



Words from Woodforest April 2019

Words from Cassandra:

After seeing a headline that caught my attention, I watched the HBO documentary “One Nation Under Stress”, which essentially explores why the longevity rate in this country has dropped for the last three years in a row for the first time in 100 years. One hundred years ago our country was fighting in World War I, and we were in the middle of the flu pandemic.

The reason? Dr. Sanjay Gupta cited a 2017 report from the Centers for Disease Control, which indicated that Americans’ life expectancy was the lowest in a decade, thanks to “deaths of despair”: deaths caused by cirrhosis of the liver (as a result of alcohol consumption), opioid overdoses, and suicide. Sobering.....

And then there are the many other diseases that can be exacerbated by stress – including conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and mental health problems.

It’s not a pretty picture. In 2015, (the last year I could find statistics for online), the U.S. ranked #31 in life expectancy – no where near the high rankings we used to enjoy.

The documentary puts the blame on chronic stress and failed expectations, and shows how people from different demographics are affected within our country.

I look at it and cannot help but notice that (as with civility) the more church participation and affiliation drops, the greater the problem becomes.

Folks, people around us are literally dying, and while we do not have all the answers and cannot promise a long life – we can echo the promises of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – promises of grace, forgiveness, and steadfast love. An antidote for stress? Can’t hurt.

Go invite someone to church.

God’s peace,

Cassandra

Fish Fry Results

The bulk of the Fish Fry items are deposited.

At-the-door sales - we sold 102 tickets at the door, comparable to last year's count of 103.

Pre-sale Tickets - we have cash-in-hand for a total of 215 pre-sale tickets. There may still be some outstanding income being collected.

Together with the 20 Extended Table tickets, our total ticket exposure equates to 337.

Total plates served - We collected a grand total of 282 tickets at the kitchen serving window.

Auction income is still coming in. Linda and Mary Ellen believe they will top \$3,000 this year. Whoo hoo! The amount they turned in already is the highest for Fish Fry Auction on record. Thanks to the entire committee!

Bake sale earned \$240 for the Youth Fund.

So where does that leave us? Let's just guesstimate . Our grand total for the event currently stands at a thoroughly respectable \$5,478.84. This falls well on the high side of our typical range. It probably won't be our best-ever showing, but it could come in second!!!!

Well done, everyone!

Ann Martin

Congregational Life

Dutch Treat Lunch will be on Sunday, April 14th following worship

Women's Circle has been moved to **April 24th** at 10:30 am and Lunch Bunch at noon

Potluck Fellowship Luncheon will be on **April 28** following Sunday School.

Christian Education

The adult Sunday school class will begin a 4 week study on Too Busy Not to Pray.

Slowing down to be with God. by Bill Hybels. There will be a short video and the discussion led by our new teacher Mary Ellen Baker.

Come and check it out. !



Vacation Bible School is approaching.
June 24-27 6-8 pm Ages 5 –Teens
To Mars and Beyond

The theme verse (Vector Verse) is "Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us." —Ephesians 3:20

“Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here... he is going ahead of you... just as he told you. ”Mark: 16:6, 7

You Are Invited!

Holy Week and Easter are a unique and precious time for us to celebrate our faith and our fellowship in the church. Here at Woodforest Presbyterian Church, we would love to share this very special season with you, as we journey with Christ to the cross, mourn his death and joyfully proclaim his resurrection on Easter morning. Come and celebrate with us the love and grace of God given to us through Jesus Christ. Childcare is provided during Sunday morning worship. We hope you will join us for any and all of these events:

Palm Sunday, April 14– Worship at 10:00 am. At this service we remember and celebrate Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday, April 18 – A Soup Supper is shared at 6:00 pm, followed by worship with Communion at 7:00 pm. Come join us as we remember Jesus’ commandment to love and serve one another.

Good Friday, April 19 – Tenebrae Worship Service at 7:00 p.m. This simple and moving service reminds us of Christ’s suffering and death on the cross.

Easter Sunday, April 21 – Worship with Communion at 10:00 am. Join the joyous celebration of Jesus’ resurrection, as we share the good news of God’s love!

Easter Sunday, April 21 - Flowering of the Cross. On Easter Sunday, a large cross is placed on the church grounds. Church and community members are invited to cover the cross with fresh and artificial flowers. This strikingly beautiful display is a visual symbol of the new life that is promised through Christ. The tomb is empty! Alleluia! Amen!

“And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
- Luke 2:11



Keep in prayer:

For people and places in conflict.....

For the homeless, the hungry, the oppressed.....

For those suffering chronic pain, including Krista Bartel and Ruth Flick....

For those who are ill and/or who are recuperating, including Timothy Black, Sandra Horton, Lindsey, and Kathleen Watson...

For care givers.....

For those who are grieving.....

For those needs that God knows and we do not.....

Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayers.....

Mission:

Donated Fish Fry tickets so that our senior citizens could enjoy a good meal and socialize with the community. REMEMBER the one of our major offerings will be coming up on the fourteenth - One Great Hour of Sharing. This is a most important offering as it aids all manner of disasters. This is in it's 70th year and going strong so be generous with your donation. Easter letters are available for you the invite neighbors, friends, and family to out Easter Service. Gift Cards will be given to assist families in need of an Easter Lunch.

Outreach

The new church directory will be available soon. The goal is to have it ready by Easter.

Linda

Be sure and check out the updated Website updated. www.woodforestpc.org
Thank you to Alice Drennon who keeps our church updated on the World Wide Web.

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity
To accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time;
Enjoying one moment at a time;
Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;
Taking, as He did, this sinful world
As it is, not as I would have it;
Trusting that He will make all things right
If I surrender to His Will;
So that I may be reasonably happy in this life
And supremely happy with Him
Forever and ever in the next.

Amen

(prayer attributed to Reinhold Neibuhr, 1892-1971)

The session has been challenged to pray this prayer every day.
I am sharing this challenge with the congregation. Renee

Sunday Schedule

9:00 am— Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am—Worship

11:00 am—Coffee and Fellowship

11:15 am—Sunday School

Communion is celebrated the 1st Sunday of each month.

April 2019

Week 1

SUN. April 7th 10 am Worship , Communion

Week 2

SUN. April 14th 10 am Worship,
Dutch Treat Lunch

THUR. April 18th 6 pm Maundy Thursday Soup Supper
7 pm Worship Service

FRI. April 19th 7 pm Tennebrae Worship Service

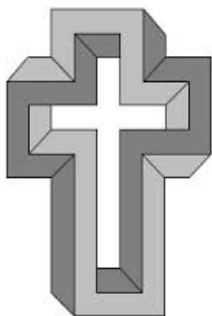
Week 3

SUN. April 21st 10 am Worship

WED. April 24th 10:30 am Women's Circle
Noon Lunch Bunch
6 pm Session Meeting

Week

SUN. April 28th 10 am Worship
Potluck Fellowship Dinner



April 18	Maundy Thursday
April 19	Good Friday
April 21	Easter
June 24-27	Vacation Bible School
August 10	Fajita Dinner Fundraiser
October 26	Garage Sale
November 24	Church Celebration
December 14	Live Nativity
December 24	Christmas Eve Service
December 25	Christmas Worship and Brunch

Clerks Report

Membership: 66

Average Sunday Attendance: 35

Attendance for the Ash Wednesday Service was 26.

Susan

A last word...

“As you go about your day, do Jesus stuff — be compassionate, kind, meek, and patient. Share the message of Jesus, and let God use it. Remember, God’s got this.”
(Bill Ogletree)