

Faith Messenger

Stepping Into the Future



There were some EXCELLENT conversations after church on Sunday. Several people shared ideas on a few potential changes to some things around the church to help us take the opportunity to make use of this time of upheaval in what we've always known as "normal" as a time to re-examine things around the church building itself as well as the way we have historically done things as a church body. Before I get any of you TOO worried that your pastor may have fallen completely off the rails and be leading you on a runaway train ride, the kinds of changes we were talking about weren't on the order of major doctrinal questions, but more relating to things we can do 1) to be good stewards of and best maintain the physical gifts with which God has blessed us, and 2) to do everything possible to help everyone best worship God in spirit and in truth when the saints assemble together for that very important purpose. To put it another way, there were many questions asked and ideas offered on things ranging from how to improve our MUSICAL worship on Sunday mornings to how to best decorate the church in ways that both glorify God and help us center our minds and hearts on Him as we gather for worship. That said, we've also had a little change in the way that we're planning on handling the "committees" that we've been talking about for quite some time now. Rather than setting up long-term groups to cover and oversee broad swaths of ministry here at FPC, we're going to use these groups more "as-needed" and in ways that are specific enough to help all those who may be interested in handling particular projects or areas of ministry within the church best make use of the giftings that God has given them. Case in point, we will be meeting after lunch on **Sunday, September 13th**, to discuss and plan some changes in our musical worship here at FPC. Anyone who is interested and feels led to be involved in that discussion and take part in the music ministry of the church is welcomed and invited to join in that discussion. We will also be organizing a meeting in the very near future to discuss making some changes to the interior décor of the church building and information on that meeting will be announced to the entire church before it takes place to give opportunity for anyone interested to be involved as you feel led.

I would also like to again remind you all that we are in the process of taking names for nomination of church officers. If you have anyone that you feel 1) fits the Biblical requirements of church officer (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1) and would be interested/willing to accept the nomination to either the office of DEACON or RULING ELDER, please visit with that person first to confirm their willingness and then contact either Tracey Jones or myself with that name. **More information on these offices can be found in chapters 7-9 of the PCA Book of Church Order which is available at the following link: <https://www.pcaac.org/bco/>**

This is an exciting time here at FPC! Satan has been hard at work through this season of sickness and disease at trying to spread fear and disunity in the society at large as well as in the local church. The more time I spend talking to brothers and sisters - both within our own church and from other like-minded churches around our town - the more I'm convinced that his plans are back-firing! That attempt to drive the church apart seems to be only binding the body of Christ more tightly together as we realize just how much we need each other - something that will only increase as time goes forward. What could have been seen as reason for despair and doubt is increasingly being recognized as a golden opportunity for us as God's people to reach out to a terrified and hurting world with the only truth that can ever meet their needs for hope and security in either this life OR the next: the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! I look forward and am more excited every day to be involved in this walk with you all as we step forward into the future together as the body of Christ here in Paris, TX!

By His Grace,
Pastor Justin

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 2

6:30pm – Faith Ladies' devotional/fellowship time at the home of Dirk & Lynn VanderMeulen
If you have questions, you may contact Lynn at (360) 815-5284

Saturday, September 5

9:00am – 11:00am – Faith Ladies' Fellowship Brunch at the Church – see email from Evelyn Ridley for more information and you can find the online sign-up at

<https://www.perfectpotluck.com/meals.php?t=WMGV0836>

Sunday, September 6

9:45am - Sunday school - Adults and children will meet together in the sanctuary and continue our study of the Westminster Larger Catechism

10:45am – COMMUNION during worship - We will continue our study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians
- Picnic style "bring your own lunch" to follow worship

Please check the church calendar on our website www.faithparispca.org for the most up-to-date events.

Praise and Prayer Requests for Week of August 30, 2020

1. Prayer that **God** would be at work within the hearts of the men of our church as we seek nominations for church leadership in the coming month.
2. Praise for young **Archie** who continues to grow and receive good reports from the doctors!
3. Prayer for **Faye Bates** who has not been feeling well and is awaiting results from her doctor on some recent tests.
4. Prayer for ongoing healing for **Dave and Vicky DeKnight** as they recover from their recent surgeries.
5. Prayer for relief and healing for **Linda Adds** who is battling a number of health problems.
6. Prayer for **Nola McDowell**, mother of a co-worker of Tracey Jones, who recently underwent a very serious surgery to remove an infection of flesh-eating bacteria.
7. Prayer for **Doug Morris** as he prepares to undergo surgery in September.
8. Prayer for **Mike Leddy** as he continues to battle a number of health issues and for strength for **Georgia** as she continues to minister to him during this time.
9. Prayer for our **nation** and our **leaders** during this time of unrest and difficulty.

If you have prayer requests, praise reports, or any items that you would like included in our newsletter - or if you have any other questions, concerns, or needs please feel free to email Pastor Justin at faithparispca@gmail.com or CALL/TEXT him at (903) 517-6315.

Sunday's sermon and many others can be heard online on our church website at www.faithparispca.org