

October 2017



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HOPE NEWS

Pastor's Message

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Reformation Sunday is always the last Sunday of October. This year, though, it takes on special meaning. This year marks the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his theses to the door in Wittenberg, Germany which started the Reformation. The Hispanic Presbyterian Churches of the RGV are taking a week to celebrate this Anniversary of the Reformation with special worship services. The churches will take turns hosting these special services. All are invited to hear Dr. Hector Rodriguez as he preaches on the key themes of the Reformation. These worship services will be held Tuesday October 24, through Sunday October 29. Here is the schedule for the week:

Tuesday October 24, 7 p.m. Gethsemane, 140 Diaz Street, San Benito

Wednesday October 25, 7 p.m. San Pablo, 301 E. Pike, Weslaco

Thursday October 26, 7 p.m. Second, 901 W. Lincoln Avenue, Harlingen

Friday October 27, 7 p.m. Betania, 510 N. 21st Street, McAllen

Saturday October 28 will be a workshop presented by Dr. Rodriguez at Second Presbyterian, Harlingen. 9 a.m. in English, 11 a.m. in Spanish.

Sunday October 29 will be a full morning starting with registration at 8:30 and ending with a banquet at 12:45 at Primera Mexicana, 616 E. Jefferson Street, Brownsville. Since there is a banquet, it is important to RSVP by October 15 to either 956-463-6190 or 956-542-4517.

I hope many of you will be able to attend at least some of these special worship services.

Peace,

Pastor David



You are invited to First Presbyterian Church's



To be held on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church, 709 S. Iowa Ave, Weslaco, in the Fellowship Hall and on the Playground. This event is held for our congregation, our partners in ministry, and the community. It is meant to be a time of fun and fellowship, so please come and invite your friends to join us as well!

The event will have fun activities for all ages – games, cake walk, fun house, costume contest – and, of course, food and fellowship!

We are looking forward to having you join us for this event. Please put this fun family-oriented event on your calendar!



Mission & Outreach



Fall Festival

October means it's time for our annual Fall Festival! Last year's festival was a blast, and I'm so glad we get to welcome the families and staff from First Christian Academy to join us again.

The Fall Festival will be Sunday,
October 22 from **5 to 7 p.m.**

Volunteers are needed to help with:

- Set-up of booths and decorations
- Running activity booths (some will be inside)
- Registration table
- Kitchen duties (we will be serving hot dogs)
- Clean up

We will also be collecting the following to use as prizes:

- Candy
- School supplies for elementary aged children (markers, crayons, pencils, notebooks, etc.)
- Cupcakes for the Cupcake Walk (or cookies)
- Small pumpkins

We had such an outpouring of support last year that we have plenty of small prizes left over for this year, but we will need fresh candy. There will be a donation box in the Narthex and in the Fellowship Hall. If you have an idea for an activity booth or would like to help with preparations, please let Jennifer Rektorik know at jrektorik@gmail.com or 975-9933. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy and have a couple of hot dogs. Let's make this a great Fall Festival for our community's children!

Coat Closet

Right now the biggest needs for more coats are for toddler sizes and adult XL and XXL. These were the sizes that we ran out of last year. Thank you to everyone who has taken home bags of coats to clean them for our coat closet. We do have a few more bags that need washing!

The Valley Youth will meet at our church for fun, fellowship, and mission work on October 8. They will help sort the coats to get them ready for distribution in December.

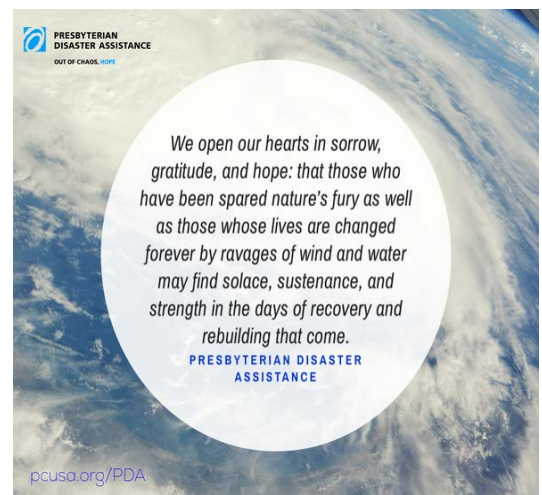


Emergency Food Pantry

The next time you are at the grocery store I would encourage you to pick up a few things for our emergency food pantry. Many people made use of our pantry over the summer, and we are running low on many things, including protein (canned meat, tuna, chicken) and spaghetti sauce. (We have plenty of green beans, however!) **In August, we served 10 families**, several reporting they were struggling due to an employment transition.

