



The Messenger

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

(AUGUST 2020)

CHURCH OFFICE:
105 SALADO PLAZA
DRIVE - P.O. BOX 865
NEW (254) 308-2023

PRESBSALADO
@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE:
PRESBSALADO.ORG

PASTOR:
REV. CARL THOMPSON
CELL (254) 702-4119
CTHOMPS106@AOL.COM

MINISTERS:
THE CONGREGATION

SESSION MEMBERS:
PAT HART -
Clerk of Session
MONTE SHUCK -
Worship
DEBBY ALDRIDGE
Personnel/Finance
EVELYN THOMPSON -
Education
SHIRLEY LETT-
Fellowship
PAT REHM -
Benevolence/Outreach
RANDY KEMP &
JOHN BOOHER
Building & Grounds

TREASURER:
JOHN PETTIJOHN

ORGANIST:
JEANETTE WEST

CHOIR DIRECTOR:
MONTE SHUCK

**COMMUNICATIONS &
MESSENGER EDITOR:**
PETE STEBBINS
(254) 231-4883
PETE7744@ICLOUD.COM

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

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson

The hymn, "Hold to God's Unchanging Hand," is probably more true for me today than it has ever been.

*Time is filled with swift transition,
Naught of earth unmoved can stand,
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God's unchanging hand.*

*Refrain:
Hold to God's unchanging hand,
Hold to God's unchanging hand;
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God's unchanging hand.*



In the midst of so much change and transition going on in the world around us, this song reminds me, even more, of our need to hold onto God's unchanging hand. Just think about the events that have taken place in the world, the last few months. Because of the pandemic, I am truly reminded that life is "filled with swift transitions." Who would have thought that our lives would be so different in August of 2020? We should be looking forward to a new choir and religious education year starting. Yet, I have no idea when it will be possible to start those events again. I hate the unknown, it frustrates me. I want things to return to normal like they were six months ago.



At times I just want to shout, "Stop! Make things like they were before, things are changing for me way too fast." I want to worship in the church again. I want to visit with my friends. I want things to be like they were six months ago. Are you feeling that way? I think we all are in many ways.

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Calendar of Events

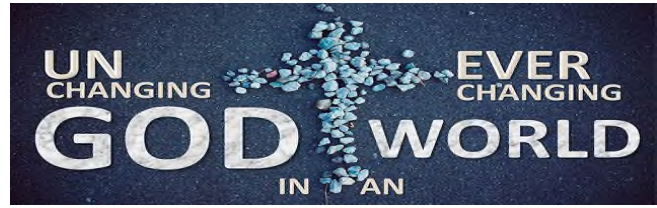
Due to the increasing numbers of Covid-19 cases in Bell County and Texas overall, in-person worship services, Yoga, and Prayer Breakfast's will be on hold.

- X- Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 am**
- X- Communion is on the First Sunday/month**
- X- Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. 8 am**
- X- Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays**

2020 AUGUST						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4 Yoga 1 PM	5	6 Yoga 10:30	7	8
9	10	11 Yoga 1 PM	12	13 Yoga 10:30	14	15
16	17	18 Yoga 1 PM	19	20 Yoga 10:30	21	22
23	24	25 Yoga 1 PM	26	27 Yoga 10:30	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

Carl continued:

The good news of the gospel can bring us peace in these situations, when we remember that our God is unchanging. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. There are no surprises with God, God's love and commandments are consistent throughout all generations. We have to remember to Build your hopes on things eternal, and Hold to God's unchanging hand. We can find peace in knowing that God is still in control. God is still a God of love, peace, hope, joy, mercy, and forgiveness. So, when things happen in our life that we just don't understand - remember to "Build our hope on things eternal, "Hold to God's unchanging hand".



We will be back together again as soon as it is safe to do so. But until we are, stay safe. Maintain physical distancing. Wash your hands regularly. Wear a mask when in public. These are little common-sense things that could save your life or someone else's. God Bless You. Carl

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

	9th Sunday after Pentecost - Aug. 2	10th Sunday after Pentecost - Aug. 9	11th Sunday after Pentecost - Aug. 16	12th Sunday after Pentecost - Aug. 23	13th Sunday after Pentecost - Aug. 30
1st Reading	Genesis 32:22-31	Genesis 37:1-4 12-28	Genesis 45:1-15	Exodus 1:8 - 2:10	Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm	Psalm 17:1-7, 15	Ps. 105:1-6,16-22, 45b	Psalm 133	Psalm 124	Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26,
2nd Reading	Romans 9:1-5	Romans 10:5-15	Romans 11:1-2a 29-32	Romans 12:1-8	Romans 12:9-21
Gospel	Matthew 14:13-21	Matthew 14:22-33	Matthew 15:21-28	Matthew 16:13-20	Matthew 16:21-28

