



# The Messenger

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

(JULY 2020)

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\* 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

This past Monday was a busy day for me working in my garden. This was a great year for the spring planting. On Monday I did something I always hate to do. I pulled out most of the plants in my garden even though they were still producing vegetables. I had tomatoes that were still ripening and setting new blossoms.



and hope for an abundant new fall crop. I chose to let the old ones go and look forward with anticipation for the new crops.

As Christians we face the same type of choices in our Christian walk. The world offers us so many short-term temporary pleasures. Pressure comes at us from all sides to do as the world does. Heat is placed on us to do this or do that even though we know that it is not what God wants us to do and will lead to our spiritual destruction. Do we choose the short-term immediate rewards? They will only bring us temporary inferior rewards, compared to what God has in store for us if we choose to have a new life in Him. Now is the time to get rid of the old and plant our new life in Jesus Christ in the knowledge that God has promised us a new home in paradise if we trust in Him. The world can never take that away from us.



So why did I pull them out? They had produced well but with the heat of July and August coming on I knew that they would not produce good tomatoes.

Last month I started new plants from seeds in containers and from cuttings from my best producers. I know that if I don't get them planted this week, I won't get a good crop before the first frost. I had a choice to leave the old plants growing and get a few more tomatoes, or pull them out

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## 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**
- July 4 - Fourth of July Celebration**

## July 2020

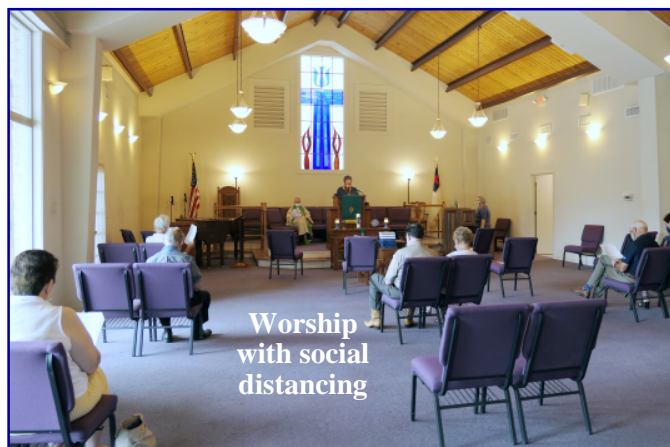
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Yoga 10:30	3	4 <b>July 4th</b>
5	6	7 Yoga 1 PM	8	9 Yoga 10:30	10	11
12	13	14 Yoga 1 PM	15	16 Yoga 10:30	17	18
19	20	21 Yoga 1 PM	22	23 Yoga 10:30	24	25
26	27	28 Yoga 1 PM	29	30 Yoga 10:30	31	

Carl continued:

Many things have happened since the last Messenger.

- We did have in-person church for four weeks but,
- We needed to stop that for a while because of the rapid increase in the spread of the virus.
- [I will continue to send out written and video sermons and church updates on Saturday night.](#)
- We have also stopped the Yoga classes for now.
- We never did start the Men’s Prayer Breakfast.

*You all take care and God Bless You. Carl*



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

	5th Sunday after Pentecost - July 5	6th Sunday after Pentecost - July 12	7th Sunday after Pentecost - July 19	8th Sunday after Pentecost - July 26
1st Reading	Genesis 24:34-67	Genesis 25:19-34	Genesis 28:10-19a	Genesis 29:15-28
Psalms	Psalms 45:10-17	Psalms 119:105-112	Psalms 139:1-112, 23-24	Psalms 105:1-11, 45b
2nd Reading	Romans 7:15-25a	Romans 8:1-11	Romans 8:12-25	Romans 8:26-39
Gospel	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## July Birthdays



Charlotte	Carl	4
Evelyn	Thompson	7
Danney	McCort	15
Nancy	Healey	27

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Rom 8:28

## About our Members (and Prayer Requests)

**Jean Teal** died on April 24 in Granbury. The memorial service to celebrate Jean’s life will be held at the Church on Saturday, July 25 but due to the virus, will be limited to the family.

