

September 2017



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

HOPE NEWS

Pastor's Message

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

Please keep in your prayers all those who have been impacted by Hurricane Harvey. There is more information in this newsletter for those who want to contribute to relief efforts. During tragic events like Hurricane Harvey it is always inspiring to see so many people step forward to provide assistance to those in need. Watching the videos of many people going out of their way – sometimes at personal risk – to assist and rescue those in dire situations is evidence that God is actively at work through many people. In addition, we understand the process of cleaning up and rebuilding will take years. May we step forward in prayer and support for those in need.

Worship is the central act of the church. It is when the community of faith gathers to praise God for all He has done for us and given to us. So our worship experience is very important. A key aspect of worship is music. Over the years we have been blessed with great music leadership and a wonderful choir. At our last session meeting, we discussed how we could enhance the music program. The session decided to look at giving scholarships to three high school seniors who are in their school choir. These three seniors – one soprano, one alto, one baritone – would be key section leaders. After the year is over and with proof of their college registration, we would write a check on their behalf to the college in which they are enrolled. We would like to provide a \$1,200 scholarship to each student. To do this, we need members of the church to contribute to our choir scholarship fund. Any amount you can give would be helpful. We are hoping to raise \$3,600 for three students this year. We are in the process of putting together an application form and information to be sent to the choir directors of Weslaco High School and Weslaco East High School.

If we are successful in the choir scholarship program this year, our goal is to continue this program in future years. However, these students will not replace current choir members; we still need our current choir members. Also if you like to sing and do not currently sing in the choir, please plan to join the choir. We can always use more voices.

Peace,

Pastor David

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 **September Newsletter** is **September 17th**!

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. Thank you.



Your faithful donations to the **Youth's Food Pantry** are greatly appreciated! It fills such an important need in the community, serving families in



emergency situations while they get themselves back on their feet or are able to get greater assistance through the Food Bank (only available in Weslaco the 3rd Saturday of the month from 9 to 11 am at First United Methodist Church!) **In August, we served 15 families**, several reporting they were struggling due to an employment transition.

Items Needed: The pantry is in need of rice, beans, canned meats, canned chili and soup, boxed meals such as macaroni & cheese, cereal, crackers, baby food, etc. Personal Care items, cleaning solutions, and diapers are also appreciated.



The September 14th 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 \$10.80. 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)



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.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is in touch with presbyteries affected areas of Texas to offer assistance. We are standing by with resources and National Response Team members ready to deploy upon invitation and when it is safe to do so.

For those who wish to support PDA's emergency response and recovery efforts, gifts can be designated to [DR000169-Harvey](#). We need your help. Please give generously.

If you prefer to mail a check, you may send it to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
PO Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700

You may also call us Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST), at [1-800-872-3283](tel:1-800-872-3283) and donate by phone. For updates, please go to pda.pcusa.org.



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.

All middle and high school age youth are invited to attend Youth Group on Sunday evenings from 5:30-7:00. The meetings in September will be September 10th and 24th.

The Youth will once again attend the MidWinter Conference at Mo Ranch in January. Parents are asked to let Sue Peterson know which weekend will work best for their family, January 12-14 or January 19-21. These are the two choices and as soon as we determine which date works best with most families, we will move forward with planning.



Communion was served on Sunday, August 6 to 50 worshippers. The next dates for communion are September 3 and October 1 on World Communion Sunday.

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

Liturgists: Emily Jones, Jane Seils, Sue Peterson, Julie Kelly

Ushers: Matt Jones, Eddie Seils

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

AV: Hannah McCann

During the month of September, our Worship Leaders are:

Liturgists: Kendall Hill, Barbara Rogers, Jennifer Rektorik, Iran Aranda

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

AV: Hannah McCann

Acolyte: Audrey Jones, Emily Jones

Worship Leaders are needed!

September & October: Liturgists, Children's Sermons, Ushers

Worship leaders are needed for September and October. 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. You are needed!



