



The Messenger

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

(JANUARY 2021)

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

TREASURER:
PAT HART

ORGANIST:
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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



It has been about a year now since Covid-19 changed our lives. We have had to make many changes in the way we do things in our personal lives and the way we function as a church. Some of you have been blessed by remaining healthy, while others are still recovering from the infection. Some have lost friends and others have friends that have lost loved ones.

This has been a year of ups and downs in so many ways. The good news is that many of our members have been able to receive the COVID-19 vaccination and we are beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel. Hopefully, we will be able to meet together in worship soon. According to health experts we will still need to wear masks, social distance, and sanitize until late fall or winter. We have made it this far so I know we can continue until we are told we can stop these protective measures.



The season of Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 17 February. Lent is a time of personal reflection as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the resurrection of Christ on Easter morning. It is a time to count our blessings and to seek out ways that we can have a closer walk with our Lord. It is also a time to remember that "From dust we have come and to dust we shall return," we are mortal beings, and our earthly days

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Calendar of Events

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

- 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**
- FEB. 14 - Valentine's Day**
- FEB. 17 - Ash Wednesday**

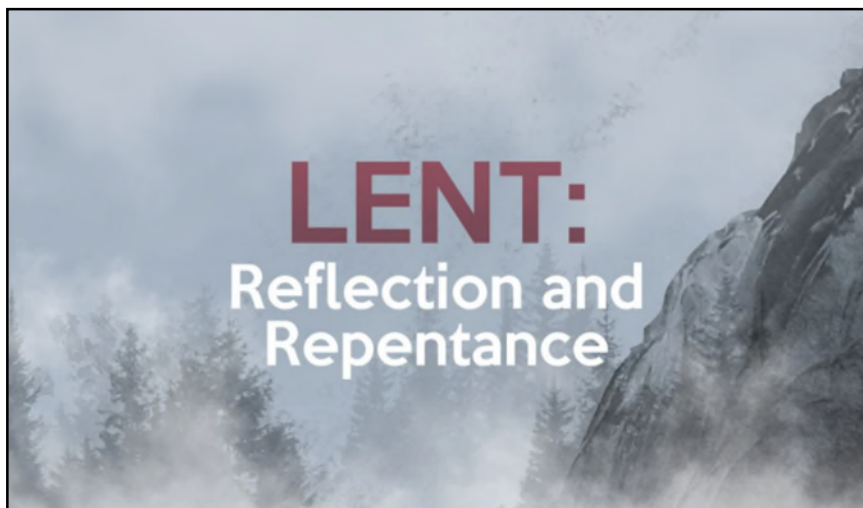
FEBRUARY 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Yoga 1 PM	3	4 Yoga 10:30	5	6
7	8	9 Yoga 1 PM	10	11 Yoga 10:30	12	13
14	15	16 Yoga 1 PM	17 Ash Wed.	18 Yoga 10:30	19	20
21	22	23 Yoga 1 PM	24	25 Yoga 10:30	26	27
28						

Carl continued:

will come to an end. Lent is a time to reflect on that and repent of our sins so that we may have eternal life with God. Take time this Lent to seek ways to grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study, and meditation.

Please remain safe, be positive, work for peace and harmony in your life and in the world, pray for the leaders of our nation that we may strive to be, "one nation under God."

God Bless you. *Carl*



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

	5th Sunday after Epiphany - Feb. 7	Transfiguration Sunday - Feb. 14	Ash Wednesday - Feb. 17	1st Sunday in Lent - Feb. 21	2nd Sunday in Lent - Feb. 28
1st Reading	Isaiah 40:21-31	2 Kings 2:1-12	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Genesis 9:8-17	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c	Psalm 50:1-6	Psalm 51:1-17	Psalm 25:1-10	Psalm 22:23-31
2nd Reading	1Corinthians 9:16-23	2Corinthians 4:3-6	2Cor. 5:20b-6:10	1 Peter 3:18-22	Romans 4:13-25
Gospel	Mark 1:29-39	Mark 9:2-9	Matthew 6:1-6,16-21	Mark 1:9-15	Mark 8:31-38

Feb. Birthdays



Robert Harper	1
Barclay McCort	4
Ellen Staples	5
Cindy Pennington	8
Pat Rehm	9
Randy Kemp	9
Chris Gengler	12
Betsy Tyson	13
Laquita Arner	19
Jim Ervi, Sr.	19
Claire Hartman	26

About our Members (and Prayer Requests)

John Pettijohn came through his two hour surgery to remove his kidney with no major difficulties. He came home from the hospital Monday (2/1). He needs to work on gaining strength and getting rid of nausea. John's son is helping for a couple of days which is great support and company. Sara says thanks for the prayers and cards. Keep praying for healing, no more complications, and strength.

