

Grace First Presbyterian Church

*Grace First Presbyterian together ... worshipping God,
witnessing for Jesus, and working to meet human needs.*

A P R I L
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We will celebrate

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

on

Sunday, April 7

Thursday, April 18



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER EVENTS

*Spirituality Center—April 15 through Easter Sunday
Great Hall, during office hours and before & after services
Walk the labyrinth to pray and meditate.*

Palm Sunday—April 14

*Procession of the Palms, Parking Lot at 10:30 a.m.
In remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem,
children and adults will gather to process to the sanctuary
waving palms.*

Maundy Thursday—April 18

Communion Service, 7:00 p.m.

*Maundy refers to the new commandment
that Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper,
“...that you love one another. Just as I have loved you,
you also should love one another.” (John 13:34)*

Good Friday—April 19

Tenebrae Service, 6:00 p.m.

Eggstravaganza—Saturday, April 20

Great Hall, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

*Easter crafts and an egg hunt for toddlers through 5th graders.
Parents are welcome to join in the festivities.*

Easter Sunday—April 21

Easter Service in Sanctuary, 10:40 a.m.

Join us as we celebrate the good news of the risen Lord.

PASTOR ASHLEY'S PEACE

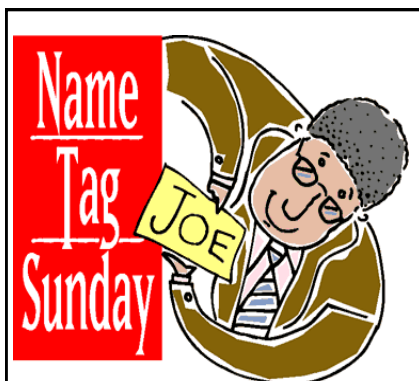
Since I'm writing this before April 1 I have not officially started on the job. However, I had the chance to come for a visit in March where I met with all the office and worship staff. They filled me in on all the immediate items and gave me the lay of the land so that when I arrive in the office Monday, April 1 I'll be ready to hit the ground running.

I'm currently wrapping up my call at Evergreen PC in Dothan, AL and I'm filled with a mix of emotions. As we say goodbye to the members of this community I am also excited to meet all of you.

April is going to be a month filled with opportunities for us to get to know one another. I look forward to meeting you all and worshipping with you through the end of the Lenten season and into Holy Week. It also sounds like we will have some opportunities for fun with the Variety Show coming up at the end of the month!

The season of Lent is one of my favorites and Holy Week always proves to be meaningful. My prayer for you in this season is that you are finding ways to cultivate a new relationship with God, God's people, and all of Creation. And, as you cultivate those relationships may you also find space to let go of the things that have held you back from closer relationships with God and others. I am so excited to get to GFPC and see what kind of new life will be cultivated in our time together.

Blessings,
Pastor Ashley



Every Sunday is Name Tag Sunday! Don't forget to wear your name tag each Sunday morning so that we can greet each other, welcome our guests, and put names and faces together.



SPIRITUALITY CENTER

APRIL 15-19

The Spirituality Center this year will contain the Labyrinth only. We hope that you find a time to walk the Labyrinth and enjoy the spiritual journey.

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

At the end of March, I spent a week in Colorado with my son and his expectant wife (yes, I am going to be a “pops”) and as I drove up, I noticed that the grass and trees had not yet begun to show any signs of new life as spring was ushered in. On the way back one week later, I noticed how the grass and trees had in a week’s time changed. When I got home, the yard had changed from the drab brown to a lot of green (some of that green were pesky weeds that will go!)

As April begins, so does new life and leadership at GFPC. I am excited to welcome Ashley into the Grace First family and the energy and leadership she will provide for us. As we, move forward into the future and ministry of GFPC, let us remember we are all different parts and yet one body. We all have different gifts and talents that come together under the Master Builder to form something that is pleasing.

May we, the family of GFPC, be energized and full of new growth this spring season and during this season of Lent and Easter. May we blossom and grow as this church family and may that growth be infectious as we go out into the community.

God is good all the time. All the time God is good!

