



**YOUR MONTHLY NEWS FROM**  
*First Presbyterian Church*  
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October, 2020

**10 THINGS I HOPE NEVER GO BACK TO NORMAL  
AFTER COVID-19**

In the wreckage of the Pandemic I've found treasure. We have changed as a society in a major way, but in some ways for the better.

1. Appreciation for the Small Blessings:

Sadly, we often fail to appreciate the gifts in our lives until they are taken away. This has certainly been true for me. COVID-19 has helped me feel and voice my appreciation for so many things I've taken for granted. *I hope this never goes back to "normal".*

2. Compassion:

From the doctors and nurses serving in COVID-19 units to neighbors sharing groceries and toilet paper, compassion abounds during this crisis. Compassion trickles from every tender heart as our community navigates the new normal. *I hope this never goes back to "normal".*

3. Creativity:

Americans are creative people, but ease and affluence have stifled this quality in recent years. During this crisis, people have made face coverings; distilleries made hand sanitizer; printing companies made face shields for students; restaurants and businesses had to adapt to stay afloat. I don't want people to suffer nor deal with tough economics, but *I hope this creativity never goes back to "normal."*

4. Togetherness Despite Limitations:

- Reading bedtime stories over Face Time
- Standing outside nursing home windows and talking on the phone
- Same with hospitalized patients and families
- Drive-by graduation parties, birthdays and baby showers
- Playing board games over Zoom (lots of Zoom haha)
- Brainstorming creative and touching ways to nurture and grow

I hope this “determination” and “creativity” for togetherness never goes away. *I don't want it to go back to “normal”.*

5. A Greater Appreciation for Teachers and Homeschooling Parents:

Patience, ingenuity, harder work, challenging dynamics of technology, appreciation for those who spend their lives educating children and students is always timely. *I hope this never goes back to “normal”.*

6. A Renewed Interest in Reading and Writing:

More down time; can't binge on Netflix all the time; Online book clubs; notes of encouragement, memoirs, scrapbooks....we “didn't have time”...maybe we do. *I hope this never goes back to “normal”.*

7. An Increase in Family Meals and Cooking at Home.

Meal prep a group effort? Leisurely sit-down dinners? Better and healthier food? Conversations at home? People saved money, grew closer together and maybe lost weight (!?!!) *I hope this never goes back to “normal”.*

8. Spiritual Innovation:

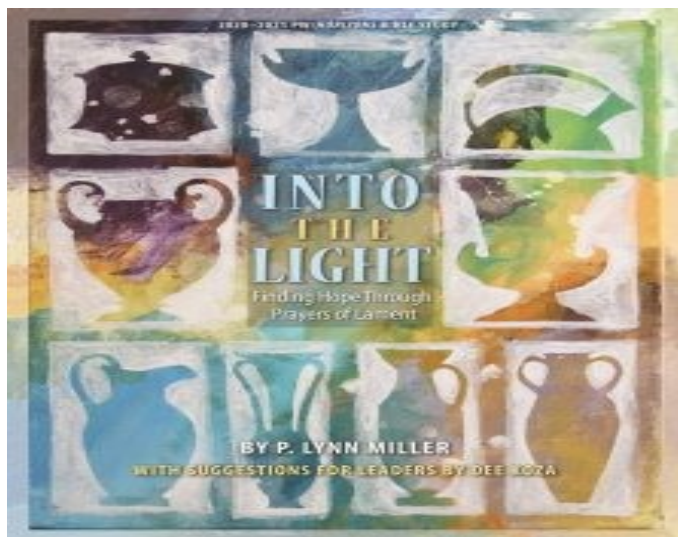
Churches learned to think outside the box and find innovative ways to minister. They brought church to the people rather than people to the church. Maybe we should offer outside services at least periodically? How about drive-by prayer? *I hope NEW ways to be the church never goes back to “normal”.*

9. A Return to Bible Reading and Prayer:

COVID-19-induced limitations have become an invitation to spiritual renewal. Instead of mindlessly scrolling through social media or television, many Christians and non-religious people have spent extra time in God's presence. *I hope this never goes back to “normal”.*