Bob Volle is under hospice care and not doing well. Adva says that she is told he could still be with us for some time?? Pray that in this last phase Bob might be in peace and comfort. Adva thanks everyone for their prayers.

Carol Booher is doing OK. John does most of the shopping and house work. They do the cooking together. Their son-in-law, **Bill Prather**, is very frail and thin. He has no energy at all. Keep Carol and Bill in your prayers.

Julie Goggans still has much shoulder pain. Pray for a pain solution.

Jim Arner has some good days and some others not. Jim and Laquita are getting their shots and hope this soon opens up visitations.

Shay VanWinkle has had the virus and is weak (likely from the virus). Rip and daughter, Michelle, also had the virus and are OK.

Bob Todd has been on an every three week immunotherapy injection routine for several cycles. Bob had a PET scan which shows that the lymph node nodules are getting smaller. Prayers are working. He can still golf!

Trish Stebbins tripped on 12/30 and has a spiral fracture of the right femur. Surgery the next day required a plate & screws then after 5 days in the hospital she came back home. Trish will have 8 weeks of 50% weight bearing. Trish has some pain but is off pain medicine. She thanks the church for their prayers and cards.

Chris and Betty Gengler's uncle Bob Gengler is now under Hospice Care as a result of the Covid virus. Also, a friend, Larry Northmore, is in an ICU after a heart attack. Keep Bob, Larry, and families in your prayers.

Jeanette West has recovered from the Covid virus. However, she is still dealing with some lingering side effects. She thanks everyone for their prayers and cards.

Session Meeting Summary - January 28, 2021

- ◆ Your Session met on January 28, 2021, after a brief worship service, during which Pat Rehm and Randy Kemp were installed on the Session, Class of 2023.
- ◆ We approved Oct. 11, 2020 minutes, the 2020 Rolls and Registers, and Statistical report to the Presbytery.
- ◆ Further 2021 Session meeting dates are to be determined.
- ◆ The 2021 budget has been approved. 2021 Pledges are running about \$26,000 behind 2020 total expenses but we hope to make up some of that difference from unpledged offerings and investment income.
- ◆ No committee reports were necessary since 2020 summaries had just been completed.
- ◆ The One Great Hour Of Sharing campaign will go on as usual during Lent.
- ◆ Pat Rehm has agreed to take over Clerk of Session duties since Pat Hart has been elected Treasurer. We deeply thank John Pettijohn for his service to the church and for his patience in training the new treasurer.
- ◆ Carl reports that he has received the green light from his doctor for at least 6 more months of service to our congregation.
- ◆ He will continue to closely monitor the Covid situation in regard to returning to in-person worship.

Pat Hart - Clerk of the Session



Don't Gather Together!



Tune: Kremser ("We Gather Together") -Contributed by Shirley from "Windows"

(1) Don't gather together! We might be contagious.
Our state's Covid cases are way off the chart.
Don't say it's courageous; it's disadvantageous
to be here in this place less than six feet apart.

(2) Don't gather together! This room is not airy.
I've just read the latest from the CDC.
Till this sanctuary is not quite so scary
the breath of God alone will be breathing on me.

(3) Don't gather together! We're under the weather.
Reschedule the potluck (not anytime soon).
Till we are all better don't be super-spreaders.
O come, Emmanuel, and make us immune.

(4) Don't gather together without vaccination;
the only thing we want to spread is the Word.
Let our congregation escape tribulation.
God, grant us antibodies; Lord, save your herd.

Presbyterian Church of Salado

Summary of 2020 Committee Reports



Worship - Monte Shuck

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all fifth Sunday programs were canceled. In-person worship was suspended March 22 - May 31, July 5 - October 5, Dec. 6 - Dec. 27. I have provided two YouTube music videos for all email services. Also due to Covid-19, no greeters have been utilized since March 15; Evelyn Thompson has acted as liturgist for any in-person services since March 15; no communion services have been held since March 1; no choir or congregational singing has been performed since March 15. Altar flower orders have been discontinued until further notice.



