



# FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS CONNECTION

Where everybody is somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord The Year 2020

175  
*Celebrating*  
YEARS

CHARTER  
SUNDAY



Charter Sunday Committee ~ Heidi Bruestle, Daphne Spraitzer, David Hartmann, Betty Kyle, Jennifer Graham, Kimberly Reccio, Gay Wimberley, Cindy Biggs, Cristabel West, Charlene Nolte, Karen Lackey and Lois Harlow (not pictured) Dr. Woody Woodward, Dr. Joey Martin, Mike and Linda Dietert



# FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS

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Church Office (830) 609-7729  
First Protestant School (830) 606-4110

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## **First Protestant Church Staff Directory Church Office Phone (830) 609-7729**

\*Please note that some of our extensions have changed.

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Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday 9-12 & 1-4, Friday 9-12 & 1-3

*Where Everybody is Somebody, and Jesus Christ is Lord*

**Please enjoy your newsletter in full color online at [firstprotestant.com](http://firstprotestant.com).**

## ***A Message From The 175th Anniversary Chairman***

This house of God began in late March of 1845 with the arrival of this city's first immigrants. Call to worship began with services under a grove of elm trees nearby. Perhaps it was then that these first citizens of New Braunfels realized they were home, they were safe, and that God had successfully guided them through the darkness into the light of this green, ardent valley. I am sure joy filled their hearts and their minds and that their voices sang out praises to their Lord and Savior.

Those determined immigrants joined together to honor the Lord in the best way they possibly could. They built His house. Members were given the tasks of preparing huge logs which were brought to this very site. With expert craftsmanship, they set forth in their labors and created a massive structure topped with a traditional German onion dome spire. Handmade pews, railings and an altar were constructed. Every single piece of that holy site was handcrafted in love and dedication.

At the end of 1845 and into 1846 and 1847 tragedy struck our community. Disease and Cholera saw more than 347 immigrants pass to the Lord. This site became the center point of that day. It was first and foremost the house of God. Second it was a school. Then it served as a hospital, a temporary shelter for children left homeless and parentless. And, yes, for a brief time it also served as a morgue. The grand old log church became the focal point of all that was New Braunfels until it was taken down in 1881 log by log and transferred to a site in the country. This new rock edifice was built in 1876 and the tower was added in 1881, and it has continued to serve not only the congregation but also this entire community. I can only imagine what those first settlers might say today if they could see the massive scale of our church complex. I am confident they would swell with pride, lifting their voices once again in grateful praise.

For 175 years First Protestant Church has held high the torch for God's word. The congregation has been tested by God many times, and each time its members have been drawn ever closer to our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ. May His great countenance fill our hearts and our minds through Christ Jesus. Amen

And As He Taught Us To Pray...

Our Father who art in heaven...

Unser Vater, der im Himmel Kunst, geheiligt sein Dein Name. Dein Konigreich kommt. Dein Wille wird auf Erden geschehen, wie es im Himmel ist. Gib uns heute unser tagliche\$ Brot und vergib uns unsere SUNDen, wenn wir denen vergeben, die uns i.iberfallen, und fi.ihre uns nicht in Versuchung, sondern erlohne uns vom Bosen. Denn Dein ist das Konigsdon und die Macht und die Herrlichkeit fi.ir immer und ewig. Amen

In Christ's Love,  
  
David W. Hartmann

Chairman of the First Protestant Church 175th Anniversary



# FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH OF NEW BRAUNFELS

## Adult Connection Groups

Sundays, 9:30am

**Light, Life & Love ABF (The Well room 2)** – Rev. Phil Brown

This new ABF (Adult Bible Fellowship) will be studying through the Gospel of John.

**20s** – Larissa Leal & Roxy Ullrich

A new young adult group (college-age / young 20s) is forming! Meeting schedule and study topics are TBA. Contact Larissa Leal at 760-486-8560 or Roxy Ullrich at 830-609-7271 to get on board!

Sundays, 10:50am

**C.A.L.M.** – Chris & Kristi Beabout

The Christian Adult Learning Ministries class meets in the Heritage House. Topical studies focus on giving Biblical perspective to marriage and family concerns.

**Faithful Servants (The Well room 4)** – Lynn Herr

The Faithful Servants class studies the Bible using a read and discuss format. They are studying the book of Hebrews, at this time.

