



First Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Trumpet April 2024



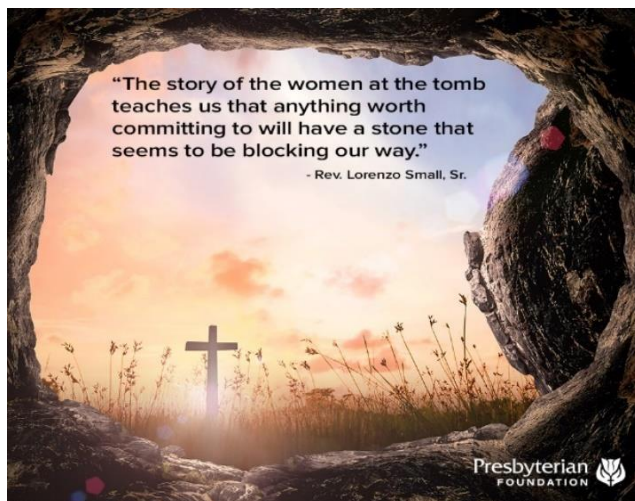
The Pastor's Post is brought to us this month by

Rev. Lorenzo Small, Presbyterian Foundation 3/31/2024

Don't Worry About the Stone – Lectionary Preview March 2024, Mark 16:1-8, Year B

Life is filled with stones: stone of injustice, stone of inequality, stone of prejudice, stone of violence, stone of partisanship, stone of poverty ... stone, stone, stone! Everywhere we look there seems to be a stone, something blocking our way.

And yet, I find hope. I find strength. I find encouragement. I am even challenged by this Easter text. Stone, metaphorically, is not unique to our individual or collective situations, but unfortunately, we are prone to believe so. We say to ourselves, “no one has it harder than me.” We need to look



“The story of the women at the tomb teaches us that anything worth committing to will have a stone that seems to be blocking our way.”

- Rev. Lorenzo Small, Sr.

no further than our text, Mark 16:1-8, to dispel this myth and to find hope for a better tomorrow, or a better now! We find three women in our story bound by a common purpose, a common devotion and a shared love, all of which are linked to Jesus. These women, who had determined that they would make their way to the tomb to properly anoint the body of Jesus, start out early Sunday morning, most likely before sunrise. As they are on their way, a very

peculiar question is raised, *“Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?”* They realized at that moment that there was an obstacle in their way that was beyond their ability to remove. But one must notice they kept moving towards the tomb.

I am challenged here because the women’s response to their obstacle compels me to contemplate, to consider how often we allow the perceived stone or stones in our paths to keep us from moving toward the goal. In their response, I hear them saying to us this Easter morning, don’t worry about the stone. Keep moving toward your goal. I certainly do not think they knew God would roll the stone away. Maybe the message from their resilience is, simply, *“where there is a will, there is a way.”* The story of the women at the tomb teaches us that anything worth committing to will have a stone that seems to be blocking our way.

This leads me to my second observation regarding the stone, and that is, it was necessary. Not only was it necessary, but the stone also had to be a size that was beyond the women’s capacity to remove.

Many have questioned why the women went to the tomb and not the men. Maybe it was a matter of practicality. A group of men may have never seen the stone as an obstacle believing they could simply combine their strength and roll it away.

But for these women this stone created a dynamic beyond their means and would require an act of God as its remedy. See, the stone provides the opportunity for God to put his power on display. As such, the stone, regardless of its size, should never be the determining factor on whether or not we move forward in carrying out the task at hand. Stone removal is God’s work.

Finally, we should pay particular attention to the women’s response when they arrived and discovered the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. The text states they were alarmed, and by way of an angel, God channels that anxious energy and sets them on the course of proclamation. God sends them to roll away the stones of others. *“But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.”*

It is here that I see how we are to respond to the resurrection. Accept that our stone has been rolled away. Then, go tell somebody, and so has their stone been rolled away. Whatever the stone: the stone of injustice, stone of inequality, stone of prejudice, stone of violence, stone of partisanship, or stone of poverty, Christ is risen! Don’t worry about the stone.



