

Celtic Cross

The *Celtic Cross* is published once a month. News items intended for a specific issue should be submitted by noon on the Sunday prior to the last Wednesday of each month.

Vol. 61, No. 3

March 2024

Editor: Cathy Taylor

Dear FPC Denton Church Family,

Here's a short devotional that caught my eye this month entitled *The Easiest and Hardest Thing* by John Michalak.

1 John 3: 16-18: "By this we know love, because he laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need, and closes his heart of compassion against him, how does God's love remain in him? My little children, let's not love in word only, neither with the tongue only, but in deed and truth."

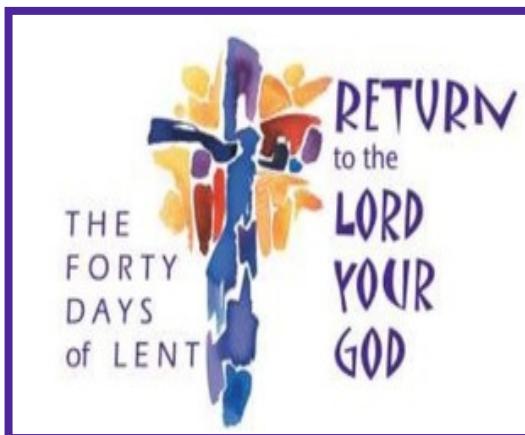
Love is both the easiest and hardest thing. In so many ways, love is easy. It's as easy as smiling at a stranger on the street. It's as easy as offering some money to a homeless man. It's as easy as doing the dishes, remembering someone in your prayers, or letting a friend share over coffee. Love can be so easy that we should love a lot more often than we do. But love is also the hardest thing. It's easy to donate to the homeless. It's harder to mentor a man out of prison, supporting him through all his ups and downs. It's easy to do the dishes. It's harder to listen to your spouse when all you want to do is respond. It's hard to stick it out. To forgive. It's hard to not only sacrifice your time, but to also build a lifestyle of sacrifice where your focus is on the needs of others before your own. Love is both the easiest and the hardest thing for flawed, imperfect humans like you and me. But love is always the greatest thing. God is love. He invites us to become more and more like Him so we can be love too!

Prayer: Loving Heavenly Lord, help me to show your love to others. Help me freely share the material things with which you have blessed me. May I never close my eyes or my heart to one of your children in need. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Blessings! Debbie

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Sunday March 10th Remember to sent you clock ahead before going to bed on Saturday evening



Love Notes from Pastor Debbie

We've had some cold weather but on the whole it has been rather mild. We will see if this nice weather holds! We are already in the midst of Lent with Palm Sunday on March 24 and Easter on March 31. The Lenten and Easter season is one of my favorites. Plan to attend the special events: a special musical presentation at 4 p.m. on March 24, Maundy Thursday (March 28), Good Friday, and both an early and an 11:00 service on Easter!



Here are the readings for March:

March 3: Third Sunday in Lent. Communion. Readings: Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 19; John 2: 13-22; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25. Sermon Title: "The Wisdom of God". Exodus 20, Psalm 19 and 1 Corinthians 1 texts. Theme: Wisdom of God.

March 10: Fourth Sunday in Lent. Readings: Numbers 21: 4-9; Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22; John 3: 14-21; Ephesians 2: 1-10. Sermon Title: "Love and Grace". All four texts. Theme: Love and Grace.

March 17: Fifth Sunday in Lent. Readings: Psalm 51: 1-12; Jeremiah 31: 31-34; John 12: 20-33; Hebrews 5: 5-10. Sermon Title: "Christ's Priesthood". Hebrews 5 text. Theme: Christ's Priesthood.

March 24: Palm Sunday. PALM Readings: Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29; Mark 11: 1-11. Sermon Title: "This is the Lord's Doing". Psalm and Mark 11 texts. Theme: Power and Wisdom of God. PASSION Readings: Psalm 31: 9-16; Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Mark 14: 1-15: 47; Philippians 2: 5-11.

THURSDAY. March 28: Maundy Thursday. Dinner/Service/Communion. Readings: Exodus 12: 1-14; Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19; John 13: 1-17, 31b-35; 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26. Sermon Title: "Flowing" All four texts. Theme: Love, Service, Communion/Remembrance.

