

Hearing God's Message for Us by Pastor Eric Dittman

God uses every method of communication available to let us hear God's message.

In ancient days, communication was all in-person. People shared stories of God when they gathered around campfires and in homes. We call this the Oral History of God. This method is still in use today, when we gather with one another in person to share God's message of loving grace with one another.

In the 6th Century BC before and during the Babylonian Captivity, Israel began gathering God's message in writing, so those who could read for themselves could hear God's message for them. Those who could not read would gather around while the readers read God's messages for them. We read that when Israel returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the city, the walls and the gates, that the written stories of God were read to the people as they worked or as they took breaks from work. This was a form of worship, not unlike our own.

In the second half of the 20th Century, Evangelist Billy Graham used another medium to share God's message. Sure, Billy met in person with people to share stories orally and to read messages to others, but he also broadcast those messages to a world hungry to hear God's word for them, and live-streaming and recorded virtual worship was born, and a multitude of lives were changed.

Today, while the Pandemic keeps us from the ancient in-person oral sharing of God's message for us, we can still use written messaging, and streaming virtual sharing of God's loving grace through telephone, and the internet's Zoom fellowship gatherings and studies, and Streaming and Recorded YouTube and Facebook worship following the lead of Billy Graham decades ago.

God uses every method of communication available to let us hear God's message. Praise the Lord for the gift of written and virtual streaming and recorded tools to use to share God's message with one another and with the world even when we cannot gather in person. In Christ. Eric

Deborah Circle to Begin New Course of Study

When: Wed. Sept. 16th

Time: 10:00 am

Where: Zoom

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/541112019>



All women of the church are invited. The more women who attend, the more diversified and enjoyable our discussions.

This year our course of study is titled "Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament" by Lynn Miller. The writer revives lament as a proper theological response to the difficult situations of our world. One of the foundational points of the study is in scripture, lament usually leads to hope. After crying out to God, the one who laments remembers God. And while that doesn't fix things in the moment - the injustice, the loss, the wrong still exists. The one who laments is strengthened to face the world and to hope.

This fall due to COVID 19, our meeting will be different as we will be meeting by Zoom at home on our computers (see link above). Our meetings begin with a short business meeting, followed with the lesson. We take turns leading the lessons discussions. The lesson books are available in the church office for the price of \$10.00. If you have any questions or have not been receiving e-mails from me, please contact JoAnn Allen at 956-519-7379 or e-mail me at tjallen02@hotmail.com



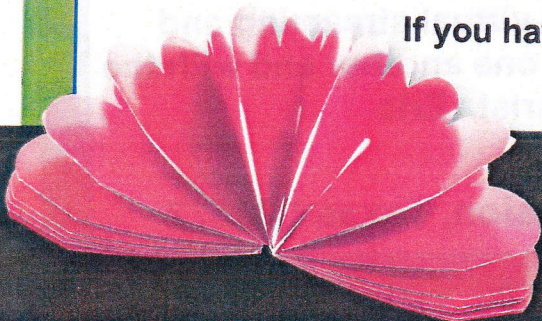
ZOOM Fall Gathering for ALL clusters

Please join us for our Virtual 2020 Fall Gathering.

Come Live in the Light! Saturday, September 12, 2020 from 9:30 – 11:30 AM

To register and receive the Zoom link, email your name, church and cluster to lizanzaldua@gmail.com.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.



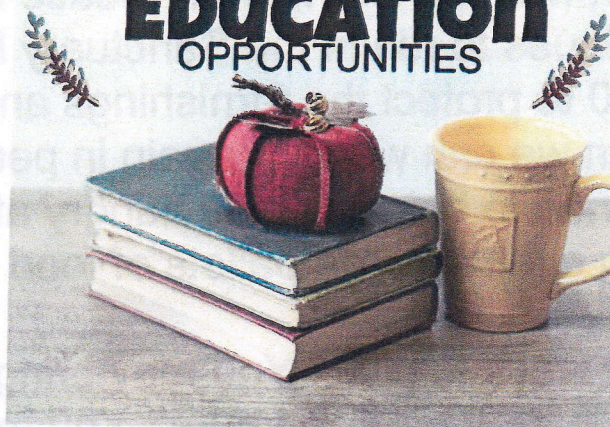
Financial Report



You might wonder how much the church is saving since we aren't physically in the building. The fast answer is: nothing. The detailed answer is: our church has been operating on a bare bones budget for several years.

