

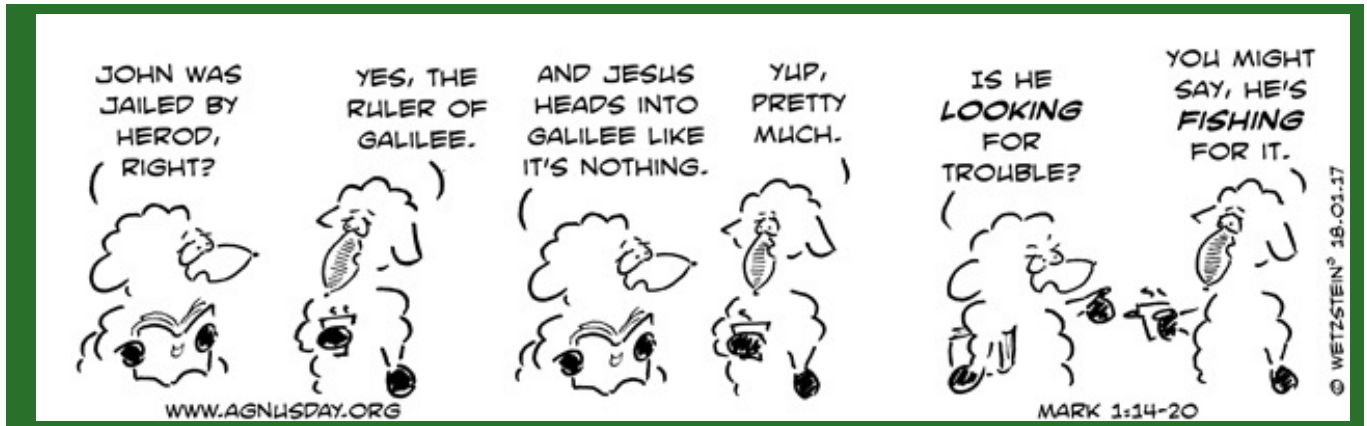


Forest Hills Presbyterian Church

The Branch

WINTER EDITION 2023

PASTOR'S CORNER



As Jesus traveled throughout Israel urging people to repent and believe the gospel, "Follow me" was a constant refrain in his message. At the beginning of his ministry, he called his first disciples with the terse command, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." As his ministry progressed, he told the crowds, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me" (Mark 8:34). At the end of his earthly ministry, he recommissioned the repentant Peter with the words, "Follow me" (John 21:19). We are invited to say yes to following Christ, yes to God, and yes to our faith. May we do so boldly.

Yes ~ Sí by Walter Brueggemann

You are the God who is simple, direct
clear with us and for us
You have committed yourself to us
You have said yes to us in creation
yes, to us in our birth
yes to us in our baptism
yes to us in our awakening this day
But we are of another kind
More accustomed to "perhaps, maybe, we'll see
Left in wonderment and ambiguity
We live our lives not back to your yes
But out of our endless "perhaps"

So we pray for your mercy this day
that we may live yes back to you
Yes with our time
Yes with our money
Yes with our sexuality
Yes with our strength and with our
weakness
Yes to our neighbor
Yes and no longer "perhaps"
In the name of your enfleshed yes to us
Even Jesus who is our yes into your
future. Amen.

Grace & Peace, Pastor Katy



FOREST HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EXALTING JESUS CHRIST • EQUIPPING FOR MINISTRY • EXPANDING GOD'S KINGDOM

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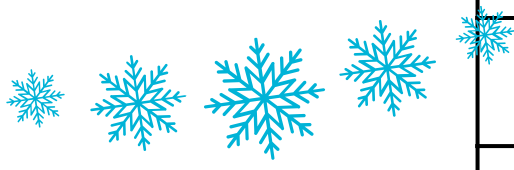
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JANUARY

1/17	Session Meeting @ 6:30 pm
1/19	Presbyterian Women @ 1:30 pm
1/21	Called Mission Presbytery Meeting: Zoom from 10:00 to 11:00 am.
1/24	Forest Hills Cafe @ 5:00 - 6:30 pm Fellowship & Church Growth Meeting at 6:30 pm
1/25	Ladies' Lunch Out (BJ's at Alamo Ranch at 11:30 am)
1/29	Congregational Meeting following Worship (11:30 am)



hello February



2/2	Worship Committee at 6:00 pm Building and Grounds Committee at 7:00 pm
2/7	Forest Hills Cafe @ 5:00 - 6:30 pm
2/8	Christian Education Committee at 6:30 pm
2/9	Administrative Meeting at 6:30 pm
2/12	Souper Bowl Sunday & Chili Cookoff
2/14	Missions Meetings at 6:30 pm
2/16	Presbyterian Women @ 1:30 pm
2/21	Forest Hills Cafe @ 5:00 - 6:30 pm Session Meeting @ 6:30 pm
2/22	Ash Wednesday Ladies' Lunch Out at 11:30 am
2/28	Fellowship & Church Growth Meeting at 6:30 pm

