



Crossroads



Life Together

Every year, at various points in the year, our nation stops and engages in certain rituals that put our country's values and ideals at the center of our lives. President's Day, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Veteran's Day – these holidays solidify our national identity as Americans. This month our nation will celebrate the granddaddy of them all – Independence Day. It's a time to remember how our nation was founded, what our guiding principles and values are.

This is a common undertaking for nations and societies. The Israelites instituted feasts and festivals to be celebrated throughout the year to remind them of their identity as God's people. Passover, Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets, Yom Kippur, the Feast of Tabernacles, and Hannukah are all ways the Jewish people – even to this day – establish a rhythm of life that centers their identity and faith around God. Of course, the weekly observance of Sabbath, resting and worshiping every 7th day to remember and honor the Creator and how God continues to be active in our lives, is the most important and most observed holy day for the Jews.

The early church arose out of Judaism and sought to provide a similar rhythm of life that would help followers of Jesus remember their primary identity as children of God. We call this the liturgical calendar today. It begins with Advent, a time of preparation for Christ's birth. Then comes Christmas, a 12-day festival from December 25th to January 6th (Epiphany), celebrating God coming to live with us. Lent prepares us for Christ's Passion, which is observed on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and Easter celebrates the resurrection. Forty days after Easter is Ascension Day, which we usually celebrate as Christ the King Sunday. In between these we have Ordinary Time, a time of growth and nurture (that's why the color is green). And, of course, every Sunday we celebrate The Lord's Day – a day of worship on the first day of the week to remind us that the resurrected Jesus is Lord of our lives.

Paul writes to the Philippians that we are first and foremost **"citizens of heaven"** (Phil. 3:20). He wrote this to citizens of the Roman Empire to remind them that their primary identity was not found, nor grounded, in the rituals of the country in which they lived or in Caesar, but in God. He urged them to think of themselves first and foremost as God's people, not as Romans. Putting God at the center of their lives, living according to the rhythm He has established, is what accomplishes this. Paul says, essentially: **"Everyone around you gets their identity from doing these things, but your identity comes from God, so you should be doing these things."**

Continued on Page 2—>

July 2022

Life Together	1
Life Together cont'd	2
Birthdays	
Notice	
Book Club	3
PDO Photos	
Mission/Outreach	4
Food Pantry	5
Announcement	
Graduate	6
Wed. Night Dinners	
Quilt Show	
Session Meeting	7
Highlights	
Kroger Community	
Rewards	
Gathering @ FPC	Back

Continued from Page 1.

Does this mean we shouldn't celebrate the Fourth of July? Of course not. We've never needed more to be reminded of the principles of justice – equity – equality – and freedom upon which this country was founded. We have never needed more to be reminded of the rights of all people to pursue life – liberty – and happiness free from the bonds of oppression – no matter what form of oppression exists – whether we agree with how people are pursuing these things or not. But it is also good for us to remember that we are not primarily Americans who are Christian; - we are Christians first – who happen to live in America. As such, our primary identity comes from God – and our primary duty is to Him and the principles He has provided for our lives in Scripture.

This 4th of July a close friend will be in Italy. I am looking forward to hearing how another part of the world views our Independence Day celebrations. It will be like getting an “outsider's” point of view. And yet, that's kind of what Paul is saying. All of us who follow Jesus should see ourselves as outsiders in this world – no matter what country we live in – and behave accordingly. Peace,

Craig



July Birthdays

- 7 Christopher Wade
- 8 Kathy Durham
- 9 Linda Hodges
- 11 Linda Hooper
- 19 Luke Durham
- 28 Cindy Williams
- 31 Declan Shirley



Updates welcomed!

Thank You

Friends, I am a wordsmith, but I find myself at a loss to express how much you all mean to Cathy and me. Your notes of support, gifts, and kind thoughts mean more to us than you can ever know. Never in my wildest imagination did I believe I would ever be diagnosed with cancer, but life happens.

We are confident that God had a strong hand in bringing us to the First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville. We're close to the majority of our family, we're close to MD Anderson, and we are surrounded by all of you. We are truly blessed! Peace,

Craig



Join Us

Wednesday July 6th at 8:30 a.m. in the church parlor.

“Hidden in Plain View”

by Jacqueline Tobin & Raymond Dobard

and

“The Healing of Natalie Curtis” by Jane Kirkpatrick

“A lyrical novel based on a true story that captivates to the very end.”

August Book is ready to pick up!

“Rhinestone Jesus” by Kristen Welch

A delightful honest read for anyone who ever wondered if her small “yes” matters.

