

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

November 12, 2017
10:45 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church
Bryan, Texas

GATHERING

GREETINGS The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, MINUTE FOR MISSION, AND INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND MEMBERSHIP
(Please take a moment to sign the fellowship folder and pass it to your neighbor. If you are seeking a church home, please read the announcement in the insert related to Christian discipleship & church membership.)

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

OPENING SENTENCES

adapted from Genesis 22:1-18 and James 2:21-26

When Abraham's faith was challenged along his life-journey with God, with a test of his trust for God to provide a way through what seemed extreme,

Abraham accepted the journey, through which the testing was borne out. God provided a holy conclusion; and Abraham's faith matured.

Abraham did not think he owned God's gifts; therefore God's gifts did not possess his life.

For Abraham, when at his best, God's relationship with him was "priority One," and his care for and stewardship of every gift flowed from God's grace and steadfastness.

As the body apart from God's Spirit has no authentic life,

Thinking or speaking of faith has no authenticity and serves no godly purposes unless we practice faith with generous and respectful actions toward all of God's people.

Honor, blessing, glory, and adoration be yours forever, Eternal and Wondrous One!

* HYMN

In God's World, the Scriptures Tell

EASTER HYMN

* CALL TO CONFESSION, PRAYER OF CONFESSION, ASSURANCE OF PARDON, AND JOYFUL RESPONSE

Let us humbly confess our sin, wanderings, and failings unto God.

O Giver of all that is good and scared, we confess to you our committing of sin and our complicity with sin. We serve our causes first. Your priorities receive, at best, our secondary efforts and gifts. Forgive the brokenness we create and the brokenness we condone, promote, or ignore and leave unaddressed. Turn our attention from our preferences to your possibilities and goals. Heal and transform us, with others, for serving through our life-times as you shape and lead, ever being made new in the way and spirit of Jesus Christ . . .
(We pray in silence.)

Hear, trust, proclaim, and share the heart of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

* HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 581

Glory Be to The Father

GLORIA PATRI

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Sinking Deep

Hillsong

Standing here in Your presence in a grace so relentless, I am won by perfect love. Wrapped within the arms of heaven in a peace that lasts forever, sinking deep in mercy's sea. I'm wide awake drawing close, stirred by grace and all my heart is Yours. All fear removed I breathe You in, I lean into Your love. When I'm lost You pursue me. Lift my head to see Your glory, Lord of all, so beautiful. Your love so deep is washing over me. Your face is all I seek. You are my everything, Jesus Christ, You are my one desire. Lord hear my only cry, to know You all my life.

* HYMN OF RESPONSE No. 708

We Give Thee but Thine Own (St. 1 & 2)

SCHUMANN

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* Please stand in body or spirit.

Text in **bold face type** is to be read by all.

THE WORD

YOUNG DISCIPLES' TIME

(Child care is available as early as 9:20am for infants in Room 108. While children are encouraged to remain for the entire worship service, parents may take toddlers and preschoolers to Room 103 of the 31st St. hallway for supervised activities during the remainder of the worship service. Pagers are available.)

SOLO

Be Thou My Vision

SLANE

*Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart, naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light
Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word, I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son, Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one*

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING

Judges 7:1-8

Pew Bible, O.T., pp. 198-199

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* HYMN NO. 695

Change My Heart, O God

CHANGE MY HEART

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

Crooked Timber: Integrity and Accountability in Partnerships Matter

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven: Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

* STATEMENT OF FAITH

from The Theological Declaration of Barmen (1934)

Jesus Christ, as witnessed in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God for God's people to trust and follow in life and death. As the assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, Jesus embodies and expresses God's sovereign claim upon our whole life. In the Spirit of Jesus Christ, counterfeit claims upon our loyalty have no power, and we are liberated for lives of free, grateful service among all of God's people. The Church, as the community of Jesus' disciples, bears witness with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely Christ's property, and that it lives solely by grace from God, both anticipating and being comforted by the presence of the Lord.

SENDING

* HYMN NO. 749

Come! Live in the Light!

WE ARE CALLED

* BLESSING AND SENDING

God, who is at work among all people, all across the years, encounters and joins us amid our life-situations, whether heart-breaking or heart-lifting.

May we be changed and healed through the days of our life-journeys, for serving God – whom we know through Jesus Christ – and doing so with humility, boldness, and love. Hallelujah!

