



Forest Hills Presbyterian Church

The Branch

MARCH 2022

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Welcome to Lent.



PASTOR'S CORNER

Image: a side car mirror showing a car labeled "LENT" coming up from behind with "OBJECTS IN MIRROR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR" printed on the mirror.

A dear friend posted this reflection regarding Lent this week: "Every pastor the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday: "Lent, is that you grumbling right behind us???" I know Lent is coming every year and yet it seems to creep up on me all the same. It is a season set apart, a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a season of self-examination and reflection. The word Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word, *lencten*, meaning lengthen, referring to the lengthening days of spring. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, we Christians focus on our relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others. We begin this forty day journey on Ash Wednesday, hearing the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Ideally, as we make this forty day journey in the wilderness, we follow in the steps of Jesus, resisting temptation and preparing for ministry. I wonder what challenges we might face in these forty days that test and try us, but too, how we challenge ourselves and our church as we seek to live out God's liberating love in this wilderness. Here's how my friend Maggie ended her Lenten charge: *Here's your Lenten reminder that it is not all about giving up that Dr. Pepper or chocolate or cutting carbs. It is all about returning and nurturing your relationship with God. If giving up chocolate works for you during this season that's great. But maybe this year we pick some things up along this journey instead, such as kindness, compassion, care, and love.*"

Grace & Peace, Pastor Katy



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

FOREST HILLS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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March Calendar

3/2 ASH WEDNESDAY

DRIVE THROUGH ASHES (11:30A)

WORSHIP SERVICE (7PM)

3/3 WORSHIP COMMITTEE (6P)

3/6 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

BOOK CLUB (2:30P)

3/7 MISSIONS MEETING (6:30P)

3/9 CHRISTIAN ED/YOUTH (6:30P)

3/10 ADMIN. MEETING (6:30P)

3/15 SESSION MEETING (6:30P)

3/18 FOSTER PARENT NIGHT OUT (6PM)

3/22 FELLOWSHIP/CHURCH GROWTH (6:30P)

3/30 LADIES' LUNCH OUT @ SIX CLICKS CAFE (11:30A)

Youth Mid Winters at Mo-Ranch



January Session Highlights

The Session met by Zoom on January 18th at 6:30 pm. Highlights included:

1. Opening in prayer and with a brief discussion on questions below:
 - a. *What did you or your congregation learn over the last 22 months that you will continue in the future?*
 - b. *Can you name something the congregation did before the pandemic that you will not be doing in the future?*
 - c. *What do you miss the most from before the pandemic and how do you bring it into the future?*
2. We received a thank you from Helotes House of Neighborly Services for our donation of 594 pounds of food worth \$1,063.26.
3. We examined and then welcomed new members Chuck and Betty Jean Hadden, who are transferring their membership from what was formally Good Shepherd Presbyterian.
4. We ended 2021 with a deficit of \$17,313.71, and while it is not good, it is a much lower number than originally anticipated. A reminder was shared that we approved the budget for 2022, but will be reviewing mid year.
5. Our committees shared how they continue to do the faithful and sacred work of the church, including:
 - a. posting of emergency numbers being posted outside each building on campus
 - b. First ever Foster Family Parent's Night Out hosted 27 children in attendance.
 - c. Off-Site Communion by Elders/Pastor was approved for 2022, with suggested liturgy included from Worship Committee.
 - d. Super Bowl of Caring is 2.13 and donations/food items will be collected; the Christmas Joy Offering collected \$298.24, and \$369.68 was collected for Habitat for Humanity as well as 20 children were served through our Angel Tree.
6. Committees worked to turn in budgets for Administrations review as we work to plan a budget for 2022.
7. We continue to follow CDC guidelines when it comes to Covid, and discussion was held in regards to the Omicrom variant. *The decision was made to continue meeting in person and encourage safety measures when gathering in person.*
8. Session voted to allow for an "Assistant Clerk" to be voted in place in case the Clerk of Session was unable to be present at a meeting. *Motion passed and in February, we will vote on who will fill the position.*
9. Rev. Walters shared she is under the weather and waiting for her COVID test results. Discussion and a plan were put in place for if Rev. Walters needed to miss Worship. Rev. Walters will be out 2/13 for vacation as she officiates her sister's wedding.
10. Covenant concerns were shared with our Session before we closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Katy Walters

