



The Messenger

April 2023

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PAT REHM -
Clerk of Session
JEANETTE WEST -
Worship
DEBBY ALDRIDGE
Personnel/Finance
MIKE HART -
Education
SHAY VANWINKLE -
Fellowship
MIKE HART -
Benevolence/Outreach
RANDY KEMP
Building & Grounds

TREASURER:
PAT HART

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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

Spring is in the air; new life is breaking out all around us. Trees are producing new leaves while bluebonnets and other flowers spring up everywhere. This is my favorite time of year. We are about to leave the Lenten season of the liturgical year and move into the Easter season, the holiest season of the Christian year. We go from reflecting upon our own sinful nature and our mortality during Lent, to the hope of the resurrection. It is because of Jesus' death and resurrection that we too have the hope of eternal life. This hope is the center of our Christian faith. It is what all the other Biblical teachings are leading up to, that through Jesus we are a forgiven, redeemed people. We were once estranged from God, because of sin, but Jesus paid the price to bring us back into the family of God. This is the greatest gift we could ever receive.



This month we will celebrate Palm Sunday and Holy Week, a time when we remember the events of the last week of Jesus' life. Our Holy Week will begin with Palm Sunday, include a special Maundy Thursday service, and end with our Sunday Easter service. On Maundy Thursday, the church remembers the last evening Jesus shared with his disciples in the upper room before his arrest and crucifixion. Maundy is derived from the Latin word *mandatum*, meaning "commandment," and refers to the commands Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Sup-



per. *Continued Page 2*

Calendar of Events

- Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Communion on First Sunday each mo.
- Adult Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.
- Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. @ 8 a.m.
- Chair Yoga 1pm Tues and 10:30am Thurs
- Choir Practice Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.
- **April 2 - Palm Sunday**
- **April 6 - Maundy Thurs. Service 6:00pm with Communion and light meal.**
- **April 9 - Easter Service/ Resurrection**
- April 20 -Woman's Devotional 11:30 a.m.
- April 30 - Fifth Sunday Service & Social

April 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Carl Comments Continued

per concerning communion, and his call for us to love one another.



I encourage all of you to come out at 6:00 P.M. on April 6th to be a part of this service. Join with us again on Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the resurrection, as we boldly proclaim, "Christ Has Risen."

We look forward to worshipping together Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter morning. Evelyn and I wish you a very happy Easter and pray God's blessing upon each one of you.

Carl and Evelyn

Adult Bible Study

On Sunday, April 2, we will complete our study of Jesus Revealed with Jesus' statement "I am the Resurrection and the Life." The lesson explores the 7th of the rich "I am" metaphors given to us in the Gospel of John. They reveal the multiple layers of Jesus' identity and the way we are called to respond. New books will be distributed on April 2 as well.

On Easter Sunday, April 9, the class will not meet, but will begin our new lessons the following Sunday, April 16.

Our last study before summer break is Reckless Love by Tom Berlin. The book is based on Jesus' "Great Commandment" to love God and our neighbor. It may sound simple but when you really study its implications, you will realize its complexity. We will learn to understand how this life of love transforms us into the people God always meant for us to be.



We will take a break from study on the fifth Sunday, April 30, to enjoy a question and answer time with Carl.

Hope you all can join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for fellowship, discussion, coffee and cookies. I'll be looking for you. *Shirley Pinkston*

Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to requests)

	Palm Sunday - April 2	Maundy Thursday - April 6	Easter - April 9	Second Sunday of Easter - April 16	Third Sunday of Easter - April 23	Fourth Sunday of Easter - April 30
1st Reading	Isaiah 50:4-9	Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14	Acts 10:34-43	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Acts 21:4a, 36-41	Acts 2:42-47
Psalm	Psalm 31:9-16	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Psalm 16	Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19	Psalm 23
2nd Reading	Philippians 2:5-11	1 Cor. 11:23-26	Colossians 3:1-4	1 Peter 1:3-9	1 Peter 1:17-23	1 Peter 2:19-25
Gospel	Matt. 26:14-27:66	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	John 20:1-18	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:13-35	John 10:1-10

April Birthday

Bobbie Dickerson 9



"Lord, as your blessings flow to me, may they continue to flow through me, for the good and encouragement of others."

