

NEW HOPE NEWS

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS - MAR 2022

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The Season of Lent Begins Ash Wednesday, March 2

We will mark the beginning of the Season of Lent with a service of the imposition of ashes. The service will be held at 812 Travis at 6 p.m.

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the

resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

The church's peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the "old self." In dying, we live.



Who to Call

Worship & Music

Pat Osoinach
(940) 781-2624

Building & Grounds

Sue Henson
(940) 867-5339

Mission

Joan Pruitt
(940) 761-6060

Deacons

Jo Ann Gonzales-Johnston
(940) 781-4638

Congregational Life

Diana White
(940) 781-1899

Environmental Concerns

Sue Henson
(940) 867-5339

Designated Pastor

The Rev. Don Stribling
(940) 228-6162

Church Secretary

Heather Putnam
(940) 767-2527

Church Treasurer

Friederike Wiedemann
(940) 322-7699

Choir Director

Jason Mincy
(940) 235-0328

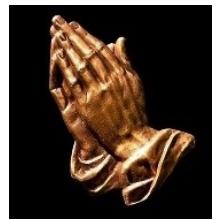
FACEBOOK INFO

253 People Like Us
280 People Follow Us

Please Pray With Us

Prayers of Thanksgiving

LaRae Collins is recovering at Windmill Rehab after a successful knee replacement surgery.



Prayers of Intercession

For **the people of Ukraine** as they face war and forced submission to Russia.

For **the nations of the world** who face the question of how to best defend a democracy from invasion and how to turn back an invader.

For **our nation's transgendered neighbors and their families** whose existence is under siege.

For **all people** who are not comfortable limiting their response to injustice and animus to thoughts and prayers and want to know how to make a difference that glorifies God.

Diana White as she grieves the death of her sister Christy.

John Leonard is awaiting gall bladder surgery.

Mike Bigbie is waiting for a heart transplant.

Jeannine Morris's son Matt will have surgery this month.

Jenny Pelsue is at home battling pneumonia and kidney stones.

Homebound Members

Ann Barnard Dorothy Hughes Heather Hughes
Marianne Jones Carolyn Kouri Betty Wagner

Lenten Devotionals Are Available

Our Worship and Music Committee has arranged for a Lenten devotional to be emailed to you each day beginning on March 6.

For those of you who prefer a hard copy, a week's worth of devotionals will be available each Sunday

Clerk's Notes

January 2022 and February 2022



The Session agreed to have the Worship and Music Committee review our evaluation process with the Personnel Committee.

It was decided to allow the pastor to take a week of vacation ASAP in the New Year and to roll over two weeks of vacation from 2021 to 2022. This will finish out the limit of allowing him to roll over 4 weeks from year to year.

It was noted that the stove had been installed at the new building, but still waiting on the dishwasher.

Carolyn McGaha Lester was presented to the Session with the request to join New Hope. Carolyn was attending the meeting via zoom from Leesburg, Florida. The session examined her and voted unanimously to accept Carolyn into the membership of New Hope Presbyterian, Wichita Falls, Texas. She joins by transfer of letter.

Worship and Music committee is discussing the following items: placing chairs for the pastor and liturgist at the front of the sanctuary, having a family night dinner next year giving families the opportunity to make their own advent wreath, voting the church's membership in the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, planning a Saturday gathering to dedicate the new building soon after moving into the new building, and hoping to have a Christmas cantata.

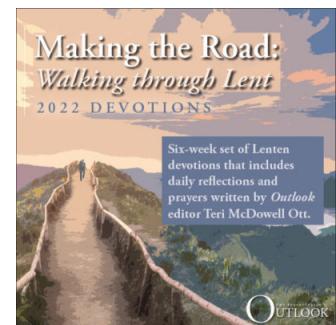
The Personnel Committee is working on locating candidates for the nursery attendant and the youth instructor.

The Finance Committee updated the insurance on 1701 Enterprise and reviewed non-contract charges such as utilities.

The Communications Committee met with Christen Kinard, our website consultant, via zoom where they finalized choosing the colors for the website.

There was a called Congregational meeting held following the worship service on February 6th for the purpose of approving the salary increase for Rev. Stribling. The congregation approved the increase.

Check Your Email
for your
Daily Lenten Devotion



A Two Year Old Picture from Ukraine

by Yuriy Lifanse for Presbyterian Mission Crossroads

In 2020, the Parliamentary Committee on Social Policy reported a 42.4% poverty level among working Ukrainians.

According to a study by the Dmitry F. Chebotarev Institute of Gerontology of the National Academy of Medical Sciences of Ukraine, 80% of single people or single elderly couples live below the poverty line — their pensions less than \$100. As of February 2020, the Ministry of Social Policy reported that nearly 1.5 million internally displaced people from the war zone were registered in Ukraine.

In terms of territory, Ukraine is the largest country in Europe and among the poorest. More than 40 million people in Ukraine live in poverty due to corruption, which permeates all areas of life. Most of the wealth belongs to a few families of oligarchs, while the majority live modestly or poorly. The situation became especially difficult after the outbreak of the war in Eastern Ukraine and the occupation of Crimea in the spring of 2014. The war between Ukraine and Russia has lasted longer than World War II and has caused more than 13,000 deaths and a huge number of injuries and disabilities. Many have lost their homes, and no prospects for an end to war are visible. Every day, violence continues to take and maim lives.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a deep economic and social crisis, challenging both the medical system and social security system. More than 50,000 people in Ukraine have died from the disease, (121,000 by 2022) and hundreds of thousands have lost their jobs.