David



MARIALICE'S MUSIC NOTES

The weeks leading up to Easter are always busy for the Music Ministry of Grace First. On April 7, we will present a musical welcome to our new Pastor Ashley Drake Mertz. Sanctuary Handbells will present one of the pieces studied at the handbell workshop in March. The workshop clinician was Cynthia Dobrinski, and we will play her ***Song of Hope***. The Sanctuary Choir will present one of their favorite anthems, ***When I Survey the Wondrous Cross***. It is based on the beloved tune by Lowell Mason and was arranged by Gilbert M. Martin, who wrote it for the graduating class of Westminster Choir College in 1968. The Carol Choir, accompanied by a small handbell ensemble and organ, will present an arrangement of ***Fairest Lord Jesus***. For the Offertory, the Sanctuary Choir will sing ***Panis Angelicus***, a beautiful Latin motet written by Giovanni Palestrina (b. 1525).

Palm Sunday will have joyous music to remember Jesus' ride into Jerusalem. Both Cherub and Carol choirs will sing today, and this will be their last time to participate in worship as Logos is ending. On Maundy Thursday, the choir will present Mozart's ***Ave Verum***.

Our favorite trumpeter, Carlos Strudwick, will be with us for Easter and accompanying the choir on two Easter anthems. We will close the service with Handel's ***Hallelujah!***

Presbyterian Women Spring Workshop

Saturday, May 4, 2019

Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church
6000 S. Hampton Road
Dallas, TX 75232



Workshops include:

Presbyterian Children's Home and Services

PW 2019-2020 Bible Study

Leadership Training

Mission Project: Plarn! Please collect and bring plastic bags of any kind and a pair of scissors.

The participants will make "plarn" which is a plastic yarn for use in crocheting mats that roll up. These can be useful for the homeless in shelters or on the ground. Each participant can bring a pair of scissors, and there will be instructions and helpers for those who would like to try making the mats.

Hymn Workshop

Mission Speakers

History Tour of Church

Cluster Leaders

Schedule for the day:

Registration 8:30-9:00 am (snacks/light refreshments served upon arrival)

Gathering 9:00-9:35 am Gathering Worship in sanctuary (Offering taken for Mission)

First Session 9:45-10:30 am

Second Session 10:40-11:25 am

Lunch 11:30-12:45 (Time for Crafts, Exhibits, Friendships)

Third Session 12:50-1:35 pm

Gathering 1:45-2:00 pm Final group gathering for Benediction/Safe Travel Home

Reminders:

Bring money (if you wish) for purchasing items for sale at mission tables

Bring 2018-2019 Horizons bible study book for Bible study workshop (if you have your copy)

All officers, whether "new at the job" or "seasoned"- please attend PW Leadership groups.

Registration forms are on the PW bulletin board. They should be mailed with \$8 for lunch.

Please indicate on the Stewardship Covenant bulletin insert that you plan to attend, so that carpooling can be arranged.

COLLEGE CARE BOXES

Each year Presbyterian Women send college care boxes to Grace First college students. Starting Sunday, April 7, we will be collecting light-weight snack items such as:

Microwave Popcorn, Granola Bars, Cookies, Candy, Snack Crackers, Gum, Individual coffee/tea/hot chocolate packets etc.

We also need shoe boxes (small women's or large children's)

Please put donations in the PW collection box located in the Narthex or bring to the church by April 14.

Boxes will be packed Sunday, April 14.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

OGHS received during the season of Lent, makes a difference in the world through three impactful programs: **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)**, **Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)** and **Self-Development of People (SDOP)**.

As we respond through our sharing, Isaiah 58 also provides a promise. As we respond to injustice, feed those who are hungry, and provide places for those without homes, our "*light will break forth*," and we shall be called "*repairers of the breach, restorers of streets to live in*". Please give generously. Our OGHS donations will be received and dedicated on **Palm Sunday, April 14 and Easter Sunday, April 21.**



Calling all of you who have a variety of talent (or not)
and would like to be a part of the annual:

**Grace First Presbyterian Church
Variety Show, dinner, and dessert auction**

The show is Wednesday, April 24
Dinner & Show Acts will start at **5:30 p.m.**

There will be a live auction for the desserts.
All proceeds go towards our Camps and Conferences Fund.

Break out those delicious dessert recipes and those variety acts!

