

NEED TO KNOW COLUMN

Sunday, September 10

Guest Preacher, Rev. Dr. Ginger Conley
 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Tuesday, September 12

7:00 p.m. - Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 13

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Dinner
 6:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Classes
 7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 7:30 p.m. - Board of Deacons Meeting in Crossroads

Saturday, September 16

2:00 p.m. - Memorial Service for Mary Sullivan

Sunday, September 17

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
 12:00 p.m. - Lemonade Social
 6:30 p.m. - Youth/Parent Meeting



Tuesday, September 19

7:00 p.m. - Christian Education Committee Meeting in Crossroads

Wednesday, September 20

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Dinner
 6:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Classes
 7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, September 24

7:30 a.m. - Men's Council Breakfast
 8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages

Wednesday, September 27

5:45 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Dinner
 6:30 p.m. - Wednesday Night Live Classes
 7:15 p.m. - Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 1 - World Wide Communion (both services)

8:45 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - Worship Service
 9:45 a.m. - Sunday School for all ages
 4:00 p.m. - All Church Picnic - Town Center Park in Sunnyvale
 5:00 p.m. - Dinner served 356 E Tripp Rd
 6:00 p.m. - Vesper Service

Saturday, October 7 - Addressing Mesquite Day

9:00 a.m. - Meet at 2518 Rosewood Drive, Mesquite, TX 75150

Mesquite ISD no longer has a clothes closet and they are now running a "hygiene drive" to benefit the students. They are in desperate need of the items listed below:

- * Travel size deodorant
- * Chapstick/Lip balm
- * Socks
- * Drawstring/stretch waistband shorts
- * Travel size lotion
- * Travel size toothpaste
- * Toothbrushes
- * Feminine hygiene products



Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey will collect the much needed items for Wilkinson Middle School. The last day to donate is Sunday, September 24, 2023.

**WEDNESDAY
LIVE**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MESQUITE

**13, 20, 27
SEPTEMBER** | **6:30PM** | 1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE, TX 75149
972.285.5602

SESSION ONE

BIBLE STUDY PRESENTED BY STEPHEN LEAKE	BOOK CLUB HELD BY ELNA SINGLETON REVIEWING THE CLASSIC - THE STRANGER IN THE LIFE BOAT	CLASS ON HYMNS LED BY SUE BOHMER, YOU CALL THAT A HYMN?
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JOIN US FOR DINNER EACH NIGHT PREPARED BY CHEF ROD BEGINNING AT 5:45PM

"FIRST WEDNESDAYS" WILL BE
A NIGHT FOR CHILDREN AND
YOUTH TO EXPERIENCE FUN,
SERVICE, AND SCRIPTURE ON
SEPTEMBER 13TH!!

SIGN UP FOR CLASSES AND DINNER AT THE WELCOME CENTER,
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE, OR EMAIL
RSTORMER.FPC@SBCGLOBAL.NET

**Ladies Who
Love the Lord**

The scheduled October meeting with LWLTL clashed with our Women's Retreat on October 21st. LWLTL were gracious enough to move the meeting to Sat., October 14th, in order to accommodate us. The meeting will be held at First Baptist Church Kleberg, and our mission is to collect toys for Sharing Life for Christmas. We will be collecting those from now until October 13th. You may place your donations at the end of the hall near the Welcome Center.

THE CHALLENGE

The 100 Can Challenge continues . . .
 Let us carry on THE CHALLENGE to collect can goods and other non-perishable items. The donated items will be given to Sharing Life, as they feed those in need in our community. Thus far in September we collected **26 items**.
Thank You!

THOSE WHO SERVE

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton, Pastor
 Ben Clifton, Director of Music Ministries
 Ryoji Shimpo, Organist
 Renee Stormer, Administrative Assistant
 Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Wilbanks, Pastor Emeritus

GUIDE TO WORSHIP

September 10, 2023

8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Cover Picture

This image from the Nafoura Restaurant has appeared before as a cover picture. When I read a reference to "the tree" in today's lesson, this image comes to mind. Even though "Nafoura" means Fountain-I think of the tree in the mosaic.



