



Special Dates:

- World Day of Prayer, March 5, 2021
- Daylight-Savings Time begins, March 14, 2021
- First day of Spring, March 20, 2021
- Holy Week, March 28—April 4, 2021
- Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28, 2021

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR:

Our Lenten season continues through March. Each Sunday, we will continue to engage in the “Lenten Discipline” of self-examination. This process enables us to better receive the great joy of Easter morning.

Palm Sunday will be March 28th. Be sure to join us on this special Sunday as we recognize the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

Here’s some THANKS for all those who helped

contribute toward the Souper Bowl of Caring this year. Our local food bank certainly appreciates our collection efforts.

Last year, **March Madness** was canceled. This year, the games are on and I will be hosting a church wide bracket contest. This is for bragging rights only and the winner will be recognized during a worship service in April. To enter your bracket, visit our site at www.thebigtourney.com/madness/site671876. If you would rather



drop off a paper bracket at the church office, this is fine too. I can enter your picks for you. All members, family and friends are welcome to participate...all are invited! May the best bracket win!

A Breath of Fresh Prayer

Norwegian theologian Ole Hallesby described prayer as simply letting God into our lives. God “knocks,” he said, “not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer” but “in the midst of your daily grind...when you need him most.”

Prayer, added Halles-

by, is as essential to life as air. “As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon,” he said. “Let your prayers ascend to [God] constantly, audibly or silently, as cir-

cumstances throughout the day permits.”

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PEANUT BUTTER AND ICE CREAM

The Mission and Outreach Committee suggested, and the Session approved, that we as a congregation donate Peanut Butter to the Christian Food Bank of Hopkins County. This will be totally voluntary on your part. You are encouraged to bring jars of peanut butter, smooth and/or crunchy, to church on Sundays and place them in the collection bin in the narthex. The M&O committee will deliver the pb to the food bank on a regular basis. The CFB Board president asked we donate peanut butter as a protein source as the CFB usually runs low on protein. Souper Bowl of Caring netted 303 pounds of food and \$650, plus donations sent and delivered directly to the CFB. Also, an additional 30 cases of Peanut Butter were donated (session approved) to the CFB by our church from the operating budget. We have applied to be a ‘Matthew 25’ Church

through Presbytery (\$500 grant). Matthew 25 says we are to clothe the naked, feed the hungry, give water to those who thirst, heal the sick, etc.

We have also applied to Presbytery for a grant (Innovative Ministries) to purchase a cold plate vending freezer and ice cream cones to be used to encourage children and their parents to participate in our church activities. If we receive this we will canvass the neighborhoods encouraging our neighbors to come to our church. See an Elder for a look at the grant proposal. Stay tuned for more info.

It may seem that peanut butter and ice cream are simplistic ways of serving the Lord, however if they nourish and sate children while promoting mission and outreach for our church, I’m excited. 2021 is going to be exciting for FPC and I want

to encourage you to participate. Come to in-person church and Bible study, come to breakfast on Thursdays, go shopping for peanut butter. When we canvass the neighborhoods push the ice cream cart, talk to people, invite them to church and tell them about Jesus. Learn Spanish, come to the cookout we’re going to have in our parking lot, volunteer to work in Sunday School, Bible Study and children’s activities. FPC is going to flourish come be a part of it.

Pete, Mission & Outreach



A Bountiful Life

“Life is given to you like a flat piece of land,” said actress Jeanne Moreau. “I hope that when I’m finished, my piece of land will be a beautiful garden.”

God, who put the first human in a garden to care for creation, blesses us with talents and resources to wisely manage. In gardening terms, God

gives us the plot of ground, the seed, the wisdom and strength to bring forth beauty and abundance. Yet we do the work, with God’s help, to make it a reality. Like Adam, we till, but God gives the increase. God’s provisions and our labor bring the garden—and our lives of stewardship—to fulfillment.

As stewards, we ponder: When God calls us home, what will our garden be like, and what will it have produced?



Paying it Back—And Forward

During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. Last spring, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred. Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway.

In 1847, Choctaw tribe members sent \$170 overseas to Ireland to help with Potato Famine relief. That generosity was never forgotten, and by May 2020, people in Ireland had contributed more than \$4 million toward pandemic assistance for relatives of people who'd helped their ancestors. Many donors included an Irish proverb meaning "In each other's shadows the people live."

The concept of paying it for-

ward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus' Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). How might you live out this practice today?

FINANCES AT A GLANCE—JANUARY 2021

		YTD	
Income	\$12,254.10	YTD Income	\$12,254.10
Expense	<u>-\$28,131.71</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$28,131.71</u>
Net	-\$15,877.61	YTD Net	-\$15,877.61
Undesignated		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$7,172.12	Income	\$7,172.12
Expense	<u>-\$25,484.91</u>	Expense	<u>-\$25,484.91</u>
Net	-\$18,312.79	Net	-\$18,312.79
Designated		YTD Designated	
Income	\$5,081.98	Income	\$5,081.98
Expense	<u>-\$2,646.80</u>	Expense	<u>-\$2,646.80</u>
Net	\$2,435.18	Net	\$2,435.18
Operating Funds			
Beginning Balance	\$132,182.74		
Ending Balance	\$117,978.78		
Investment Account	\$208,866.00		

**YOUR GIVING
MATTERS!**

MARCH



- | | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 1st | Rick Lee | 15th | Bob Wilkerson |
| 2nd | Jo Shepherd | | Tyler Conover |
| 3rd | Karla Cates | 26th | Philip Conover |
| | Drew Fletcher | 27th | Janet Agin |
| 5th | Marilyn Coates | | Philip & Amy Taylor (A) |
| 6th | Brianna Gregory | 29th | Yvonne Bourland |
| 10th | Ed & Becky Moore (A) | | |
| 12th | MaryAnn Thomas | | |
| 14th | Brooks Leasure | | |

MARCH 2021



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2 1:30 Bible Study 6:00 Session Mtg	3	4	5 World Day of Prayer	6
7	8	9 1:30 Bible Study	10 5:30 Bible Study	11	12	13
14 	15	16 1:30 Bible Study	17 5:30 Bible Study	18	19	20
21	22	23 1:30 Bible Study	24 5:30 Bible Study	25	26	27
28 Palm SUNDAY	29	30 1:30 Bible Study	31 HOLY WEEK			