Session Highlights

The FHPC Session met hybrid style January 17th. Highlights from the January Session meeting include:

1. Rev. Walters opened the meeting using a prayer from Ash & Starlight by Arianne Braithwaite Lehn.
2. The following reports were given:
 - a. CLERK'S REPORT
 - b. TREASURER'S REPORT
 - due to staff illness and holidays, only a preliminary report was shared with Session.
 - it was realized we do not qualify for the Bexar County Nonprofit Assistance Grant.
 - c. ADMINISTRATION
 - Approved Pastor's Contract and Terms of Call for Congregation to approve at Congregational Meeting, 1/29.
 - d. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS
 - An access point will be put in the Maples' House Friday (1/20) and Monday (1/23) so that more bids can be received regarding the foundation.
 - Looking to schedule a work day for early Spring.
 - e. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
 - 6 youth attended Midwinters @ Mo (Thank you Scott Williams for chaperoning!)
 - New things for 2023 are being dreamed up for CE.
 - f. FELLOWSHIP AND CHURCH GROWTH
 - No meeting was held in December.
 - February 12th is the Chili Cook Off, following worship.
 - g. MISSION, OUTREACH, & SERVICE
 - 4 prayer quilts were dedicated and 7 families were assisted by HEB cards in December.
 - Thank you to everyone who helped with the PCHAS Angel Tree, Habitat for Humanity, and the Christmas Joy Offering (\$207.62 collected.)
 - Souper Bowl of Caring is happening! Now through February 12th.
 - h. WORSHIP
 - In lieu of an Ash Wednesday evening service, there will be "Ashes to Go" on Wednesday, Feb. 22 both at The Cracked Mug and FHPC.
 - Lent/Holy Week information will be shared soon.
3. In the Pastor's Report, Rev. Walters shared updates from the Technology Team and expressed gratitude to Val Williams for stepping up and preaching while she was keynoting at Midwinters @ Mo.
4. The Session:
 - after conversation, *approval of welcoming Jonathan and Angela Perez as members of FHPC, passed unanimously.*
 - approved Linda Klar and Val Williams to attend the called Mission Presbytery Meeting for Jan. 21 at 10:00 am via Zoom.
5. Elder of the Month: January - Cameron Carnes; February - Sandra Davis
6. Covenant concerns were shared and the meeting was closed with prayer.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Katy Walters*

Worship

Coming Up In Worship

January 22

"I'm Beginning to See the Light"
Isaiah 9:1-4; Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

"God with Us"
Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

February 5

Communion Sunday
"Shining Bright"
Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 5:13-20

February 12

"Cake or Death?"
Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Matthew
5:21-37

February 19

Transfiguration of the Lord
"Be Attentive to This"
Exodus 24:12-18; 2 Peter 1:16-21;
Matthew 17:1-9



LENT 2023

This year during Lent, we're inviting our congregation to explore what the Psalmist says in Psalm 23:

THE LORD IS MY
shepherd
I SHALL NOT
— want —

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want."

There's many definitions for wants and needs, and we remember our God intends a different way than what the world says. Our scriptures each Sunday share stories of people encountering Christ with certain wants and needs, and we see how Christ responds in ways we could have never imagined.

We'll be using resources from A Sanctified Art's Lenten curriculum, entitled, "Seeking," including their daily devotional cards. Posed with a reflection question and prayer, these cards are intended to expand and deepen our spiritual walks through Lent. You might place the stack of cards by your bed to read first thing in the morning or right before you sleep at night. Perhaps use the cards as prompts to journal and reflect or to start dinner conversation. We pray they will be a blessing as we seek to walk with God, our Shepherd.



FEBRUARY 22ND

Ash
Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season. Our foreheads are marked with ash as we remember, "from dust we came and to dust we will return."

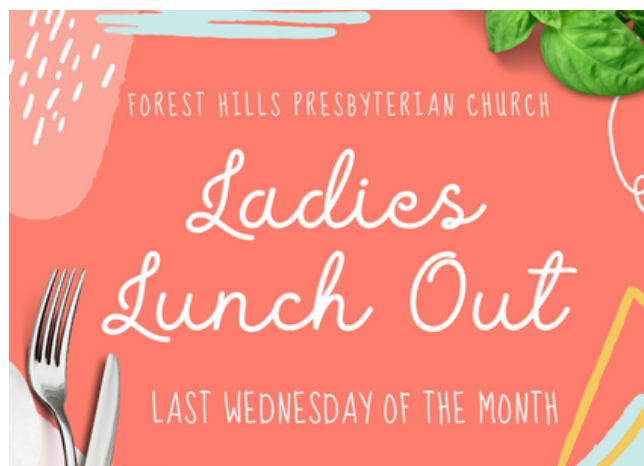
This year, we will be having "Ashes to Go" available for our church family. In addition to an art option available on 2/19, on Wednesday, Pastor Katy will be distributing ashes at The Cracked Mug from 7:30-9:00 am and at the church throughout the day. An online devotion will be available as well.



