



The Messenger

May 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

I am sure all of you know the old saying, "April showers bring May flowers." The storms that come up in our lives help to mold us into who we are and how we live out our faith. Sometimes, when those storms strike, it might take years before we can look back and see how they made a flower bloom in our life or the lives of others.



I think about members of our small congregation that seem to be getting hit by one storm after another, and yet they don't lose their faith. The old phrase, "One Day at a Time" takes on real meaning, as we face these many oncoming storms. We can't change yesterday, and tomorrow is not promised to us, so we must deal with today. A real prayer can be a shout out to God, "Help me make it through the next hour God, give me the physical, emotional, and spiritual strength I need for today. God, I want you to know I'll be coming back tomorrow for a refill."

The church becomes God's agent for making things happen. What encourages me so much about our little congregation is how our members are able to both: identify with and reach out to those who are facing issues in their lives despite what's happening in their own lives.

I also want to thank you for helping make worship, *being in the presence of God*, more solemn, by being seated and in quiet reflection as the prelude is being played. It is at this time that we still our hearts and minds and prepare to worship our Holy God. I know we like to talk with our friends in the congregation, but when the organist starts

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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.
- May 6 - Jim Ervi Service at 10 a.m.
- May 7 - Session Meeting after Worship
- May 18 - Women's Devotional led by Rev. Mari Lyn Jones

May 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

playing the prelude, (they work hard preparing it) please be seated and prepare your hearts and still your minds in preparation to worship God.

Finally, thanks for the cards and prayers concerning my surgery. It was a hit on my system, but I am doing much better. You all know me well, I just don't like to be still, and I need to learn that things don't have to be done right now. Life just seems to make its own curves sometimes and I need go with the



flow knowing that God is in the midst of my life whatever comes my way. I have to remember, **“One Day at a Time.”** I pray that as you face any issues in your life, that you know you are not alone, God is with you. God loves you. Your church family will be praying for you because we are the “family of God.”

Carl and Evelyn

Adult Bible Study

Our last study before summer break is Reckless Love by Tom Berlin. It began on April 16 and will conclude on May 28th. The book is based on Jesus' "Great Commandment" to love God and our neighbor. It may sound simple but when you really study its implications, you will realize its complexity. We will learn to understand how this life of love transforms us into the people God always meant for us to be.



Hope you all can join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for fellowship, discussion, coffee and cookies. I'll be looking for you.
Shirley Pinkston

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

	Fifth Sunday of Easter - May 7	Sixth Sunday of Easter - May 14	Seventh Sunday of Easter - May 21	Day of Pentecost - May 28
1st Reading	Acts 7:55-60	Acts 17:22-31	Acts 1:6-14	Acts 2:1-21
Psalm	Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16	Psalm 66:8-20	Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
2nd Reading	1 Peter 2:2-10	1 Peter 3:13-22	1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
Gospel	John 14:1-14	John 14:15-22	John 17:1-11	John 20:19-23

May Birthdays

Brady Carlson 22
Lilree Jackson 23
Evelyn Matthews 26
Denice Kemp 28
Knox Tyson 30



About Our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Jim Ervi (James R. Ervi, Sr.) passed away on May 1st after a heart attack. Please continue to pray for his family as they deal with the loss. Services for Jim are on **Sat, May 6:**

- Visitation at the Church – 9 to 10 A.M.
- Service at the Church – 10 A.M.
- Interment at Salado Cemetery – 11 A.M.
- Lunch at Church

(Those that can help with the luncheon are asked to contact Laquita Arner)

Missie Lanham Missie had a brain bleed (hemorrhagic) stroke on Sunday, April 23rd. She has been in the BS&W ICU, a Hospital Room, and now in Rehab at Cornerstone Gardens in Temple. Please pray for recovery; future independence, and the family.

Her spirits are up! And her positive energy is shining thru!

Pastor Carl Thompson had a significant hernia repaired two weeks ago. He has some swelling, so pray that it is just normal stuff. He will visit his doctor and will have a reading on it soon. Pray for no complications, healing, and patience.

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

Obituary - James R. Ervi

February 19, 1933 ~ May 1, 2023

Services for Jim Ervi will be Saturday, May 6, 10:00, at the Presbyterian Church in Salado with Carl Thompson officiating. A burial will follow at Salado Cemetery with Military Honors.



Jim was born on February 19, 1933, in Electra, TX. He was raised by his mother, Gladys Ervi, until her death when he was 8 years old. He moved to Bartlesville, Oklahoma, where he lived with his grandparents on a farm. His grandmother died when Jim was 15, and with the assistance of his aunts, who lied about his age, he enlisted in the US Army at age 16.

Jim did well at his basic training and attended leadership school. After being in the Army for only a year, he was sent to Korea to fight in the Korean War. He saw his first combat in August 1950. He became a platoon sergeant while in the war, still only 18 years old. He returned from Korea and was stationed at Fort Sill, OK.

