



The Messenger

March 2023

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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

As most of you already know, my favorite pastime for nine months of the year, is working in my garden. Every year I think I need more space and haul in additional loads of dirt, so I can then plant more vegetables. However, this year I have been given a mandate by Evelyn, no more expansion, but I already did it.

We live on the top of a hill which is solid rock. We have had to haul in loads and loads of topsoil and compost. Even with this augmentation, I had two spots where nothing would grow, but I decided to fix that problem. Starting last November, I brought in more loads of dirt and wood chips, to enhance this soil. I made sure that all the clods of hard clay were pulverized and thoroughly mixed in with the compost. This project has taken hours and hours of work.



Why did I do it? Because I want my garden to bear fruit. For it to do that, I had to remove all the weeds, provide a good soil base, and fertilize so that my seedbed would be ready for the seeds and my garden would bear much fruit (and vegetables). Jesus told a parable about a fig tree. A fig tree had been growing in a vine-covered garden for six years. It was full of green leaves, but it bore no fruit, so the owner decided to cut it down. But in the parable, there is a gardener. He asks the owner to give him another chance at the fig tree. "Let me fertilize it for another year. If the tree bears figs, fine. If it does not, then destroy it." And the parable ends there.



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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.
- Mar. 16 -Woman's Devotional 11:30 a.m.
- Mar. 19 - Session Meeting after Worship

March 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	31	

Carl Comments Continued

Jesus is represented by the gardener in the parable who pleads with the owner, God, to give him another chance with it. He will cultivate the soil, he will fertilize it, and perhaps it will bear fruit. The purpose of the tree is to bear fruit and our purpose on this earth is to bear fruit for God. During Lent we need to allow Jesus to till the weeds out of our lives (SIN) and break up the clods of dirt in our lives (i.e., Prejudice, Hate, and Resentment) so that we can bear fruit.

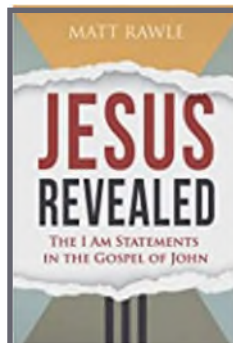
But to have a great crop, not just a crop, we need to add fertilizer. We need to add "Miracle Grow" to the soil of our lives. This fertilizer has three major ingredients: Worship, Bible Study, and Prayer mixed thoroughly by the Holy Spirit. When our lives contain these major ingredients we will bear much fruit for God; without them we will wither and die.

How is your spiritual life growing? Need to do some work on it? Let this season of Lent be a time of Spiritual Growth as we work to bear more fruit for God. And yes, after this year, I will not make the garden any bigger.

God Bless you. *Carl and Evelyn*

Adult Bible Study

Our latest study, Jesus Revealed, is written by Matt Rawle. This study began on February 26 and will take us through Lent. Matt Rawle reveals Jesus through metaphors like "Light," "Bread," "Shepherd," and "Life" in this study. The Gospel of John uses these and other symbols to paint a picture of who Jesus is, showing us that he is fully human and fully divine and calling us to be 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)

	Second Sunday in Lent - March 5	Third Sunday in Lent - March 12	Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 19	Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 26
1st Reading	Genesis 12: 1-4a	Exodus 17:1-7	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalms	Psalms 121	Psalms 95	Psalms 23	Psalms 130
2nd Reading	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	Romans 5:1-11	Ephesians 5:8-14	Romans 8:6-11
Gospel	John 3:1-17 or Matt. 17:1-9	John 4:5-42	John 9:1-41	John 11:1-45

March Birthdays

Lilly Kerr 8
 Ron Miller 15
 Brad Rehm 28

May God give you more and more grace and peace as you grow in your knowledge of God and Jesus our Lord.
2 Peter 1:2

About Our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Liam, Carl and Evelyn Thompson's 16-year-old Copperas Cove grandson, ended up with a concussion after a car ran into his school bus about 3 weeks ago. He went into the hospital last Tuesday and back in again Saturday to Monday night for extreme headaches and vomiting. Please pray for healing.

Shirley Lett's doctor has some concerns about something going on with the electrical parts of the heart - like one little part is not firing like it should! So, she is being sent to a Cardiologist on Friday, 3/3. As her prognosis is determined, she will let us know! Prayers are appreciated!

Matt the 11-year-old friend of the Matthews has finished the "red devil" phase of his chemo treatment. Matt hopes that he can re-

turn 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.

Lois Aldridge, Jeff Aldridge's mother fell and broke a hip. She's completed rehab and has returned to her assisted living 'home' and is doing well at this time.

Charlie Vestal, a long-time friend of Laquita Arner had a stroke but is now at home in Waco doing his rehabilitation.

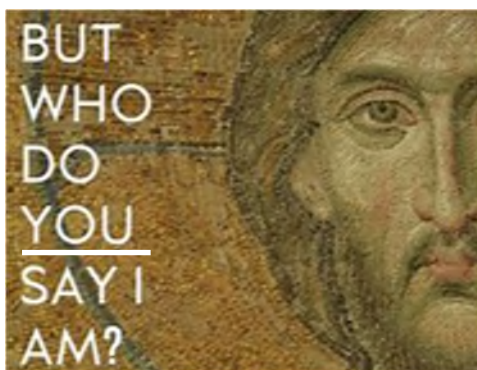
Joan and Chine Ray's niece, Latrell Seeds, had a circulation issue and ended up passing away. Pray for the family.