Aug. Birthdays



Julie	Engelke	2
Nancy	Norris	4
John	Booher	6
James R.	Ervi, II	6
Bob	Todd	9
Carl	Menghert	11
Sara	Pettijohn	12
Britt	Healey	21
Jeanette	West	31

About our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Bob Todd has completed his six weeks of radiation for skin (not brain) cancer. The oncologist will do more testing to determine results. Bob's hearing suffered from the radiation, but overall he is doing well and still playing golf. Please keep Bob and Gidget in your prayers.

Charlotte Carl is doing OK. She still has some back pain. She no longer needs the brace. She thanks all of you for the prayers.

Evelyn Thompson is scheduled to have a knee replacement on September 28.

Carol Booher has her good days and bad. Hopefully she is getting stronger. John and Carol's major concern is for son-in-law, **Bill Prather**, who has been dealing with lung cancer and on July 1 had a lung removed. Although the doctors think they removed all the cancer he will go through four rounds of chemo. Pray for strength.

Julie Vesley's daughter, **Kirsten's**, knee rehabilitation has been good. Kirsten was given the 'go ahead' to participate fully in high school marching band. Despite the Covid virus hurdles, they hope it will be a successful year for the Salado HS Marching Band.

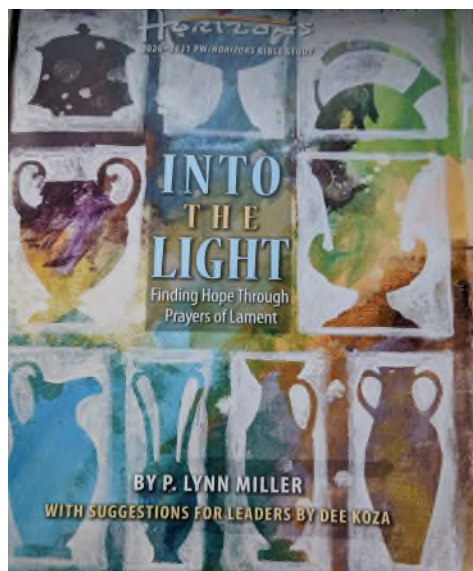
Pat Rehm has sincerely appreciated all of the calls, cards, and notes from the congregation since early January. The July 8th surgical procedure for the new fracture has curtailed her discomfort tremendously! The orthopedist and an endocrinologist have recommended a two-year run of medication for her progressive osteoporosis. Pray for good long-term results.

Jim Arner is living in a long-term memory care facility in Georgetown. It is totally locked down so Laquita's only contact with Jim is via phone currently. Please keep Jim and especially his dedicated caregivers in your prayers.

Trish Stebbins still has much pain since she fractured her pelvis. It is healing slowly. When walking she alternates between a walker, cane, and nothing. Pray that the healing process will also reduce the pain.

Phil 4:4-7 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Summer Bible Study - Pat Rehm



Our summer Bible study, "Into the Light" by Presbyterian Pastor Dr. P. Lynn Miller, focuses on using a scriptural form of prayer called "lament." The lessons guide our discovery of lament as a way to reach out to God in times of dismay or trouble.



Eight members of the congregation have met online with Zoom since July 16, and their responses have been favorable to the theme and to the author's guidance. Six other members are using the study book at home.

Lesson 3 will be discussed on Zoom at noon on July 30, and successive lessons will continue at noon on Thursdays through August and possibly to Sept. 6. I still have two books available for anyone else interested in having a study book. Please let me know if you would like to join any of our discussions on Zoom at 512-876-4211 or at pa-rehm2017@gmail.com.

Benevolence Report for August

Although the Benevolence Committee has not been able to meet this spring, certain mission agencies have continued to receive quarterly donations, including the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Presbyterian Disaster Relief.

This month, however, a congregational donation has been approved for the **12th Annual Project Backpack of Salado Family Relief (SFR)**, which our church has previously supported. The backpacks and school supply items will be purchased by SFR, and they will be distributed at our church to clients having students in the Salado ISD on August 18th or 20th, from 5 to 7 PM.

