



The Messenger

June 2023

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REV. CARL THOMPSON
MINISTERS:
THE CONGREGATION

SESSION MEMBERS:
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

ORGANIST:
JEANETTE WEST

CHOIR DIRECTOR:
SHAY VANWINKLE

**COMMUNICATIONS &
MESSENGER EDITOR**
#134 PETE STEBBINS

* 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

As the words to the song, "Summertime" go "Summertime, and the livin' is easy." I hope this will be true for you this summer. Yes, summertime is here again, time really flies by faster and faster every year. Our religious education program will be taking a summer break and the choir will be slowing down a little bit. I know many of you will be beginning your summer travels to visit family and friends. For us here in the Presbyterian Church of Salado another Fall-Winter-Spring cycle is over.



Beginning in June of every year, we pause to take a break from our activities to allow all of our people to have an opportunity to rest and relax for the summer. Then in September we can start again rested and relaxed. For the next three months you will see a reduction in many of our programs. It is important



for you to rest. "Rest" is defined as "peace, ease or refreshment." "Relax" means "to become loose or less firm, to have a milder manner, to be less stiff."

The Bible speaks quite highly of rest. It is a repeated theme throughout Scripture, beginning with the creation week. God created for six days; then God rested, not because God was tired but to set the standard for mankind

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Calendar of Events

- Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Communion on First Sunday each mo.
- Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. @ 8 am.
- Chair Yoga 1pm Tues and 10:30am Thurs
- Choir Practice Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m.
- June 14 - Flag Day
- June 18 - Fathers Day
- June 18 - Session Meets before Worship
- July 2 - Carl & Evelyn's Retirement Social after the Worship Service

JUNE 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

to follow. According to the Bible, rest is about more than just taking time off. After creating the world, God looked around and saw that “it was very good.” God did not just cease from his labor; God stopped and enjoyed what God had made.

What does this mean for us? We need to stop to enjoy God, to enjoy God’s creation, to enjoy the fruits of our labor. The whole point of Sabbath is joy in what God has done. In the Bible, Sabbath rest means to cease regularly from activities and to enjoy the results of your efforts. Our rest days are now called vacations or down days. We need to take that time to rejuvenate: physically, mentally, and spiritually. I hope you all have a great summer.

God bless you.

Carl and Evelyn



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

	1st Sunday after Pentecost - June 4	1st Sunday after Pentecost - June 11	1st Sunday after Pentecost - June 18	1st Sunday after Pentecost - June 25
1st Reading	Genesis 1:1 to 2:4a	Genesis 12:1-9	Genesis 18:1-15	Genesis 21:8-21
Psalm	Psalm 8	Psalm 33:1-12	Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Psalm 85:1-10, 16-17
2nd Reading	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Romans 4:13-25	Romans 5:1-8	Romans 6:1b-11
Gospel	Matthew 28:16-20	Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	Matthew 9:35 to 10:8	Matthew 10:24-39

June Birthdays

Letta Meinen 2
 Sharon Michael 9
 Bill Pinkston 22
 Ralph Castor 23
 Amy Carlson 25
 Shirley Pinkston 27



About Our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Rip VanWinkle has had some sort of illness/infection for a while. He recently went to a doctor for testing, then was called back to the hospital at midnight on Sunday. Pray that the testing identifies the issue and points toward a diagnosis and cure. Shay has been worn out with all the care she has been providing (and loss of sleep). Shay also has a son that has pneumonia and is going to have an evaluation for surgery in San Antonio on Thursday for a ruptured disk. Please pray for Rip and Shay plus Richard (son) and Michelle (daughter who is helping).

Susan Carroll had surgery with biopsies. She is recovering from the surgery and needs prayers that the tests don’t show any stray cancer cells. This is difficult in that

Susan is still involved in Joe’s care. It is a blessing that Susan’s daughter can help.

Missie Lanham had a brain bleed (hemorrhagic) stroke on Sunday, April 23rd. She has been in the BS&W ICU, a hospital room, rehab at Cornerstone Gardens, and is now continuing her rehab while staying with Rosie Chapman in Temple. Rosie cares for two folks in her home. Please keep Missie in your prayers. Cards can be sent to her home and will be hand carried to her.

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you so much for your cards, thoughts and prayers. It’s comforting to have a church community that cares so much during all phases of one’s life. It brings me peace that surpasses understanding!

In Jesus’ name and Love to all, Missie

Stated Session Meeting Minutes - Sunday May 7, 2023

Report: Pastoral Search Committee - Randy Kemp

The Search Committee has interviewed the Rev. Mari Lyn Jones and voted to offer her a contract as Stated Supply for one year as of August 1, 2023. Randy moved to make the offer official today, and Debby Aldridge seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



Clerk of Session - Pat Rehm

The Minutes for March 19, 2023 were approved as previously distributed.