Disaster Relief

Millions of people are suffering right now in the aftermath of hurricanes, earthquakes, and fires. It will be a long road to recovery for the communities affected – please keep them in your prayers. We will work on a project that can best help these communities. In the meantime, please consider donating to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. You can donate online at <http://pda.pcusa.org/>.



NEWS & Notes

COMMUNION

Communion will still be taken to the homebound on the **first Sunday of the month**. If you know of someone who is homebound and would like communion, let us know by calling the church office.

POWER OF HOPE

The Power of Hope Fund is used for helping families in need find a sense of hope. This offering is collected on communion Sundays (first Sunday of the Month). The temperatures have been extremely warm and has not allowed for a drop in energy use. Because of the Power of Hope, these families were able to keep their homes cooled and food safe.



POTLUCK SUNDAY is *every third Sunday* of the month after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a dish to share.



Newsletter articles can be submitted to the church office by e-mail, telephone, and/or in person. The **deadline** for the **October Newsletter** is **October 25th**!

Sanctuary Flowers Reminder:

We are asking individuals who wish to dedicate flowers to do so individually and to make arrangements for delivery and pickup after the service. Also, please remember to contact the church office to make sure the day is available and to make your dedication in the bulletin.



The October 12th meeting of the Mary Ellen Rice Noon Circle will be held at John Knox Village. It will be catered by John Knox Village and the cost is \$10.00. If you plan on coming, please call POLLY LOVELL [956-968-3787](tel:956-968-3787) on the FIRST of each month. If you make a reservation, you will have to pay even if you are not able to attend. We will be meeting in the Bob Davis Dining Room (little dining room)

The Mary Ellen Rice **Noon** Circle will need cookies, or chips or other small snacks for our college students' care package. We mail them out **November 9th** and since we have an abundance of college students this year we need additional help. Also the Circle seems to be shrinking in members.

If you are willing to bake cookies, brownies, purchase small individual bags of chips, or other small snacks, or pens, pencils, and stick-it notes, please email me as soon as possible. My email address is: janeails@msn.com. Thank you for your help in continuing this valuable church project. Please bring your items to the church office by November 8th.



Choir Rehearsal

PFC Choir rehearsals will be held every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.



Congregational Meeting

Congregational meeting will be held immediately after Worship, Sunday October 22 for the purpose of electing new Elders for The Session.



Everyone is invited to join a Sunday School class on Sunday mornings. Young children, Pre-K through 5th grade, meet with Rosita Jones in room 9. Middle school and high school age youth meet in the church office. There are two adult classes, one meets in the parlor and the other in room 14/15. The classes meet every Sunday from 9:20-10:10am.

Many thanks to Maureen Vos and Mischelle King who took some of our youth to a service at Chapel by the Sea followed by a fun-filled afternoon at Schlitterbahn. We appreciate everyone who volunteers to work with our youth; they are a great group of kids!!!

The Youth have a very busy October ahead of them. On October 8, our church will host a Valley-wide gathering of youth for an afternoon of fun and service. The director of John Knox will be there to share information on the many opportunities for youth in the summer at John Knox. We hope that many of our youth are able to attend this event from 3:30-5:00.

Youth Group will meet on October 15 and 29 in the fellowship hall from 5:30-7:00. All youth are encouraged to attend and are welcome to bring a friend!

On October 22, the youth will assist with the Fall Fest. Watch for more details on this event from the Planning and Outreach Committee.



Communion was served on Sunday, September 3 to 55 worshippers. The next dates for communion are October 1 on World Communion Sunday and November 5.