* POSTLUDE

+ + + + +



A WARM WELCOME!

*We are delighted to have
you worship with us today.*

WORSHIP NOTES

PREACHER

Rev. Ted Foote

LITURGIST

Jerry Norris

USHER CAPTAINS

Beverly Spencer

Jay McKay

USHERS & GREETERS

Jim Nachlinger; Steve Young;
Dick Witherite; Haven Curtiss;
Doro Gonzalez; Sidro Gonzalez;
Ari Renold; Ronen Renold

MUSICIANS

Steve Gentry, *pianist*
Andrea Young, *soloist & guitarist*
Jared Overton, *percussionist*
David Kipp,
Director of Music Ministries

CHANCEL FLOWERS

In loving memory of
Lebo McKay
by
Lonna & Jay McKay

COVER ART

"Gideon Choosing His Soldiers"
engraving by Gustave Doré, 1865

LITURGICAL BANNERS

Pulpit side: Trinity
Organ side: Fish

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THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, NOVEMBER 12 "STEWARDSHIP DEDICATION SUNDAY"

9:00am Youth (GR 7-12) depart for Rally Day at First Presbyterian Church,
Conroe-meet in church parking lot
9:20am Sunday Church School-VC *
10:45am Worship-S*
12:00pm Congregational Meeting-S
12:00pm HOMEBOUND COMMUNION
5:00pm Concerts on Carter Creek presents Brazos Chamber Players-S/P*

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13

5:00pm Worship Committee-L
5:30pm Stewardship & Finance Committee-13

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

9:30am Circle V-P
10:15am Staff Meeting-L
5:30pm The Bryan Group of AA-13
5:30pm Christian Education Committee-102
6:00pm Administration Committee-L
6:30pm Children's Center Ministry-10
7:00pm Handbells Rehearsal-BR

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

11:30am Church Ladies Lunch & Fellowship-Ozona Grill, College Station
6:00pm Wednesday Night Fellowship & Dinner-local restaurant
(contact Ellen Weichert, eweicher96@gmail.com, for location)
6:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S *
7:00pm Youth (GR 7-12) Bible Study-401

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

12:00pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

11:00am FPCC Thanksgiving Lunch-FH
7:00pm Young Adults Friendsgiving Movie Night-
Keesee Home, 3987 Windfree Dr, College Station

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

FPCC / Aggie Workday
Presbytery Meeting-Northwoods PC, Houston
30 min before kick-off UCM Fundraiser-
Black Water Draw Brewing Co, 701 N Main, Bryan

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, NOVEMBER 19

9:20am 150th Anniversary Reception-Pt *
10:45am 150th Anniversary Celebratory Worship-S*
12:00pm All-church 150th Anniversary Lunch-FH
6:00pm Youth (GR 7-12) Fellowship-Grand Station, College Station

* HYMN

In God's World, the Scriptures Tell

EASTER HYMN

1. In God's world, the Scrip - tures tell,
 2. We see God's world all a - round: Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 3. God sees God's world all a - round,
 4. The Lord says, "Par - ti - ci - pate,
 5
 God cre - ates what's good and well,
 Bright and dark; hushed; full of sound; Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 By God's love the lost are found,
 In this world, fling wide the gate,
 9
 Bless - es with love, faith, and hope, Ho - ly gifts so
 Ran - dom; or - dered; frag - ile; harsh; Al - le - lu - ia! Des - ert; o - cean;
 From God's pas - sion, jus - tice rolls, And those suff' - ring
 For a new com - mu - ni - ty, Hon - or all, in
 14
 vast in scope, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
 moun - tain; marsh; _____
 God con - soles,
 Christ set free!"

* CALL TO CONFESSION, PRAYER OF CONFESSION, ASSURANCE OF PARDON, AND JOYFUL RESPONSE

Let us humbly confess our sin, wanderings, and failings unto God.