Session Snippets

August 20, 2017 Meeting
(No meeting was held in July)

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

- Approved developing and implementing a choir scholarship program to have a soprano, alto, and baritone section leader using high school seniors. At the end of the year, the seniors would each have a \$1,200 scholarship paid to the college they're attending. Donations will be asked to meet the cost of the three scholarships.
- Approved planning of a program to feed hungry families with school children on Saturday evenings. Jennifer Rektorik and Sue Peterson will work on the concept.
- Approved monthly lecturers to speak to the youth about their vocation and its future direction. Possible speakers could be someone from the new UTRGV Medical School or SpaceX. These programs could be promoted to invite all interested middle and high school teens to attend.
- Approved exploration of a possible youth director through the Presbyterian Young Adult Program.
- Approved furthering Savannah Valdez's education by paying \$656 for the tuition and course fees for an accounting program at South Texas College this fall.
- Asked for prayers for Ana Rivera's niece who is ill in Mexico.
- Dates to remember:
 - August 27: Youth Annual Trip to the Chapel by the Sea and Schlitterbahn
 - September 10 & 24: Youth Group meets
 - October 15 & 29: Youth Group meets
 - October 22: Harvest Festival
 - November 12: Stewardship Sunday and 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
 - February 11 & 25: Youth Group meets
 - February 14: Ash Wednesday
 - February 18: Spaghetti Lunch Youth Fundraiser following Worship
 - March 4 & 25: Youth Group meets
 - March 25: Palm Sunday
 - April 1: Easter
 - April 8 & 22: Youth Group meets
 - May 6: Youth Group meets
 - May 20: Day of Pentecost



Most of the florescent light bulbs have been replaced with LED bulbs. The old bulbs had to be replaced as they were no longer being manufactured. Rather than replace with newer standard bulbs which were available the decision was made to replace with LED which are 50% more energy efficient. There was only a little extra cost which should be recovered within one year through reduced energy bills.

John has just about completed the work on the office bathroom. This was a major project, but with some donated help and John's work this project will be completed mid September.

Grace and Peace,

Charles Bell

Property Committee Chair



Refreshment Schedule for September

September 3rd - Salad Bar and Sloppy Joes

September 10th - Pancakes

September 17th - Potluck

Quarterly Birthday Celebration

September 24th - Salad Bar and Baked Potatoes

August 2017

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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

Attendance

Average Weekly Attendance: 58

Income & Expenses

	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$14,786	\$163,974	\$227,052
Expenses	\$19,636	\$155,243	\$252,058
Net Income	(\$4,850)	\$8,731	

Year to Date 2017

Average weekly operating income: \$4,823

Average weekly operating expenses: \$4,566

Designated Giving August 2017

Power of Hope \$250

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

Melissa Jones, mother, Mary Hernandez
Ana Rivera, niece, Judith Torres Aguirre
Joella Barbee, death of Mother, Geraldine Gwendolyn Wayland

LONG TERM LIST

Lois Alexander	Morgan King
Kelly Bastin	Linda Harris
Margie Billings	Mary Jane Lofton
Wally Ford	D J McGroarty
Steve Gunderson	Jane Seils
Avis Keller	Nancy Smith

SHUT-INS & FRIENDS

Mary Ellen Beard	Fran Solether
Katie Carter	Helen Willhite
Marlene Reid	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



Sue Peterson	2
Michele McFarlane	7
Peter Angenent	9
Evelyn Nelson	9
Lola Nelson	12
Marilyn Ward	14
Zane Handley	16
Suzanne Hageman	17
Sue Cathey	19
Amanda Jones	20
Kaitlynn Bagwell	21
Michael Jones	21
Eric Cabote	22
Todd King	23
Ethan Herrera	24
Carol Garry	27
Robert Rektorik	29
Mitchell Jones	30



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
September 17**

Our next meeting is October 15

CONTACT US

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

Pastor: David McCann
drmccanmdiv@gmail.com

Secretary: Savannah Valdez
fpcweslacotx@gmail.com

Youth Director: Lily Ordway
lilyjamis@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.

**The Office will be closed on
Monday, September 4
For Labor Day Observance!**

Revised Common Lectionary: Scriptures for September



September 3

Ex. 3:1-15; Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b;
Rom. 12:9-21; Matt. 16:21-28

September 10

Ex. 12:1-14; Ps. 149; Rom. 13:8-14; Matt. 18:15-10

September 17

Ex. 14:19-31; Ps. 114 or Ex. 15:1b-11b, 20-21; Rom. 14:1-12; Matt. 18:21-35

September 24

Ex. 16:2-15; Ps. 105: 1-6, 37-45; Phil. 1:12-30; Matt. 20:1-16

September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	2
3 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	4  Office Closed 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	5	6 5:30–6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	7 8:30 – 11:30 am CHOICES Border Initiative (FH)	8 7:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	9
10 9:20 a.m. SS Classes - Adults 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time 5:30 p.m. Youth Group	11 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	12	13	14 12:00 p.m. M.E. Rice Circle Lunch John Knox Village	15 7:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	16
17 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	18 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	19	20 5:30–6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	21	22 7:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	23
24 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	25 8:00 pm Alanon/Alateen	26	27	28	29	30