The pandemic forced us to make purchases such as live-streaming equipment to bring you worship online, masks and hand sanitizing supplies for when we do meet in person and now flat screen TVs for the sanctuary. All these items have eaten into any savings we might have procured for these past 5 months. Your pledges and gifts to the church are helping to keep the church operating and bring the Word of God to us all. Thank you.

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Each Sunday at 9 a.m. meet on Zoom with Pastor Eric for Sunday School class. Meeting ID: 541 112 019

Children's Sunday School will resume soon. Please check your emails and stay tuned. Our Vacation Bible School on Zoom was a lot of fun.

Presbyterian Women Deborah Circle is resuming in September. See page 2 for more information.



Stewardship

We thank everyone who has continued to give their tithes and offerings to the church this year, and those who have increased their giving to help us through this Pandemic. Through August, although we have had over \$10,000 in additional expenses due to the Pandemic, and have had a couple of Air Conditioners break down, we have been able to keep expenses about \$2,500 under last year's expenses year to date. The office has remained open during regular hours (Monday-Thursday 9:00 to Noon, and 2:00-4), we have continued Sunday School (on Zoom) and Worship (On YouTube and Facebook) without missing any Sundays at all this year, even with the Hurricane! Please note: the Air Conditioner continues to run in the Sanctuary keeping the temperature at 80 to protect the furnishings and organ as we await a time when we can worship again in person in that space. We continue to help feed the hungry at Mission Food Pantry, delivering over 20 large pallets of food from the Farm to Home project.

We have multiple ways to give. You may bring your offering to the church office during office hours. You may mail your offering to the church at 1102 Ash Drive, Mission TX 78572, or you may make contributions through our secure electronic giving site on Realm/Vanco. Give/Sales tabs are available on our website (fpcmission.com) and our Facebook Page (FPCMissionTexas). If you give electronically, please check with the church office to be sure your e-mail is on file at the church office. You may call the office @956-585-4829, or email the pastor @ Pastor@fpcmission.com. If you call the office, please leave a message on our answering machine any time. Messages are heard during business hours.



Worship

Join us "live" for worship on Youtube and Facebook.

Need help accessing our worship online or Bible studies on Zoom? Call the church office and we'll schedule tutoring for those needing a little technological help

How to Participate in Worship, Study and Fellowship In the Midst of a Pandemic

In a time when it is not safe for in-person gatherings, our congregation has been meeting weekly for Worship, Study and Fellowship, through the online connection facilities of YouTube, Facebook, and Zoom. For those who don't have the internet, we can provide worship recordings on DVDs.

If you have the internet and a PC running Google Chrome, or Microsoft Edge, you can participate fully in Worship, Study and Fellowship at no charge to you. Facebook, YouTube and Zoom are free for the user.

To find us on Facebook, you may go to our website, www.fpcmission.com and find the YouTube Link on the right side of the screen. If you are not already a free Facebook user, you may sign up for a new free account.

To find us on YouTube, you may view past worship services by clicking on our website link to the worship services located on lower right of screen. Zoom Links to fellowship and Study are available on our Facebook page.

If you would like a DVD of worship, please call the church office and leave a message (956)585-4829 or email pastor (pastor@fpcmission.com)

SCAVENGER HUNT!

Our first ever Photo Scavenger Hunt with a Purpose has been rescheduled to Saturday, Sept. 19th at 3:00 p.m.

Each "quaran-team" will receive a list of items to photo and text to Sheri. The first team to submit 5 photos is the winner. We will go and celebrate at Sonic afterwards.

If you would like to participate, please let Susan North or Sheri Dittman know.

If you are unable to participate but would like to sponsor a team (we are suggesting \$5.00 a photo or \$25.00 total), please let Susan know. As a sponsor, you will receive photos of your team during the hunt. All proceeds benefit others through our Presbyterian Giving Catalog.