**Kingdom Seekers (The Well room 5)** – Wayne Wise

The Kingdom Seekers class is studying the book of Romans, at this time.



*the*

**WELL** 

**WHERE JESUS CHANGES LIVES**

*"Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again." John 4:14*

**Legacy Builders (The Well room 7) – Celeste Salge**

The Legacy Builders class will be discussing world events that relate to adults (60+) from a Christian perspective.

**Band of Brothers / B.o.B.s – Rob Miller**

The B.o.B.s meet offsite on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm. They are currently studying “From Jesus to the Gospels.” Contact Rob Miller at 210-573-5253 for more information.

**GriefShare (The Well room 2) – Marilyn Challenner**

GriefShare is a 13-week faith-based grief recovery course. Meetings will be held on Wednesdays from 6:00-8:00pm. A new group will be starting up in January, 2021. Contact Marilyn Challenner at 830-624-5440 for more information or to sign up.

**PB&J / Pizza, Beer & Jesus – Brian & Caressa Vajdos, Rodney & Cathy Fischer**

PB&J is a small group primarily made up of parents of teens. Meeting schedule and study topics are flexible. Contact Caressa Vajdos at 210-274-5938 or Rodney Fischer at 830-708-8101 for info.

**Sole Prayers – Rev. Phil Brown**

Sole Prayers exists to bless our community through our prayers. We meet on Saturday mornings at 8:00am (beginning September 12) at local NB parks and neighborhoods to walk / jog / run and pray.

**Women’s Bible Study – Sue Saur**

This group meets at the Saur home on Thursday evenings at 6:45pm. Studies rotate between topical and those focused on a book of the Bible. Contact Sue Saur at 830-708-0302 for more information.

**Young and Young-at-hearts / Ya-yahs – Marilyn Challenner**

The Ya-yahs meet offsite each Monday from 7:00-9:00pm using the Precept Upon Precept inductive Bible study method. Contact Marilyn Challenner at 830-624-5440 for more information.

**Moms in Prayer (The Well room 2) — Carol Burr**

Thursdays at 1pm.

# What 2020 Doesn't Change

by Sue Saur

My office isn't my own during the week; my 3rd grade grandson has taken it over since he became a "remote learner" this school year. No surprise he's not especially happy about the extra time he gets to spend with me these days... he'd much rather be with his friends—in "real school." I get it, so I am diligent in my attempts to make this time sweet. That being said, the only time I get to work in my space is on the weekend, or early in the morning. That's where I am *this morning*, armed with a hot cup of my favorite coffee — and a lot of prayer.

Remote learning, curbside delivery, zoom meetings, and no contact *everything* — these tag words of 2020 reflect the new ways we are educating, shopping, conducting business, and of course, worshipping. I don't have to tell you all the ways our lives have changed.

What I would like to offer you today is a moment to consider some things 2020 doesn't change.

## ***2020 doesn't change God's love for you.***

God's love for you — you, personally — not only God's love for the world — but God's incredible love for you will not change. When we go through a period of suffering such as 2020 has brought us, we have to remember that God

doesn't leave us alone in it. One writer penned, "He doesn't leave us without a *witness* to His love."

Sarah felt a baby move in her aged womb. The rebelling people of Israel saw manna fall from the sky each morning. A dove brought Noah an olive branch after the rain. The shepherds followed a star that led them to the long-awaited Savior.

We pause our busy lives for a moment to watch with delight the favorite bird of a departed loved one as it lights on a fence post outside our window. We make our mother's stuffing -- or pie recipe -- or set the table with her china this holiday -- and it warms our heart.

That is God -- reminding you that He loves you; He is thinking of you; He understands your grief. He desires to wrap all that up in a moment of joy. He uses that bird moment -- or pie moment as a *witness* to His love.

## ***2020 doesn't change the need of people in New Braunfels and around the world, to experience God's love-- through you.***

God uses special moments as a witness to his love. But even more wonderful, He uses people. When Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, He modeled a servant heart. Altruistic and humble

spirit aside—the concept of God working *through* us—serving *through* us—is just that simple, and just that profound. When Jesus washed Peter’s feet---it was the GOD of the universe... washing Peter’s feet. When we offer a meal or a shoulder or a dollar—it is God serving *through* us—God is offering that meal—or that shoulder—or that dollar---and we become the “witness to His love.”