Treasurer's Report - Pat Hart

Regular monthly offerings were lower than usual, but the One Great Hour of Sharing made up for the difference. The April cleaning costs were over the monthly budget, but a new company will allow us to stay on budget. Upon his retirement, Pastor Carl will receive payment for 13 weeks of vacation which he has not taken during his time here. That has been set aside.

Committee Reports -----

Worship - Jeanette West

The choir will continue to practice through June, but not meet during July and August. Members can continue to sit in the loft and lead hymns during the summer.

Education - Mike Hart

The Adult Sunday School Class will end on May 28th and resume after Labor Day. The Men's Bible Study continues with Isaiah weekly. The Summer Bible Study, called "Sacred Encounters," will take place for 9 weeks.

Building and Grounds - Randy Kemp

The new cleaning service, Centex Office Pros, started on May 5th and will follow a regular weekly plan for \$512 per month, including buffing floors quarterly. Roof repair will happen this summer.

Fellowship - Shay VanWinkle

The social gatherings are handled by a "great group of ladies," and she has been grateful for their help at the meals for recent memorial services, the April 30th lunch, & Maundy Thursday.

Communications - Pete Stebbins

Pastor Carl thanked Pete for distributing his occasional updates to the congregation.

Benevolence - Mike Hart

The annual pledge of \$3,000 has been sent to Grace Presbytery, as well as our 2023 One Great Hour of Sharing offering of \$2,786. The Benevolence Committee will

meet in person soon to decide on our quarterly donations.

Personnel/Finance - Debby Aldridge

The annual audit of our church's finances was done on April 11, 2023 by Debby and Laquita Arner, and the signed document was given to the Clerk. A special 'Thank You!' goes to Cindy Pennington for her expert handling of weekly offerings. John Pettijohn and Debby Aldridge assist Cindy.

Debby moved that our contract with Rev. Mari Lyn Jones for a stated supply maximum of \$45,000 for one year beginning on August 1, 2023 be approved. Shay VanWinkle seconded the motion, and approval was voted unanimously. The disbursement of payments will be decided by Treasurer Pat Hart, Debby Aldridge, and Rev. MariLyn Jones.

Old Business - Rev. Carl Thompson -----

Rev. Jones will inform Worship Elder Jeanette West of the minimum amount for pulpit supply honorariums and mileage reimbursement.

Sound system upgrades are not needed now, but we do need a new projector for funerals and 5th Sunday presentations. Jeanette West moved that memorial funds be used to purchase a new projector with the Windows 11 System. Randy Kemp seconded the motion, which was approved.

New Business - Pat Hart -----

Carl & Evelyn Thompson requested that their immediate family and the congregation be invited to their retirement reception and luncheon on July 2nd, after Worship. Special invitations will include the Broeckers and members from the community who attend the weekly Men's Breakfast & Bible Study. The Thompsons' daughter, Amy Carlson, wishes to make the cake for that occasion. **"No nuts" will be requested for donated foods, due to potential allergic reactions.**

Pastor's Report - Rev. Carl Thompson -----

Pastor Carl thanked Session members for maintaining confidentiality when necessary and said, "We were always in one accord" in support of him and the Session's decisions. He appreciated having a trusting and open relationship with us. He advised us to talk to the new pastor and care for her as a new person with her own ideas. This is an opportunity for Session members, as the leaders of the congregation, to look at what may need to be changed and to take appropriate action.

Called Session Meeting – June 18, 2023 prior to worship in Carl's office; Opening Prayer by Rev. Carl Thompson, Next Regular Session Meeting – August 20, 2023.

Respectfully **Pat Rehm**, Clerk of the Session

“BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD”

How many times have we heard that verse from Psalms 46:10? Easy to say, but hard to do. In this crazy, busy world that we live in, I doubt that being “still” occurs to most of us very often.

Ralph and I just returned from vacationing with my family. We drove to Charleston, South Carolina. We spent a few days with my dad and my brother, and then moved to the lovely beachside house that we had leased for the week on Seabrook Island. My daughter Dawn, her husband Jim, and their daughter Taylor flew in to be with us. My Dad, with my brother and his family, joined us at the beach house at various times that week.

Walking into the house, you had a beautiful view of the ocean and the covered porch which ran along the back side. There was a long pier and stairs leading down to the beach. When the tide came in, the bottom stair would be covered in water; and you’d have to wait until the tide went out again to access the beach.

I can’t tell you how many hours I sat in a chair on that porch and just watched the water and listened to the waves. They were so powerful, and yet so peaceful, all at the same time. One day, when everyone else was otherwise occupied, I fell asleep out there. (A very unusual occurrence for me, as I seldom take naps). On another day, my dad, Ralph, and I, sat out there all day, just watching and listening to God’s creation. We watched the pelicans fly and soar, the salamanders scale the walls, and felt the cool ocean breeze wafting around us. Few words were spoken. There was no need. It was indeed “still.”



