

thanksgiving
gather
thankful family
blessed grateful
together blessings
november

The text is surrounded by decorative elements including a red branch with leaves at the top left, a brown leaf to the right of 'together', and two stylized leaves (one orange, one green) to the left of 'blessings'.

Give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good;
his love endures
forever.

- Psalm 118:1

November
2019

The News

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Newsletter Team

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Editors

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A Matter of the Heart

Sunday, November 10, is GET YOURSELF TO CHURCH Sunday!

*“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, **not neglecting to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging one another**, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”* – Hebrews 10:24-25 (emphasis added)

As many of you have heard, we are doing things a bit differently this year. Sunday, November 10, is our “WILL YOU GROW?” Generosity Campaign Commitment Sunday, when we will hand out the “2020 Estimate of Giving Card” to



each family, individual, or household that is present so that the card can be filled out and brought forward that day *in worship*. We are asking every active family and person to come to worship and to answer that question, *will you grow?*, in the affirmative.

We believe that the Lord is calling us to a new level of prayer, commitment, and faith in Christ. That means that we are urging each person in our congregation to take responsibility for, not just *thinking* about growing, but, truly committing ourselves to grow: 1) in our relationship with God in Jesus Christ, and 2) in our giving to the Lord's work in this church. This is about trusting in the Lord in order to realize and receive a new depth of God's love and grace, and to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in our everyday walk with Jesus.

We are learning that biblical generosity is directly linked to discipleship. Being generous with our financial resources is a spiritual issue, not a financial issue. That is proved by the incredible generosity that is often shown by those who are people of relatively modest means, and vice versa. A person's giving patterns often have very little to do with their actual income. That is because generous giving to the Lord's work is normally determined by the spiritual condition of a person's heart. A heart that is yielded to the Lord and to his kingdom will result in spiritual and biblical generosity.

Often, pastors and other church leaders "tip-toe" around the issues of money and biblical generosity, for fear of offending a few people. And indeed, over the years, I have seen some venomous reactions to various pleas for money to meet the needs

of the church. Yet, Jesus spoke very openly about the issues of money and possessions. He knows our money is a "heart" issue. He said, "... *For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also*" (Matthew 6:21). About two-thirds of the parables and nearly one of every ten verses in the four Gospel accounts address the issue of money and possessions. If Jesus was not reluctant to talk about money and possessions, neither should we be reluctant. We do need to do the hard work of learning a biblical perspective on generosity.

There is a temptation for church to approach their financial needs simply from a fundraising perspective, rather than a generosity perspective. The fundraising perspective places more emphasis on the need of the church to fund a budget, and success is measured purely in dollars. The biblical generosity perspective realizes what Jesus taught: the amount given is not the measure, but the heart's commitment is. Jesus said, "*Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on*" (Luke 21:3-4). The spiritual nature of a person's generous effort makes all the difference.

God owns it all ("*the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof..*"), and God does not need our money, but we need to give in order to experience the fullness of life He desires for us. It is an act of grace on God's part that He even allows us to participate financially in his work. Our "Will You Grow?" Commitment Sunday on November 10 is based on the philosophy that faith is more important than finances, and the quality of the gift is more important than the quantity.

We hope and pray that we will see you and your family or loved ones on Sunday, November 10, for our Generosity Campaign Commitment Sunday! And may it all be done to the glory of God!

--Pastor Rich McDermott

Let's Tailgate Together on December 15!

Q: "*With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?*" – Micah 6:6

A: YES!!!

Save the date for an FPCA tailgate extravaganza! Bring your grills. Bring your coolers. Wear your Cowboys gear as we will get cooking in the south parking lot after the 11:00 service. And at 3:30, we will head into the Fellowship Hall to watch the Cowboys take on the Rams.

This is family friendly and a great opportunity to invite a friend! It's on church grounds so load up your coolers with O'Douls or something similar. In other words, no alcohol.

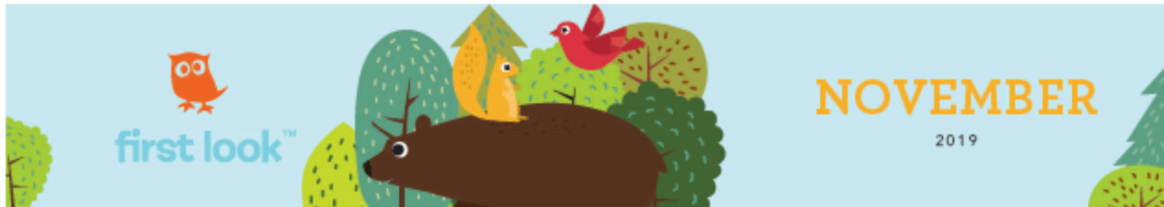
This will be a lot of fun and hopefully the Cowboys will have figured out a few things by then. See you there!