Thank you to the following Worship Leaders during the month of September

Liturgists: Charles Bell, Barbara Rogers, Jennifer Rektorik, Stephanie Aranda

Ushers: Matt Jones, Eddie Seils, John McCann

Children's Sermon: Rosita Jones, Sue Peterson, Pastor David McCann, Julie Kelly

AV: Hannah McCann

Special Music: Carolyn McCann

Acolyte: Audrey Jones, Emily Jones, Brennan Hill, Gabriel Dougherty

During the month of October the Worship leaders are:

Liturgists: Camille Jones, Julie Kelly, Debbie Rektorik, Sue Peterson

Children's Sermon: David McCann, Sue Peterson, Camille Jones, Jennifer Rektorik

AV: Hannah McCann

Acolyte: Audrey Jones, Emily Jones

During the month of November, please volunteer:

1. Children's Sermon: Nov. 5, Nov. 19, Nov. 26
2. Liturgist: Nov. 12, Nov. 19
3. Hanging of the Greens: November 26 after Worship

You are needed!

Liturgist volunteers read from a script provided. If you have an interest in leading a Children's Sermon but are unsure of what to teach during that time, there is a great resource we can provide for you with lessons that match the lectionary reading of the day. Please contact Julie Kelly at 956-498-8896 if you have questions or want to volunteer.



First Presbyterian Church of McAllen



Invites you to the Installation of
Reverend Kathryn Escandell
On Sunday, October 22 @ 2:00 p.m.

Session Snippets

September 17, 2017 Meeting

The Session welcomes questions about church activities and asks everyone to pray for our ruling elders, deacons, congregation, community, and the world at large.

- Called a Congregational Meeting to elect Elders following Worship on October 22, 2017
- Approved benefit concert by Ms. Kim on January 27, 2018
- Learned \$900 has been donated toward three \$1,200 choir scholarships for high school students to sing soprano, alto, and tenor in choir
- Charles Bell and Debby Rektorik will be commissioners to Mission Presbytery meeting in Corpus Christi October 27-28, 2017
- Reviewed and updated 2018 proposed budget
- Learned Pastor David will attend the Small Church Pastor's Retreat at Mo-Ranch October 16-19, 2017
- Heard about the Convención de Iglesias Presbiterianas del Valle's celebration of 500 years of reformed traditions, 1517-2017. Dr. Hector Rodriguez will speak at a different church October 24-29, 2017 in both English and Spanish. Everyone is invited to attend.
- Dates to remember:
 - October 15 & 29: Youth Group meets
 - October 22: Congregational Meeting After Worship & Fall Festival
 - October 24: Roots of Reformation – Sola Fide at 7 p.m. at Gethsemane, San Benito
 - October 25: Roots of the Reformation – Sola Gratia at 7 p.m. at San Pablo, Weslaco
 - October 26: Roots of the Reformation – Sola Scriptura at 7 p.m. at Second Presbyterian, Harlingen
 - October 27: Roots of the Reformation – Solus Christus at 7 p.m. at Betania Presbyterian, McAllen
 - October 28: Workshop in English 9:30-10:30 a.m. by Dr. Rodriguez on his book, "Reflections of the Health of the Church. Spanish workshop will be 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

- October 29: Roots of the Reformation – Soli Deo Gloria at 9:30 a.m. at Primera Mexicana, Brownsville. The UTRGV Marimba del Valley will perform. Service to be followed by lunch and viewing of historical display
- October 27-28: Mission Presbytery in Corpus Christi
- November 12: Stewardship Sunday & Youth Group meets
- November 26: Hanging of the Greens after Worship
- December 3: Advent begins and Youth Group meets
- December 17: Christmas Pageant and Dinner
- December 24: Regular Sunday Worship followed by Christmas Eve Service & Communion at 5pm
- January 6: Take Down the Greens on Saturday Morning
- January 14: Youth Group meets
- January 27: Benefit Concert by Ms. Kim



Fellowship Committee

Refreshment Schedule for September

October 1	Walking Tacos
October 8	Pancakes
October 15	Pot Luck
October 22	Salad Bar and Sandwiches
October 29	Hot dogs and dips



Millie Layne would like to say a special thank you to all who has wished her well, and stopped in and visited with her.

September 2017

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The Finance Committee provides a monthly report regarding average Sunday attendance and tithes.

Attendance

Average Weekly Attendance: 49

Income & Expenses

	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$11,538	\$189,146	\$227,052
Expenses	\$20,056	\$175,307	\$252,058
Net Income	(\$8,518)	\$13,839	

Year to Date 2017

Average weekly operating income: \$5,214

Average weekly operating expenses: \$4,613

Designated Giving September 2017

Choir Scholarship	\$945
Birthday Endowment Fund	\$251
Building Fund	\$50
Power of Hope	\$265
Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$285

All financial information is available in the church office.



