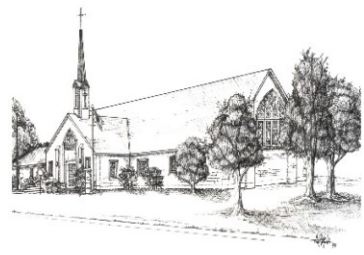




## *First Press*

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## *October 2022*

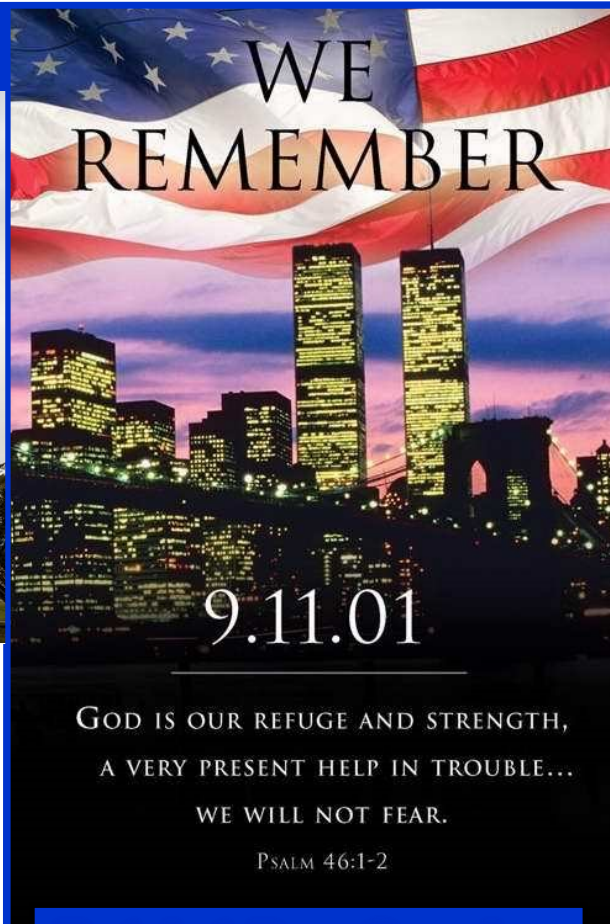
### *From the Pastor's Desk*



#### *The Reformation: England and the "Middle Way"*

*In England, the Reformation began with Henry VIII's quest for a male heir. When Pope Clement VII refused to annul Henry's marriage to Catherine of Aragon so he could remarry, the English king declared in 1534 that he alone should be the final authority in matters relating to the English church. Henry dissolved England's monasteries to confiscate their wealth and worked to place the Bible in the hands of the people. Beginning in 1536, every parish was required to have a copy.*

*After Henry's death, England tilted toward Calvinist-infused Protestantism during Edward VI's six-year reign and then endured five years of reactionary Catholicism under Mary I. In 1559 Elizabeth I took the throne and, during her 44-year reign, cast the Church of England as a "middle way" between Calvinism and Catholicism, with vernacular worship and a revised Book of Common Prayer. (continued pg.2)*



### **Patriot Day Service**





## Pastor's Desk (cont.)

What better way to begin October that ends with Reformation Day than with a brief lesson in history. John Calvin and Martin Luther quickly come to the Presbyterian mind in remembering the events that set off the Protestant Reformation of the middle 1500's. Lesser known is the "Middle Way", the establishment of a church by King James for the apparently sole purpose of enabling an English king to remarry. Actions which seem self-centered sometimes have unintended consequences, in this case the establishment of the Church of England.

Today the American version, the Episcopal Church, flourishes as a middle way between Roman Catholic and Reformed Churches. The concept of a "middle way" might be a lesson we can learn from history to reunite our nation, churches and communities in the present moments of tense relations. We need to pull together from the middle to bring healing to our country, our world and our communities. This congregation, all us together, set the pace for living together in unity as the Psalmist sang: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity" (*Psalm 133:1*). Psalm 133 is a "song of ascents", meant to be sung by worshippers on the way to the Temple, ascending the steps. We can always find and point others to a "middle way", a place of reconciliation and hope, in the middle of what feels like chaos.

May your day be filled with God's peace as we together remember the bravery of the Reformers this month with several celebrations in worship: Polka Sunday on the 16<sup>th</sup>; Heritage Sunday the next week as we remember 162 years of being a witness for Christ in Belton, Texas and on Reformation Sunday when we will call the names of the Saints of this congregation as an All Saints Day service of worship.

