



The Messenger

BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER. ROMANS 12:12

(APRIL 2021)

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* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH - FOR THE
NEXT MONTH'S
PUBLICATION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson

This last Sunday as we drove over to Salado to worship, we saw all the sights that spring, the season of new life, was on its way. The blue bonnets were popping up along the highway. New calves were seen with their mothers in the fields. The grass was turning green again. Life was beginning all over again.

I remember as a child in elementary school we would use a poem that began, "April showers bring May flowers," as our spelling lesson. The teacher would write it on the board then give us lined paper to copy it onto, thus helping us learn how to form letters. We would then take our masterpieces home to our parents. I always worried if we did not get rain in April, would we have to go a year without flowers. I always looked forward to that first rain in April, so I could relax knowing flowers would come in May.



What about the storms in our life? When the clouds roll into our lives, how do we feel? It is not so much these clouds, rain and storms that scare us, it is the havoc that those storms can create that gives us such trouble. The storms of life come in many shapes and forms. These can include pandemic issues, family issues, relationship issues, or health issues. What hope can come out of all these storms? Jesus! the one that holds us during the storms, can also control the storms. Jesus will always be there, in all the storms of life. God may use storms to soften our heart. By going through the rain, we can become more empathetic to others. We begin to seek God's direction, and not just our own, which ultimately leads to our receptivity to God's voice. As we hear God's voice, we



CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Calendar of Events

**In-Person Worship, Yoga, and Men's
Prayer Breakfasts have begun.**

(Masks and Social Distancing are Required)

Sunday Worship and Communion at 10:00

Communion is on the First Sunday/month

Men's Prayer Breakfast Tuesdays @ 8 am

Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays

April 1 - Maundy Thursday

April 2 - Good Friday

April 4 - Easter (Come 10 minutes early)

APRIL 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Yoga 10:30	2 3 Heart with cross	
4 Easter	5	6 Yoga 1 PM	7	8 Yoga 10:30	9	10
11	12	13 Yoga 1 PM	14	15 Yoga 10:30	16	17
18	19	20 Yoga 1 PM	21	22 23 Yoga 10:30	23	24
25	26	27 Yoga 1 PM	28	29 Yoga 10:30	30	

Carl continued:

notice that our attitude begins to change. With this change, comes a concern for others, in both humility and emotional sensitivity that was not there before. We need this in 2021, as I see a lot of lack of empathy for others during these strange times because of Covid-19.

We can rejoice, too, that when we run into these storms (problems and trials), we know that they help us learn to endure and trust in God. God is an ever-present help in times of need. If we have never been through a storm in our life, we can never truly realize how much God is with us and loves us. This is the same love that led Jesus to take our place on the cross and is continually displayed by our loving God. He is with us in times of our “storms” because He loves us with an everlasting love. So, remember, “April showers bring May flowers.”

I hope you have a Happy Easter as you worship in church or in your home. The true Christian is able to worship God any time or any place, when they focus on God and not on themselves. Happy Easter and God Bless you.

Carl



Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to quests or other circumstances)

	Resurrection of the Lord April 4	2nd Sunday of Easter - April 11	3rd Sunday of Easter - April 18	4th Sunday of Easter - April 25
1st Reading	Acts 10:34-43	Acts 4:32-35	Acts 3:12-19	Acts 4:5-12
Psalm	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Psalm 133	Psalm 4	Psalm 23
2nd Reading	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	1 John 1:1-2:2	1 John 3:1-7	1 John 3:16-24
Gospel	John 20:1-18	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:36b-48	John 10:11-18

March Birthdays



Chelsea	Ervi	6
Bobbie	Dickerson	9
J.R.	Letf	13

Grandma was talking to her daughter about her new hearing aid, 'it's the most expensive one you can buy, it cost me \$4,000.'

Daughter: "What kind is it?"

Grandma: "it's 4:15."

About our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Joe Carroll is continuing to make small improvements. He is no longer on a ventilator. The delirium has lessened but not lifted completely. Please pray that the Lord will choose to end his delirium so that he will be able to participate in therapy. Thank you all for your prayers!