Individual donations for this project will be welcomed through August 13th three different ways: by mail, online, or in donation jars at local businesses. Mailed donations should be addressed to Juli Bergstrom, Treasurer, Salado Family Relief, P.O. Box 461, Salado TX 76571, with "Project Backpack 2020" designated on the check. Online donations may be made at www.SaladoFamilyReliefFund.com. SFR volunteers have also put donation jars at the following places: Cathy's, the Shed, Lynnette's, McCain's, Christy's, Keith Ace Hardware, Magnolias, Salado Spirits, and Springhouse.

Meanwhile, Heart & Hands Ministries continues to distribute bags of groceries to its clients on the 2nd & 4th Saturdays each month. Our congregation still provides 35 loaves of bread for every distribution day. Also, the purchase of Brookshire Brothers' \$10 "Bags of Hope," with ingredients for meals, provide food directly to the Heart & Hands pantry, where volunteers meet on Wednesday mornings to shelve packaged donations.

Through your compassion and generosity, our mission programs are continuing to spread God's love to people in need, both in Salado and elsewhere!



12th Annual
**PROJECT
BACKPACK**
SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR
SALADO STUDENTS

This summer, you can provide much-needed school supplies for Salado students in need. Families are selected and served by Salado Family Relief. Donations of any amount will be accepted, and all donations are tax-deductible.

When to give...

Thurs, July 16 - Thurs, August 13

How to give...

Give at saladofamilyrelief.com or by mail at PO Box 461, Salado, TX 76571

Questions? Contact sfrsaladotx@gmail.com.

Favorite Hymn - June Lubowinski

Like most people I have a lot of favorite hymns with qualifications to make each one the choice of the moment. For example, back in my hiking days more than once I marched down a mountain trail boldly singing “Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” as darkness and/or rain set in, and absolutely believing I would get home okay because I was “safe and secure from all life’s harms.”

Other hymns I love for the blend of Celtic music and wording, such as “Be Thou My Vision” and “My Shepherd Will Supply My Need.” These are what I sing for comfort in rough times. And then there are Southern Gospel hymns like “Down to the River to Pray” that just energize faith and strength of body.

My favorite of all time however, since I was a little child, is all three verses of “This is My Father’s World.”



This Is My Father's World

*This is my Father's world,
And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world:
I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
His hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world,
The birds their carols raise,
The morning light, the lily white,
Declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world,
He shines in all that's fair;
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
He speaks to me everywhere.*

*This is my Father's world.
O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world:
why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King; let the heavens ring!
God reigns; let the earth be glad!*

I can wake up in the morning and think of it or even just a phrase from it and I instantly feel gratitude for this marvelous world God has given us. As a nature lover, there is so much in this song that praises God’s creation “I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees of skies and seas, His Hands the wonders wrought” and also “in the rustling grass, I hear Him pass, He speaks to me everywhere.

I sing it when I see the wonders of nature large and small that bring us joy in these deep dark times. I sing the verse “This is my Father’s world, Oh let me ne’er forget, That though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.”



“This is My Father’s World” was written by Maltbie Davenport Babcock and was published after his death in 1901. It was originally written as a poem containing sixteen verses of four lines each. Franklin L. Sheppard set the poem to music in 1915 and selected three verses for the final hymn.

Babcock, who was a minister from Lockport, New York, would often take walks overlooking a cliff, where he would enjoy the view of beautiful Lake Ontario and the upstate New York scenery. As he prepared to leave for his walks he would often tell his wife that he was “going out to see my Father’s world.”

Watch the Mormon Tabernacle Choir perform, “This is My Father’s World.”

<https://www.thetabernaclechoir.org/articles/this-is-my-fathers-world.html>

Jean Teal Family Funeral 7/25/20

Jean Teal died on April 24 in Granbury. The memorial service to celebrate Jean's life was held at the Salado Presbyterian Church on Saturday, July 25 but due to the virus, was limited to the family.



Favorite Verse - Jean Teal

(Originally Published April 2014)

Romans 8:35, 37-39 *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.*

Jean remembers growing up with bomb drills in school. It was a time when the government initiated siren warnings and practice routines for adults and children to rapidly seek shelter when an imminent threat of an atomic bomb seemed likely. Parents and children were "scared to death," and it was troubling, as a youngster, to feel safe.

Jean said, "One night, I was reading my Bible, and came to these verses in Romans 8. Right then, I decided that everything will be OK. If God loves me and Christ loves me, I never have to be afraid." These verses have been a great comfort in many of life's experiences. Truly, God loves us, each and everyone.