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

THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" "They replied, "John the Baptist or one of the prophets." He then asked them another question. "Who do you say that I am? Most of them were slow to answer. But Simon Peter replied, "You are the Messiah, the son of the living God."

Easter is quite the dichotomy. You could describe it as two sides of the same coin, the crucifixion, and the resurrection, the bad and the good.



When Jesus was arrested and taken before the Sanhedrin, Caiaphas, the high priest, questioned him. "Are you the Christ, the son of God?" A short time later, when Jesus was taken to the governor, Pilate, he was asked, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

And so we come to the most important question of Easter. Who do we say that Jesus is? Romans 10:9-10: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord', and believe in your heart, that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

"CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!"

"Happy Easter" from a Merry Heart.

Linda Lloyd

Woman's Devotional - 3/16

The "Third Thursday" devotional and social gathering for the women of our church is on Thursday, March 16, and the topic for discussion will be presented by Pat Rehm on "God's Faithfulness."

You are invited to gather in the classroom after chair yoga, about 11:30 a.m. Feel free to bring your lunch or just come to chat and enjoy friends before the devotional begins at noon.

Musical Notes

During the season of Lent, we are encouraged to use this time for self-examination to help us remember the price Jesus paid on the cross for our sins. Many of the hymns of Lent seem a bit more solemn and reflective. In our Presbyterian Hymnal, there is a section entitled LENT, between pages 76-87. As you look through these on the Sundays during Lent and as you personally prepare your heart for worship, the hymns themselves may not seem familiar as oftentimes they are sung very seldom and only during the season of Lent.



I would like to challenge you to select a hymn each week to read and think about the meaning of the words prior to the service. Search for the author's key message.

Along with each hymn, remember John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Sharing in Christ's Service, *Jeanette West*

Choir Update



Believe it or not, the choir does not only practice, practice, practice. We do take time for food, fellowship, and fun as was the case on February 15, 2023. We had a little Post-Valentine/Pre-Lent gathering following practice on that day.

We were so busy eating, sharing stories, laughing, and just having a good time, we never even thought of taking a picture to share in this Messenger! It is amazing what things we can learn about each other in a more relaxed time of sharing around a table! Know you too, can always come to share in our choir opportunity!

Always making a joyful noise! - Our Choir

Greetings to all at Salado

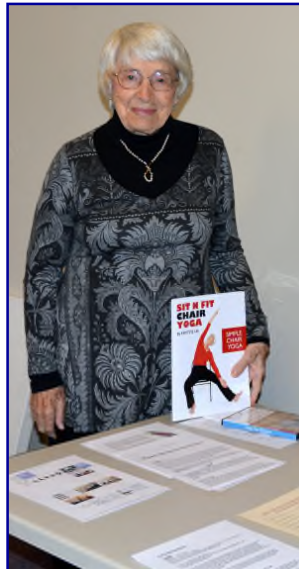
Presbyterian Church - Letta Meinen

It's been two years since I moved from Salado in 2020. Due to the need of hip surgery, my son Russ thought it best that I move to Fort Worth. My age of 95 was also one of his reasons for me to move.

Yes, I miss Salado, had such a good life there and was involved in many activities (including golf). The 20 years go by so fast when you enjoy everything and the people are so friendly. I was a member of the Presbyterian church and joined the same year Carl became minister. Church activities included Elder, adult Sunday school, choir, and Yoga. I miss all of you, but as we say, life goes on.

It has been an interesting two years. The Hip surgery finally happened, and I recovered fast. I can't say the condition of my first Fort Worth residence was so great, so my son decided to move me to the Advantage Apartments. This is a larger complex with many apartments and is closer to his office. I now have a full kitchen, to keep me occupied - along with my work as Amazon Vine reviewer. Meeting new friends is great and many of them know about Salado. I enjoy the exercise class each morning.

You may remember about me having heart issues a while back. But after several years of Chair Yoga at the Presbyterian Church, those vanished. However, after moving to Fort Worth and an unsuccessful fight to bring Chair Yoga here; my heart issues returned. Several times my heart doctor has recommended surgery. At 97 years of age, I have refused. I live each day as it comes and when the Good Lord is ready for me, I look forward to another new beginning.



Letta started the Chair Yoga program at our Church.

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Extreme Caution

Carl and Evelyn are being cautious about being contaminated with germs while Carl's immune system is susceptible to attack.

Just wondering if a "social distance support animal" might help?



Substitute Teachers



The Adult Sunday School Class is fortunate to have an excellent teacher in Shirley Pinkston, but in the past couple of months two "Subs" have stepped in and done a great job. This picture shows Pat Hart, but Evelyn Thompson has also proven to be an outstanding teacher!

February 22 - Ash Wednesday Service and Lunch



“Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season and takes place 46 days before Easter. The concept behind Ash Wednesday is penance. It is a day to confess sins, ask forgiveness from God, and ponder the transitory nature of our physical bodies.”



All Ash Wed. Photos by Pat Hart

