



News From First Presbyterian Church

TOWER TIME

430 S. Carancahua St. • Corpus Christi, Texas 78401 • (361) 884-4057 • firstprescc.com

April 2024 Issue

April 4, 2024

Mark Your Calendar

3rd Monday Women's Bible Study

Monday, April 15th, at 2 p.m. in the chapel to continue our study of women of the Bible: Leah and Rachel, sisters who were wives of Jacob.

Christian Women's Book Club

Monday, April 15 at 10:00 a.m. in the chapel.

Wednesday Night Dinners

Every Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. in Kleberg Hall. Come for food, fellowship, and an opportunity to grow your faith.

Choir Rehearsal

Every Wednesday at 5:15 p.m. in the Choir Room. Stay for dinner following rehearsal.



HOLY WEEK 2024

Palm Sunday



"Behold your King comes riding on a donkey." Holy week began with the celebration of the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

The children and youth, led by Dr. Blackshear, paraded through the Sanctuary waving palm branches as we all joined in joyously singing, "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna."

Maundy Thursday



We joined around the dinner tables for the Maundy Thursday service on March 28th. We heard the story of Jesus's betrayal, arrest, trial, and crucifixion. All shared Communion and symbolically nailed our sins to the cross. This service was in preparation for the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Without Maundy Thursday, there would be no Resurrection.

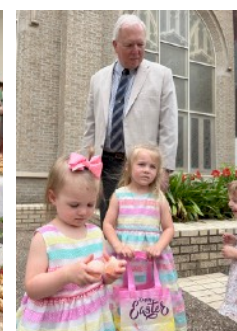
Easter Sunday

"He is Risen! He is risen, indeed!" The Resurrection of Jesus was celebrated with singing hymns of joy and praise. The music was accompanied by the brass ensemble with Javier Salinas, trumpet; Arthur Sholtis, Jr. trumpet; Jennifer Sholtis, horn; and Paul Hagerman, trombone.



Easter Egg Hunt

Following the Easter Service, the attention of the young turned to the courtyard. The younger children were first to hunt the candy-filled eggs. Following were the older children filling their baskets with eggs. Thanks to Veronica Phillips, Kleberg Hall was filled with amazing refreshments for all to enjoy.



A REFLECTION ON WALK TO SILOAM #19

By Ryan Barbato; Photo by Matthew Anderson

Firstly, I would like to thank all the members of First Presbyterian that supported the Walk to Siloam. Your cookies and letters really did touch all the team members and pilgrims (retreat participants). I was proud to bring so many goodies!

Last year, Tony Reyes gave a sermon on the Walk to Siloam of which he had been part. After Tony's sermon was over, I felt moved to sign up for the upcoming walk. One thing I have been trying to work on in my life is to interact and communicate with people I am uncomfortable with. Perhaps this experience would help me become a better Disciple of Christ. Maybe I could be a light to someone or plant a few seeds.

As the walk drew closer, I prayed for the Holy Spirit to put me where I needed to be. I started as part of the outside team-the group that sets up and serves all the team members that work directly with the pilgrims. I was happy-seemed easy enough. I could be on the "outside" and eventually move "inside" the following year, OR SO I THOUGHT!

After our third planning meeting, I was informed that I was now part of the inside team. I kept asking, "how do I need to prepare?" I never received an answer. Tony simply said, "suave" which means relax, and let the Holy Spirit do his thing. As former military and a current a fire chief, I do not suave very well. I like a general plan, the facts to be prepared.

On the day of the walk, I was told that I would have a new best friend - one of the pilgrims, and I was responsible for his care throughout this spiritual journey. I am not a stranger to a challenge, and I don't scare easily. However, I would be remiss if I did not

admit that I was very nervous. I had zero life experience with interacting with someone who was homeless. God had other plans for me. What immediately came to me was, John

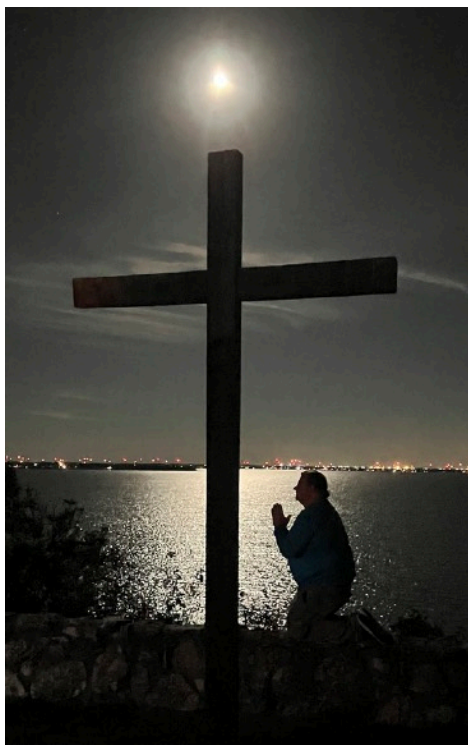
14:13-14: *And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.*"

Before the pilgrims arrived, we stocked the kitchen with donated food; we were blessed to have so much that it resembled a mini version of a Sam's Club with aisles for cases of water, assorted bags of chips and crackers, fresh baked goods, and fruit. There was

enough food to feed a group ten times as large. We also set up tables of pants, shirts, shoes, and toiletries for the pilgrims to select from when they arrived. It was amazing to see what God can deliver when his churches work together.