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church! We hope you find a welcome here worthy of the gracious God we serve. Conventions in this bulletin include: an asterisk () invites you to stand, as health allows, material printed in **bold** is for the congregation to sing or say, and material printed in italics may provide some helpful information. Let us worship God!*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1028 SOUTH BELT LINE RD

MESQUITE, TEXAS 75149

972-285-5602

www.fpcmesquite.org

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

STRIKING OF THE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *This Is My Father's World* arr. R.A. Williamson

INTROIT 243 *Be Not Afraid* Jacques Berthier
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!
Be not afraid; sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

CALL TO WORSHIP *Philippians 1:2*
Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

And also to you.

The Lord is the giver of all good things. The Lord has given hope to the world. The Lord gives us faith so we may stand. The Lord guides us and works to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. Let us worship God.

*HYMN 370 *This Is My Father's World*

*CALL TO CONFESSION

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Might, Mercy, and Compassion; in Jesus Christ we behold Your transforming light, yet we continue to live in darkness. Focused on ourselves, we fail to see Your work in the world. We speak when we should listen, we act when we should reflect. Give us strength to live in Your light and to walk in Your ways, for the sake of Him Who is the light of the world, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

*RESPONSE (*Hymn 581*)
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. A—men. A—men.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS #

ANTHEM *Send Down the Rain* arr. Joyce Eilers
Chancel Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION #

O Lord, as Your word says, You are our light and our salvation, - Whom shall we fear. As we hear Your Word read and proclaimed may we see Your light, may our souls delight in Your saving ways, and may we act without fear but with full confidence in Jesus Name. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON ♦ *Genesis 2:15-17*

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON ♦ *Genesis 3:2-6*

The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate.

THIRD SCRIPTURE LESSON ♦ *Genesis 3:22-24*

Then the LORD God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" -- therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN 803 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

PASTOR'S SCRIPTURE LESSON *Colossians 2:8-15*

Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, Who is the head over every ruler and authority. When you came to Christ, you were "circumcised," but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision -- the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, Who raised Christ from the dead. You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ, for He forgave all our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross.

SERMON *Who Is Jesus?* Rev. Dr. Conley

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*8:45*) Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, Who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Immortal, Invisible* arr. David Paxton
Ryoji Shimpō, pianist

*DOXOLOGY (*Hymn 606*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION †

*HYMN 841 *God Is My Strong Salvation*

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RESPONSE 743 *O God, You Are My God* David Strasser

O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.

O God, You are my God, and I will ever praise You.

I will seek You in the morning,
and I will learn to walk in Your ways.

And step by step You'll lead me,
and I will follow You all of my days.

*POSTLUDE *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need* arr. Franklin Ritter

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP

Elder # - Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey (*8:45*);

Meg GarverHamilton (*11:00*)

Deacon/Ushers † - John Futrell, Kirk Dixon, and Susan Farmer (*8:45*);
John Futrell, MacKenzie Aynes, Amanda Aynes, and Liz Ramsey (*11:00*)

Youth Reader ♦ - Diana Clifton (*8:45*); Mackenzie Davila (*11:00*)

Getting to Know the Guest Preacher

Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein Conley recently retired as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville. She holds a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary. At FPCD, she actively pursued public ministry using biblical storytelling, working with city government, businesses, school, and church leadership. She organized Community Conversations for community leaders and continues to speak to the City Council on occasion, as well as works with the Duncanville Chamber. She and First Presbyterian led large festivals to bring the diverse community together. She and First Presbyterian organized a Community Chorus which was invited to sing Handel's Messiah at Carnegie Hall in New York. The Duncanville Chamber named Ginger, Duncanville 2018 Woman of the Year.

Ginger and her husband Allen Conley married in December 2021; both having been widowed. Together their adult children number eight and between them they have ten grandchildren. They enjoy family, friends, and traveling.