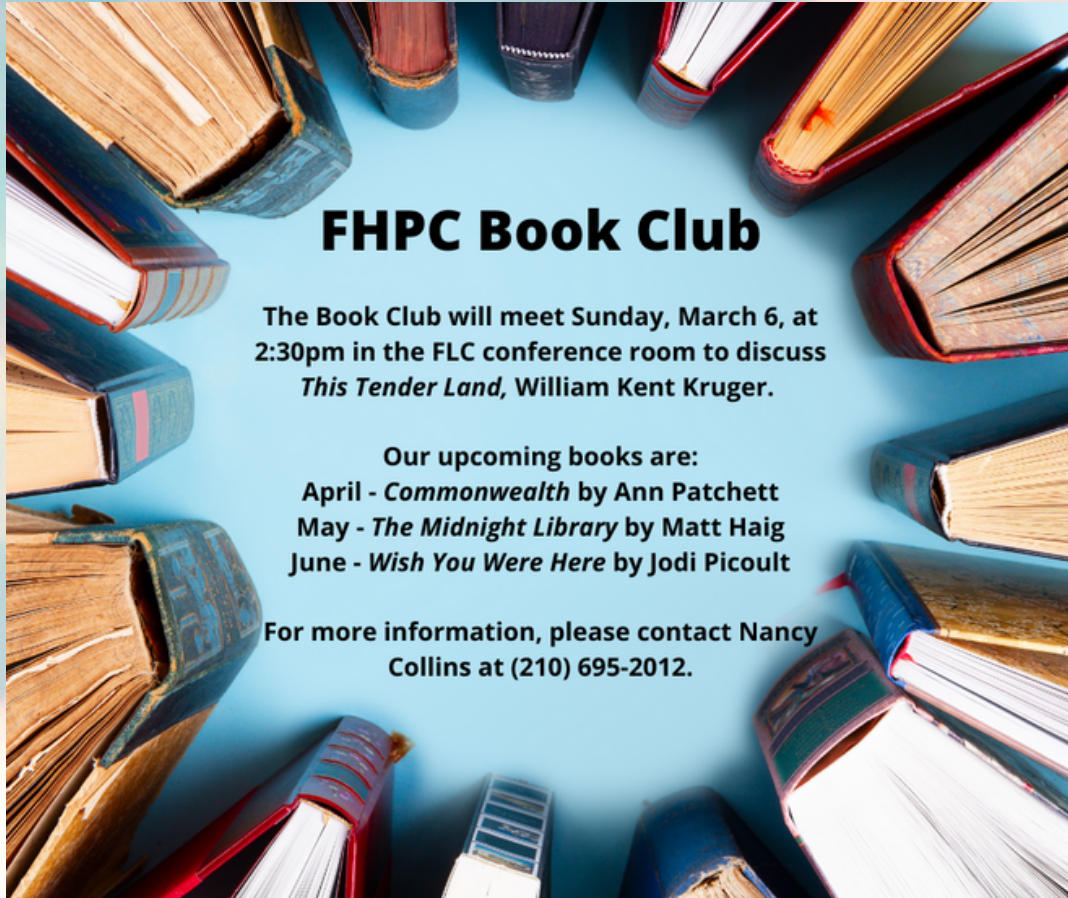
February Session Highlights

The Session met by Zoom on February 15th at 6:30 pm. Highlights included:

1. Opening in prayer and devotion by Reverend Katy Walters.
2. The Session approved the following items:
 - Recommendation from the Administration Committee to extend Worship Musician Deb Harrison's contract for another six months.
 - having Kay McCloskey and Cami Pace be representatives for the upcoming Mission Presbytery Meeting being held on March 5, 2022 via Zoom.
 - accepted the Treasure's Report as presented by Treasurer Sandra Davis.
3. Mission and Outreach shared the following updates:
 - the Food Pantry is moving to designated hours; Monday & Thursday, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm.
 - 197 items and \$147 were collected for Souper Bowl of Caring; thank you to everyone for donating!
4. Other updates include:
 - Christian Education has five youth attending Mission Presbytery "Late-Winters" at Mo-Ranch, including one youth that is a part of leadership.
 - Fellowship is bringing back to life "The Shepherd Plan" for our congregation. Members of Fellowship and the Session will be shepherds caring for our congregation.
5. Pastor Katy expressed gratitude for Worship Committee taking on worship for the Sunday she was out. Thank you to Kay and Luke for sharing their camp/conference experience for worship.
6. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2nd. Our theme is "Walking the Hard Road: Lent During Challenging Times." Devotionals will be emailed out weekly and there is a Challenge Calendar for people to participate in.
7. Covenant concerns were shared with our Session before we closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Katy Walters

Fellowship Opportunities

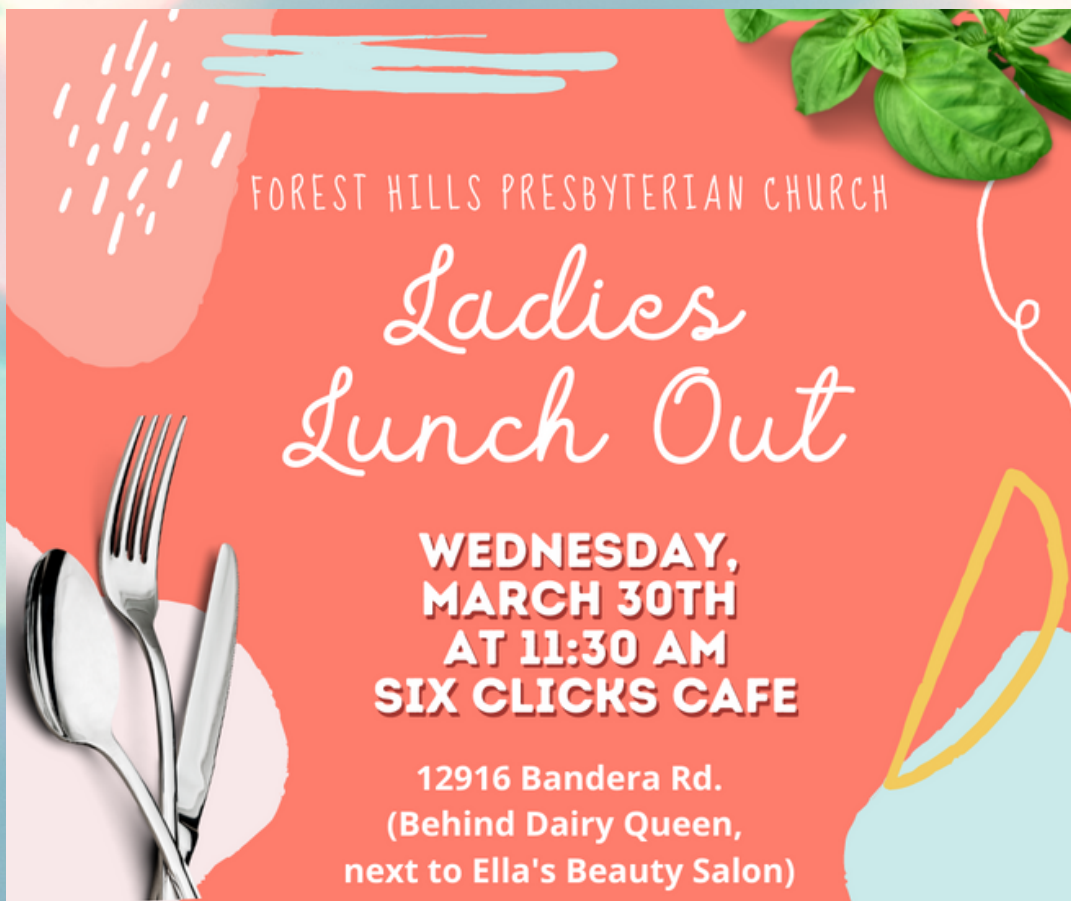
A graphic for the FHPC Book Club. It features a light blue background with several books of various colors and sizes arranged in a circular pattern around the text. The text is centered and includes the club's name, meeting details for March 6, a list of upcoming books for April, May, and June, and contact information for Nancy Collins.