Building and Grounds - Randy Kemp

During 2020, LED lighting was installed in the sanctuary. Air filters were replaced in June. Due to limited used of the sanctuary, no further replacement was necessary.



Benevolence - Pat Rehm

During the year 2020, our congregation distributed \$22,096 among 13 different agencies, plus the One Great Hour of Sharing, the annual Grace Presbytery offering, the Salado Flag Program, and Chair Yoga instruction.

This amounted to 21% of the congregation's tithes and offerings and were distributed with the assistance of John Pettijohn, Church Treasurer. Salado Family Relief used our parking lot to distribute backpacks and Christmas gifts and several church members participated in the community Thanksgiving meal in November. Thank you to committee members John Booher, Cindy Pennington, Shirley Pinkston, Joan Ray, Jerry Schleicher, and Jeanette West.



Education - Evelyn Thompson

2020 presented challenges to our educational activities. In March, the Session voted to suspend Adult Education classes until further notice. Shirley Pinkston and I lead the adult education class when we were able to meet (Jan-Mar) and continued the Covenant Bible

Study. For Lent, we began an Adam Hamilton study on Simon Peter. Pete Stebbins led the men's prayer group on Tuesday mornings when able to meet, covering Luke, Acts, Ephesians, and Romans. A 9-week Bible Study, Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament, was conducted via Zoom during the summer, thanks to Pat and Brad Rehm.



Personnel/Finance - Debby Aldridge

Rev. Thompson's 2020 contract was formally approved by the Session, remaining the same as his 2019 contract. Laquita Arner and I conducted an audit of the 2019 church financial records, with the assistance of John Pettijohn. The nominating committee, Sharon VanWinkle, Bob Todd, and I, nominated Pat Rehm and Randy Kemp to remain on the Session due to the circumstances with Covid. They are thanked for agreeing to stay on the Session. John Pettijohn will officially resign as Church Treasurer on February 1, 2021, to be replaced by Pat Hart.



Fellowship - Shirley Lett

Due to Covid-19, only two last Sunday socials were held in January and February. In October, the congregation collected snacks for the Salado Intermediate School teachers to give to their students.



Communications - Pete Stebbins

Information was collected, composed, edited, and published in the monthly Messenger, sent out to all members and Friends via email or US mail, as requested.

A Member and Friends database has been maintained, as well as an internet website.

Special prayer requests and reminders have been sent as needed.



Clerk - Pat Hart

Agendas and Minutes have been recorded for all stated and called session meetings in 2020. Church Rolls and Registers have been updated as needed with a current membership of 73. A Church statistical report has been prepared and sent to the Presbytery. A notebook meeting all of the requirements of the Book of Order has been maintained.



**John Pettijohn -
Treasurer Retired**

One Great Hour of Sharing

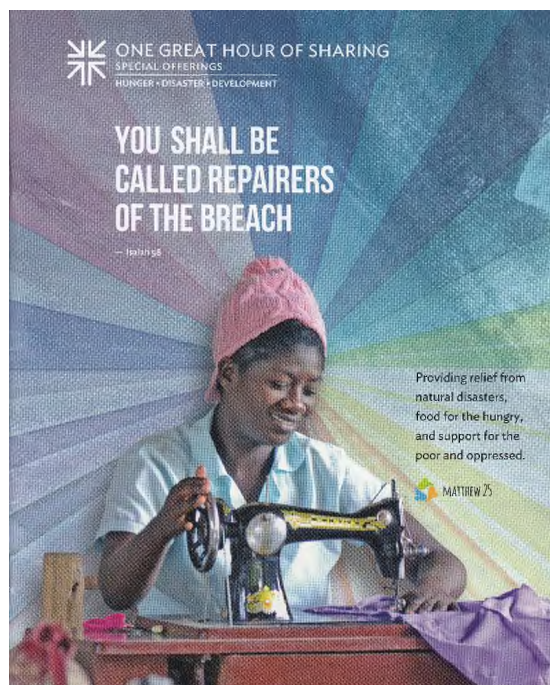
It is time to prepare for the **One Great Hour of Sharing**, a special annual offering which is observed each spring at Eastertime. It is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world. Each gift to the **OGHS** helps improve the lives of those in the world who are suffering and vulnerable. The offerings are distributed through three life-saving agencies. *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance* provides relief from natural and human-caused disasters. The *Presbyterian Hunger Program* distributes food, water, and healthcare. The *Self-Development of People* gives support to the poor and oppressed, working to bring justice, righteousness, and peace. Our gifts to these mission-oriented programs, through **OGHS**, enable Presbyterians to come together to work for a better world.