Sign-up starting April 7 in the Sunday bulletin insert,
email or call David (dslyter@gracefirstpc.org)
or Leslie (goeldner@aledobb.com)
or by contacting the church office.

Even if you don't cook or have an act,
come join us for this fun evening!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 21, 2019

- Patti Allen was welcomed as a new member of Grace First Presbyterian Church at the March 21, 2019 Session meeting. She was presented to the congregation on Sunday, March 24.
- Session approved the revised 2019 budget which includes an additional \$17,631 involving the new pastor's compensation and moving expenses.
- April's Stated Session meeting originally scheduled for Thursday, April 18, 2019 was moved to Thursday, April 11 to avoid a conflict with the April 18 Maundy Thursday worship service
- The Worship and Music Ministry reported a GFPC record \$1,857 raised at the Chili-Chocolate Cook-off on Sunday, February 17, 2019.

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*At our February session meeting, the session voted that our 5th Sunday undesignated cash offerings go to the Ministerial Alliance Transient Fund. This fund is set up through the Ministerial Alliance and the Weatherford Police Department to provide one night housing for transient folks coming through Parker County. This fund is solely supported by local churches and is given out at the Police department if ministers have folks come to the church seeking lodging. Thank you for your contributions to this fund and for helping us help those who are in need. If you have any questions please contact David.
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MINISTRIES & OUTREACH

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Session

Thurs. Apr. 11, 6:15 p.m.

Personnel

Tues. Apr. 2, 6:15 p.m.

Worship & Music

Thurs. Apr. 11, 5:00 p.m.

Mission & Outreach

Thurs. Apr. 4, 6:00 p.m.

Property

Sat. Apr. 6, 9:00 a.m.

Trustees

Wed. Apr. 3, 9:30 a.m.

Christian Education

Sun. Apr. 7, 12:00 p.m.

Communications

Tues. Apr. 22, 12:00 p.m.

Board of Deacons

Sun. Apr. 7, 12:00 p.m.

In-Touch

Thurs. Apr. 11, 5:30 p.m.

Congregational Life

Thurs. Apr. 11, 6:15 p.m.



PW Coordinating Team—Thursday, April 4, 9:00 am

Circle 2—Tuesday, April 9, 12:00 pm

Evening Circle—Monday, April 15, 6:00 pm

MANNA UPDATE

EMPHASIS FOR APRIL

Any and all canned goods, including canned fruits,
vegetables, soups, and 1lb bags of rice
and pinto beans, 1 lb boxes of spaghetti

Please put your donations in the grocery cart in the Narthex
each Sunday or bring by the church office during the week.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019

ROAR!

"Life is Wild, GOD Is Good"

Monday, June 24 - Friday, June 28, 9 a.m.—Noon

Ages 4 years old through 5th Grade



One Easter Sunday morning as the pastor was preaching a children's sermon, he reached into his bag of props and pulled out an egg. He pointed at the egg and asked the children, "What's in here?"
"I know, I know!" a little boy exclaimed, "panty hose!"

~ Unknown

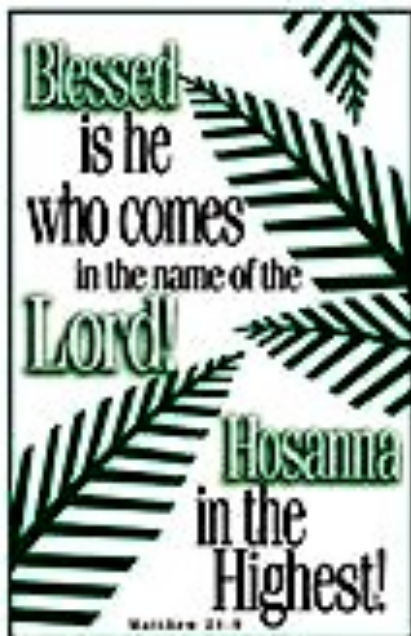
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS



Grace First welcomed the following guests during the month of

MARCH

Melanie Munyard
 Meghann Skalak
 Lori Gable
 David & Debbie Wenzel
 Virginia, Olivia &
 William Henckell



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To the following GFPC members:



APRIL

Eryn Williams	3	Hilary Davis	19
Sue Jones	12	Patti Kramer	19
Pruitt Overturff	12	Judy Rawlins	22
Donna Allen	15	Alex Schmidt	22
Christene Donnell	15	Seth Goeldner	24
Amy Pilkington	15	Linda Snow	29
Jo Ann Turk	15		