Monte Shuck drove to Michigan last Thursday and Friday. "I'm staying with my younger son and daughter-in-law and two grandchildren for the first part of the week, and celebrating my granddaughter's 11th birthday, before departing for my older son and daughter-in-law's home for the remainder of the visit. I will be driving back to Texas after Easter. Please pray for safe travels and that my older son and daughter-in-law can receive their first COVID vaccination next week."

Jack Goggans will have a second abdominal aorta aneurysm surgery (AAA) the week after Easter. He had the same surgery last year but the aneurysm has grown and needs further attention. This should not take more than a day. Pray that the procedure goes well with no complications.

Shay VanWinkle had the virus and is still dealing with respiratory issues. She is continuing to see her doctors about this. Pray for help and improvement.

Carol Booher is doing the same but having fun trying new recipes and staying home. **Bill Prather** still needs to gain strength and weight. Keep Carol and Bill in your prayers.

Bob Todd is continuing the every three week immunotherapy injection and doing well. He is looking forward to having cataract surgery on 4/23 and then the second eye two weeks later.

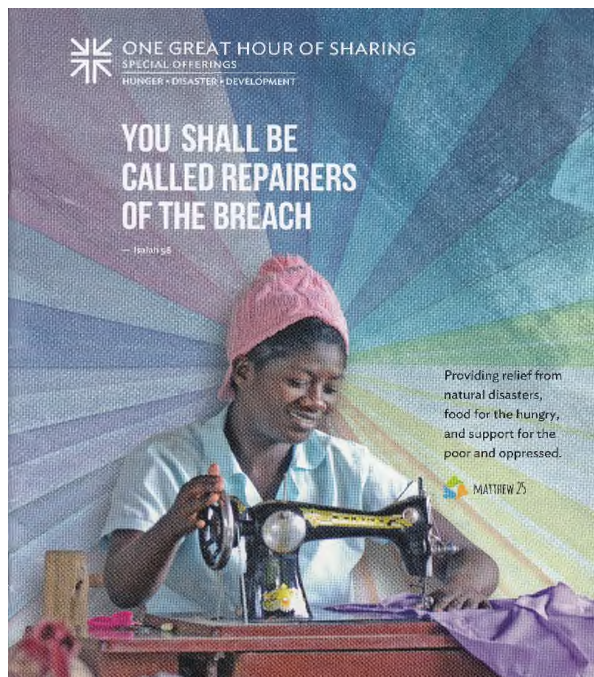
Carl Thompson has been having tests which require follow-up plus some oral surgery. Pray for good results and continued health.

Trish Stebbins is seeing a physical therapist who is helping strengthen her damaged muscles. Pray for continued improvement.

John Pettijohn is doing well after all his treatment and surgery. He is back in church and has even played golf (however a little disappointed that the surgery didn't improve his game).

Mission News

During Lent our mission focus has been on the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering. Pertinent information has been provided through this monthly newsletter and with Minutes for Mission during recent worship services. Our congregation has traditionally contributed each Spring, through Easter. If you have been able to donate during the pandemic, be assured that your generosity will assist people in need throughout the world. Thank you!



On the local scene, some members have recently been able to enter the church for worship and have placed cans and other packaged donations into the Heart & Hands basket in the lobby. Those items have been taken to the pantry to share with neighbors! All during the pandemic, the usual distributions of food and staple groceries have continued at the Heart & Hands office on two Saturdays each month. Distribution has continued outside with drive-thru delivery, thanks to volunteers from several Salado churches and other organizations. Our church has also continued to purchase 35 loaves of bread at Brookshire Brothers and to deliver it to the pantry for every Saturday distribution.



The Chair Yoga class at our building on Tuesdays and Thursdays, started by Letta Meinen, has become a mission project for the community. Since resuming the class recently, an estimated average of eight participants have been coming to class while following CDC guidelines for masks and distancing. Despite these necessary conditions, Tracey Davis's yoga sessions have continued to be 'pleasantly therapeutic.'