FHPC Book Club

The Book Club will meet Sunday, March 6, at 2:30pm in the FLC conference room to discuss *This Tender Land*, William Kent Kruger.

Our upcoming books are:
April - *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett
May - *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
June - *Wish You Were Here* by Jodi Picoult

For more information, please contact Nancy Collins at (210) 695-2012.

A graphic for the Ladies Lunch Out event. It has a coral-colored background with white and light blue abstract shapes. Decorative elements include a sprig of green basil in the top right, a set of silverware (spoon, fork, knife) in the bottom left, and a yellow outline of a lemon slice in the bottom right. The text is centered and provides details about the event at Six Clicks Cafe.

FOREST HILLS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Ladies
Lunch Out*

**WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 30TH
AT 11:30 AM
SIX CLICKS CAFE**

12916 Bandera Rd.
(Behind Dairy Queen,
next to Ella's Beauty Salon)

**TUESDAY MORNINGS
AT 10:00 AM**

Coffee with the Pastor

MARY'S TACOS
13439 BANDERA RD,
HELOTES, TX 78023



Don't forget this Lent:

**LET'S
CONNECT**



03.02.22-
04.17.22



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Matthew 25 teaches us that,
in every time and season
the Church finds itself and its Savior
through relationships with those in need.



**Pick up your Fish Bank at the church or submit your special offering
using one of the designated envelopes.**



ORDER YOUR

Easter Lilies

EASTER LILIES WILL BE USED AS DECORATIONS IN THE SANCTUARY ON EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17, AND CAN BE TAKEN HOME IMMEDIATELY AFTER OUR WORSHIP SERVICE. WE WILL PUBLISH YOUR MEMORIAL OR CELEBRATION IN THE EASTER SUNDAY BULLETIN. THERE ARE ORDER FORMS IN THE NARTHEX AND IN OUR WEEKLY HAPPENINGS EMAIL.

holy week

Palm Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 10:30 AM

Join us as we sing "Hosannas" and wave palms in honor of the One who comes in the name of the Lord, Jesus!

Maundy Thursday

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 7:00 PM

We begin this night at the table, partaking in the Holy Meal of Communion, as Jesus shared with his disciples. We end the night in darkness, remembering the betrayal of Judas and Jesus' journey to the cross. Join us for this night of remembrance.

Good Friday

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, FOUND ON OUR YOUTUBE PAGE

This online only service is named, "tenebrae" which means "darkness" in Latin. It is the given name for this somber service as we journey to the cross with our Savior.

Easter Sunday

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

SUNRISE SERVICE AT 7:00 AM & WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Come and worship the Risen Lord at the Sunrise Service at 7 am on the Lawn, or in the Sanctuary at 10:30 am. Join us for Coffee and Fellowship beginning at 9:45 am before worship at 10:30 am. There will also be an Egg Hunt for Children. Don't forget to bring your flowers as we flower the cross!





LENTEN CHALLENGE CALENDAR

Our theme for Lent this year is *"Walking the Hard Road: Lent During Challenging Times."* Throughout worship, we will be exploring how we are often challenged in our faith, but too, how we can challenge ourselves so that we grow closer to God.