Pastor Chris



Children's Ministry

Preschool



MONTHLY OVERVIEW

"Can you say thank you?" How many times will a child be asked that question in their preschool years? We ask them again and again because we want to help them learn to be thankful. This month is all about saying thank you. In fact, we are going to be bubbling over with thankfulness with our Bubble Factory theme.

Throughout the month, preschoolers will learn to be thankful for their family, friends, and food. And, they'll

learn that saying, "Thank you" is just as important as being thankful.

Imagine the preschoolers in your church learning to tell God thank you – for EVERYTHING – all while having fun with their small group leaders and friends. Imagine them growing up giving thanks to the Lord with their WHOLE heart.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY
Ruth, Naomi, and Boaz
Ruth 1-2

STORY FOCUS
I can thank God
for my family.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY
David and Jonathan
1 Samuel 18:1-4

STORY FOCUS
I can thank God
for my friends.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY
Manna
Exodus 16

STORY FOCUS
I can thank God
for food.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY
The Lepers
Luke 17:11-19

STORY FOCUS
I can say thank you.

|  |  |  |  |
|---|---|---|---|
| MEMORY VERSE | KEY QUESTION | BOTTOM LINE | |
| "I WILL GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD WITH MY WHOLE HEART." PSALM 111:1, ESV | WHO CAN YOU THANK FOR EVERYTHING? | I CAN THANK GOD FOR EVERYTHING. | |
| GOD MADE ME. | | | |

Elementary and KFC

252 KIDS

**NOVEMBER
2019**

**GRADES
K-5**

MONTHLY OVERVIEW

GOD VIEW: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN THE HONOR AND GOD'S CHARACTER, AS SHOWN THROUGH GOD'S BIG STORY

Honor is letting someone know you see how valuable they really are.

All people have value because they were created in God's image. God values each of us so much that He

sent Jesus to make it possible for us to have a forever relationship with Him. We follow God's example when we show others that they have value, too.

WEEK ONE

BIBLE STORY:
David and Goliath
1 Samuel 17

BOTTOM LINE
Honor others by giving them a chance.

WEEK TWO

BIBLE STORY:
David and Jonathan
1 Samuel 18:1-11; 19:1-7; 20:1-42

BOTTOM LINE
Honor others by putting them first.

WEEK THREE

BIBLE STORY:
David and Mephibosheth
2 Samuel 9:1-13 (Supporting: 2 Samuel 4:4)

BOTTOM LINE
Honor others by keeping your promises.

WEEK FOUR

BIBLE STORY:
Daniel Is Thrown Into a Den of Lions
Daniel 6

BOTTOM LINE
Honor God by giving Him credit.

MEMORY VERSE

"LOVE ONE ANOTHER DEEPLY. HONOR OTHERS MORE THAN YOURSELVES."

ROMANS 12:10,
NIRV

HONOR

Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are

Save the Date

November 1 Kids Night Out from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

