



The Messenger

November 2023

CHURCH OFFICE:
105 SALADO PLAZA
DRIVE - P.O. BOX 865
SALADO, TX 76571
(254) 308-2023

PRESBSALADO
@GMAIL.COM

WEBSITE:
PRESBSALADO.ORG

PASTOR:
REV. MARI LYN JONES
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**
#138 PETE STEBBINS

* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH - FOR THE
NEXT MONTH'S
PUBLICATION.

On the Journey with Pastor Mari Lyn

Kevin and I met in the fall of our last undergraduate semester. Our friendship grew, and as the semester began to draw to a close, we shared memories of previous family holiday celebrations. He told stories about his large, extended Jones family sitting around Mamaw and Granddad's dining table each year, sharing the holiday meal together. A little over a year later, after Kevin and my friendship had deepened into love, he brought me home for the holidays.



I would see for myself how his grandparents' simple but sturdy Ranch Oak table could expand to seat all who were invited. Walking into their home that holiday morning, I found a house filled with laughter and warm conversation. I walked into a house soon to be filled with people - 22 by the time we sat down for dinner. It was cold outside, and the wind was wild up on the caprock where Mamaw and Granddad lived. But there were logs burning in the fireplace, so it was warm and welcoming inside. The lingering scent of pies baked yesterday swirled in the dining/living area. As I had before - when I first met Kevin's family on a short weekend visit - I was greeted with smiles and hugs and, this time, an invitation to join Mamaw and Aunt Shirley in the kitchen, for a last-minute taste test of our soon-to-be dinner. As I walked by the dining table, I saw that it stretched as long as the room would accommodate it. And, yes, there were 22 chairs around that single table. Mamaw and Granddad's table really did open up to receive all who came to share their meal.



When I recall Mamaw and Granddad's table, I think of the Lord's Table and the feast Jesus the Christ sets there. We call this feast "Communion" because at his table, we come together with Jesus. We call this meal "the Lord's Supper" because it

[Continued Page 2](#)

Calendar of Events

- Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m.
- Communion on First Sunday each mo.
- Sunday School 9:00 a.m.
- Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. @ 8 am.
- Chair Yoga 1pm Tues and 10:30am Thurs
- Nov. 5 - Daylight Savings Ends - **Fall Back**
- Nov. 5 - Congregational Meeting
- Nov. 16 - Women's Monthly Devotional
- Nov. 19 - Hanging of the Greens
- Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 2023						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5 Sunday Meeting	6	7 Election Day	8	9	10 'Veterans Day' day off	11 Veterans Day
12	13	14	15	16 Devot. Pat H.	17	18
19 Green	20	21	22	23 Thanksgiving Day	24 Black Friday	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Mari Lyn Comments Cont.

was at supper on that night he was betrayed, that Jesus declared a new covenant. As he blessed, broke, and gave bread to his disciples and as he poured wine, he commanded them then - and us now - to remember him. We call this feast “the Eucharist” (*eucharist* is Greek for “thanksgiving”) because in this meal, we give thanks for the gift of Jesus’ love and grace, for his saving death and resurrection, and for the promise of his return.

Mamaw and Granddad’s ever-expanding table reminds me that in his practice of eating with “sinners” as well as with Pharisees, Jesus makes room for everyone who comes to his table. The warm welcome I always received from Mamaw and Granddad - hugs and smiles - reminds me of Jesus’ ever-expanding welcome to anyone who seeks to know him, welcome to anyone who wants to love him. When I remember Mamaw and Granddad’s table, I think of family and the comfort, encouragement, and healing that a sense of belonging bestows on those who know they are a member of a loving family.



I give thanks - not only around the Thanksgiving holiday but year-round - for the expansive love, the warm welcome, and the certainty of belonging Jesus offers us each time we gather at his table and share the feast he has prepared.

Grace and Peace, *Mari Lyn*

A Message from Your Treasurer:

A congregational meeting will be held immediately after worship on November 5th.