**Jim Arner** is now in a long-term memory care facility in Georgetown. Please keep Jim and his caregivers in your prayers.

**Trish Stebbins** has now been home eleven weeks since she fractured her pelvis. It is healing but will take more time. Pray that God’s natural healing return her to 100% normal. Trish wants all of you to know how much your cards and calls have meant to her.

**Bob Todd** has completed his six weeks of radiation for brain cancer. The oncologist will do more testing in a couple of months after everything settles. Please keep Bob and Gidget in your prayers.

**Charlotte Carl** continues to have back pain from her fall. She’s wearing a brace from the doctor. Her back is still painful. Sometimes it seems better, other times not so good. The doctor says about two more weeks on the brace, reducing amount of time used, then don’t use it any more. She will see how that works. Basically, she’s about the same, needs continuing prayers. It’s slow healing!

**Carol Booher** is getting around well but is quite busy monitoring and adjusting all her meds. Their big concern is for a son-in-law, **Bill Prather**, who has been dealing with lung cancer and on July 1 had a lung and lymph nodes removed. The surgery was at S&W. Please pray for good results and healing.

**Julie Vesley’s** daughter, **Kirsten’s** physical therapy has progressed to strengthening exercises. Strengthening the right knee muscles will allow Kirsten to sustain increasing mechanical resistance forces. Hopefully she will eventually be able to participate in sports such as swimming, jogging etc.

**Pat Rehm** got disappointing news at the orthopedist. The new x-rays showed a 3rd fracture in the vertebrae, which the previous set had missed. That’s the reason for her increased discomfort recently! She suspects that it had happened during a fall on Father’s Day. Another kyphoplasty procedure is scheduled for 7/6. She is concerned about the increasing level of osteoporosis. Pat will continue to wear the back brace a while longer for support, and expect to keep the Bible Study Zoom meeting planned for next week.



## An Unhappy 4th of July (A News Headline - 7/2/20)

America will celebrate its 244th birthday on Saturday—but there's nothing to celebrate about the latest coronavirus numbers.

Just ahead of the July 4th holiday weekend, almost 53,000 new Covid-19 cases were diagnosed in the U.S. on Wednesday, according to the Covid Tracking Project, a record.

The number of cases is up about 37% over the past week. Testing is up as well, but only by 17% over the same span. The positive test rate, as a result, is up almost two percentage points compared with a week ago.

## “Ordinary Times?”

The liturgical calendar says that we are in “ordinary time”. But it certainly doesn't feel like an ordinary time. It seems more like a season of Lent, one of isolation, introspection, and hardship. One can only hope that this season, like the Lenten season, will not last forever and that our Easter morning will come again soon.

As Jesus lingered for 40 days in the wilderness, in meditation and prayer, in deep anguish, I wonder:

“Did Jesus really know how long it would be? Did he really know the exact moment when the end would come? Or was his time like our time is now? Fluid and uncertain? Filled with fear and anxiety?”

I love these words from the book of Esther: “for such a time as this”. From everything I read and hear, the world was not prepared for such a time as this. But we as Christians, however long we must abide in this wilderness, must use this time to seek clarity about God's kingdom, remain faithful to the one who has called us, and trust that He will carry us through this pandemic and into the new life to which God continually leads us.

From a Merry Heart, *Linda Lloyd*



*Psalm 56:9* reminds us, “The very moment I call to you for a Father's help, the tide of the battle turns and my enemies flee. The one thing I know: God is on my side.”

This Psalm stood true in biblical times, and it proves true in this day as well.

Though there is great fear surrounding the threat of disease, we can rest assured that we have a Father in Heaven who is with us in all things. This truth is true especially today with the spread of the coronavirus.