From the moment I first entered the house, all I could think of was the verse from Psalms 107:23-31. *“They that go down to the sea in ships, That do business in great waters; these see the works of the Lord. For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind. Which lifteth up the waves thereof, and his wonders in the deep”.*



The verse reminded me of a poem which I had known from childhood. It was written by James A. Tweedie, a pastor, who was inspired by the verse; and paraphrased it in the poem. It goes like this:

*The men who go down to the sea in their ships,
Who sail on the water and pursue their trade,
The sound of the sea echoes back from their lips,
Their eyes see the wonder of what God has made.
Then God gives the word and the winds start to blow,
Releasing the waves to rise up and be free.
They mount to the heavens, above all below,
And fall to the depths of the fathomless sea.
The sailors’ hearts melt as the tempest bears down,
They reel, to and fro, as drunk on new wine,
And helplessly cling to the mast, lest they drown,
While crying out to God to be spared from the brine.
The Lord hears their plea, as their cries fill the air,
By grace stills the storm, and becalms every wave,
And then they are glad, for the Lord heard their prayer,
And guides them to harbor, and spares them the grave.
“Be still, and know that I am God.”*

From a Merry Heart, *Linda Lloyd*

🎵 Musical Notes 🎵

The adult choir has done an excellent job in learning music to sing in our weekly worship service! We have been singing a different Choral Call to Worship and Choral Dismissal Hymn each week! That means we can better coordinate the choir selections with the scriptures selected each week. Be sure to let our adult choir know their leading in worship through music helps you focus on God as you worship!

The choir members will be doing something different

during June....We will be having our regular Wednesday choir practice to continue through the month. We will be taking a shorter summer break during the months of July and August! If you have been thinking about "trying" choir to see what a blessing it can be in your spiritual growth, NOW IS THE TIME! No degree in music is required, nor do you have to know anything about "reading" music. Just come prepared for a musical opportunity to sing, worship as we prepare for worship, laugh, pray, and add the dimension of music to your life! Hope to see on the 4 Wednesdays in June!

Sharing in Christ's Service, *Jeanette West*

Women's Devotional Meeting on May 18

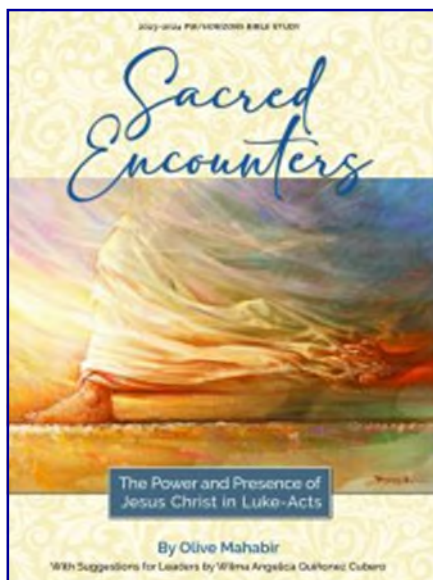
Mari Lyn Jones, who has been attending this woman's group with Evelyn Thompson for a while, led a discussion on "devotional practices." She asked the group to recall and possibly take notes on four different kinds of devotional experiences, including (1) their earliest personal devotional, (2) a sustained regular devotional time, (3) a recent devotion using Scripture, and (4) a personal devotion with special meaning. After everyone had paired with someone sitting next to them and shared one of their experiences, some members shared with the group their preferred personal devotional method.



Then Mari Lyn explained some of the devotional practices which she has found helpful over the years, such as using written daily devotional materials, timed meditation, praying with colors, journaling, walking, or gardening. Currently she refers to scripture, prayers, and meditations from the Northumbrian monastic community in Scotland, listens to music, and reads poetry during her morning devotional.



In a closing devotional activity, Mari Lyn led the group in reading aloud some selected prayers, scripture, and poems, also sharing the recorded song "One Voice," calling for the sound of harmony from many voices.



Bible Study Planned for July and August

The *Horizon Magazine's* new Bible Study for 2023 - 2024 is called "Sacred Encounters," referring to the special relationship Jesus had with 'everyday people.' The author is Olive Mahabir, who invites readers to consider the depiction of Jesus as "the Good Shepherd" in Luke and Acts. Both books were written by Luke the Physician, also thought to have been a traveling companion of Paul, as they took a hope-filled message about Jesus to the early Christian community.

In previous summers, we have met for nine consecutive weeks in July and August on Thursdays at 11:30 for a lunch/social time and at Noon for the study lesson. Even if you can't attend every time, you can still read the lesson and talk with others who did attend. **July 6 would be our starting date.** Is this same plan mostly good for your schedule?

If you would like to order a book, please contact Pat Rehm at 512-876-4211 or at her new email, rooster.rock11@gmail.com.