O Giver of all that is good and scared, we confess to you our committing of sin and our complicity with sin. We serve our causes first. Your priorities receive, at best, our secondary efforts and gifts. Forgive the brokenness we create and the brokenness we condone, promote, or ignore and leave unaddressed. Turn our attention from our preferences to your possibilities and goals. Heal and transform us, with others, for serving through our life-times as you shape and lead, ever being made new in the way and spirit of Jesus Christ . . . *(We pray in silence.)*

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 Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light  
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\* POSTLUDE

+ + + + +



**NEW MEMBERS** may be received any Sunday by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership. If you feel led to inquire about becoming a church member or deepening your commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ, please indicate your desire on the fellowship folder. You may also call the church (979.823.8073) or email Pastor Ted Foote ([tfoote@fpcbryan.org](mailto:tfoote@fpcbryan.org)). He will be glad to arrange a mutually convenient Sunday when you can be received by the Elders and introduced to the congregation.

At the conclusion of worship today, Rev. Foote will be in the Narthex.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP.** Worship clipboards with lectionary related activity sheets are available on the tables in the Narthex and also the hallway leading to the office. For those younger than 5, a loving childcare staff is available in the nursery. A pager system is provided to keep you in touch, should you be needed during the service. If you are unfamiliar with our building and need assistance, an usher will be pleased to help you. Also, two rocking chairs are located in the narthex, where the worship service can be heard via a ceiling speaker. **LARGE PRINT HYMNALS** are available at each entrance to the sanctuary. **ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES** are available in the narthex. Please help yourself or ask an usher for assistance.

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Following worship today, the Session has called a meeting of the congregation in the Sanctuary for the purpose of receiving and acting upon a report from the Nominating Committee for the Class of 2019 elders and five members-at-large to serve on the 2018-2019 Nominating Committee. Nominations may be made from the floor, provided those placing a name in nomination have obtained permission from the one being nominated. Please continue prayers for this year's Nominating Committee: ruling elders David Sahn (Mod.) and Marcia Miculek (Vice Mod.), and members-at-large Cadie Davison, Allyn Jordan, Glenn Mathews, Don Spencer, and Marilyn Wright. (*See Class of 2019 Elder-nominee introductions included with today's bulletin.*)

### CONCERTS ON CARTER CREEK

All are invited to the sanctuary this afternoon at 5:00pm for our next Concert on Carter Creek featuring **BRAZOS CHAMBER PLAYERS**. The program will feature selections from composers Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, Camille Saint-Saens, and Francis Poulenc. The ensemble includes Penny Zent (flute), Rebecca Haskins (oboe), Jill Stewart (clarinet), Eric Miller (bassoon), Steven Winter (French horn), and Chris Hoffman (piano). Child care is provided during the concert. A reception follows the concert.

### MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

**UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY IN AGGIELAND'S FUNDRAISER** at Blackwater Draw Brewing Company located at 701 N. Main in Bryan will be held on Saturday, November 18. A \$45<sup>00</sup> meal ticket (Catering by Napa Flats) purchases wood-fired pizza, gelato, and one (1) drink (non-alcoholic or alcoholic); Additional drinks: \$7<sup>00</sup> each. Tickets available through Ted or Karen in the church office. This fundraiser features: (1) \$25<sup>00</sup> additional for wine draw tickets (only as many tickets sold as bottles of wine available to award); (2) Silent Auction; and, (3) Student faith-journey presentations. The event begins 30 minutes prior to TAMU vs. Ole Miss Football game and concludes after half-time (satellite feed of game to large screen TV).

**STILL CREEK ACADEMY** is in need of donations of paper goods. With this PAPER GOODS DRIVE The Academy is asking for paper towels, tissues, and toilet paper. Still Creek Christian Academy is a private, K-12 Christian boarding school situated on almost 200 acres in the Brazos Valley in Bryan. The Academy is the heartbeat of Still Creek Ranch and their student base consists of those who live onsite as well as children from the community. These donations go a long way in helping The Academy have essential items. A marked container to receive your donations will be in the Patio through Friday, December 8.



Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church-Bryan,

The 150th Anniversary of First Presbyterian Church-Bryan is upon us, with the celebratory worship convening at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, November 19. (The exact 150th anniversary date is noon, the following Friday, November 24.) Worship on the 19th will be preceded by a reception, beginning at 9:30 a.m., and will be followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

While a definite history exists related to land purchases, structures, parts of the structures (windows, musical instruments, air conditioners, pews, etc.), and events, and that history spans a length of time (150 years), God is concerned above all with the human lives who have been part of a communion of God's people across six generations (if a generation is considered 25 years).