Although the pandemic has curtailed benevolent donations to some extent, our church has kept its quarterly commitments to two important agencies. The first one is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), which provides help to communities throughout the world while they recover after experiencing devastation from natural or human-caused catastrophes.



Kentucky Flooding

The second agency is the Presbyterian Children's Home and Services (PCHAS), which is based in Austin and supports other locations in Texas. Both agencies always send letters of appreciation for our congregation's support. Your mission gifts make a difference in our own lives, as well as in the lives of many others.

From *Pat Rehm* - Chair Benevolence Committee

Remember:
The One Great Hour of Sharing offerings continue up to Easter on April 4th. **To date, we have received only about a third of the 2019 donation amount.**



Thinking of Easter

Debby Aldridge - It wouldn't be Easter at my house without Strawberry Shortcake. Simple, easy, and has a history with my heart. My mother always had fresh strawberries sprinkled with sugar and mashed a little to make them extra juicy. She bought a package of six little sponge cakes and she made 'real' whipped cream.



But one year she made pie crust also, cut out in circles with a biscuit cutter, baked on a cookie sheet, and I was 'hooked'. These days I offer my family the same choice of either sponge cakes or the baked pie crust to make their dessert.

Me? I choose the pie crust. Of course!

Linda Lloyd - As a small child I looked forward to all the yummy Easter treats, baskets filled with marshmallow peeps, chocolate bunnies, jelly beans and maple filled chocolate eggs.

As I got a little older, what I looked forward to the most was the festive meal that my Grandma would serve for lunch after church on Easter Sunday. She would bake a big ham, make deviled eggs, stuff some celery sticks, make some beets with sliced onions and vinegar. At the last minute she would slide some rolls into the oven to bake and their delicious aroma would fill the house. There would be a big pitcher of lemonade, and of course coffee for the grownups to drink. And if strawberries were available there would be a homemade angel food cake with strawberries and whipped cream for dessert.

But what I loved most was Grandma's potato salad with her homemade dressing. It was a beautiful yellow color and had sliced eggs and paprika for a topping. I have never seen it served anywhere but at my family's table. It was so delicious.

Valdie's Potato Salad Dressing

1 egg, beaten.	2 level Tbsp flour
1/2 C sugar.	1 Tsp salt
1/2 C cider vinegar.	1/2 C cold water
A drop or two of yellow food coloring	

Combine all ingredients.

Cook over low heat. Stir until thickened. Pour over desired amount of diced potatoes and onions, with celery salt and table salt to your taste. Refrigerate several hours or overnight.

A Great Attitude

An article from the San Jacinto High School in Houston newsletter.

Contributed by Knox Tyson

We recently welcomed Beatrice "Beadie" Lewis as the very first member of the San Jacinto Golden Bear Century Club. When her distinguished presence was brought to our attention, she was "just 103". By the time Alan Finger met with Beadie, she had tacked on another birthday and blew out the candles on the cake presented to Beadie by her family at her 104th birthday celebration. And, for what it is worth, she is also the oldest living female graduate of the University of Texas. So, hook 'em, Beadie!

So, here's a reporter's submission from his interviewing a typical 104-year old person:

"And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?"

She simply smiled and replied "No peer pressure"

"You can hide your own Easter eggs."

"I have had two bypass surgeries along with a hip replacement."

"Two new knees and fought a bout with cancer and diabetes."

"I am half blind."

"Cannot hear anything quieter than a jet engine."

"I take 40 different medicines that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts."

"Having bouts with dementia...and poor circulation."

"I've lost most all of my friends, but - thank God! - I still have my driver's license."

"I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape. So, with my doctor's permission, I joined a fitness center and started exercising. I tried aerobics classes for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down and perspired for an hour. By time I got my leotards on, the class was over."

"My memory is not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory is not as sharp as it used to be."

"It's scary when your body makes the same noises as your coffee maker."

"Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway. The good fortune to run into the ones I do and the eyesight to tell the difference."

"Finally, remember this: You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing."

Enjoy your week, Bears!

