



# The Messenger

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

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MIKE HART -  
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SHAY VANWINKLE -  
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RANDY KEMP  
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**ORGANIST:**  
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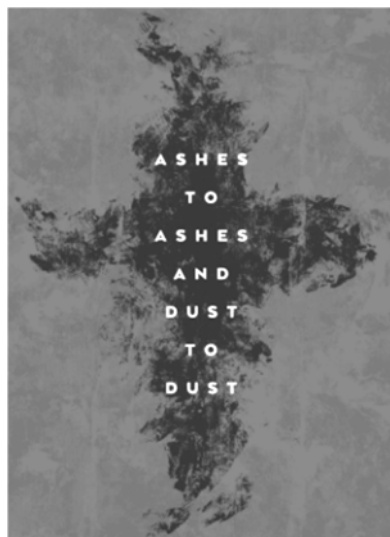
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\* ARTICLES NEED TO  
BE SUBMITTED TO  
PETE BY THE LAST  
SUNDAY OF THE  
MONTH - FOR THE  
NEXT MONTH'S  
PUBLICATION.

## Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson

Just a short note today.

The season of Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on 22 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 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. On **February 22**, we will be celebrating **Ash Wednesday** and the beginning of the Lenten Season. We will celebrate with a noon service, plus a light lunch. Put this date on your calendar.

God Bless, Carl

## 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 am.
- Chair Yoga 1pm Tues and 10:30am Thurs
- Choir Practice Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 16 -Woman's Devotional 11:30 a.m.
- Feb. 22 -Noon Ash Wed. Service &Lunch

February 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				

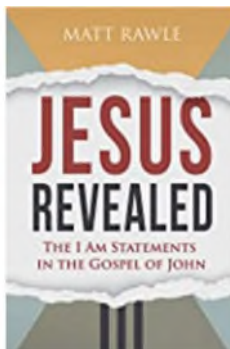
## Adult Bible Study

The Max Lucado study of the Holy Spirit's role in our lives, [Help Is Here](#), will conclude on February 12. These last two lessons review the role of the Holy Spirit as a gift giver: "The written law brings death but the Spirit gives life." (II Cor. 3:6); and, then, how Jesus gives us this life through the Holy Spirit: "If anyone believes in me, rivers of living water will flow out from that persons heart...Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit." (John 7: 37-39)

On February 19, Pat Hart will lead us in a discussion of the book [Undistracted: Capture Your Purpose, Rediscover Your Joy](#) by Bob Goff. The author wants to help us become less distracted by the things of this world and the things that are in our hearts and minds that keep us from being the people God intended us to become. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29: 11)

Also on February 19, books will be distributed for our next study, [Jesus Revealed](#), written by Matt Rawle.

On February 26, we will discuss Chapter 1 in [Jesus Revealed](#). Matt Rawle reveals Jesus through metaphors like "Light," "Bread," "Shepherd," and "Life" in this new study. The Gospel of John uses these and other symbols to paint a picture of who Jesus is, showing us that he is both fully human and fully divine, and calling us his followers.



Come join the study and enjoy the fellowship, coffee, and cookies on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. There's a place waiting for you.

*Shirley Pinkston*

Sign-up lists for greeters, liturgists, and flowers are in the narthex for the year

## Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to requests - especially in the Summer)

	5th Sunday after the Epiphany - Feb. 5	6th Sunday after the Epiphany - Feb. 12	Transfiguration Sunday - Feb. 19	Ash Wednesday Wed. Feb 22	First Sunday in Lent - Feb. 26
<b>1st Reading</b>	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Exodus 24:12-18	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 112:1-9 (10)	Psalm 119:1-8	Psalm 2	Psalm 51:1-17	Psalm 32
<b>2nd Reading</b>	1 Cori. 2:1-12 (13-16)	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	2 Peter 1:16-21	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Romans 5:12-19
<b>Gospel</b>	Matthew 5:13-20	Matthew 5:21-37	Matthew 17:1-9	Matthew 5:1-6, 16-21	Matthew 4:1-11

### Feb. Birthdays

- |         |            |    |
|---------|------------|----|
| Robert  | Harper     | 1  |
| Jerry   | Matthews   | 3  |
| Barclay | McCort     | 4  |
| Cindy   | Pennington | 8  |
| Pat     | Rehm       | 9  |
| Nate    | Kerr       | 9  |
| Randy   | Kemp       | 9  |
| Chris   | Gangler    | 12 |
| Betsy   | Tyson      | 13 |
| Laquita | Arner      | 19 |
| Claire  | Hartman    | 26 |

### About Our Members (and Prayer Requests)

**Lois Aldridge**, Jeff Aldridge's mother fell and broke a hip. Turns out that she also has COVID and can't have visitors for ten days. Being in the hospital is confusing for her along with IV's, tubes, nurses, etc. Pray for peace and healing.