APRIL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Lay Leaders:

- April 14—Janelle Currin
- April 28—Stephanie Eidson

Deacon Assignments:

- Janet Duncan & Mac Smith

Nursery Help:

- April 21—Mandy Overturff

Greeters:

- April 7
Seth Goeldner & Wendy Bates

- April 14
Karen Lail & Susie Bossert

- April 18
Janelle Currin & Bonnie Evans

- April 19
Dave & Janet Douglass

- April 21
Jim & Janet Duncan

Guest Station:

- April 7—Myrna Fields
- April 14—Roberta Furman
- April 21—Leslie Goeldner
- April 28—Sue Jones

Communion Elders:

- Sunday, April 7—Rebecca Williams, Stephanie Eidson, Ron Hansen & Gary Snow

- Thursday, April 18—Peggy Myrick, Claire Varnon, Ron Hansen, Wade Williams

Communion Set and Clean Up :

- Sunday, April 7—Leslie Goeldner, Jean Thomason, Janet Duncan, & Christie Tull

- Thursday, April 18—Melissa O'Hern & Sally Arnold and Janet Duncan & Christie Tull

GIFTS OF HOPE 2019 ~ Mother's Day Cards

Mother's Day, May 12, 2019 is right around the corner

NOW IS THE TIME – GIVE A GIFT OF HOPE TODAY!

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus,
"It is more blessed to give than to receive."
ACTS 20:35

Tired of giving the same gift to Mom every Mother's Day? Try GFPC's Mission and Outreach cards! What mother, mentor or special friend wouldn't be honored with a card knowing that a donation was made in her honor to support the church's mission work in assisting needy women and children locally and internationally?

Our children and youth of Grace First did their part by creating the magical designs for the fronts of the Mother's Day cards that you can choose from. Inside will list the names of the 3 charitable organizations that we are supporting which are:

The **Educate a Child** project will help support the effort to provide quality education for 1,000,000 children in poverty by 2020. The DREAM House will provide mentorship to at-risk youth to enable them to become role models in their classrooms and communities.

A **family of chickens** will provide eggs, feathers and fertilizer for crops. This can help improve the food security and livelihoods of farmers and families around the world.

The **GFPC Compassion Fund** supports our Parker County community in need with assistance toward utility bills, groceries, and prescription medications. Manna Storehouse distributes this Fund for the church.

Your donation will be split evenly between the three organizations unless you indicate a preference when you purchase the card. We'll leave it to you to circle that organization on your cards. Please prayerfully consider giving a \$10 donation, but any amount will be greatly appreciated. The sum total of all contributions will make a huge difference to women, children and families in need.

You can purchase Mother's Day cards in the Narthex on Sundays or
in the church office during the weeks of April 28–May 12.

APRIL EVENTS

7

Welcome Pastor Ashley to the Pulpit. Sunday, April 7 will be the first of many wonderful Sermons by our new Pastor, Ashley Drake Mertz!

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WELCOME RECEPTION FOR PASTOR ASHLEY DRAKE MERTZ

Please plan to join the congregation in a celebration reception, held in the Great Hall following the Palm Sunday Service. This will give you all a chance to welcome Ashley and her husband Lance to our GFPC family and to Weatherford Texas!

17

LAST LOGOS OF SPRING

Wednesday, April 17 will be the last LOGOS in the Spring term. We will enjoy a picnic at Mac and Janice Smith's home.

24

VARIETY SHOW AND DINNER

Wednesday, April 24 at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. We need acts, eaters, bakers, and bidders for the upcoming annual *Variety Show and Dinner*. Desserts will be auctioned off. Contact David Slyter (dslyter@gracefirstpc.org) or Leslie Goeldner (goeldner@aledobb.com) If you want to be part of the show, provide a dessert, or just come to eat and enjoy the show, please make plans to attend. Proceeds will help support the Camps and Conferences Fund.

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KEENELAND WORSHIP SERVICE

Members of Grace First provide a short worship/singing service for the residents of Keeneland Nursing Home on the last Sunday of the month.

