

*First Presbyterian Church
418 West Coolidge
Borger, TX 79007
~February 2018~*

First Presbyterian Church
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In the often-dreary depths of winter, Lord, wrap all gathered here in the warmth of your love.

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

February

Borger, Texas

2018

Ah, February! The month of love...and Lent? While these two observances probably seem to be in conflict, they are actually a wonderful pairing. Valentine's Day has become a fairly commercial day of excess—chocolate, roses, and young lovers stressing over romance—but for those of us mature in years, Valentine's Day can be a day for acknowledging all the people we love with gestures that vary from romantic to friendly to simple acts of compassion. Love is one of the great fuels of our souls. We all need love, love received and love shared, and it is good to celebrate it in whatever ways seem right to us.

Lent, on the other hand, is much more than a day. Lent is our annual observance of Christian discipline which stretches on for 40 days (6 weeks minus the Sundays). And while the term “discipline” seems counter to everything that Valentine's Day has come to represent, our Lenten disciplines are really all about love—remembering how very much God loves us and acknowledging how very much we need that love in our lives.

This year Lent will begin on February 14th. Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day fall on the same day! While this means that your pastor is not likely to give up chocolate for Lent this year (in truth, I rarely give up anything, preferring to add a new discipline instead), it also means that we will be able to gather as a congregation that day, celebrating love in some of its broadest and deepest ways. We will have a brief Ash Wednesday worship service from 5:30 to 6:00pm to begin our Lenten observance. It will be a service of prayer, scripture, the imposition of ashes and the celebration of communion. Our service will help us consider our own sin and need for God, and all the love that God offers us in Jesus Christ. Following our worship, a simple soup supper will be available in the fellowship hall. If you are able, come and join together as a community of God's love!

To continue our corporate observance of Lent, we will again gather each Tuesday at Noon during the season with our Methodist brothers and sisters in a “Brown Bag Lunch Devotional”. Tuesday, February 20th we will meet at St. Andrews Methodist Church, and on the 27th we will meet at our church. These are occasions for fellowship with our fellow Christians, as well as times to pause in the midst of the week to consider again God's Word and who we are as followers of Christ. As always, it's all about love!

I hope you will be able to join with your church family for one or more of these occasions!

Feeling the love in Christ, Janell

Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 11, 2018*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 14, 2018*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2018*
- First Sunday in Lent, *February 18, 2018*
- Presidents Day, *February 19, 2018*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *February 25, 2018*



2 – Christine Nicholas

Anniversaries

No Anniversaries this month

Ash Wednesday prayer



Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.

—*Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

Meeting needs

“My neighbor’s material needs are my spiritual needs,” said 19th-century theologian Israel Salanter. In other words, when someone else suffers hunger and poverty, when people endure a natural disaster and lack shelter, when another human being is sick or injured — in all such cases, God calls us to action. And God knows that whatever we do to meet those material needs will meet our spiritual needs at the same time.

It might be our spiritual need to expand our horizons into neighborhoods, cultures or situations where we’re uncomfortable. We might need to grow in love for people different from us. By serving others, we might find our own sagging spirits nurtured with a sense of well-being or even joy. And as we reach out to help, surely we’ll notice others doing the same thing, and our spiritual need for renewed faith will be met.

—Heidi Mann

Our new home



A preacher who had always feared death felt powerless to comfort others who were facing it. Toward the end of his life, he moved to another house. When all the furniture had been packed, he lingered in the home where he’d raised his children and prepared many sermons. An assistant interrupted those reflections by saying, “Everything’s gone, sir, but the new house is better than this one. Come away.”

The preacher never forgot this lesson. God has prepared for his children a home infinitely better than earth — “an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands” (2 Corinthians 5:1, NIV).

“What Do I Have?”

What do I have, Lord, that you would need me as a servant?

Eyes, he said,
to see the beauty in all that I’ve made —
and my children as they travel life’s highway.

Hands, he said,
to reach out and touch hurting souls,
to give a hug or encouraging pat on the back.

Feet, he said,
to lead my children through this world of strife
and to help them run from sin and follow me.

Mouth, he said,
to lift up your voice and sing praises to me
so others may hear the joy in your heart.

Ears, he said,
to listen to my still, small voice of love
and to hear my children when they cry for help.

Heart, he said,
so you may know the full love of my Spirit
and love my children as I have loved you.

—Thomas Butler

A heavenly focus

“Why are not our hearts continually set on heaven?” asks 17th-century pastor and author Richard Baxter. Focusing on heaven stirs our faith, guards against temptation, eases suffering and makes us an encouragement to others, Baxter says. He urges: “Bend thy soul to study eternity, busy thyself about the life to come ... and let not those thoughts be seldom and cursory, but bathe thyself in heaven’s delights.”