Coffee and dessert shared.



Photos from Parents Day Out



Silent Auction
Sunday, October 16
through
Sunday, October 23

We will collect silent auction items from now until Sunday, October 2.

For more information or if you would like to donate goods or services for the auction please contact:

Beckie Riddell - 713-502-0901
Kathy Corbell - 409-771-6166
Church Office - 936-295-2440

Proceeds will support Mission and Outreach projects such as:

- FEEDING THE HUNGRY
- COLLEGE CHOIR SCHOLARSHIPS
- NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF
- ITEMS FOR THE UNHOUSED
- COMMUNITY KIDS EVENTS
- SENIOR CARE
- YOUTH CAMPS AND CONFERENCES
- EMERGENCY CARE
- PDO SCHOLARSHIPS
- EMPOWERING HISD STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND STAFF



You won't want
to miss it!



Pentecost Offering

Thank you for your gifts to the Pentecost Offering totaling \$606. Your gift helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.

40% of the Pentecost offering will be used to make an impact on the lives of our youth by sending them to the Intercultural Youth Conference at Mo Ranch this summer. (Pictures next month)

The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.



Uvalde Support

The Outreach Ministry Team (supported by YOU) has sent \$1000 to First Presbyterian Church, Uvalde, Texas, to help with the ongoing needs of families affected by the school tragedy in their community. First Presbyterian, Uvalde, is one of the contact organizations in that area that is working closely with the school administration and community families to provide much needed help in many different ways.

Thank you for supporting the OMT so that together we can support many in need.



THANKFULLY, WE CONTINUE TO SERVE MANY PEOPLE, RECENTLY GAVE FOOD TO OVER 30 PEOPLE. ALL FOOD ITEMS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

"And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'" - Matthew 25:40 (NRSV)

NURSERY WORKER NEEDED

IF YOU KNOW OF A RELIABLE, MATURE ADULT LOOKING FOR A PART-TIME JOB ON SUNDAY MORNINGS, PLEASE TALK TO CHARLIE BRADBURY. HOURS WOULD BE 10 A.M. TO NOON.





Graduate

Gwynn Durham

Gwynn graduated from The University of Texas at Austin on May 20, 2022 with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Psychology. She is a 4th generation Texas Longhorn graduate. Gwynn is applying to medical school with plans to become a physician.

CONGRATULATIONS & BLESSINGS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Wednesday Night Dinners

Come Join in the
Fun and Fellowship

Summertime Schedule—5:30 p.m.

All are invited!

Dinner is provided by different
members each week.

Donations are accepted and dinner
providers are reimbursed.

College students eat free!



19th Street

Quilt Walk

Saturday, October 22

10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Church of Jesus Christ
of Later-Day Saints

First Christian Church

First Presbyterian Church and

Join us in sharing your favorite
quilts—old or new.

For more information contact
Martha Doolin, Brenda Brock or
the church office.

Silent Auction will be held during
this time also.

Save
the Date

Highlights from June Session Meeting

- The first Gathering event will be held on June 25. All Ministry Teams are involved in the event with approximately 55 individuals who have signed up to attend.
- Session was informed of Craig's Annual Review. A Called Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 26, following worship to vote on a change in Craig's Terms of Call.

Kroger Community

Rewards

Become a member of the Kroger Community Rewards and help those in need in our community.—you won't lose your points for fuel and other items.

- Google: www.kroger.com
- Go to Account: Upper right-hand corner of your screen (picture of person)
- Sign In: Login with your Kroger email and password or create a login account with email and password.
- Go to Community: Scroll to the very end of page (gray box). Go to title: Community. Under Community click on Kroger Community Rewards.
- Link Card: Scroll down until you see Link Your Shopper's Card. Press Get Started. Link card to KU896 (easier) or First Presbyterian Church (make sure it is FPC Huntsville).
- You are done!



Gathering @ FPC

JUNE 25 · JULY 30 · AUGUST 27
WATER · CLAY · SPIRIT

10:00 a.m. **Gathering**
10:30 a.m. **Bible Study**
11:30 a.m. **Lunch**
12:00 p.m. **Gathering**
12:30 p.m. **Stations**
2:00 p.m. **Gathering**
2:30 p.m. **Family Activities**



*You May Sign Up in the Church
Narthex, Church Website, or Call
the Church Office*



First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville, Texas
1801 19th Street, Huntsville, Texas 77340
936-295-2440 www.firstpreshuntsvilletx.org

Like us on Facebook and Instagram