The community of Sant'Egidio in Ukraine is part of a large international movement of lay Christians responding to specific problems within society. Its nearly 1,000 active members help children, older people, people experiencing homelessness, Roma families and other poor families. In Kyiv, the community has opened a School for Peace, where children are brought up in the spirit of openness and solidarity, and a rehabilitation art workshop for people with disabilities, Gli Amici, which means “The Friends” in Italian.

“There is no one so poor that he cannot help another,” says Andrea Riccardi, founder of the Community of Sant’Egidio. This evangelical conviction helped in organizing a network of solidarity and friends in the city, ordinary people who prepared food and distributed needed items. An important task also was sharing the experience of working on the street. “Friends in the Street,” advocates for the poor, gathered around the community in Kyiv, where assistance could be provided in a coordinated way. Thanks to this coordination, most organizations not only returned to humanitarian work, but also increased aid.

Yuriy Lifanse is a professor at the Pavel Chubinsky Academy of Arts and a leader in the Sant’Egidio community.



March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	3 Nancy Estes Birthday Dixe Putnam's Birthday 7 p.m. Personnel Mtg	4 Luke Busby's Birthday Don Stribling's Birthday 4:30 p.m. Communications Mtg	5 Leslie Adams' Birthday
6 10 a.m. Choir practice 10:30 a.m. Worship Service W&M Meeting	7 8 6:30 p.m. Building & Grounds Zoom Mtg 7 p.m. Finance Zoom Mtg.	9 5:30 p.m. Zoom Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	10 Website Team at 4:30 p.m.	11	12	
13 Clocks Spring Forward 10 a.m. Choir practice 10:30 a.m. Worship	14 Dorothy Hughes' Birthday	15 Session Mtg.	16 5:30 p.m. Zoom Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	17 6 p.m. Deacons Mtg	18	19 10:30 a.m. MFM at 133 Pembroke
20 10 a.m. Choir practice 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	21	22	23 5:30 p.m. Zoom Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	24 Website Team at 4:30 p.m.	25	26
27 10 a.m. Choir practice 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 2 p.m. Mission Com mtg	28	29	30 Mary Garza's birthday 5:30 p.m. Zoom Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	31 5:30 p.m. Zoom Fellowship 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice	April 1 Walter Clement's birthday 4:30 p.m. Communications Mtg	April 2 Judy Bonnett's birthday



The Power Pack Crew for February

Left to Right: Joe Gonzales, Don Stribling, Jo Anne Gonzales-Johnston, Betty Sehon, Joan Pruitt, Friederike Wiedemann, Marilyn Clements, Wanda Gonzales, Judy Bonnett. Up Top: Joan Pruitt and John Wiedemann.

Regarding God's Transgendered Children Based on Today's Knowledge

What does it mean to be transgender?

Transgender is an umbrella term for anyone whose gender does not align with their sex assigned at birth. Gender identity is not the same thing as gender expression. For example, a cisgender woman might present in a more stereotypically “masculine” way but still identify as her female sex assigned at birth.

How do doctors diagnose gender dysphoria?

Gender dysphoria is defined as “psychological distress” that results from a mismatch between one’s sex assigned at birth and one’s gender identity, according to the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the [American Psychiatric Association \(APA\)](#).

Not everyone who is transgender is diagnosed with gender dysphoria. Some transgender people do not feel discomfort or distress in their bodies. And not all people diagnosed with gender dysphoria will choose to undergo medical treatments or transition-related surgeries.

For adolescents to be diagnosed with gender dysphoria, they must have experienced “a marked incongruence” between their gender and their assigned sex at birth, lasting at least six months, according to the APA [diagnostic manual](#).

Gender dysphoria affects a person’s ability to function at school or work and can lead to intense anxiety, depression and suicide risk. Some adolescents or adults have experienced distress using the bathroom and developed gastrointestinal issues as a result.

At what age do young people realize they are transgender?

With more information about the transgender community becoming available to young people and their parents, more children are coming out at earlier ages than in the past. Some people don’t realize they are transgender until they reach puberty, or later in adulthood. But some children show signs that they are transgender early on in childhood. The average age for presentation for services at the largest clinic for transgender health is 15. Despite the intense political focus on young transgender children, only 10 percent of the children arriving at the clinic are pre-pubertal.

How does a young child transition?

For pre-pubertal transgender children diagnosed with gender dysphoria, doctors recommend avoiding gender-affirming medications, according to the Endocrine Society’s [Clinical Practice Guideline](#), which sets standards of care for transgender people.

If you have not yet started puberty, there’s nothing to block and nothing to add. It’s about creating environments that are supportive,” said Johanna Olson-Kennedy, medical director of the Center for Transyouth Health and Development at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

Rather than beginning a medical transition, pre-pubertal transgender children may begin a social transition, changing one’s name and pronouns, and wearing different clothing or hairstyles. This transition can in some cases involve legal changes to names and genders listed in identifying documents. Transgender children are not offered puberty blockers or hormone treatments until they reach puberty. Medical guidelines generally do not recommend genital gender-affirming surgeries before a child reaches age 18. Link to full article in the [Washington Post](#).

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presbyterian church
new hope



We Must Remain Vigilant

Legislation is being introduced in our States that would make it illegal in public schools to teach or speak of anything regarding LGBTQ people. This effort to make it illegal to acknowledge the existence and struggle of particular children of God denies they too are created in the image of God.

Christ welcomed all people to his table but rejected the teachings of people who put their laws or traditions ahead of the wellbeing of any of God's children. As Christ's followers must do the same.

We take heart in our country's promise that all people are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

May God cover every LGBTQ person and their families with a mighty arm and shield them from assaults from people who do not know what they do.

April - June
These Days

Now Available