FRIDAY. March 29: Good Friday. Readings: Psalm 22; Isaiah 52: 13-53: 12; John 18: 1- 19: 42; Hebrews 10: 16-25. Sermon Title: "Casting Lots". Part of the John 18/19 text. Theme: A look at the witnesses and how we fit in.

March 31: Resurrection Sunday/Easter Sunday. 2 Services/Brunch/Communion. Readings: Psalm 18: 1-2, 14-24; Mark 16: 1-8 or John 20: 1-18; Acts 10: 34-43; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11. Easter One service Sermon Title: "Whom Are You Looking For?" John 20 and Mark 16 texts. Theme: Resurrection. Easter Two service Sermon Title: "The Good News" Acts 10 and 1 Corinthians 15 texts. Theme: Resurrection.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring collection! We began with a goal of 360 food items so that the 36 children at Denton Christian Preschool could have 10 cans each. Then we found out there were 40 kids so we changed our goal to 400 food items. At the end of our collection, we had 481 food items. On top of that, the family of Charles Bratton had donated Charlie's food pantry to augment not only our Little Free Food Pantry but also our Souper Bowl of Caring collection. That was a total of 114 food items. Denton Christian Preschool received from us 595 food items!!!! Our Outreach Committee gave DCP one of our green bags for each student in which they could carry their food home. Please see the photos!!!!



The next *Celtic Cross* deadline is Sunday March 24th



Mayia Williams Recital with FPC groupies



March 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Grief Share 2:00 PM	2
3 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM 	4	5 Birthday: Larry Harberson Women of the Church Bible Study 10 AM	6 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	7	8 Birthday: Linn Welborn Grief Share 2:00 PM	9
10 Birthday: Chandler Hall Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM	11	12	13 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	14	15 Birthday: Kim Tate Grief Share 2:00 PM	16
17 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM Mission Committee 12:15P 	18 Birthday: Morgan Minear	19 Birthday: Hal Reed Session 7:00PM	20 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	21 Birthday: Martha Meeks	22 Grief Share 2:00 PM	23
24 Birthday: John Pinder Disciples Class 9:30 AM Deacons 10:30 AM Worship 11 AM Celtic Cross Deadline	25 Birthday: Keely Briggs	26 Birthday: William Briggs	27 Bible Study and Prayer 10:00 AM	28 Maundy Thursday Meal and Worship 6:15 PM	29 Good Friday Worship 12N Grief Share 2:00 PM	30 Sanctuary open to pray and meditate 9AM to 5 PM
31 Disciples Class 9:30 AM Early Easter Worship 9 AM Breakfast 9:30 AM Worship 11 AM						



Palm Sunday—March 24th
Chancel Choir and Denton Bach
A Musical Meditation for Holy Week
—Sanctuary at 4:00

Maundy Thursday
Communion, March 28th
6:15 PM Light supper then
Service following



March 29th
Good Friday Service noon

March 30 (Saturday)
Prayer Vigil 9 AM—5 PM
Come to the sanctuary to pray and
meditate on the day before Easter.



March 31st
Early Service at 9:30 AM
followed by breakfast then
Easter Service at 11:00



Mission Committee
12:15
March 17th

Committee meetings
Session Committee
7:00 PM
March 19th

Deacons
10:30 AM
March 24th

Session		
Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
Terry Nobles (T)	Beverly Hoch	Carolyn Smith (T)
Vacant	Carol Nance (T)	Jim Welborn
Diaconate		
Linn Welborn	Marlene Nobles (M)	Scott Starkweather
Diana Shenberger	(T) Trustee	(M) Moderator

In the Kitchen

In 2002, Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church published the revised edition of "In the Kitchen," their favorite recipes. The first edition was published in 1993. The ladies of the church, and some men, provided their favorite recipes.

I hope you enjoy looking back at these glimpses of times past.

Apricot Nut Bread (page 177)

- 1 c. dried apricots
- 1 c. sugar
- 2 Tbsp. Crisco
- 1 egg
- 1 c. nuts
- 2 c. flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. orange juice



Soak chopped, dried apricots about 20 minutes. Drain well. Cream 1 cup sugar, Crisco and egg. Add dry ingredients alternately with orange juice which has been mixed with $\frac{1}{4}$ c. sugar. Add apricots and nuts. Bake in greased and floured loaf pan at 350° about 1 hour.