This calendar offers seven ideas to incorporate during the week that lend themselves to the challenge at hand. Whether you're able to do one or all of them, our prayer is that they don't feel like tasks. We pray these ideas encourage you to put into practice your faith at home.

Prayer for the Beginning of Lent:

Holy God, treasure of faithful hearts, through Jesus Christ you taught us how to pray, to give, to serve, to live. Reshape, restore, and renew us by the hidden power of your Spirit, so that we may receive the way of life that is the true reward of the faithful; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

WEEK TWO: MARCH 13-19

Challenge: Finding Shelter

- ☐ Pray for those in need of shelter.
- ☐ Turn off your AC/Heat for 24 hours.
- ☐ Read Psalm 27:1-5.
- ☐ Sleep without a pillow or your favorite blanket for one night.
- ☐ Try giving as many compliments as you can today.
- ☐ Eat a meal outside in God's creation.
- ☐ Give gently used blankets/towels to your local Animal Shelter.

WEEK ONE: MARCH 6-12

Challenge: Avoiding Shortcuts

- ☐ Read Luke 4:1-13
- ☐ Try not to complain for an entire day.
- ☐ Choose reading a book over a screen.
- ☐ When making a decision, let someone else have their way.
- ☐ Make something you would normally buy.
- ☐ Take on an extra chore at home.
- ☐ Clean out a "junk" drawer/closet and donate what you can.

WEEK THREE: MARCH 20-26

Challenge: Remaining in Prayer

- ☐ Make a gratitude list to God.
- ☐ Pray with a friend or family member.
- ☐ Try spending two minutes in silence.
- ☐ Choose books/toys you no longer use to give to a little free library or charity.
- ☐ Tell someone you love them and are thankful for them.
- ☐ Read Isaiah 55:1-9.
- ☐ Try to pray The Lord's Prayer every night before bed. (Try a song form.)

LENTEN CHALLENGE CALENDAR

WEEK FOUR: MARCH 27-APRIL 2

Challenge: Waste

- ☐ Work on saving water this week.
- ☐ Pick up **6** pieces of trash from outside.
- ☐ Read Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32.
- ☐ Compost your food waste this week as you are able.
- ☐ Fill a bag with things you don't use at home - if it's paper, try to recycle!
- ☐ Plan a game night with family/friends.
- ☐ Leave a snack or a thank you note to your garbage people.

WEEK FIVE: APRIL 3-9

Challenge: Sitting in the Gray

- ☐ Try not to argue for an entire day.
- ☐ Pray for leaders in our world.
- ☐ Take a break from social media/news.
- ☐ Offer words of kindness to someone you struggle with or disagree with.
- ☐ Allow someone to go before you in line, or in traffic, or at school.
- ☐ Read John 12:1-8.
- ☐ Fill a bag with coats/sweaters you no longer wear and donate to a shelter.



APRIL 10-16 CHALLENGE: SPEAKING UP



Scripture Readings:

Palm Sunday: Luke 19:28-40 **Holy Wednesday:** John 13:21-32
Holy Monday: Psalm 36:5-11 **Maundy Thursday:** John 13:1-17
Holy Tuesday: John 12:20-36 **Good Friday:** John 18-19:42

- ☐ Make a cross out of sticks, paper, fingerprints or however else you imagine. Place it where you can see it regularly and remember God's love for you.
- ☐ Attend Maundy Thursday (4/14 at 7:00 pm) or watch it on YouTube.
- ☐ Remember someone you love who has died by lighting a candle.
- ☐ Go out of your way to help someone.
- ☐ Help set the table for your dinner.
- ☐ Choose some food or toiletry items to bring to the FHPC Food Pantry.
- ☐ Experiment with living your faith out loud - share why you love God with a friend or family member. Name something you like about church.



FOSTER PARENT NIGHT OUT

APRIL 22, 2022

6:00 – 9:00 pm

Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen and with the children. Please contact Kelli Hart at (210)273-0881 for more information and to sign up.

*Our theme for the
night is
Earth Day!*



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