**June Lubowski** is having surgery on Tuesday to replace a stent in her leg that is not working well. Pray for a successful surgery and improved blood flow.

**Joan and Chine Ray's** niece, Latrell Seeds, has a circulation issue in her foot. The doctors have tried to transplant a vein from another part of the body into the area, but with little success. She is in much pain and there is a possibility that the foot

might need to be removed. Pray for healing and good doctors.

**Aline Wilson** who played and coordinated hand bell concerts for our church at times, passed away suddenly on Sunday. Please pray for her family.

**Matt** the 11-year-old friend of the Matthews has finished the "red devil" phase of his chemo treatment. Matt hopes that he can return to school in March. (He has been home schooling while in treatment.) Pray for remission of the cancer and return to a more normal 11-year-old life.

**Carl Thompson** has good and not so good days. Please pray for healing, strength, and much wisdom for his doctors.

## Story - A Case for GOD's Existence!

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other: "Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There must be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later." "Nonsense," said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?" The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now." The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short.



Life after delivery is to be logically excluded." The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and

in the after-delivery, there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere." "Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us.

"The first replied "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?" The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her, this world would not and could not exist." Said the first: "Well I don't see her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist." To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

From  Act Biggy

## ♪ Musical Notes ♪

What a great musical start to this year and to think we have only completed January! A big "Thank You" to Shay VanWinkle for directing, the Choir for their dedication and faithfulness, and Betty Gengler who helps me "behind the scenes" with music organization and filing. What a joy to work together in serving the Lord through music!

It was quite the blessing to have Lisa Houston back from her yearly 6 month stay in Alaska to share her talent on the organ and piano this month in our worship services. Her availability to play allowed me to play the organ the first 2 Sundays for Kathy Duke who was recovering from her knee replacement. The third Sunday allowed me to worship with my younger daughter at their church in Lewisville.

This past Friday, we Celebrated the Life of Jim Arner. Caitlan and Josh Leblo (accompanied by Lisa Houston) who had served with Christy and Scott Goodfellow at the Methodist Church in Granbury, sang at this memorial service. Their voices and songs were a special blessing from God that day.

How good it also is to have the return of our 5th Sunday Worship and Fellowship lunch. Randy and Linda Clawson really enjoyed the opportunity to worship with us this past Sunday. Randy, a long-time music friend from high school days, was grateful to have the chance to lead music in our worship and sing with our choir. His love for the Lord was communicated through the hymns he led and his "Sermon in Song."

Let us look forward with anticipation to what the Lord has for us now during February! "For You, O Lord, have made me glad by Your work; at the works of your hands, I sing for joy." Psalm 92:4 ESV.

Sharing in Christ's Service, Jeanette West

## Woman's Devotional -2/16

The Church Women will meet on Thursday, February 16th. The group will gather in the classroom after chair yoga about 11:30 AM for a social time and BYO Lunch, and the devotional will begin at Noon. Please feel free to join us for a pleasant exchange of ideas. Then Jeanette West will lead a devotional and discussion on Ephesians 1:18-19. Her theme is "The Eyes of the Heart."

## Congregational Meeting Minutes from January 29 - Pat Rehm

**Presbyterian Church of Salado**  
**Pat Rehm, Clerk of Session**

### Annual Reports

**Clerk** - Pat Rehm kept records of agendas and minutes of all four Stated Session meetings, one Called Session meeting, and two Congregational meetings in 2022. Periodic statistical reports required by Grace Presbytery were also prepared and submitted on time.



**Extra annual report packets from the congregational meeting are available in the church office.**

**Personnel / Finance** - Pastor Carl Thompson presented Debby Aldridge's report, as she was called out of town. Debby met with the Pastor regarding a 6-month contract in 2023, and the Session approved it with compensation remaining the same as approved in 2022.



In April 2022, Debby and Randy Kemp performed the annual required audit of the 2021 accounting books with treasurer Pat Hart available to answer any questions. They approved the financial books for 2021 as properly maintained and correct.

**Worship** - Jeanette West reported on the regular and special worship services that occurred in 2022. A choral dismissal hymn has been added.



Congregational members are invited to assist in worship by signing lists to participate as greeters, liturgists, and providers of flowers.

**Education** - Mike Hart described four educational groups which met during 2022: the Women's Devotional on the third Thursday of the month; the Summer Bible Study on Thursdays for nine weeks; the Adult Sunday School Class from September through May; and the Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8 AM each Tuesday.