I’ll give you a minute to reread-- and process that last sentence.

Sometimes we can be confused about how God blesses our obedience. While we understand that it’s probably not “in kind”—we don’t expect a dollar back for every dollar we give away—we aren’t quite sure what it might entail.

Can there be any blessing more wonderful than being the vessel of God as He loves on His children? Could He be more generous than that? I am overwhelmed at the thought.

**COVID** changes how we serve others, certainly. And, at this point, we are fairly confident it isn’t going away any time soon. Our challenge as a church is to pursue new ways to reach out to those who need our blessing. Regularly. Often. Until it becomes the fabric of our very being. Until that type of love becomes the new legacy of First Protestant Church.

## ***2020 cannot take away our Christmas.***

My thoughts drift to a scene from that cherished Biblical movie of old—How The Grinch Who Stole Christmas—the scene where all the whos in Whoville are gathered in the center of town, swaying as they sing their favorite Whoville Christmas songs. The Grinch stole their presents, their decorations, their special Christmas treats—but he couldn’t take their Christmas joy.

We will celebrate differently; this year may look leaner, smaller, and chances are, we won’t be holding hands while we sing (keep it safe!), but 2020 can’t steal our Christmas!

We WILL celebrate the joyous news that the Christ Child has been born! We will lift our voices in song!

Glory to the newborn King!

I pray this news encourages you to “be the blessing” as well as experience the blessing of the merriest of Christmases this year!



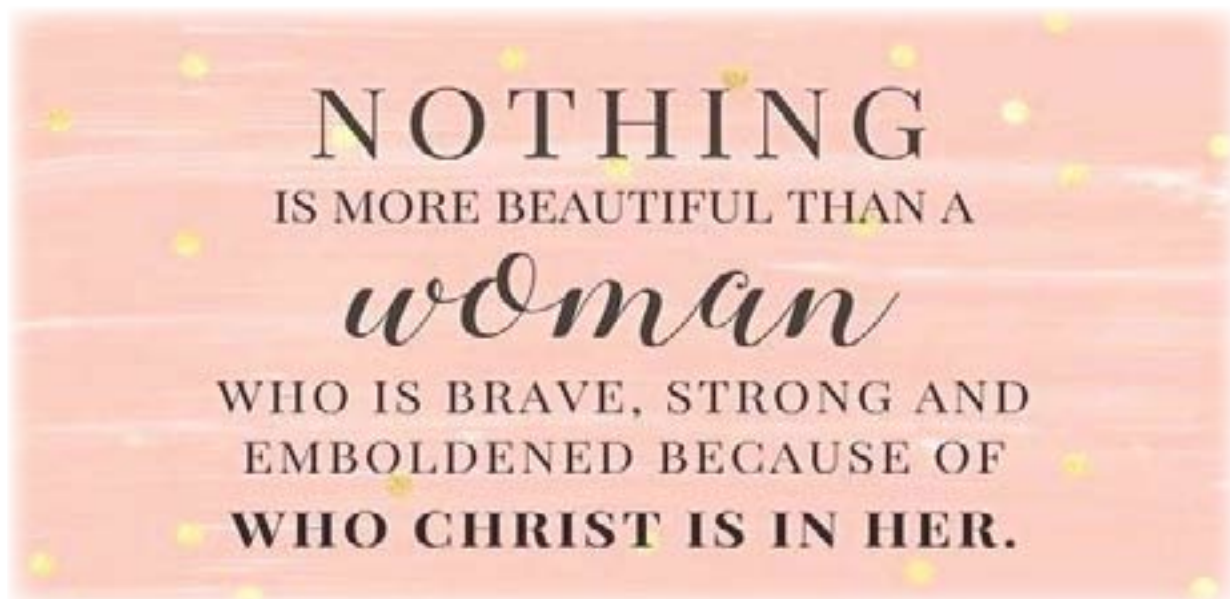


# Women's Ministries

From the Desk - of Gay Wimberley  
President Women's Ministries



For our October monthly meeting, Ron and Vicki Hamel hosted our group in their historic home with a tour and historical information of the house.