As worship begins on November 19, the C.S. Bell Co. 30-inch diameter bell which rests on the Weddington Patio next to the south wall of the sanctuary will be tolled six times, representing not the number of years as such, but six generations of disciples of Jesus Christ who have come and gone and still are around as First Presbyterian Church.

A side-note to the Weddington Patio bell is provided by Ranney McDonald, who in the mid-1950s witnessed the removal of the bell from the main tower of the 1906 structure on Washington Street. Ranney tells that, whatever good intentions and plans existed to remove the bell from its elevated location, the bell actually fell, but remarkably was undamaged. There may be a parable somewhere in an event like that. Many falls have occurred in people's lives, enough in quantity or in degree that it may be just fine with us to be grounded, and to serve from our grounded positions!

Give thanks to God for God's presence and spirit calling this church to life and vitality in witness, service, and fellowship. If you are unable to attend on November 19, please remember those who gathered in your prayers; and if you are able to attend, even if it has been awhile since you've been present, please "come on!"

With thanks to God, whom we know in Jesus Christ . . .

Ted V. Foote, Jr.  
Pastor

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The next issue of the newsletter, The Chimes (incl. the December Calendar),  
will be distributed on the **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21**.

This issue will cover news from November 30 thru December 20.

The deadline is **NOON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16**.

For the newsletter, announcements, upcoming bulletins, and updates,  
visit the church website: [www.fpcbryan.org](http://www.fpcbryan.org).

Stay connected with others in this community of faith at **CHURCH UPDATES**,  
FPC-Bryan's online tool for church-related announcements, needs, and prayers.  
Login and create your password-protected account at <https://fpcbtx.churchupdates.org/login>.



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## INTRODUCING . . . ELDER NOMINEES

The Congregation is called to meet in the sanctuary following worship on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12**, to receive and act upon a report from the Nominating Committee for elders in Class of 2019. Nominations may be made from the floor provided those placing a name in nomination have obtained permission from the one being nominated. The nominees are placed in nomination by this year's Nominating Committee: Elders David Sahm (*Mod.*) and Marcia Miculek (*Vice Mod.*), and Cadie Davison, Allyn Jordan, Glenn Mathews, Don Spencer, Marilyn Wright (*members-at-large*).

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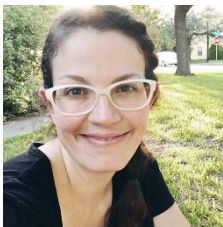
### ELDERS, CLASS OF 2019

#### MARLEE CRIACO



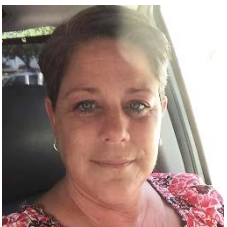
I've been a member of First Presbyterian since 1992. My husband, Pete, and I raised our 3 daughters in FPC-Bryan. I've had many responsibilities in this church: Church School teacher, deacon, elder, moderator and member of Christian Education and College Committees, Carpenter's Kids Program Coordinator, and member of Fellowship Committee. I also occasionally sing in the Chancel Choir and ring in the Handbell Choir. I never hesitate to say yes when the opportunity arises to take on the role of deacon or elder. Whenever I get an opportunity play a greater role in the life of the church, I feel it's an honor to have been chosen, and it's a role I embrace.

#### LIBBY DEMPSEY



I am currently a stay at home mom spending my days caring for two active kids, Preston and Lennon, and two lazy dogs, Guinness and Captain. I met my husband, Russell, at Texas A&M University where I graduated from in 2005 with a BA in English. I joined FPC-Bryan in 2006 shortly before Russell and I were married. I previously served as an elder at Covenant Presbyterian in College Station. We transferred our membership to First Presbyterian in 2012. I agreed to be an elder because I hope to become more involved in our faith community now that my kids are a little older.

#### SHELLEY ESPINOZA



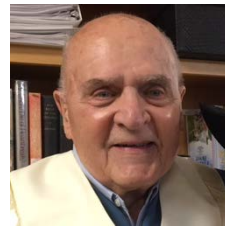
As a child, I always believed in God. I didn't, however, have much of an understanding of the Christian faith nor did I truly know if I could buy into the Holy Trinity. This changed in 2010 as my father lay on his deathbed. There was an "Aha" moment when my beliefs shifted. After visiting churches and baptized in 2011 at FPC-Bryan, I continue to trust in the Lord, acknowledging Him versus relying on my own thoughts and actions to guide me. I know that through His guidance and my trust I will continue to grow in my faith. I believe that serving as an Elder is an honor which will not be taken lightly, as I serve both the Lord and Church.