Grace and Peace, Kathy E. Vineyard (H.R.)

**Polka Sunday**

Allegro ♩ = 120

**October 16<sup>th</sup> 11:00 am** First Presbyterian Church Belton



Featuring  
*The Middletons*  
Mike Middleton  
& Clayton Capps

## FINANCIAL DATA JANUARY - SEPTEMBER

<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$56,256.03</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$50,744.71</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ -5,549.04</b>



**The Eagle is Landing**  
**Men's Group Dinner and Speaker**  
**Thursday, October 13 at 6:00 pm**  
**Italian style dinner and brownies**

## **A Stated Meeting of the Session was held on Sept. 20, 2022. Highlights include:**

**Clerk of Session**--Penny reviewed the latest financial report from the Treasurer, which was approved. Bob Livingston has been appointed to audit the 2021 financial records. His report is due to the Session at its October meeting, which has been changed to October 25. The session approved holding a Congregational meeting October 9th for the purpose of electing new Ruling Elders and Trustee. Work will begin shortly on a new contract for 2023 for retaining Rev. Kathy Vineyard, HR as our part time pastor.

**Worship & Welcome**--Kay noted that we are still averaging between 30 and 35. We provide both Facebook and Zoom avenues for people to attend virtually. Music ministry is back in full swing. Our September 11<sup>th</sup> service was particularly moving as we remembered the lost souls at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania. The chimes at the end of the service helped set the tone of remembrance. Kay noted that this is the time of year that we have many special events, leading into Advent and then Christmas. The first of these will be on Oct. 16, POLKA SUNDAY. Mike Middleton and Clayton Capps will be with us again for our 8<sup>th</sup> year of having service music played in Polka Style. We will return to the German Style luncheon we have had in the past with sausage provided by the church (Terry usually gets them from Sam's and we heat them in the oven.) The congregation will bring sides that are in the German/Czech style of food (sauerkraut, noodles, German potato salad, cucumber salad, etc.). Other special dates in October are the church's 162<sup>nd</sup> birthday and the celebration of All Saints' Day, which we will do on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

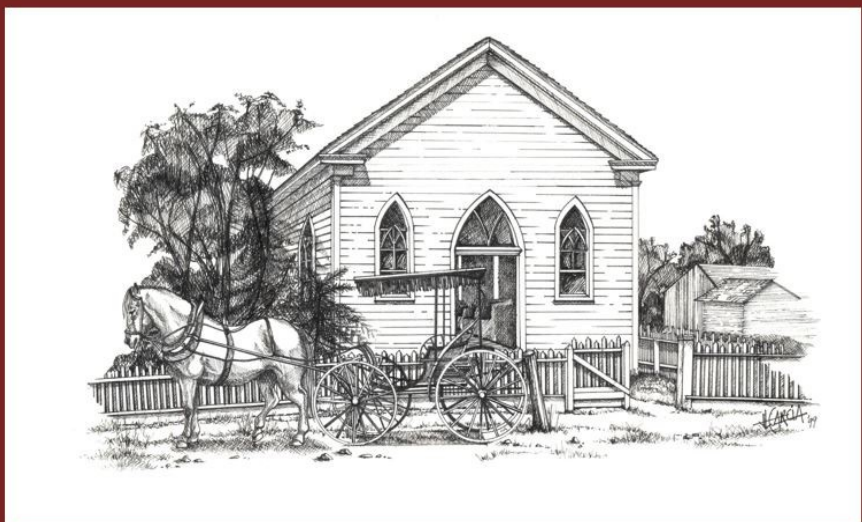
**Buildings & Grounds**--We thanked the Building & Grounds crew for updating the trim around the doors into the Sanctuary. This was done by Bruce and Larry. Larry is also working on the French drain, cleaning it out and making it more effective. This is the one between the building and the porte cochere, where we often (when it rains) have a deep puddle to wade through. The Session also approved the purchase of locks for the outside power and a.c.units.

**Congregational Care**--Melinda continues to send cards to members of the congregation for birthdays and anniversaries.

**Missions**--The Mission Committee is collecting food for Helping Hands in their project to provide ingredients for holiday meals to distribute to the people they serve in the community.

**Christian Education**--Erin discussed beginning another movie night if Season 3 of "The Chosen" becomes available.

**Honoring  
Our 162<sup>nd</sup>  
Birthday  
On Heritage  
Sunday  
October 23**





## 9-11 Service