10. A Right Perspective of Ourselves:

In pre-COVID-19 days when we enjoyed health, wealth and freedom, we felt powerful and independent. We were invincible. We felt in control and secure. Then a profound sense of our mortality sparked widespread fear. Many learned (some for the first time) that we are not the master of our own destiny. A Greater Power rules the world. This truth has been life-changing when paired with faith. Maybe some have discovered that God is our provider and not ourselves or our government...we can trust Him. “When we are weak, He is strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:10) In the midst of crappy, horrible 2020 we have tapped into the peace that defies all understanding and discovered that the safest place to be is in the palm of God's hand. *I hope that never goes back to normal.”*



## CIRCLES

### FOR THE LADIES

*(September thru May)*

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Circle 1: Chair is Joy Hinton

Lesson Planner is Frankie Stewart

Meets 1st Monday at 10:30 a.m.

**NO MEETING OCT 2020**

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Circle 2: Chair is Dot Carpenter

Lesson Planner — Rotates

Meets 1st Monday at 4:00 p.m.

**NO MEETING OCT 2020**

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Circle 3: The Lunch Bunch

Chair is Peggy Peacock

Lesson Planner — Rotates

3rd Monday at 11:30 a.m.

**NO MEETING OCT 2020**

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Circle 4: Good News Women

Will be Joining Circle 2 for Bible Study

Will continue to gather together for

Fellowship (dates to be determined)

## The Wildflowers

Lesson Planner — Rotates

Meets Year Round on the

1st Wednesday at 6:30 in homes.

**Oct 2020 — Outside at LuAnne Law's Home**

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## INTO THE LIGHT

(Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament)

Lesson One: *The Heart of Lament*

Main Idea: The perceived absence of God is at the heart of lament.

Scripture: Psalm 22:1-19; Matthew 27:45-56

“When we lament, we may feel as if there is a God-shaped hole in us, that we are alone in a hostile world. In times like these.....we are reminded that God has claimed us and is always with us.”

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*Each women's group has its own  
flavor and mission.*

*Find the group that fits you.*

*It is never too late to join in.*

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**DURING THE COVID-19 OUR CIRCLE  
ATTENDANCE IS ON A  
MONTH-BY-MONTH BASIS**

## TOGETHER

women  
**GROW** 



**We offer deep sympathy and prayers for the following:**

1. Family and friends of Bud Strength who died September 21st. (Ise Daffin and granddaughter, Ellie, and the Lawson family)
2. Cindy Stafford and the Barry Stafford family as they traveled to Denham Springs, LA to lay to rest Adam Bradley Stafford. Adam died Saturday (9-19) at the age of 25 due to injuries from an auto accident when he was in the 9th grade. "Through his accident, Adam drew many people to Jesus."
3. Family and friends of Brenda Nettles who died September 21st. (daughter, Angelina, and best friend, Brenda Heffner)



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2020

11:00 A.M.

Pastor John will guide you through communion on the Radio Broadcast and FB Live; both of which are at 11 am. Beginning October 4th, the radio broadcast is no longer pre-recorded. It is the "live" Sanctuary Worship.

Please have your bread and fruit of the vine close by if you are listening via the Radio Broadcast or watching FB Live.



**Barbara Mears**

**Bradley Krons (Joe Busby's brother)**

**Jim Gibson (Mary Ann Gibbs' brother)**

**Hedy Williams (Hanni Daffin's sister)**

Alex and Joy Lewis

Lee Shook

Ruth Hammett (Scott Yant's mother)

Debbie Johnson (Cindy Yant's aunt)

Cindy Yant

Fran McNeill and Ernie McNeill

Christine Yoshikawa

Charlotte Hunter

Bud Wierman

Dr. Megan Johnson (Wamsley's niece)

Charlton Keen Jr. and **niece, Kathryn Keen**

Doug Woolery (requested by Cindy Morgan)

Zooey Chancey (requested by Ginger Green)

