at her passing). Camp woods, Venezuela earthquake emergency workers, Families affected by extreme weather. Texas Hill Country, Peace of Christ for our country and the world

Other Prayers:

Gladys Patterson, Molly Molenaar, Chris Seth, Cole Buchanan, Kaydence, Emma Dodge and Harley, Margarita, Sandy Tinnon
our church, our families, education, arts, entertainment, social media...
Mission (Food Pantry, Blessing Box).

Sharing the Joy: But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

Isaiah 40:31



PRAYER MINISTRY

Prayer is a beautiful reflection of God's love interceding by lifting others up in prayer. Prayer provides encouragement for another and those we care about that God is with us in every circumstance. Our card ministry expresses the caring heart of our church and God.

You are invited to join our Prayer Group,

Tuesday, 10:-11:00 a.m.

Prayer Ministry Congregation Care

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you,,, Phillippians 1:3-4

Blessings,

Linda



During the month of June

We served 30 families during the month of July so far with one more Friday to go..

The Food Pantry could use the following:

Dish Soap, Laundry Soap, box or bag Cereal, Juices, Pancake Mix, Syrup, eggs (egg cartons), can chicken or tuna, 1/2 gal milk, Mayo. Miracle Whip, oil
For more information please call
Nelda 979-799-7681

WORSHIP NEWS



Attendance	Total	Elders	Facebook
July 5	28	5	44
July 12	30	7	36
July 19	24	5	43
July 26	23	7	36



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.



*** TREASURER REPORT ***

May Income	\$5,746.11
May Expenses	\$20,087.52
June Income	\$6,426.00
June Expenses	\$6,433.84



Blessing Box

The Blessing Box needs:

Water

**Easily opened canned soups, Ravioli,
Spaghetti...**

Vienna sausages, Beanie Weenies

Tuna packets

Crackers

Anything that is easy to open.

Unity Church

From our little church to your church, we thank you for the blessing of your donations. This will be helpful for our next garage sale. We hope your garage sale was good and you all can do prayers with those funds.

In Love & Light, Charlotte, Jennifer, Larie, Bonnie, Nichol, Sherry



Online giving to our church is now available through a program designed by the Presbyterian Foundation. Our online giving page can be accessed by clicking on the Give Now button on our website. When you click on the button, it takes you to a secure webpage OR you can scan the QR code below.





August Birthday

8/3 William Clarke
 8/5 Tom Gragert
 8/6 AnaLucia Sanchez
 8/9 Jo Beth McElrath
 8/11 Mildred Cammack
 8/13 Jada Tischler
 8/14 Jesse Abbott
 8/18 Scott Glick
 8/23 Dale Davis
 8/25 Meredith Clarke
 8/27 Nancy Olene LaBreck
 8/31 Kristen Gragert



Feed My Lambs concluded on July 30, and is on target to serve about 2400 lunches, a huge increase over last year when we delivered about 1500. We have had participation from 25 adult volunteers and 6 youth. Some volunteers were able to come only a few times, but many have come every day. Fifteen of the volunteers are from our church, with the rest coming from other churches and the community. We have received nearly \$2,000 in donations from civic organizations, other churches, and individuals. We give thanks for all who have donated their time, talents, and resources to provide for hungry children in Brazoria.



In August we will continue our Bible Study about Grace and Gratitude on Tuesdays from 11am until noon. We are also continuing our monthly Horizons Bible study on the fourth Sunday after worship, with the final lesson, "When You Are Walking with Jesus: The Road to Emmaus."

Ginny Raska

CHURCH DINNER

It was a great day for a "Hawaiian" style picnic on July 26th for church dinner. We enjoyed a variety of delicious things such as; chicken salad sandwiches, peanut butter and grape jelly sandwiches, turkey and cheese sandwiches along with hot dogs with all the trimmings. Cucumber salad, coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad, pasta salad, deviled eggs and yummy desserts.

August's church dinner will be on the 16th with "salad" as our theme. I know some of you may be concerned with the lettuce problem happening now, but there are many other types of salads than just lettuce ones such as; fruit salad, pasta salads, tuna salad, vegetable salads etc.

Let me know if you have any questions,

Robin Buchanan Harrington

Mission Report

Food Pantry

Thanks to everyone for your donations to the food pantry again this month. A very special thank you goes out to the Brazoria Lions Club, the Methodist Church and Nancy (J) McLaren for their generous donations this month. We have served 30 families so far this month with one more Friday left.

Remember...every item donated makes a difference.

If you have a food donation and are unable to deliver to the Church, let us know and we will see that it gets picked up.

Food items always needed: juices, oil, eggs (and egg cartons), 1/2 gal milk, box or bag cereal, 2# sugar, pancake mix, syrup, mayo or Miracle Whip, canned chicken or tuna, dish soap, laundry. We do have freezers for frozen foods.

Nelda 979-799-7681

Grand Opening for the Clothes Closet is finally set for Saturday, August 1st, at 11am. The Facts paper will be there to do a feature story on the opening and some of our local missions. Also, Brazoria's Mayor, Philip Ray, and the Chamber of Commerce. Hope to see a lot of you there.

The Garage and Bake Sales were a success. We raised \$600+ for local missions. I want to send out a very special thank you to the people that helped make a success by setting up, working the sale, break down, baking, and many other things that had to be done. All of you know who you are and will never know how much you are appreciated for everything you do for our church.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Cucumber Salad submitted by Tracy Williams

Ingredients

- 1 small red onion, halved lengthwise, thinly sliced
- 2 lb. small cucumbers, cut into 1/4"-thick rounds
- 2 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
- 1 Tbsp. mustard seeds
- 1 tsp. honey
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh dill or 1.777 tablespoons, dried
- 1/4 cup thinly sliced chives or 1.3333 tablespoons, dried

Directions

1. In a small bowl, mix oil, vinegar, lemon juice, mustard, and honey
2. Mix cucumbers and onions in a large bowl along with dressing, dill, and chives. Toss well to combine. Let sit until salad absorbs some of the dressing, about 15 minutes

Salad can be assembled 2 days ahead. Store in an airtight container and refrigerate. Serve cold.

AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Clothes Closet Opens 11am
2 Communion	3	4	5	6 Clothes closet 3pm-7pm	7 Clothes Closet 1pm-3pm	8
9	10	11	12	13 Clothes closet 3pm-7pm	14 Clothes Closet 1pm-3pm	15
16 Church Dinner session	17	18	19	20 Clothes Closet 3pm-7pm	21 Clothes Closet 1pm-3pm	22
23 Horizon Bible Study	24	25	26	27 Clothes Closet 3pm-7pm	28 Clothes Closet 1pm-3pm	29
30	31	Tuesdays 10 am Prayer Group 11 am Bible Study 6 pm Game Night		Clothes Closet Thurs 3-7pm Friday 1-3pm	Food Pantry Friday's 10 am-12 pm.	Every Sunday 9:15 am Breakfast 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30am Worship