He began visiting back home in Bartlesville, where he went on a blind date with Roxie Berry, his eventual wife of 51 years. They married in late 1952, while Roxie was in the middle of her Senior year in high school. Jim had received orders to Germany, and Roxie followed him there after graduating high school in May 1953. Jim graduated from helicopter school in Fort Rucker, Alabama in 1957. He was sent to Korea for a year in 1961.

Jim moved his family to Killeen in 1964, and he and Roxie bought a home there. Jim was sent to fly Huey gunships in the Vietnam War in 1965. After his return from Viet Nam, Jim and his family moved to Verona, Italy for two and a half years. Then Jim returned to Vietnam for another year before retiring from the US Army in 1969.

He then worked for a military service company selling to the varied units in Fort Hood. He was very successful, and then operated a car lot in Killeen for a few years, while also aiding Roxie in operating a convenience store in Granger. They moved to Salado on 10 undeveloped acres that they transformed into a small cattle ranch. Jim treasured every inch of the place and spent the rest of his life trying to make it a little more beautiful every year.

Jim was a devoted grandfather. He attended all his grandchildren's sporting events. He is survived by his three sons: James and wife Kitty of Killeen, Mark and wife Mary of Killeen, and Barry, who lives in Carrollton. He has 6 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

The visitation will be one hour prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: Presbyterian Church of Salado. Services are in the care of Broecker Funeral Home of Salado.



**Jim Ervi is a proud US Veteran
Standing with other church Veterans,
Veterans Day Celebration, November 2017**

... SPRING ...



Oh, how I love Spring! The sun is shining. The rose bushes are bursting with blooms. The purple iris are standing tall. A gentle breeze wafts through the trees; and the rain falls softly against my window.

Many songs remind me of Spring! But my favorite is "This is My Father's World," especially the first two verses. You may recall that it goes like this:

"This is my Father's world and to my listening ears,

All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.

This is my Father's world: I rest me in the thought,

Of rocks and trees, of skies and seas. His hand, the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world. The birds their carols raise.

The morning light, the Lily bright, declare their maker's praise.

This is my Father's world, He shines in all that's fair.

In the rustling grass I hear Him pass. He speaks to me everywhere."

God reveals Himself to us every day. He's in the beautiful blue sky and in the white drifting clouds, and in the rainbow of many colors. He is around us and in us. He leads us and carries us. As Pastor Carl said on Sunday, "we only need to pay attention, but we tend to take things for granted."

"Give thanks to the Lord for he is good; His love endures forever."
(Psalms 118:1)

Happy Mother's Day, *Linda Lloyd*

Woman's Devotional

The "Third Thursday" devotional and social gathering for the women of our church is on Thursday, May 18, and Mari Lyn Jones will be the leader.

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. The devotional begins at noon.



Our contributions to "One Great Hour of Sharing" was again a success in 2023. But, it was 17% lower than last year's record giving.



Lisa Houston, our guest organist, and her husband will be heading back to Alaska for part of the Summer.
Thanks, Lisa!

♪♪ Musical Notes ♪♪

What a wonderful time of singing the choir had leading our congregation in worship this past Sunday (April 30). The hymns selected were among favorites of Carl & Evelyn Thompson, as well choir members.

What a blessing it was to hear duets by Shirley and Bill Pinkston/"Precious Lord Take My Hand," as well as Linda Lloyd and John Booher/"The Old Rugged Cross," as these hymns are favorites of so many and always touch our hearts!

Please keep Rip VanWinkle in your prayers as he was unable to participate in the choir this past Sunday. We are always blessed when we hear him sing and will look forward to another special hymn sung by him soon.

A special thanks to Shay VanWinkle for directing the choir, Nancy Norris ringing the bells, Lisa Houston on the organ, and especially our dedicated choir members who love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ through their gifts of music. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

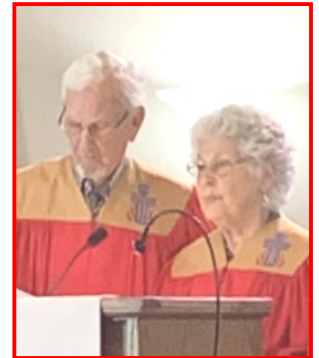
Sharing in Christ's Service - *Jeanette West*

Additional Note: The Adult Choir will continue practicing through the month of June to prepare for July 2, Carl and Evelyn's Retirement Sunday.

Maundy Thursday Service and Communion - 4/6/23



Fifth Sunday Service and Social - 4/30/23



Duet - Bill and Shirley Pinkston



**“Social”
food line -
Matthews,
Copelands
and Ann
Faber**



**Duet - John Booher
and Linda Lloyd**



**Nancy Norris
Ringing the Bells**