Got Prayer?.....

Please submit prayer list requests through email, phone, or written note to the church office. Requests will be kept on our list as follows unless requested otherwise:

- Families of recently deceased - one month
- Recuperation -- two weeks
- Upcoming surgery -- one week
- Long term illness – until notified

PLEASE PRAY FOR

SHORT TERM LIST

Millie Layne
 Stephen Taylor
 Melissa Jones, mother, Mary Hernandez
 Those recovering the recent Hurricane and Earth Quakes

LONG TERM LIST

Lois Alexander
 Kelly Bastin
 Margie Billings
 Wally Ford
 Steve Gunderson
 Avis Keller

Morgan King
 Linda Harris
 Mary Jane Lofton
 D J McGroarty
 Jane Seils
 Nancy Smith

SHUT-INS & FRIENDS

Mary Ellen Beard
 Katie Carter
 Marlene Reid


Fran Solether
 Helen Willhite
 Marian Payne

MILITARY PERSONNEL

Lucas Anderson (Orlen Anderson's grandson)
 Nathan Aranda
 Mickel Fernández
 Clint Gebke (Polly Lovell's grandson)

STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

Eric Whitaker

	
Tom Carter	2
Pauline Lovell	2
Hee-Sook Kim	3
Carolyn Bell	4
Millie Layne	6
Lauren Budimir	7
John Meyerink	15
John McCann	16
Courtney Budimir	22
Ken Ferguson	23
Nicole Kelly	26
Pastor David McCann	26
Charles Bell	28
Jonah Dyer	30
Karen Macking	31



Officers of FPC Weslaco

Session

Class of 2017

Mitchell Jones
Bailey Bagwell

Class of 2018

Camille Jones
Charles Bell
Julie Kelly

Class of 2019

Jennifer Rektorik
Matthew Jones
Sue Peterson

Clerk of Session: Debby Rektorik

Session Committee Chairs

Christian Ed: Sue Peterson
Fellowship: Camille Jones
Finance: Mitch Jones
Mission & Outreach: Jennifer Rektorik & Matt Jones

Personnel: Matt Jones
Property: Charles Bell
Worship: Julie Kelly

**REMINDER: Session meeting will be
October 15**

Our next meeting is November 19

CONTACT US

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

709 S. IOWA AVE.
WESLACO, TX 78596
TEL: 956-969-1535

Pastor: David McCann
drmccannmdiv@gmail.com

Secretary: Savannah Valdez
fpcweslacotx@gmail.com

Regular Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday
8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Thursday
8:30 am – 12 Noon

First Presbyterian Church

Mission Statement:

In response to God's Power at Work within us, The Weslaco First Presbyterian Church offers hope in Christ through opportunities to learn and serve.

Revised Common Lectionary: Scriptures for October



October 1

Ex. 17:1-7; Ps. 78:1-4, 12-16;
Phil. 2:1-13; Matt. 21:23-32

October 8

Ex. 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Ps. 19;
Phil. 3:4b-14; Matt. 21:33-46

October 15

Ex. 32:1-14; Ps. 106:1-6, 19-23;
Phil. 4:1-9; Matt. 22:1-14

October 22

EX. 33:12-23; Ps. 99; 1 Thess. 1:1-10;
Matt. 22:15-22

October 29

Deut. 34:1-12; Ps.90:1-6, 13-17;
1 Thess. 2:1-8; Matt. 22:34-46

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday 9:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 9:20 a.m. SS Classes - Adults 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time	2 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	3	4 5:30–6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	5 8:30 – 11:30 am CHOICES Border Initiative (FH)	6 7:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	7
8 9:20 a.m. SS Classes - Adults 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 3:00 p.m. Valley Wide Youth Event	9  8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	10	11	12 12:00 p.m. M.E. Rice Circle Lunch John Knox Village	13 7:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	14
15 9:20 a.m. SS Classes - All Ages 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time (Potluck) 12:00 p.m. Session Meeting	16 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	17	18 5:30–6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	19	20 7:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	21
22 9:20 a.m. SS Classes – All Ages 10:30 a.m. Worship Congregational Meeting 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 2:00 p.m. Installation of Pastor Escandell 5:00 p.m. Fall Festival	23 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	24	25	26	27 7:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	28
29 9:20 a.m. SS Classes – All Ages 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	30 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	31 				