I will be presenting my forecast for the remainder of 2023 and a proposed budget for 2024, contingent upon your pledges.

Pledge forms will be distributed at that meeting. This is a very important meeting for the future of our church, and I strongly urge you to attend if possible.

Debby Aldridge and the nominating committee will be presenting two new Session members and a new nominating committee for your consideration.

Thank you, Pat Hart

Common Lectionary Readings (Mari Lyn changes topics and preaches sermon series, so may not use these readings)

	23rd Sunday after Pentecost - Nov. 5	24th Sunday after Pentecost - Nov. 12	25th Sunday after Pentecost - Nov. 19	Thanksgiving Day - Nov. 23	26th Sunday after Pentecost - Nov. 26
1st Reading	Joshua 3: 7 – 17	Joshua 24: 1 – 3a, 14 – 25	Judges 4: 1 – 7	Deuteronomy 8:7-18	Ezekiel 34: 11-16, 20-24
Psalm	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37;	Psalms 78:1-7	Psalm 123	Psalms 65	Psalms 100
2nd Reading	1 Thessalonians 2: 9-13	1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 18	1 Thessalonians 5: 1 – 11	2 Corinthians 9:6-15	Ephesians 1: 15 – 23
Gospel	Matthew 23:1-12	Matthew 25: 1 – 13	Matthew 25: 14 – 30	Luke 17:11-19	Matthew 25: 31 – 46

Nov. Birthdays



Pat	Hart	2
Renita	Menyhert	4
Rip	Van Winkle	16
Joe	Carroll	20
Mike	Hart	28

About Our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Pat Rehm fell and broke a bone in her shoulder. She is not supposed to move her right arm much for several weeks. Pray for healing, minimum movement and learning to do everything with the left arm.

Brad Rehm had successful knee surgery. He is recovering well enough to start driving and helping Pat with everything.

Susan Carroll continues with cancer treatments. We pray for healing from the cancer, strength fighting it, and rest & renewal for Susan.

Missie Lanham comes home to Salado a couple of Saturdays a month to see a few visitors and her cat, Luke. If you would like to visit with her, please call her daughter, Claire at 254-931-0596 to schedule the visit.

Renita Menyhert continues to recover from double knee surgery. We pray for healing and pain relief for Renita.

Pete Stebbins is dealing with sciatica pain and healing of three lower leg wounds (issues unrelated). Pray for pain control and healing.

Rip Van Winkle had gall bladder surgery on Monday (10/30). The only report as of Monday afternoon was that he was doing “fine.” The doctors did not come to the conclusion that the surgery was important until Monday morning! He will likely be in the hospital for 4 or 5 days before going to a rehabilitation center. We pray for healing, no complications, pain control for Rip, and for peace and rest for Shay.

Joan Ray’s sister, Jean Shine is dealing with stage 4 cancer.. Please pray for the doctors, effective treatment, and healing.

Madison Peterman, granddaughter of **Jeanette West**, is recovering from bunion surgery, and must not put weight on her foot during the healing process. We pray for healing and pain relief for and no complications for Madison.



Seekers Adult Sunday School

Our Seekers Adult Sunday School class is currently studying Tom Berlin's book Restored: Finding Redemption in Our Mess, led by Pat Hart. We are focusing on how to identify areas affected by sin in our lives and ways to be transformed and restored to a right relationship with God.

Our Advent study will begin on December 3rd, with Shirley Pinkston and Pat Hart co-teaching Adam Hamilton's Faithful: Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph. Please join us at 9 AM in the classroom for coffee, cookies, and fellowship.

COMFORT and JOY

Ralph and I are currently on a trip, one of what I like to call our "COMFORT AND JOY" tours. We do them occasionally, whenever we think our family and friends need us, and sometimes in conjunction with my October birthday. Fall is such a beautiful time to travel.