About Our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Philip Todd, Bob and Gidget Todd's great nephew was stabbed over the weekend in Washington, D.C. He had surgery on Sunday for abdominal lacerations (and a collapsed lung). His brain surgery is on Wednesday. The responsible homeless man had been wanted and was taken into custody by police. Philip is in his twenties and is a speech writer for Senator Rand Paul. He was leaving a special church service when this occurred. Pray for great doctor care and healing.

Bob's brother **Cecil** is scheduled for heart surgery to repair a valve on Thursday. Pray for good results and healing.

Kevin Gibbins, Jerry and Evelyn Matthews' nephew, has been losing significant

amounts of blood for six weeks. He's in St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa. They have cauterized several places on his esophagus. They know that this is a source of some of the bleeding, but they don't think that's the main source. Pray that the doctors can further isolate the issue, make corrections, and rapid healing can occur.

Pastor Carl Thompson has a significant hernia that needs to be repaired. He has been waiting for a surgical room to open. As we approach Holy Week he would like to postpone the surgery until after this special week in our church. However, NOT TO WORRY - Carl has a backup plan in place if postponement is not possible. **Do Not** cancel coming to Holy Week Services.

FROM SUFFERING TO SERVICE

I've been reading a book called "Resilient Faith" by Sheridan Voysey, an author, speaker, and broadcaster based in Oxford, U.K.

I like his writing so much and want to share some of his message with you. It seems particularly poignant as we approach Easter Sunday.



Sheridan was walking and talking with his friend Adrian, who posed this question. "Have you ever noticed how many people Jesus ministered to on the cross?" He continued. "He ministered to his mother (John 19:26-27), to the thief crucified next to him (Luke 23:39-43), to the Roman officer who came to believe in him, and he ministered to us-forgiving our sins through his sacrifice. And all

of this was done in the middle of Jesus' suffering, before things became good at his resurrection." "For Jesus, crucifixion was a mission field," Adrian said. "And with him, our suffering, can be service to others too."

I have to say that I never really looked at the crucifixion in that way before. It gave me a lot to ponder. It isn't easy to think about ministering to others when you are in the midst of your own pain.

"He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." - 2 Corinthians 1:4.

Wishing you all a happy Easter, from A Merry Heart. *Linda Lloyd*

Woman's Devotional - 4/20

The "Third Thursday" devotional and social gathering for the women of our church is on Thursday, April 20, and Debby Aldridge will be the leader.

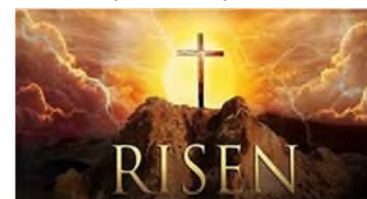


You are invited to gather in the classroom after chair yoga, about 11:30 a.m. Feel free to bring your lunch or just come to chat and enjoy friends before the devotional begins at noon.

♪ Musical Notes ♪

How exciting the next couple of weeks is with Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday! The music always seems so much more joyful on these 2 Sundays than some of our other Sundays during the year. Every Sunday represents the joy of Easter and Christ's resurrection from the grave and our promise of Eternal Life with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ as well as all the Christians who have gone on to heaven before us.

The music the choir will be presenting for these Sundays is exciting and full of meaning regarding Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His glorious resurrection on that 1st Easter! Oh, to have been a part of the crowd, waving our cloaks and palm branches as Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. What emotions would each of us have felt sitting as one of the 12 disciples at that Seder meal on Maundy Thursday during that Passover when Christ shared the bread and cup as He was facing His crucifixion the very next day, for each of our sins. But then came Easter Sunday, the Day of Resurrection, Christ the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. How joyous our gift of Eternal Life!



EASTER

E - Eternal Life

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23 NIV

A - Alpha/Omega, Almighty

"I am the **Alpha and the Omega**," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the **Almighty**." Revelation 1:8 NIV

S - Salvation

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." Act 4:12 NIV

T - Truth

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the **truth** and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6 NIV

E - Endurance, Encouragement

May the God who gives **endurance** and **encouragement** give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:5-6 NIV

R - Resurrection

Jesus said to her, "I am the **resurrection** and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11:25-26 NIV

Sharing in Christ's Service
Jeanette West

The Presbyterian Church of Salado

Stated Session Meeting Minutes - March 19, 2023

Call to Order - Rev. Carl Thompson 11:53 AM

Roll Call / Status of Quorum – Moderator, Rev. Carl Thompson, Acting Clerk and Treasurer, Pat Hart; Elders: Jeanette West, Sharon VanWinkle, Debby Aldridge, Mike Hart; Excused: Randy Kemp, Pat Rehm. - Quorum was approved.