Jeff Yon, **Grade Taylor and Harold Willis** (requested by Scott Yant)

Billy Herrington (requested by Jared Roberts)

Joy Gilbert

Sumi Hanstine (requested by Ashley Rackley)

Melanie McCroan

Ronnie Heath (requested by Larry & Jackie Spivey)

Michael Schouest and Family ((requested by Kathy Roberts)

Dennis Maxson

Mary Bevis Schmidt (requested by Mel McLure Clark)

Howard Alig (Cindy Morgan's brother)

Steven Quigley



# PRAY FOR OTHERS

## HURRICANES

The most recent was Sally. “She” moved very slowly and caused a great deal of flooding. Our very own Pensacola was hit very hard and there was much flooding in Jackson and other Counties on the Panhandle. As these storms occur, please remember to pray for everyone involved — their lives are negatively impacted. The Marianna Garden Club that meets at our church every month prepared and delivered many cleaning buckets for Lake Charles.

## SALLY FLOODED OUR BASEMENT

We want to give a big Thank You to **Sam Andreu, Barry and Eva Marie Stafford and Scott Yant.**

They worked very hard to clean up the entire bottom floor of our Church building that flooded during the rainstorm from Sally.

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## FIRES AND SMOKE

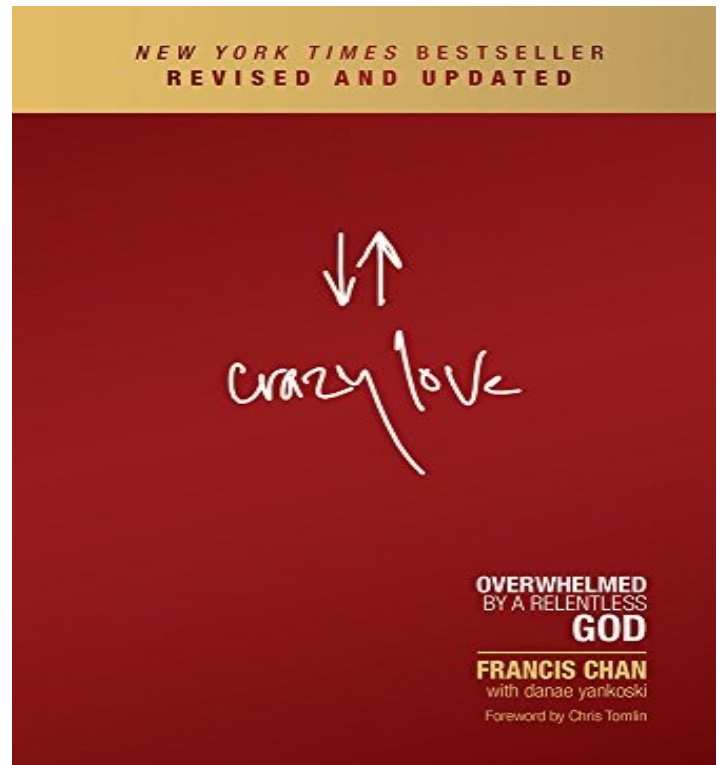
California, Washington, Nevada and Colorado (in the Denver area) have had multiple fires many of which are still burning. Many people have lost their homes and some businesses. At least one small entire town was burned down.

The smoke from these fires spreads over great distances and people are experiencing very poor air quality. People with respiratory problems cannot be outside so even if COVID-19 restrictions loosen up.....the smoke keeps them from going anywhere or doing anything.

**PEOPLE EVERYWHERE NEED PRAYERS**

**SPEND TIME ASKING GOD TO INTERVENE AND  
CONFORT AND PROVIDE FOR THEM**

# ADULT BIBLE STUDY



## EVERY WEDNESDAY

6:30 p.m.

We have been very successful doing our Bible Study on Zoom and will continue to do so in the coming weeks.

