

First Presbyterian Church

Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
910 N WASHINGTON AVE
LIVINGSTON, TEXAS
MARCH 2025



THERE ONCE WAS A MAN

by Tommy Fluker

There once was a man, paused at death's door
Who said, get me through this Lord, and I'll come back once more
Everything's gone great for me, that is, up until now
I'll be back in your house Lord, and that's my vow

There once was a man, who meant what he said
You've answered my prayers, or I'd surely be dead
I'll be back in your house Lord, just you wait and see
It's so good to know Lord, you're always there for me

There once was a man, though given back his life
Lived just as he had before and blamed it all on strife
I'll be back in your house Lord, don't give up on me
Though I can't say for sure, just when that will be

There once was a man, who watched the years roll by
Who finally kept his vow, Lord, and that man was I

CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

ANKH, OR ANSATE CROSS — Originating in Egyptian hieroglyphics, this symbol represented life and regeneration. The shape and meaning made perfect sense to ancient Christians, who appropriated it as a sign of eternal life.



Special Events

- Mar 2nd – Transfiguration of the Lord; Communion Sunday
- Mar 5th – Administration Team, 9 a.m., AB; Mission Team Meeting, 11:15 a.m., FH; Ash Wednesday Service, 5 p.m., Sanctuary
- Mar 9th - Daylight saving time begins; 1st Sunday in Lent; Fellowship Luncheon after the Service, FH
- Mar 10th - PW Circle Meeting, 1:30 p.m., FH
- Mar 12th - Session Meeting, 3 p.m., FH
- Mar 13th - COSI Event, pipe organ concert, 5 p.m., Sanctuary
- Mar 16th - 2nd Sunday in Lent
- Mar 19th – Lenten Soup & Supper Service, 4 p.m., FH
- Mar 21th – *Tidings* articles due
- Mar 23rd – 3rd Sunday in Lent
- Mar 30th – 4th Sunday in Lent

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Our next meeting will be March 10th at 1:30 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. You will need to bring your blue book, *Jewish Culture and Customs*, and the brown book, *More Jewish Culture & Customs*. This year our study will be a "Sharing" Lesson. As you read your chapters use your sticky notes to mark any questions or thoughts you would want to share or ask during the lesson.

Readings:

Blue Book page 119 - 133, Chapter 7, Jewish Holidays

Brown Book pages 117 - 121, The Call of the Shofar and 185 - 189, Politics and Politicians

-Beverly Davidson

Welcome
Spring



Experience the majesty of the Visser-Rowland pipe organ played by the incomparable Ethan Ainsworth!

Join us for an unforgettable afternoon of music with renowned organist

Ethan Ainsworth

Date: March 13th

Time: 5:00 PM

Location: First Presbyterian Church

910 N Washington Ave, Livingston (across from Polk County Abstract)

Prepare to be captivated by Ainsworth's masterful performance of works by Bach, Handel, Buxtehude and others on the church's magnificent Visser-Rowland pipe organ. This is a unique opportunity to hear a world-class musician bring this extraordinary instrument to life.

Ethan is currently the organist and director of music at First Methodist here in Livingston. Before entering full-time ministry Ethan served as a band and choir director in Texas' public schools.

Don't miss this special event!

This concert is part of the COSI series of lectures and concerts sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church, Livingston. All events are always free and open to the public.

LENT Lent LENT Lent

Upcoming Presbyterian Women's and Church Events:

Spring Gathering – April 5th, 9:30-2:30 p.m., St. Philip Presbyterian, Houston

PCHAS Luncheon – April 24th, 12-1 p.m., Lakeside Country Club, Houston

Carpooling from the Church and open to all.

Mo-Ranch Women's Conference June 6th to the 8th, Kerrville

Watch for more information.

The Lenten Desert

During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.



In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, "O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past."

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. "This is what Lent is meant to be," writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. "Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other."

Mission Update

Your Mission team reminds you to review our bulletin board in the Narthex and thanks you for supporting our various collections. Session approved our 2025 budget request of \$22,760, which is .09 percent of the \$245, 296 church budget. Special offerings and other donations are not included in this percentage.

Our PCUSA's One Great Hour of Sharing special offering is this April and is focused on providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

Our next COSI event is set for March 13th at 5 p.m., in the sanctuary, featuring Ethan Ainsworth on our unique organ. Hope you can attend.

We do plan later this year to hold another book swap and another Mission Sunday.

Our Outreach effort is led by Karen and Doug Palmer, so if you see new folks in a pew, please welcome them and remind the elder on duty to present them with a coffee cup and its fixins.

From the Center of Hope, in 2024, the Emergency Health ministry provided more than \$10,800 in prescriptions along with \$4,872 in gas vouchers to 296 clients. Over 65 folks volunteer at the COH, and more are welcome.

We are exploring a special project using either the Heifer International or our Presbyterian Giving catalogs. We meet on March 5th, in Room 2 of FH at 11:15 a.m., and anyone may attend.

Chuck Davidson, Chair

Administration Team

The Administration Team met on February 12, 2025, with five members present. We opened with prayer.

It was determined that, knock wood, all office machines and equipment were in good working order.

We discussed the church's insurance policy with Church Mutual and bemoaned the fact that premiums continue to escalate at a rapid clip.

Our treasurer advised that the church's 2025 budget had been approved by Session, but that there were a couple of minor changes that needed to be made to it.

The Greetings Team is fully staffed and each of its members are enjoying this meaningful work.

We closed with prayer and set the next meeting for Wednesday, March 5, at 9 a.m., in the Activities Building.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lou Anderson

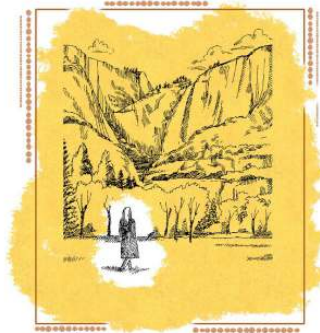


- Ash Wednesday Service: Mar. 5th, 5 p.m., Sanctuary
- Wednesday Lenten Soup & Sandwich Services: Mar. 19, 4 p.m., Apr. 9, 4 p.m., FH

Bible Quiz

Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story:
"The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of ____."

- A. flowers
- B. sheep
- C. rocks
- D. bones




Answer: D (See Ezekiel 37:1, NIV)

Celebrate!

MARCH

Birthdays and Anniversaries

- Fred & Josephine Durham, 03/02
- Joe & Mary Ann Palmer, 03/21
- Tom Wilkins, 03/01
- Jackie Burck, 03/12
- Terri Hirling, 03/12
- Robin Sessums, 03/13
- Rev. John Hirling, 03/24
- Phenone Neal, 03/24


**Elder
of the Month**
Virginia Chapman

Quotes

“Of one thing I am perfectly sure: God’s story never ends with ashes.” —Elisabeth Elliot

* * *

“Run to the Lord and be comforted.” —Julian of Norwich

* * *

“The spiritual life does not remove us from the world but leads us deeper into it.” —Henri J.M. Nouwen

* * *

“If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow.” —Chinese proverb

* * *

“If your ship doesn’t come in, swim out to it!” —Jonathan Winters



Website:

www.fpclivingston.com

Email:

fpclivingston.com

Phone: (936) 327-8381

Fax: (936) 327-4719

Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. -
12:30 p.m., M-F

Sunday Schedule

Friendship Bible Class - 9 a.m.

Worship - 10 a.m.

Adult Bible Study - 11 a.m.

Wednesdays

Prayer Group - 1 p.m.

Adult Bible Study - 2 p.m.