Gerry Connell

Households for Prayer

Let us continue to uphold our households in prayer with these members for
March 2024

Martha Meeks
Insook Melton
Kori Miller
Pat Miller
Morgan Minear
Carol Nance
Alexandria Nicholson
Terry and Marlene Nobles

Welcome new Member!

Jan Cartwright was received into membership on February 11th
Jan is a native Texan, Widowed, enjoys books, birdwatching , being outdoors, games and travel. Please welcome Jan!

CHURCH STAFF

*Rev. Debbie H. Spangler, Pastor
Pat Edell, Church Secretary*

*Jacob Augsten, Director of Music - Ezechiel Daos, Organist
John Pinder, AV Technician - Irene Rodriguez, Church Caretaker*

Office Hours: Administrative Secretary, Mon/Wed/Fri 9—2 PM
Pastor Tues/Thurs 9—2 PM
Emergencies/after hours: 940-300-9748 (Elder Mike Steinel)
CCLI #1859917

Friend us on Facebook

FPC: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FPCDentonTX/>



FPC Presbyterian Women: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/PWDentonFPC/>



Find us on the web: <http://www.fpcdenton.org>



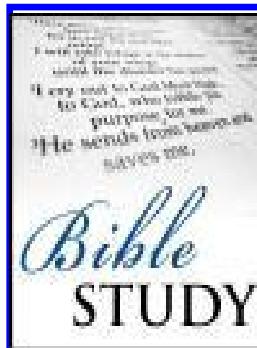
Prayer Concerns

Health Concerns: Helen B, Cheryl B, Gerald B, Lynda E, Gene F, Pat H, Jim K, Louise K, Martha M., Pat M, Don R, Pat R, Irene R, Diana S, Michael S. Price and Margaret B, Brenda C, Mike C, Sherman C, Connie D, Kevin Falconberry, Bob I, Kathy K, Sandy L, Jackie S, Tammy S, Ann S, Robin and Alana, Gladden and Lydia W, Craig White, Annemarie V, Clarice M, Carol W., Jan Carr.

Safety DCP Children, military personnel and first responders

March Birthdays

- 5 Larry Harberson
- 8 Linn Welborn
- 10 Chandler Hall
- 15 Kim Tate
- 18 Morgan Minear
- 19 Hal Reed
- 21 Martha Meeks
- 24 John Pinder
- 25 Keely Briggs
- 26 William Briggs



Join us Sunday Mornings at 9:30

We have just begun a 22 lesson study of Matthew using the Life Guide Bible Study Guide.

On Wednesday mornings at 10 AM In the conference room, we are studying Daniel using the Life Guide Bible Study Guide

Ezekiel Daos performs a UNT



Congratulations Ezechiel with Beverly and Chandler

Bible Readings

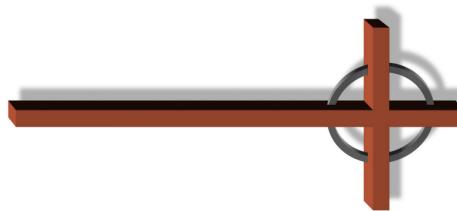
March 2024

- 1 Mark 4:35-41
- 2 Mark 5:1-20
- 3 John 5:25-29
- 4 Mark 5:21-43
- 5 Mark 6:1-13
- 6 Mark 6:13-29
- 7 Mark 6:30-46
- 8 Mark 6:47-56
- 9 Mark 7:1-23
- 10 John 6:27-40
- 11 Mark 7:24-37
- 12 Mark 8:1-10
- 13 Mark 8:11-26
- 14 Mark 8:27-9:1
- 15 Mark 9:2-13
- 16 Mark 9:14-29
- 17 John 8:46-59
- 18 Mark 9:30-41
- 19 Mark 9:42-50
- 20 Mark 10:1-16
- 21 Mark 10:17-31
- 22 Mark 10:32-45
- 23 Mark 10:46-52
- 24 Luke 19:41-48
- 25 Mark 11:12-25
- 26 Mark 11:27-33
- 27 Mark 12:1-11
- 28 Mark 14:12-25
- 29 John 19:38-42
- 30 Rom. 8:1-11
- 31 John 20:19-23

Source: PC(USA) Common
Lectionary

Aerobics
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Erwin Hall - 8:30 am

Office Hours
Secretary M/W/F - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Pastor T/Th 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
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