**Easter Flowers before they were placed in the church by Women's Ministries.**

**Joe Tays sharing history of the former home of the late Dr Fred Frueholz, taken in his library where W/M held their June meeting. Jennifer Graham, seated, taking minutes.**



**The photo of Cristabell West shows her display of clothing she had for sale that was handmade by women in her village at Guatemala. The proceeds are sent back to the village for their living expenses.**

# Our Annual Potato Soup Cooking Day

Our ladies of Women's Ministries were in the kitchen a couple of weeks ago making their legendary German Potato Soup. On Sunday, they completely sold out! The same day they cooked the soup, members filled Christmas bags for the shut-ins, including a pint of soup for many of them. In all, there were ( ) pints of soup and ( ) Christmas bags filled and ready to go!



# Hee-haw

by Don Burquest

There once was a man named Kish. He was very wealthy, with many livestock of all kinds—cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys. One day some donkeys wandered off—ah, the delights of the open range before barbed wire! When they didn't return, he sent his son Saul to find them. His son wisely took along a hired hand to help.

The two men looked for three days, scouring all the likely places. No luck. No donkeys could be found. Saul was not born yesterday, and he realized that the cure could be worse than the disease. "We'd better head back," he said to the hired hand, "otherwise Dad will start worrying about us instead of the donkeys."

But the hired hand was also keen of mind, and being of the common people, maybe with his ear to the ground a bit more than Saul. "I've heard," he said, "that there is a prophet in the village nearby. Maybe he can help us."

Saul shrugged. Being from a wealthy family, and this being before credit cards, "I didn't bring any money to give him," he said, perhaps with a tone of chagrin.

"I've got a bit of cash, I'll take care of it," the hired hand said. "You can pay me back." So they set off.

As they approached the village they came to the well, where they saw some young women drawing water. They inquired about the prophet—his name was Samuel—and the girls told them where to find him.

Now Samuel, being a prophet, was in touch with God on a regular basis. And just the day before, God had communicated to him the fact that on the next day—today—a young man would show up, and it was that young man that God wanted Samuel to anoint as king of His people. Then, when Samuel saw Saul approaching, God pointed him out as the one He had mentioned before. Samuel arranged for a festive dinner in honor of Saul and put the two searchers up for the night. The next day Samuel pulled Saul aside, and in a private ceremony anointed him king—the first king of God's people Israel. "And by the way," Samuel added, "the donkeys have been found."

The thing is, Saul thought he was just out looking for lost donkeys on behalf of his father. But God had bigger plans than that. Working behind the scenes, He used the search to get Saul to the village where Samuel was residing so He could make him king. And before Saul got there, He had told Samuel that he was coming.

What do you suppose God is doing in the background today while we're doing something else? In the world? In New Braunfels? At FPC?

In our own lives?

Here's a haiku that summarizes it:

Donkeys wander far.  
Not-yet-king sets out to search.  
God behind the scenes.

The full account can be found in I Samuel 9-10.

# *The Springs and The Stream at FPC*

**by Pastor Tyler Reed**

**Director of Children and Youth Ministries**

"Above all things taking the shield of faith..." That is the lesson that was taught in October when the First Protestant Student Ministries group lead a Parent's Night Out event for the children of both our church and our school. This was the 2nd year of running the Parent's Night Out which was once again a blast for all involved and a success in it's goal of giving our students a chance to serve and teach, providing our parents with a much needed night away from the kids, and helping to bridge the gap between our church and our school. 18 children (12 from FPS and 6 from FPC) gathered for several hours to play games, make crafts, sing songs, and hear lessons all centered around the theme of putting on The Armor of God. I am so thankful to all who participated and especially our Youth. We could not have done this without you. This was another shining example of why our Students at First Protestant are truly exceptional ambassadors for our church and God's Kingdom! Those kids learned a lot from the Youth, and if we take the time to listen to them, I believe our whole church can also.

-Pastor Tyler Reed



# Parents' Night Out



THEY are  
PRECIOUS  
in HIS sight



We are ALL  
PRECIOUS  
in HIS sight  
Isaiah 43:4

Traditional 3:30pm and 5:30pm in the Sanctuary  
Contemporary 7:30pm in Schumann Hall

# Worship With Us Christmas Eve

*Sunday December 20th, 2020*

*Lessons  
and Carols*

*9:30am Service*

*Ⓒ 11:00am Services*