#### PAM GEISHAUSER



I was born in Texarkana, Texas. When I was 13 months old my parents moved back to their home in Evansville, Indiana. I went to the University of Evansville for three years, got married and had three children – Tommy, Steve and Julie. I also have four wonderful grandchildren. I married Tony Geishauser 5½ years ago which was the best decision of my life next to having my children. I was born a Presbyterian so I had no choice. However, when I got older I did have a choice, and I wanted to stay a Presbyterian, because I agree with the tenants that the Presbyterian Church preaches. I look forward to contributing whatever I can to FPC-Bryan.

#### CHET HARRIS



I was raised in Indiana. I completed my undergraduate work at Indiana University and graduate work at University of California. My faith journey started in the Army in combat and was reinforced while I was nutritionist for the NASA space program. The astronauts and I worked together, prayed together, and played together. They were men of faith. When I married Celeste, we built our family on faith. I served as Elder and Deacon in Presbyterian churches through 35 years in California and Kingwood. I look forward to serving here in FPC-Bryan and continuing to build on my faith in the Lord.

#### TAMMIE KEESEE



I grew up in Alpine Presbyterian Church in Longview, was baptized as an infant, and confirmed as a ten-year-old. When I left for college, I started working with kids in a Baptist church. After about 7 years there, I missed the Presbyterian worship style and went looking for a new church home, which is how I ended up at FPC-Bryan. I love animals and followed that passion into a career at the veterinary diagnostic lab on campus. Charley and I got married in June and have an adorable puppy, 'Nilla, who keeps us very busy. I want to serve as an elder because I have gotten so much support from this church and want to give back to the church however I am able.

## ELDER NOMINEES (CONTD.)

### MURRAY MILFORD



I was born and raised in a small farming community in Dial, Texas (about 90 miles NE of Dallas), consisting mainly of Presbyterians and Baptists who often had joint services for special occasions. My parents, grandparents, and great grandparents, with the exception of one were buried in the cemetery across the road from the Presbyterian Church. I joined the Dial church as a preteenager during one of their traditional summer revivals held in the open air tabernacle near the church. I first served as an elder in First Presbyterian Church (Ithaca, NY) while on the faculty at Cornell University and have served here on several occasions since joining this congregation in 1968. I have agreed to serve again because having been asked to do so, I feel that others think I can contribute significantly as a church officer even at my advanced age. I pray that they used good judgment, and I will do my best with God's help to show that they did.

### CHERYL PAGE



I grew up in the Christian (Disciples of Christ) church in Tulsa and Houston. After marrying Rick, we became members of various Christian churches before joining First Presbyterian Church Bryan in 1999. We have two children and 2 grandchildren. My career has included teaching high school mathematics, technical writing for a software company, and environmental engineering research at Texas A&M. I retired in 2014. While at FPC, I have served as deacon and elder, participated on several committees, taught the mid-high youth Church School class, and had a leadership role in the Seekers Class. As FPC Bryan celebrates its 150th year anniversary, I look forward to serving as elder during this exciting time.

### PEGGY TELG



When asked to serve as an elder again, I gave the usual, let me think and pray about it. While inside I was thinking, me? Seriously? And then it hit me. This church is 150 years strong and I'm being asked to help continue its legacy! How could I refuse. My faith journey begins with this very church when I married Ken in 1971. Through Bible study, Sunday school, vacation bible school, and countless committees I've grown into a woman of strong faith and convictions. This church has not only guided but shaped me along the way. I'm proud to serve.

### CINDY WINGERT



I was raised a Presbyterian and my great grandmother served as an Elder (several times) at the church. Even though she has been gone for over 30 years she continues to influence my faith. I admit to falling away from the church for a number of years, but I returned to the church when I divorced my kids' dad. I was blessed to have a wonderful pastor who understood both my reasons for being angry with God and helped me find my way back. Since then I have found comfort in the church and am grateful to be at FPC-Bryan!

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*Guided by the Spirit, the committee members continue their selection process to identify two more elder nominees to complete the list of twelve for the Class of 2019. Please keep the committee and those who may be considering this call in your prayers during the remainder of this process.*