Snapshot from Christmas



Fellowship



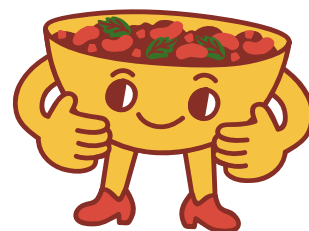
DON'T FORGET TO SAVE THE DATE FOR LADIES' LUNCH OUT ON THE LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH.

JANUARY 25TH WE WILL BE AT BJ'S RESTAURANT ALAMO RANCH AT 11:30 AM. JOIN US!

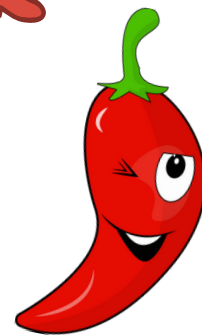
To bean or not to bean...

**Save the date for our
Chili Cookoff!**

Sunday, February 12



**Join us following
worship as celebrate
Souper Bowl Sunday,
TEXAS STYLE!**



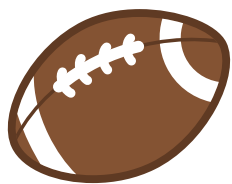
What a gift it's been to help Marshall High School and their Hygiene Closet. In this New Year, they're in need of the following items. You can drop them off in the Narthex or Church Office.

Thank you!

- Pocket tissue
- Hair ties
- Brushes
- Low & no-show socks
- Women's body wash
- Small lotion
- Q-tips
- Hand sanitizer (pocket size)
- Dry shampoo
- Ziploc bags



MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL
HYGIENE CLOSET



LET'S TACKLE HUNGER TOGETHER!



The Souper Bowl of Caring's vision is to use the energy of the NFL's Super Bowl to mobilize youth in a united, national effort to care for people in their local communities who are hungry and in need. In the same light, the Mission Presbytery Souper Bowl Smackdown aims to use the energy of the NFL's Super Bowl to mobilize our local churches in a united regional effort and a friendly competition to care for people in our local communities who are hungry and those in need.

This year, we're going even bigger, and the congregations of Mission Presbytery will be teaming up to compete against two other Texas Presbyteries, Grace and New Covenant. We will still award the belt to the congregation with the most cans per capita in Mission Presbytery, but our focus will be on banding together to collect the most cans we can.

The champion will be the church with the highest total number of food items and monetary donations per capita.

Collecting ends Sunday, February 12, 2023.



To everyone who helped put up and take down our Christmas decorations, we are so grateful for your help!

thank you

Do You Love Me?

LUKE 22:54-62 | JOHN 21:15-19

MISSION PRESBYTERY'S
Midwinter Youth Conference
at
Mo-Ranch



FOREST HILLS CAFE

Hot, homestyle meals with hospitality.

Suggested donation:

\$8 for Adults

\$5 for Junior Plates

Serving from

5:00 - 6:30 pm

Every other Tuesday



MENU

January 24

Oven-Roasted Chicken Quarters, Root Vegetables, Kale Salad, Hot Rolls

February 7

Spaghetti with Meatballs, Caesar Salad, Garlic Bread

February 21: FAT TUESDAY

Red Beans and Rice with Ham Hock, Mini Muffulettas, Kings Cake

March 7

Stuffed Pork Loin Chops, Sweet and Sour Green Beans

March 21

King Ranch Casserole, Borracho Beans, Tossed Salad

YOU ARE
loved

"Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Romans 8:39

HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY



Mission Presbytery **DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT**

**February 19th
@ First Pres. Kerrville
12:00 - 6:00 pm**

*Join the San Antonio Region
Youth of Mission Presbytery for
an afternoon full of fun!*
\$10/participant/ RSVP to Pastor Katy

AARP Foundation® **TAX-AIDE**

AARP will be back on the FHPC
Campus on Wednesdays during
Tax Season to offer their services.

A kind reminder: appointments
are made online, not in person.



You can scan the
code to the right to
make an
appointment online.



Thanks to Boy Scout
Troop 211 for the
help in trimming
trees on our campus!