As we move closer to Easter, specific stories will be shared to explain how these three programs enable the people in communities of crisis to improve their lives. In the first half of 2020, for example, *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance* made 487 grants, totaling \$4.1 million, in the U. S. and 57 other countries. These grants included \$2.5 million to re-

spond to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, the *Presbyterian Hunger Program* awarded 94 grants, totaling over \$1 million, to the U. S. and 19 other countries. This included \$161,000 that was used to alleviate famine in South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and Northern Nigeria. In 2020, the *Self-Development of People* worked with low-income communities on their projects that focused on advocacy, youth-led initiatives, skills development, farming, worker rights, immigration/refugee issues, and capacity building. Assisting the *Self-Development of People* in this way, the **One Great Hour of Sharing** has enabled economically poor communities around the world to develop solutions to their own challenges.

During the season of Lent (February 17 – April 4), your gifts may be sent by check, payable to our church and with “**OGHS**” on the memo line. Our church office's mailing address is P. O. Box 865, Salado TX 76571. Thank you for considering to participate in this far-reaching offering for mission.

Thanks, *Pat Rehm* - Chair Benevolence Committee



Book Lover - by Linda Lloyd

My love of books started in early childhood. I could read long before I ever started school. And it's not just books. Anything to do with words-crossword puzzles, word scrambles, and a good game of Scrabble all engage me. I still remember the word I missed in the Washington County Spelling Bee. The word "isinglass" is forever emblazoned in my memory.

There is a new store in Killeen called "Ollies," which has a wonderful selection of both adult and children's books and a lot of religious selections to choose from. And the prices are really low. So of course, I have to go by there every once a while to peruse their stock.

A few days ago I hit the jackpot. I found a book titled "The Public Libraries - a Photographic Essay" by Robert Dawson. The photographs of libraries from many different places, and the writing itself were both informative and delightful. So much so that I read it from cover to cover that evening. The next morning I wrapped it and mailed it to my friend Kate in California.

Kate and I grew up together. We were "best friends," and as soon as we were old enough to go the library by ourselves, it became our favorite place. We spent so many wonderful hours in that library. Early on, we read "The Bobbsey Twins," and the "Nancy Drew" series. We loved the Laura Ingalls Wilder books. The truth is that we both would have read pretty much anything that the librarian would let us check out.

All these years later we still gift each other with books, and we seldom have a conversation that does not include some reference to a book that we are currently reading or have read recently. So you can understand why I was so excited about the book on libraries.

Kate emailed me the day that she received the book. She was just as excited as I was. And she reminded me of something that I had totally forgotten. One summer the library gave out charms for every book that you read during the summer reading program. Of course that was right up our alley. We were so excited. We were also prolific readers-and I think we had visions of the boxful of charms we would have by summer's end. By that time we had both moved on from Nancy Drew to Agatha Christie. So you can probably guess what happened.

Since they weren't kids books, no charms for us. We thought it was so unfair.

The truth is that I will probably not live long enough to read all the books that I buy, own, and have given to me. I do give a lot of books away. It took me a long time to realize that books are meant to be shared, not just put up on a shelf. I admit that I still keep too many of them, but I am proud to say that I share a lot.

I have a coffee mug that I bought because it describes my love affair with books perfectly. It depicts a cartoon featured in the New York Times. It shows a couple standing in a library, with two full bookcases. The man says "These are the books I never had a chance to finish, and these are the books I never had a chance to start."

As you probably know, the best selling book of all time is the Bible. I have several different versions in my bookcase. With the availability of every version online nowadays, that might seem a little redundant. But I don't think so. I also have a chronological study Bible,

which I do my best to read every day. I have undoubtedly read hundreds of books over the years. But that is the one I keep coming back to. And no matter what version I read, the message and the messenger are still the same. That reminds me of a song I learned to sing in Sunday School. You probably did too. "The **B I B L E**, yes that's the book for me. I stand alone on the word of God, the **B I B L E**."

May God richly bless you and keep you safe in His loving care.

From a Merry
Heart,

Linda Lloyd

**Our
Church
Library**

