



# FPC Tidings



Website: [www.newfpc.com](http://www.newfpc.com)

## It Takes Grace...

Question: "Where do you see yourself in 2020?"

Answer: "How do I know? I don't have 2020 vision."

One thing I see in the new year are a lot of jokes and puns about good vision... Another thing I'm pretty sure of is that most all of us will have some wonderful days and some days we'll wish we never got out of bed.

Last year for many of us certainly had its share of trials and troubles. I'm having to remind myself that, although there have been some terribly difficult days, the good news is that God "never leaves not forsakes us." That's in the Bible. In 2019, I've learned from and leaned on those scriptures more than I ever have in my life.

Jesus told us that Satan's goal is to keep us looking to our past, especially the rough places of our past, wanting us to lean on our guilt and fear and insecur-

ity to keep us from growing and living a full, joyful life. That's a warning from Jesus. His promise, though, is that he has come to give us life more abundant than we can imagine... despite all the negative stuff going on around us.

Speaking of vision, God wants us to know that we can tap into the power of His vision for our lives by meditating on His promises. We know our cell phones will not be far from reach in the coming year. How about asking Siri (or Alexa), "Show me Bible verses about God's promises." And then just watch the list start rolling. Even better, print it out and start reading those verses! God is amazing... and full of truth (unlike Satan, who is the author of lies).

You might want to start with Isaiah 43. It begins with a reminder that God is a Rescuer of His people. Then a reminder that the Lord alone is God. He wants us to know that He will prepare our way.

And then in verse 18 there is this surprise from God: "Forget what happened long ago! Don't think about the past. I am creating something new. There it is! Do you see it? I have put roads in the deserts, streams in the thirsty lands."

Maybe we truly should go for 2020 vision in the new year (no pun intended). I'm thinking if you're like me, new futures too often are held down, tethered, by our pasts. God says He's working on something new (He actually has already worked out something new). It's just hard to step out into something new if we choose to remain bound to our past.

Spend time this year in prayer, in worship, and in the Word. God will reveal to us all far more than we could ever imagine on our own. New Year Blessings, RevLon.

## Begin Anew



Every morning lean thine arms  
awhile  
Upon the windowsill of heaven  
And gaze upon thy Lord.  
Then, with the vision in thy heart,  
Turn strong to meet thy day.

—Thomas Blake



## THANK YOU!!

On behalf of Denise and myself for all that you, as a church family, have blessed us with during this Christmas season as well as the entire year. 2019 was a tough year as we had to say, "See you later" to Denise's dad, Walter. The transition to life without him is hard, but we were so blessed to have the support and

love of this church to help us through. Please know how very much we appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for us. May God bless you abundantly in the year to come! God is good, all the time! And all the time, God is good! (Please forgive me for not entering an article as I am still recovering from carpal tunnel syn-

drome surgery)  
In Christ's Love,  
Rob  
Romans 12

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"...we are reminded of the importance of need for unusual kindness"

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## THEY SHOWED US UNUSUAL KINDNESS

The 2020 theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been selected. "They Showed Us Unusual Kindness" (cf. Acts 28:2). Annually, leaders of faith communities throughout the world gather together to arrive at the theme for the annual celebration of Week of

Prayer for Christian Unity. This year the theme finds its origins in the Acts of the Apostles (Acts 27:18 - 28:10).

As we gather annually throughout the world to pray for the unity of Christians we are reminded of the importance of need for "unusual kindness" in the

dialogue that leads to growth in unity. We do this in a world where separation and division hinder the quest for Christian Unity. In 2020, we are being called to show unusual kindness towards one another.

-geii.org

## A Sacred Partnership

Bible scholar William Barclay notes that John the Baptist was "startled and unwilling" when Jesus asked to be baptized. The evangelist thought *he* needed what *Jesus* could give, not the reverse!

We are pros at taking our needs to God – indeed he invites this: "Call on me in the day of trouble" (Psalm 50:15). But God also comes to *us* with needs: "Mortal, I am sending you" (Ezekiel 2:3, NRSV);

"Go ... make disciples" (Matthew 28:19); "Carry each other's burdens" (Galatians 6:2, NIV). Apparently, God prefers partnership to acting solo. From the beginning, God has invited people to name the animals, tend the garden, welcome strangers, build the tabernacle, proclaim his word, ensure justice and mercy, share his love.

What does God need from you, as Jesus needed baptism from John?

Salvation is God's alone to accomplish, but then he calls us to share work with him, for the world's sake. So we echo Jesus: "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this" (Matthew 3:15, NIV).

-Heidi Mann

## The little red bird

We have five bird feeders outside our bay window that faces the back of our property and many times a day we watch the birds for entertainment. I say this as a prelude to the following. I usually pray about a particular scripture and rely on the Holy Spirit to deliver a sermon on Sunday morning. Yesterday's (12/15/19) sermon was taken from John chapter one. As I prayed about it, a vision came to me about a little red bird hitting the bay window, falling to the ground, and lying on the ground dead. I picked

up the bird and placed it in a small box with the intent of disposing it later. When that later time came, I opened the box, removed the bird to lay it along the field and let nature take care of it. While holding the bird, I was distracted by something, and out of the corner of my eye I thought I saw a slight flicker. I focused on the bird and it stirred and flew away. I immediately realized that I had to include the ascension of our Lord, Acts 1: 9-11, in the sermon. You see, everyone was looking forward to the arrival of

the Messiah. He came, was rejected, died on the cross, was resurrected, and ascended in to Heaven to come again. We just celebrated Christmas with all of its' pageantry, and we're looking forward to Easter. But, do we realize that He is coming back to judge the quick and the dead? Are we serving Him as our Master? Is He our life blood? How are you going to live this gift of 2020? Jesus is alive! Just listening to the birds. On the Inside, Pete.



## FINANCES AT A GLANCE

November 2019

		YTD	
Income	\$13,788.00	YTD Income	\$313,456.31
Expense	<u>-\$22,891.61</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$268,505.25</u>
Net	-\$9,103.61	YTD Net	\$44,951.06

<u>Undesignated</u>		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$11,257.00	Income	\$232,653.03
Expense	<u>-\$21,492.42</u>	Expense	<u>-\$247,289.64</u>
Net	-\$10,235.42	Net	-\$14,636.61

<u>Designated</u>		YTD Designated	
Income	\$2,531.00	Income	\$80,803.28
Expense	<u>-\$1,399.19</u>	Expense	<u>-\$21,215.61</u>

### Operating Funds

Beginning Balance	\$280,680.60
Ending Balance	\$270,960.34

# JANUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

4th	Cheryl Lane	19th	Bob & Marge Wilkerson (A)
6th	Tem & Julie Major (A)	21st	Mike Ladd
7th	Mike Bourland	24th	Pete Phelan
9th	Jim Hendrix	26th	Dick Peyton
	Claudia Arnett	27th	David Thomas
12th	Haley Cope	28th	Logan Taylor
	Kaleb White	29th	Paula Milligan
13th	Leslie Major		Larry & Suzanne Wilson (A)
14th	Suzanne Henley		
17th	Angie Crawford		

If your birthday and/or anniversary is in January and is missing from this list contact Dawn at 270-821-6426 or email [firstpreschurch175@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreschurch175@gmail.com) and let her know.

# January 2020

Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

			1	2	3	4
						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		BPM Session Meeting	5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			
26	27	28	29	30	31	
			5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			