We will continue our study one chapter at a time using the book, “Crazy Love” by Francis Chan. (3 more in October and then on to something new)

This book was written to encourage you to not just believe in God but to truly love him “with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

**IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO JOIN IN  
ON OUR BIBLE STUDY.**

**COME JOIN US!**



**October 4th**

Sharon Bannerman  
Guy Green

**October 5th**

Ryan Law

**October 6th**

Amanda Hinson

**October 12th**

Steve Hutton

**October 13th**

Alex Lewis Jr.

**October 15th**

Joe Busby  
Hanni Daffin  
Sandy Westmoreland

**October 16th**

Natalie Milton

**October 20th**

Travis Lawson  
Betty Pettis

**October 24th**

Ralph Pulliam

**October 25th**

Jan Howell

**October 26th**

Joan Stadsklev  
Anna Barber

**October 27th**

Mary Bevis Schmidt  
Roy Turner

**October 28th**

Richard Nelson  
Danielle Payne

*PLEASE help us be current with birthdays. If your October birthday is not listed, please let us know.*

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## **ELECTION OF NEW ELDERS**

This year's Church Officer Nominating Committee consists of elders: Jan Howell and Scott Yant; three "at large" members who were elected by you...the congregation: Kathy Roberts, Xylpha Schwehm and Tom Stadsklev.

The task before them is to come up with a slate of four new elders to present to you for your consideration and vote at a congregational meeting.

If you have an idea of someone who would serve well as an elder, please contact one of these five people.

Elders serve as the governing body of the Church and serve and lead on our Session Committees.

They should be "persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord."

# FOOD PANTRY

**Melissa, along with her son, Zachary Taylor, and Joe Busby, Jeff and Amy Norville, Chloe Temples, Donna Moore, Chance Harris, Muriel Turner and Linda Wamsley have been keeping our Food Pantry going during the COVID-19 “shutdown” with a drive by system so that people would feel “safe” to come and pick up the food they so desperately need. What a great way to continue ministering to the needs of others. WE ALSO THANK THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTING WITH UNLOADING THE TRUCK FROM SECOND HARVEST.**



***“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink....”***

**Matthew 25:35**





## **YOUR ELDERS**

### Class of 2020

Beth Westmoreland  
Leslie Kelley  
John W. Milton  
Scott Yant

### Class of 2021

Janet Howell  
Travis Lawson  
Larry Spivey  
Barry Stafford

### Class of 2022

Amanda Hinson  
LuAnne Law  
Bryan Milton  
Matt Milton

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## **YOUR COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Administration — 3rd Thursday at 5:30 pm

Christian Education — 3rd Sunday at 9 am

Congregational Care — 4th Wednesday at  
Noon

Evangelism & Fellowship — 3rd Tuesday at  
6 pm

Property & Operations — as needed

Worship & Music — 4th Sunday at 12:15

Mission & Service — 2nd Sunday at 8:45 am

## **YOUR COMMITTEES**

### Administration

Chair: John W. Milton  
Members: Chuck Morgan, Beth Westmoreland,  
Larry Spivey

### Christian Education

Chair: LuAnne Law  
Members: Jim Gibbs, Mary Ann Gibbs, Ashley  
Rackley

### Congregational Care

Chair: Jan Howell  
Members: Alma Milton, Andrew Tinsley, Gina  
Tinsley, Muriel Turner

### Evangelism and Fellowship

Chair: Amanda Hinson  
Members: Lauren Lyons, Geriann Milton,  
Peggy Peacock, Jennifer Stafford

### Property and Operations

Chair: Scott Yant  
Members: Mary Lu Andreu, Mel McClure Clark,  
John W. Milton, Matt Milton, Chuck  
Morgan, Xylpha Schwehm, Barry  
Stafford

### Worship and Music

Chair: Bryan Milton  
Members: Macky Gortemoller, Joy Hinton,  
Kenneth Kelley, Anna Beth Milton,  
Tom Stadskev, Linda Wamsley,  
Beth Westmoreland

### Mission and Service

Chair: Kathy Milton  
Members: Sharon Bannerman, Tina Bigale,  
Mary Ann Gibbs, Marsha Rodgers  
Litteral, Marianne Lonsinger, Travis  
Lawson