**Church maintenance and updates for the church calendar year continue!**

**Monte and Carl**

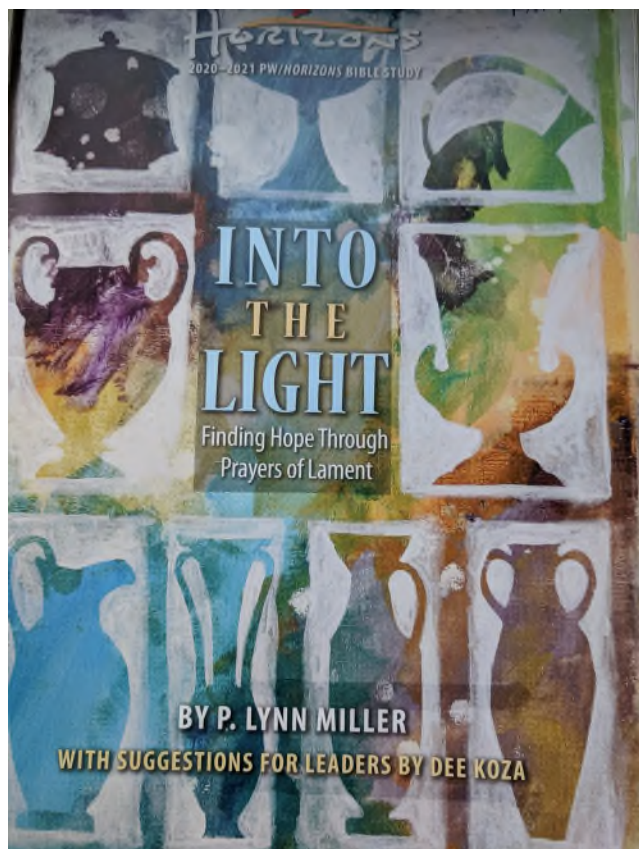
## Summer Bible Study to Start July 9<sup>th</sup> - Pat Rehm



For the past two years, both men and women have been invited to read and discuss a series of nine Bible lessons published by the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. and distributed through Presbyterian Women's *Horizons* Magazine. This year's study is called *Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament*, and the author is an experienced Presbyterian pastor, P. Lynn Miller. In her "Introduction," The Reverend Dr. Miller answers the question, "Why offer a study of Biblical lament?" and then considers many things in our world that remind us that God's reign has not yet come. In the study, she turns to scriptural examples in both of the Old and New Testaments, examining lament as a kind of prayer that can help us understand our role today as followers of Christ, as we strive to bring God's reign into the world. Even though she had to select this theme a few years ago, it seems especially relevant to the current social and economic situation in today's world.

An invitation to previous participants was sent earlier this spring, and those who responded have received their books. Others in the congregation are still welcome to get a book by contacting Pat Rehm at 512-876-4211 or at [pacrehm2017@gmail.com](mailto:pacrehm2017@gmail.com). The study book will be given freely to anyone interested. As before, participants may choose whether to meet with others on Thursdays at noon from July 9<sup>th</sup> through August 27<sup>th</sup> or to read each lesson on their own. The readers can refer to an included "Leader's Guide" with pertinent suggestions available, and they can call Pat to share ideas or questions.

This year we will have our discussions in Zoom tele-meetings, and Pat will send out an email invitation a few days before July 9<sup>th</sup>, with a link to the meeting. It is easy to follow instructions to participate and join the group. As the host, Pat will bring you into the meeting when it starts. If you have a camera on your computer, you can use it, or not. It would allow you to see the others and let them see you, but you can participate by voice only, if you'd prefer. We'll all be learning the Zoom system together!



### LIFE ADVICE:

Always be the best person you can be.  
 Be kind even when you're tired. Be understanding even when you're angry.  
 Do more than you're asked, and don't ask for anything in return. Don't silently expect anything either. Listen when someone talks, and really listen too, stop just thinking of how you'll reply. Tell people that you love them and that you appreciate them. Go out of your way to do things for people. Be the greatest person you can possibly be and when you mess up, make up for it in the next moment or minute or day.

I really liked this quote and although it is not specifically Christian, it seems to follow our teachings. Pete