November 3 Luncheon for families with children in sixth grade or younger

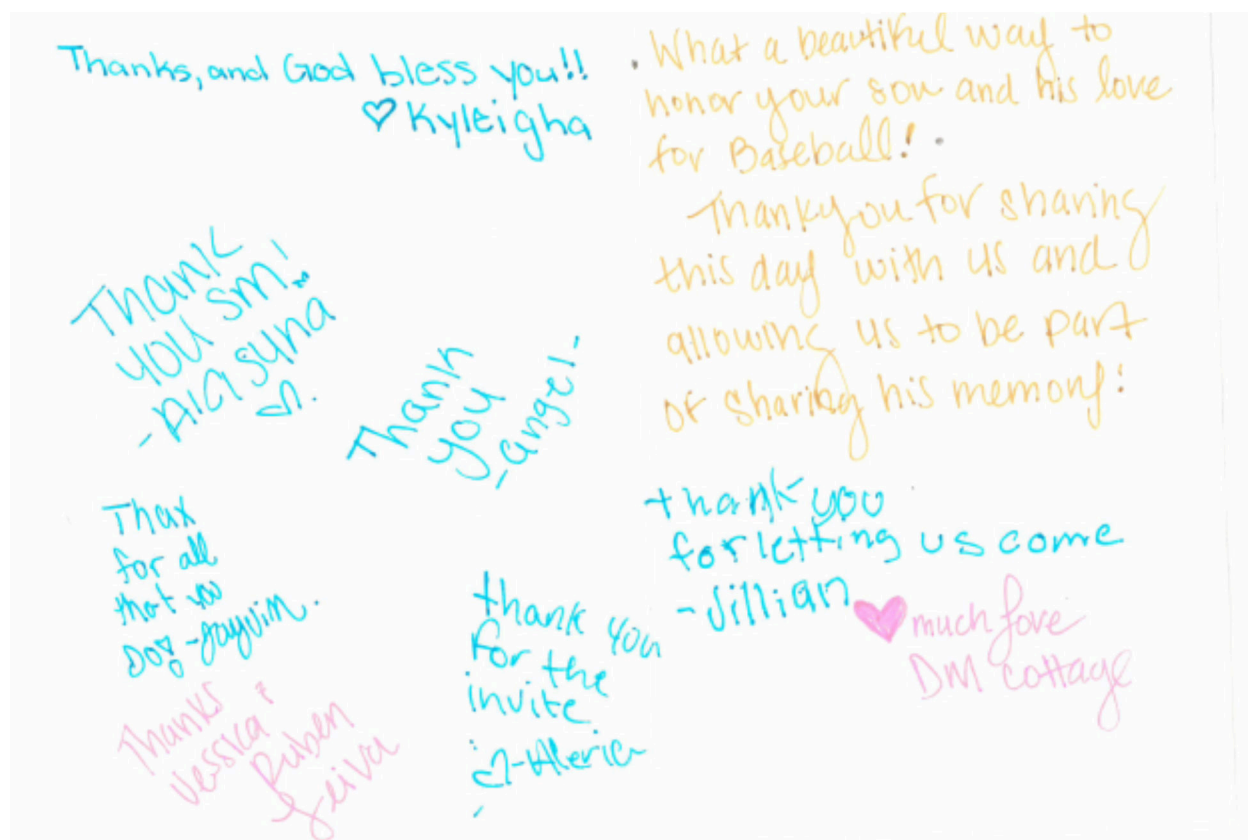
November 15 Kids Night Out from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Remembering the Saints

November 3 is All Saints Sunday. This year, we will particularly remember: Willem Broekhuizen, Mary Kay Goering, Norma Hodge, Matthew Moody, William Perry, John Pittman, James P. Reynolds, Michelle Reynolds, Boyd Schernbeck, Jr., Betty Schuttler, Betty Spriggs, and Margaret White.

Thank You from the PCHAS Kids

Church, lunch, last Ranger game in the old ballpark – a really good time!



PCHAS Event



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM

SINGLE PARENT CAMPUS VOLUNTEER DAYS

Join PCHAS and Marge & Bob on a Saturday morning to provide activities for children while parents learn basic life skills.

Lunch will be provided.



PCHAS WAXAHACHIE CAMPUS

300 Brookside Drive, Waxahachie, Texas 75767

Nov 2, 16, 23; Dec 7

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please Contact Kathy Dodson | kathy.dodson@pchas.org | 254-230-4517
or Marge & Bob Dawson | mdawsonarltx@att.net | 817-980-6825

*To let us know you are coming -
so we can carpool and plan for your lunch too!*

UTA Concert Series Continues

A Cappella Choir

7 p.m., Nov. 3, in the Sanctuary

Under the direction of Dr. Karen Kenaston-French, the UTA A Cappella Choir presents music from their upcoming National Collegiate Choral Organization conference performance in College Park, Maryland, including music by William Mathias, Bob Chilcott, and others.

Admission is free.

A reception in the Parlor following.



Senior Voice Recital: Hunter Hendrickson

7 p.m., Nov. 14, in the Sanctuary

FPCA music intern

Hunter Hendrickson, tenor, performs music vocal solos as part of his bachelor of music degree.

Admission is free.

A reception in the Parlor following.



Finance Update

For the month of September 2019

Budget (Operating and Funds Released)

Income: \$ 95,030

Expense: (\$ 98,677)

Income - Expense for month: (\$ 3,648)

Income - Expense for 2019 Year to Date: (\$ 60,049)

Comments:

Total Operating Income is under budget for the month by (\$4,047) and under for the year by (\$74,939).

Funds Released is over budget for the month by \$9,827 and over for the year by \$102,829.