**Benevolence** - Mike Hart reported that \$26,196, or **24%** of regular Sunday offerings, was donated by our congregation to various charitable organizations last year. A poster in the narthex identifies those agencies.

**Building & Grounds** - Randy Kemp explained that due to higher utility rates and increased insurance costs, our variable expenses exceeded the budget for 2022.



No significant repairs were required, however, and three projects were completed: AC filters were replaced in June and December; repairs were made to the exterior lockset at fellowship access; and a light ballast in the Sunday School room was replaced. Major roof repairs are planned for this year, as well as replacement of the exterior door in the Sunday School room.

**Fellowship** - Shay VanWinkle thanked church members for helping with the four luncheons held last year by bringing food, putting it on serving tables, and having the room arranged appropriately.



**Communications** - Pete Stebbins mentioned that he is preparing his 130th Messenger newsletter for February; he also takes photographs of church members and gatherings and sends out congregational information upon the Pastor's request.

**Treasurer's Report** - Pat Hart reviewed the 2022 and 2023 Budgets, as well as the Balance Sheet for assets and liabilities & equity as of December 31, 2022. She explained that the roof repairs will be covered by funds from our Memorial Donations.



**Pastor's Report & Closing Prayer** - Rev. Carl Thompson intends to retire as of July 2023, and he has been guiding the current Session through the official Presbyterian protocols for his replacement. The Pastoral Search Committee is being led by Randy Kemp and consists of the active elders on our Session. The Presbytery has approved our application for a pastoral search and will send a liaison soon to meet with our search committee as it begins its task.



## Jim Arner Remembered

James Edward Arner, of Salado, Texas was 83 years old when he passed away peacefully on January 13, 2023.

Jim was born on January 23, 1939 in Monahans, Texas as the only child of Alf and Lucy Arner. After graduating from Odessa High School in 1957 he received a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Western University in El Paso, Texas.

Shortly after graduating from college, he met the love of his life, Laquita Helms, and they were married on February 2, 1962. God blessed Jim and Laquita with 2 daughters, Robin and Christy, who are his pride and joy.

Jim's professional life was spent in several different roles. Always an entrepreneur at heart, he spent the much of his career partnering with his wife as a potato broker, buying potatoes from farmers and selling them to potato chip companies.



**Celebration of Life**  
Friday, January 27, 2023  
10:00 AM  
Presbyterian Church  
of Salado  
Officiated by  
Rev. Carl Thomson

Always making family his priority, Jim wouldn't dream of missing one of his girls' activities. Never missing a ball game or a dance recital, he was the most faithful cheerleader of all their passions.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred and Lucille Arner. He is survived by his loving wife Johnnie Laquita Arner, his daughters, Robin Arner Lively, and her husband Michael (Mike): Christy Arner Goodfellow, and her husband Michael; grandchildren Coletton Michael Lively (Cole) and his wife Zoe, Christopher Arner Lively (Cal), Nicholas Scott Goodfellow (Nick), Lucas James Arner Goodfellow (Luke).

The family is comforted by the knowing that Jim is healthy and well in the presence of Jesus, singing with those who walked before him. It is well with my Soul!



Luke Arner Goodfellow



Soloist - Caitlan Leblo

### *To the wonderful people of the Presbyterian Church of Salado*

*The Arner, Goodfellow and Lively families would like to extend our sincere appreciation to you all for making Jim Arner's memorial service an experience we will cherish. Immediately upon arrival we were greeted by the volunteers who helped us with logistics and made it easy to park and enter the church. We appreciate that the choir took their time on Friday to provide us with wonderful music and their calming presence through worship. Caitlan and Josh touched our hearts with their*

*beautiful songs. To all the folks that provided the food and the welcoming environment in which to eat, commune and see Jim through video was special. We would also like to recognize Frank Coachman, our videographer.*

*Carl, you did an outstanding job of getting us aligned and ready for the word. Your message was not only touching but also right on point. You spoke from the heart, told wonderful and memorable stories that made us both laugh and cry. It is obvious that you are loved by your parishioners. Some things never change!*

# January 29 - Fifth Sunday and Social



Randy Clawson led our Fifth Sunday service with a “Sermon in Song”. He both led the choir and performed individual hymns. His love for the Lord was communicated through both. He is a long-time music friend of Jeanette West from high school days. He is currently in the choir and a Southern Gospel quartet at Main Street Baptist church, Georgetown. Randy’s wife, Linda, joined him for the morning.



Our “finger food” social and great desserts.



Lisa Houston is back from her yearly 6 month stay in Alaska to help as our “guest” organist.