The Treasurer reported the following figures for December 2017:

<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 5,089.08
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>\$ 5,143.25</u>
<i>Total</i>	\$ (54.17)

Year to Date

<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 63,224.14
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>\$ 99,965.84</u>
<i>Total</i>	\$ (36,741.70)



We might never see Jesus in the shining brilliance that some disciples witnessed (Mark 9:2-9). But, God, help us recognize him in the dazzling light of love poured out selflessly among neighbors.



Care of Members and Friends

Malnor Arthur

Teddy Buckland

First Presbyterian Church of
Dumas, our prayer partner.

DUTY ELDER FOR FEBRUARY

JULIA KASCH

SESSION MEETING

February 18, 2018



Session Connection:

Julia Kasch
Sue Hooten
Don Thompson
Margaret Edgington

Clerk Of Session/Administration/Christian Ed.
Fellowship
Property
Worship



HI-PLAINS HELPING HAND DONATION:

First Presbyterian Church has increased its financial donation to the agency and will no longer gather food or hygiene products.



Brown Bag Luncheon Dates:

February 20th – St. Andrew Methodist Church.
February 27th – First Presbyterian Church.

Both Luncheons will begin at noon.



Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be on February 14th at 5:30 p.m.



The weekend of February 9-11 is our All-Presbytery Retreat! This year our retreat is for everyone, of all ages, throughout all of Palo Duro Presbytery and it will take the form of A Festival of Worship. We will gather Friday evening at Chaparral Retreat Center in Iowa Park—we'll indulge in all kinds of worship services (from “traditional” to Taize , from Gospel singing to Tailgate worship, from Shaped note singing to Jazz Vespers), but we will also have free time to explore, a mission project to enjoy and lots of good fellowship. The accommodations are hotel-style. Everyone is encouraged to attend. If you are interested, please see Janell for registration information.



Jesus Is My Valentine

**Jesus is my Valentine;
I talk to Him each day.
He never, never leaves me;
and always listens when I pray.
Yes He is my Valentine;
there is no love like His.
He is the heart of all that is;
for Him I breathe and live.
He's a Valentine that never lies;
never hurts or breaks.
He always has forgiven me;
for all my past mistakes.
If you only knew my Valentine;
You would love Him too.
For His love is always perfect;
His love is always true.
So if your heart is longing;
for a love that never ends.
for someone that is faithful;
you know you can depend.
call upon my Valentine;
He'll wash away your sin.
He will be your Valentine;
and your dearest, dearest friend.**

**by: Susan Y Nikitenko
December 2008**

Background4Christian.com





February Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals Year B

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany—February 4

Isaiah 40:21–31
Psalm 147:1–11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16–23
Mark 1:29–39

Transfiguration of the Lord—February 11

2 Kings 2:1–12
Psalm 50:1–6
2 Corinthians 4:3–6
Mark 9:2–9

Ash Wednesday—February 14

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 *or* Isa. 58:1–12
Psalm 51:1–17
2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10
Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21

First Sunday in Lent—February 18

Genesis 9:8–17
Psalm 25:1–10
1 Peter 3:18–22
Mark 1:9–15

Second Sunday in Lent—February 25

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16
Psalm 22:23–31
Romans 4:13–25
Mark 8:31–38

Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)2



10 biblical ways to love

1. Listen without interrupting. “To answer before listening — that is folly and shame” (Proverbs 18:13).
2. Speak without accusing. “Be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry” (James 1:19).
3. Give without selfishness. “The righteous give without sparing” (Proverbs 21:26).
4. Pray without ceasing. “We have not stopped praying for you” (Colossians 1:9).
5. Answer without arguing. “Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife” (Proverbs 17:1).
6. Share without pretending. “Speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of ... Christ” (Ephesians 4:15).
7. Enjoy without complaining. “Do everything without grumbling or arguing” (Philippians 2:14).
8. Trust without wavering. “[Love] always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres” (1 Corinthians 13:7).
9. Forgive without punishing. “Forgive as the Lord forgave you” (Colossians 3:13).
10. Promise without forgetting. “A longing fulfilled is a tree of life” (Proverbs 13:12).

—From various websites; all Scriptures NIV

+Christian Symbol+



Lark

Birds became prominent in Christian art during the Medieval and Renaissance eras. The lark came to symbolize the humility of the priesthood because it flies high and sings only when flying upward.

A repentant heart

Until we taste the bitterness of our own misery, we will never relish the sweetness of God’s mercy. Until we see how foul our sins have made us, we will never pay our tribute of praise to Christ for washing us. ... If you would know the heart of your sin, then you must know the sins of your heart!

—William Secker

Opening Prayer – All:

- Strengthen us, Lord, during our Lenten journey to Easter. Give us the grace to resist temptation to grow in holiness and to make a difference in our world through our prayer, fasting and good deeds. Amen.



Denying Satan by Carl Bloch