Two weeks ago, we went to San Antonio. We took Ralph's sister Pat with us. Their brother Eddie is fighting cancer once again. And things are not looking too good right now.

We stayed with Eddie and his wife Beth. We celebrated Pat's and my birthdays with a yummy cake from Costco's, watched the amazing "Eclipse" from their driveway, visited with two of our nieces, and enjoyed a wonderful family time together. We returned home on Sunday night.

On Wednesday morning we drove out to Goldthwaite, to spend a couple of days in the country with my youngest daughter, Kristin, whose husband works in Louisiana. We know that she gets lonely out there with just the dog and the horses for company. And she likes to pamper me on my birthday. Another birthday cake! I will probably have to diet when I get back home.



We left Goldthwaite last Friday morning, and traveled to Enid, Oklahoma, about a six-hour journey. I was sure glad to get out of that car. We used to come here to visit my precious friend Dorothy. Sadly, she passed away last year. So, whenever we get a chance, or whenever her daughter Alison calls me, Ralph and I do our best to come to Oklahoma.

Alison called me recently. She was caregiver to her mom for several years after her dad passed, and now she is struggling with the loss of her mother, and some other issues. So, we wanted to check on her and see how we could help. We spent three days in Enid. It was a good visit, lots of eating, talking, and laughing. We left Alison with a big smile on her face.



Yesterday morning Ralph and I attended church at the First Presbyterian church in Enid. The pastor was very young. I would guess that she was fresh out of Seminary. Her installation will take place next Sunday. There was a talented pianist and a small choir, about eight people, who sang a spirited rendition of "Put Your Hand in the Hand."

The church was lovely, with beautiful stained-glass windows all around, each one featuring a different biblical scene. They had a huge set of bells. Unfortunately, nobody played them while we were there. We guesstimated that the church would hold about 300-400 people. But sad to say, there were only about 30 in attendance.



After the children's sermon, about 6 of them took the first offering, which was for an after-school program. As fate would have it (what I call a God incidence) a lady from the church just happened to run into a young man who had been a part of that program years ago. The young man, Dylan, gave a tearful and touching "Minute for Mission" about what the program had meant to him.

The service ended with a parting hymn, of "God be with you till we meet again."

I was discouraged to see such a small gathering in that beautiful church. But at the same time, I was encouraged to see that they had some children participating. And I made it a point to speak to the pastor after the service and tell her how good it was to see a young person ministering there.

This morning we are headed to Durant for a few days of rest and relaxation, just the two of us. We're hoping to watch the Rangers and the Astros battle it out. And barring any unforeseen circumstances, we hope to worship with you next Sunday.



Leo Tolstoy is credited with saying: "Joy can only be real if people look upon their life as a service and have a definite object in life outside themselves and their personal happiness."

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 - "God is our merciful father and the source of all comfort. He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others."

Romans 15:13 - "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

From a Merry Heart, Linda Lloyd

Salado Family Relief Fund's Annual Fundraiser

The Empty Bowl Project is Saturday November 11th from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Salado Middle School cafeteria. Local restaurants supply the soups. All proceeds go to the projects of helping local Salado residents in need.

Church Notes

Thanksgiving Community Meal sponsored by Heart & Hands Ministries on Sat. Nov. 18.

The **signup sheets** are in the foyer for anyone wanting to **provide food for the November 19 Hanging of the Greens, flowers**, assist with being a greeter, or serve as **liturgist** between now and the end of the year.

The Woman's **Third Thursday Devotional** series will be held on Nov. 16. This session will be led by Pat Hart.

Presbyterian Church of Salado - Summary of Session Meeting 10/15/23

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Rehm, Clerk

The meeting was started at 11:08 AM in the classroom by Rev. Mari Lyn Jones, and Randy Kemp led the devotion and opening prayer. All ruling elders were present, and Quorum was declared. Pat Rehm called for approval of two sets of recent minutes, for August 20, and October 8 and both were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Pat Hart stated that the September offerings were \$4476. and expenses were over \$10,000 which leaves a negative balance for the month of more than \$5,000.