YOUTH SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

Sunday April 7—Movie Night

Wednesday April 10—LOGOS

Sunday April 14—Game Night

Wednesday April 17—LOGOS Picnic @ The Smith's

April 21—Easter Sunday, No Youth

April 24—Variety Show & Auction 5:30

April 28—Youth Picnic in the park



Youth Group is open to youth in grades 6th–12th. If your child is interested in participating in Youth Group activities, please contact David Slyter.

SPRING BOOK TALK

Please join the Presbyterian Women for the Spring Book Talk on Tuesday, May 12 at 12 p.m. as Judy Rawlins leads us in discussion about the book *Women Rowing North* by Mary Pipher. Bring a sack lunch.

Women Rowing North by Mary Pipher, is a New York Times bestseller. Women growing older contend with ageism, misogyny, and loss. Yet as Mary Pipher shows, most older women are deeply happy and filled with gratitude for the gifts of life. Their struggles help them grow into the authentic, empathetic, and wise people they have always wanted to be.

In *Women Rowing North*, Pipher offers a timely examination of the cultural and developmental issues women face as they age. Drawing on her own experience as daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, caregiver, clinical psychologist, and cultural anthropologist, she explores ways women can cultivate resilient responses to the challenges they face. “If we can keep our wits about us, think clearly, and manage our emotions skillfully,” Pipher writes, “we will experience a joyous time of our lives. If we have planned carefully and packed properly, if we have good maps and guides, the journey can be transcendent.” (Review taken from Amazon.com.)

I N O U R T H O U G H T S A N D P R A Y E R S

Members and Their Families

Romeo Escobedo
Kathy Coats, Sister of Dawn Kahlden

Friends

Diana Britt, Friend of the Furst Family
Sara Casey, Sister of Gary Sheffield
Jack Nixon, family of the Moss'
Tom Shopoff and Jim Watkins, friends of the Moss'
Gavin Sheppard, Alycia Nelson's Nephew
Frankie Werner, friend of Sue Jones
Jo Ann Fowler, friend of Myrlan Coleman
Kati Hamilton, daughter of Linda Tingle
Autumn Reed, friend of Deb Kaiser

Continuing Concerns

Grainger Weston, father of Sarah Eidson
Nona, mother of Deb Kaiser
Greg, father of Shanteé Siebuhr
Don Jones, cousin of Roberta Furman
David Wenzel, son-in-law of Peggy Boardman
Chloe-Marion Parry, Mother of Marion Harris

Homebound and Nursing Home Members

Frank & Arda Morgan, Elmcroft of Graham TX
Paul & Kaye Martino, Martin Crest
Christene Donnell, College Park
Bel Wise, Home
Dannie Woodard, Home

In Memoriam

We thank God for the life of

EDNA GARZA-ESCOBEDO

August 5, 1939—March 26, 2019

We join with the family in sharing the hope
that we have in life eternal through
Jesus Christ.

In Memoriam

We thank God for the life of

**MARJORIE (PEGGY) LUCILLE
BOARDMAN**

October 23, 1925—March 20, 2019

We join with the family in sharing the hope
that we have in life eternal through
Jesus Christ.



Please contact the
church office with
change of addresses,
phone numbers,
& e-mail addresses.
Don't forget your
kid's new college
addresses.

Please help keep the office informed when there is a
sickness, someone is in the hospital, or a death in the
family. The office will then let the rest of the church
family know to lift up in prayer those in need. Also, let
us know when it is okay to remove a name from our
concerns list. Joys, accomplishments and
achievements are important to us too and can be
shared through Church Matters. Call us or email us.

THANKS, The Office



Grace First Presbyterian Church
606 Mockingbird Lane
Weatherford, TX 76086

GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
606 MOCKINGBIRD LANE, WEATHERFORD, TEXAS 76086

**SUNDAY
MORNING
SCHEDULE**

Sunday School Classes—9:15 a.m.
Coffee Fellowship—10:25 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship—10:40 a.m.

STAFF

Pastor, *The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz*
Associate Pastor, *The Rev. David A. Slyter*
Ministers, *The Congregation*
Dir. of Music & Organist, *Marialice Parish, M. M.*
Office Coordinator, *Lacey VanPay*
Financial Administrator, *Alycia Nelson*



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