Devotional/Opening Prayer – Pat Hart

Clerk of Session – Debby Aldridge moved that the minutes from the December 11, 2022, stated session meeting be approved; Shay VanWinkle seconded; motion approved. Mike Hart moved that the minutes of the January 29, 2023, Congregational meeting be approved; Debby Aldridge seconded; motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – February offerings were under budget but when you look at January and February together, we are over budget by \$2400, keeping in mind we always budget high for offerings the first two months because some families fulfill their total pledge for the year in Jan/Feb. Energy costs are still high but we are paying more than double per kWh than our old contract. Savings are steady at \$82,000, and we are expecting a Texas Presbyterian Foundation report mid-April.

Committee Reports:

Worship – Jeanette West reported that communion servers/side aisle sign up going well; Organ repair OK; Lisa Houston expected to play for Palm Sunday and Easter

Education - Mike Hart said that the women's devotional is ongoing on the third Thursdays. The Sunday School class is finishing Matt Rawle's book on the I AM statements of Jesus and will start Reckless Love by Tom Berlin after Easter. The men's group is studying Isaiah and has recently added two new members.

Building and Grounds – Carl reported for Randy Kemp that they hope to begin the work on the new roof next quarter. He is in the process of getting an estimate for a new cleaning service. He replaced a ballast in the choir room to get those lights working.

Fellowship – Shay VanWinkle thanked all the ladies who help her with the fellowship meals. The next one is a light meal for Maundy Thursday. There will be a 5th Sunday meal on April 30.

Benevolence – Mike Hart met with his committee recently. They cleaned up the giving list, dropping Families in Crisis and Helping Hands in Belton to keep the money in Salado. They also dropped the \$1000 per quarter we were giving to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance since our One Great Hour of Sharing goes to that. They divided \$3000 for first quarter giving among 5 different organizations.

Personnel/Finance – Debby Aldridge has recruited Evelyn Matthews and Laquita Arner to audit the books, which will be done in the next month or so.

Old Business

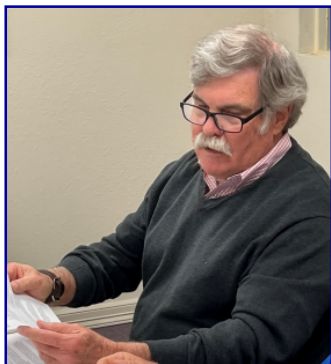
New Business

Pastor's Report – Carl is still awaiting his surgery date. Possible subs during his recuperation are Bill Brenner and Jesse Thornton.

Next Session Meeting – May 7, 2023; Devotional by Jeanette West

Adjournment/Closing Prayer by Rev. Carl Thompson at 12:37 pm

Respectfully submitted by Pat Hart
(For Pat Rehm, Clerk of Session)



Kevin Cushman, Grace Presbytery liaison to our search committee, met with the session on March 19th.

Kevin introduced himself as an elder at Grace Presbyterian in Temple and a member of the Grace Presbytery Committee on Ministry representing the South region. He is familiar with the process we are going through from both sides of the coin. Our church profile was correctly submitted to the Presbytery and they are putting forth this profile through their channels. The current Presbytery team has been very helpful in the process.

One Great Hour of Sharing - Now through Easter Sunday

One Great Hour of Sharing – the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. Last year the Presbyterian Church of Salado contributed a record amount to this effort.

One Great Hour of Sharing – providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing: Pres-

byterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Please contribute to this worthy Presbyterian humanitarian effort.

Write on your checks – One Great Hour of Sharing or OGHS – so your contribution reaches your desired location.

Mike Hart - Benevolence



Vocal Duet - 3/26/2023



Jeanette West and Rip VanWinkle

Announcement/Reminder

The list in the is ready foyer for those who wish to provide flowers for a birthday, anniversary, or other special remembrance and includes the Sundays through the end of December 2023. Please feel free to select a day, include your name and the occasion. If you have any questions about the flower list or the lists for liturgists and greeters, please contact Jeanette West at 254-760-6563.