Old Business

Remaining Fellowship events: It was decided to have the usual meal with decorations after worship on October 29th in Fellowship Hall, but on November 19th during the Greening of the Church to keep the soup and sandwiches in the kitchen for workers and let them eat in the kitchen or classroom.

The proposed **purchase of a projector** to match the church's new laptop: Randy Kemp has consulted two vendors regarding the possible configuration of a projection system for presentations in the sanctuary. He will meet with each one at the church this coming week. Pete Stebbins reported information on stand-alone projectors that can be moved from room to room as needed. Rev. Jones asked Pete and Randy to confer and make a recommendation for a new projector/projector system at the next stated session meeting.

New Business - Proposed 2024 Budget: Treasurer Pat Hart presented a forecast for the remainder of 2023 and a proposed

budget for 2024. Both were discussed, minor changes were made, and both will be presented at the congregational meeting on November 5th. Pledge forms will be distributed on that day as well. After pledges are returned, a finalized budget will be voted on at the next session meeting in December.

Report from Nominating Committee: Debby Aldridge, Personnel/Finance Elder, reported for the 2023 Nominating Committee. They met on September 21, 2023, and prepared a slate of nominations for the class of 2026. The committee will meet again this week to finalize the nominations and will present two Session members and a new nominating committee for your consideration at the Nov. 5, Congregational Meeting.

Pastor's Report: The Rev. Mari Lyn Jones reported Pastoral Care visits (including Communion to homebound parishioners) and conversations with friends and members of the congregation. She also shared positive reception to the two sermon series she has preached, as well as future worship plans. She suggested additional advertising for and verified some information about our annual Christmas Eve worship service. She also reported that she will take her 1st week of vacation from Nov. 16 through Nov. 23. The Rev. Jesse Thornton will fill the pulpit Nov. 19.

The Congregational Meeting will be on Nov. 5th, and next Session meeting is set for December 17, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:16 PM.

Musical Notes

November is a great time to be reminded of all the things for which we are thankful. Even though we know we should be thankful, we get too involved with our own world, and forget how grateful we should be for the things around us! I Thes. 5:16-18, from The Message "Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live."

I want you to know how thankful I am for the members of our choir and our congregation. What a blessing it is to have

people who are willing to help lead in our worship experience on Sunday mornings by singing in the choir. How grateful to hear our congregation participating in worship, lifting their voices in song. In Psalm 96:1 (MSG), we read, "Sing God a brand-new song! Earth and everyone in it sing! Sing to God -- worship God!"

Both the choir and congregation are learning and singing new hymns along with those we have known and sung for years. With the combination of these hymns, we can intertwine the scripture verses, prayers, statement of faith and the message of the sermon with the music into a personal worship experience as a church family.

"Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ—the Message—have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives—words, actions, whatever—be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way." Colossians 3:15-17 (MSG)

Sharing in Christ's Service,
Jeanette West

Fifth Sunday (October 29) Events



Pat Scarborough, Director, presented information about Hearts and Hands Ministries.

Our worship included presentations from two of the local organizations we support with our Gifts.



After worship, we broke bread together over a delicious potluck meal.



Debby Aldridge and Denice Kemp presented information about Salado Family Relief Fund (both are board members)



A Great Dessert Table



I hope you had a chance to
-- to praise and worship God,
-- to hear about some of the ways we continue Christ's ministry of welcoming, healing, and feeding people in our community and,
-- to share food and fellowship with the presenters and with one another.

*You Are Invited to
Join Us for THE 2023*

*Thanksgiving
Community
Meal*

*THANKSGIVING
COMMUNITY MEAL
Entire Community is Invited*



Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

*Thomas Arnold Elementary School Cafeteria
Salado, Texas*

Come in and Sit Down

*NO Drive Up this Year
(Carryout inside limited to 2)*