The team also participated in a chapel service, and Pastor Chip talked about Acts 2:42-47:

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.



PRAY FOR YOUR CHURCH

"...by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." - Philippians 4:6

Please pray regularly and boldly that God will:

- draw over 120 people to worship each week
- send 30 new Covenant Partners this year
- double our children's Sunday School (again!)
- provide additional children's Sunday School teachers
- show us how to better serve our community

Please include the following in your prayers: Luis & Julie Añil, Susan Anderson, Roy Daniels, Chris Duncan, Susan Hawn, Maribeth Pierce, Bill Quinton, Linda Pinion, Liz Ramon, Dale Stewart, Cliff Taylor, April Vaughan, Robert Vaughan, Mark Wemer, Sarah Gill, Thomas Cameron, Clayton Johnson.

Please try to call the church office at 884-4057#100 if you are in the hospital.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

"Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." Hebrews 10:24-25a

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It really makes a difference when you're here!



- 4/2** Keith Smith
4/6 Kaylie Hodges
 Chastidy Rodriguez
4/15 Brad Hoover
 Rebecca Pinion
4/18 Karen Henny
4/21 Mark Wemer
4/22 Matthew Anderson
4/25 Gina Robbins
4/26 April Vaughan
5/9 Damean Duncan

NORRIS STRICKER

Norris Stricker, covenant partner since October 2019, passed away in Wichita, Kansas on March 4, 2024. Norris was born on March 18, 1940 in Bennet, Nebraska. He attended Tech High School in Omaha, Nebraska, and later pursued higher education at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. He went on to serve in the U.S. Navy.

Norris and his wife Sharon were members of the Panama, Nebraska Presbyterian Church where he served as an Elder and on the Building and Grounds Committee. The Strickers moved to Port Aransas and attended Community Presbyterian Church before moving to FPC following Hurricane Harvey.

Norris is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sharon, their two children and two grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian on Saturday, May 11th at 10 a.m. with a reception to follow in Kleberg Hall.

MOMS GROUP

The new Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) met for the first time on Saturday, March 2nd for fellowship, support, spiritual growth, and fun. Their fun project was making succulent planters.

The next meeting will be Saturday, April 7th. This group encourages mothers with young children to realize their potential in relationship with Jesus and partnership with the local church.

MOPS helps young mothers find others who are dealing with the same concerns and issues. It shows participants how to enjoy motherhood with backup support.

If you know a mom of young children, please invite her to attend.



The entire family is welcome. Childcare will be available, and dads may join the Men's Fellowship which meets at the same time.

Refreshments will be provided. For further information, contact Carrie Stice at carrie@firstprescc.com.

LILY CREW

Many thanks to the crew that assisted with the unpacking, placement, and stamen pruning of the Easter Lilies on Thursday, March 28th. Pat and Chuck Luckett, Kathy Wemer, and Anne Lockwood helped place and ice the 30 plants.



A REFLECTION ON WALK TO SILOAM

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Little did I know we were just about to experience this very scripture. On Saturday night before the candlelight service, the team and pilgrims were all together singing, and praising God; you could feel the agape love in the room. Black, white, brown, young, old, rich, poor, broken people, unbroken people, convicted felons, and a judge were together. Members from the Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and nondenominational churches were together, united in Christ. That night, there was no distinctions, rather there were only united Christians. The room was overflowing with the Holy Spirit, all with one accord, praising God.

All who had need were taken care of; all who hungered ate. More importantly, all felt the love of God. I believe that I witnessed a great miracle that night as the answer to a question that kept running through my mind-

"what does God mean by one accord?" And that night, I saw it! No distinctions, just simply one love, one Christ. It is true what Jesus said in Mathew 11:28-30: "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

The ultimate lesson I learned came from one word, "suave." In order to be a strong disciple of Jesus, I need to be suave and let the Holy Spirit guide me. This experience changed my life, and strengthened my faith, my relationship with Jesus, and created new friendships in Christ.

A Walk to Siloam will change your life! I encourage anyone that wants to have this experience to sign up for next year's walk. You never know what miracle may be awaiting you.



GOOD SAMARITAN PROJECT

Thanks to the generosity of the covenant partners, along with a large donation from Women of the Church, the toiletry bag project for Good Samaritans was a huge success. The Serving Committee collected 245 bags.

The bags were delivered to Good Samaritan to provide necessary hygiene items to those in need. Special thanks to Carrie Sheckells and Liz Ramon, who came to help organize and count the bags.

The next Serving Committee project will begin on Mother's Day, May 12. This project is the Diaper Drive. A variety of sizes of diapers will be collected for the Pregnancy Center.