Donors – Under budget for the month by (\$4,475) and under for the year by (\$ 70,961)

Total Expenses were over budget for the month by \$3,498 and over for the year by \$83,161.

Session Discretionary Funds (not designated or reserved) \$ 41,684

Cost to operate church for one month - \$ 75,000



This Month



Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study group meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 a.m. in the parlor. Men of all ages meet and enjoy great fellowship and a prayer session. All men are invited to join this study.

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Monday Night Bible study is open to all women. The next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, November 11, in the parlor.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet in the Bride's Room every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Music Ministries



Chancel Choir

This is the primary worship leadership ensemble for the 11:00 service. The choir also sings for special services around Christmas and Holy Week. It is more than just a great choir; it is a caring fellowship. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. *Nursery care is provided during rehearsals.*

Ring of Praise Handbell Ensemble

This intergenerational handbell group rehearses Wednesday evenings from 6:15 until 7:15 p.m. If you are interested in ringing, please contact Russell Farnell (fpcamusic@yahoo.com or 817-274-8286).

Agape (Youth) Choir

During the school year, this group of youth in grades 6 to 12 meets on Sunday, 4:30 to 6:00 p.m., in the choir room.

Children's Music Ministries

The children's choirs meet from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m. on Sundays during the school year. Children ages 4 (when school starts) through grade 5 participate in activities including music/singing and bells/chimes, instruments, and listening activities. There are two sections, divided by age, and both participate in the 11:00 worship service twice per year, usually in December and April.



Church Leadership

Deacon Meeting

Thursday, November 7, at 6:30 p.m., the Diaconate meets in the parlor to oversee the Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship ministries.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, November 14, at 6:45 p.m., all teams meet for worship in the chapel with subsequent gathering into respective teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m., the Session meets in the parlor to oversee the ministry of the church. The work of the Diaconate, church administration, and all Discipleship, Worship, Facility Management, and Mission and Evangelism ministries will be discussed.

Discipleship



Library Team

The library team works the first Wednesday of each month, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome. No particular skill is required, the work is easy, and we always have a good time as we process books to be added to our inventory. If you would like to be involved in library work but cannot come at that evening time, please contact Sandy Thomlinson (at 817-460-8050) and special daytime work sessions can be arranged.



Fellowship

Happy Quilters

This group meets Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. to quilt, sew, knit, crochet, embroider, and just enjoy being together. Bring your project and join in!

Saints Alive!

Church seniors will meet for a potluck lunch on Thursday, November 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a casserole, salad, or dessert and enjoy a fun and interesting afternoon.

Contact Bev Koch (817-261-3202) for details.



First Presbyterian Church
1200 S. Collins Street
Arlington, TX 76010

Deadline for the December issue of The News is November 15!

Prayer Ministry

Prayers for those with health and other concerns: Apana Agha, Elaine Bahn, Jack Bos, James (Andrew) Bridges, Grace Broekhuizen, Vannah Caylor, Frank and Allena Coburn, Edna Collins, Lee Carol Copeland, Marge Dawson, Michael Deardorff, the Farnell Family, Don Farrell, the Gifford Family, Joe and Lila Glenn, Andrew Hydock, Bob Johnson, Tim Karnes (Pat May's son), Gary Lindley, Pat May, Barbara Mooers, Betsy Pense, Nita Price, Jim L. Quick, Jillian Reynolds, Joan and Homer Reynolds, Donna Vickers, Nancy Welborne, and Karl Winter

Prayers for our family serving in the armed forces: Ben Boughton, Riley Curnutt, Austin Curran, James Dailey, Eric Dill, Jeff Grimes, Nathan Haerer, Damien King, Mike Mancini, Amie Murtha, Stephen O'Neil Sosa, Colin Peden, Jason Polk, Ryan Powell, Ryan Regalado, Peyton Steeno, Christopher Young, and Robbie Wallace

Prayers for our homebound members: Esther Albright, Suzette Armstrong, Polly Baugh, Shirley Bragg, Renabel Clutz, Tom and Bobbie Fowler, Jack Gray, Marge Harrand, Barbara Hughes, Barbara Kraemer, Jeanne Malone, Allen and Charlene Miller, Cary and Ruth Moore, Carrie and Cosme Pacot, Ann Pitstick, Al Smithson, Jack and Betty Snowden, Lorraine Swanson, Brooks and Connie Taylor, Dee Uhri, Richard Whitenight, and Mary Jane Wright

Pray for those who do not know Christ!



If you have any congregational care needs, please contact Pastor Rich McDermott at 817-274-8286.