Rev. Lorenzo Small Rev. Lorenzo Small serves as Lead Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Battle Creek, Michigan. He is a graduate of North Carolina A & T State University where he studied Finance. Following graduation, he moved to St. Paul, Minn., where he worked for a number of years in the corporate world (for such companies as 3M Corporation and Eli Lilly). While there, he felt the call to the ministry. He served as a Baptist minister and later was ordained and installed as pastor of Pleasant Ridge Presbyterian Church of Lancaster, S.C. He is a graduate of Union Presbytery Seminary (Charlotte, N.C.) and a board member of the Foundation for Reformed Theology and Presbyterian Heritage Center. Rev. Small previously served as pastor of First United Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, N.C.



We all play a role
when it comes to
the healthy development
of our nation's children.



APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH

In October 2004 the Presbyterian Women of Seguin adopted their local mission project of providing gift bags to the children served at the Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center. In the years of this commitment, we have assembled thousands of bags for the children to receive after they have had a forensic interview at the Center. Several groups help with items to be put into these gift bags. The Presbyterian Women budget a certain amount of money each year to purchase gifts; the Seguin Silver Needlers make tote bags, pillow cases, pencil bags and holiday items; the HUGS from New Braunfels make quilts; New Braunfels Area Quilt Guild also makes quilts; many other individuals and organizations help by giving items for the bags along with money donations. We could not do this project without all the generous outside help.

The mission of the Children's Advocacy Center is to advocate for and provide services to children and their families when there are allegations of abuse or neglect. The GCCAC partners with law enforcement, Department of Family & Protective Services, prosecution, CASA, medical and mental health professionals to reduce the trauma to children by coordinating in a multi-disciplinary approach. The Center serves children from ages 2 to 18 with interviews along with counseling available to the children and their families. Since 2004, GCCAC has conducted thousands of children forensic interviews and has provided many thousands of trauma-focused mental health sessions.

If you suspect abuse or neglect, call hotline at 1-800-252-5400 or local law enforcement to report.

The Advocacy, will again this year during April, have their fundraising **"Champions for Courageous Children"**. The GCCAC needs your help to raise funds toward achieving its mission to help children. Donations can be mailed to Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center, 265 Wetz, Seguin, TX 78155

During the month of April, Children's Advocacy signs will be placed in our church yard along with 782 pinwheels each representing a child that received a forensic interview and received a gift bag.

PINWHEEL TIME: Some of the Seguin ISD staff will help again this year to put out the sign and 782 pinwheels in our church yard on Monday, April 1. The group has adopted our church as their project.

For further information call Patty Grones, 830-305-1639 or email phg6611@gmail.com.



by Marjorie Blonk, R.N.

OSTEOARTHRITIS (Adapted)

MILITARY OFFICER, REAR ADM. JOYCE JOHNSON, USPHS, (RET)

NOVEMBER, 2023

Over 50 million people in the U.S., including about 300,000 children, have arthritis, which has been called America's Number 1 cause of disability. There are over 100 different types of arthritis, with many different causes. For example, rheumatoid arthritis is due to inflammation and autoimmune processes. Infectious agents, like bacteria, can enter joint spaces causing arthritis. Metabolic disease is another cause, and it can be a consequence of Lyme disease. Rates of arthritis increase with age, and about half of those over 65 have at least one joint affected.

The most common type of arthritis is osteoarthritis, also called degenerative joint disease. It is caused when the cartilage at the joints degenerates and bones rub against each other. About 27 million people have osteoarthritis. Characteristic symptoms are pain, swelling, and stiffness. The joints most affected are fingers, thumbs, neck, lower back, knees and hips.

Risk factors for osteoarthritis are joint injuries, repeated stress on joints, genetic predisposition, increased weight, gender (with women at a higher risk) and age. There is no cure for osteoarthritis, but it can be managed. Heat or cold compresses can reduce pain. Physical activity is important. Swimming provides good range of motion and aerobic exercise without further damaging the joints. Exercise is also important to strengthen the muscles around a joint to reduce stress on it. Maintaining a healthy weight can be especially important for those with arthritis in the knees.

Medication management of arthritis usually begins with acetaminophen. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories, such as ibuprofen, are used later in treatment. Potential side-effects must be considered, including liver disease and gastrointestinal bleeding when chronic use of medication is considered. Some patients have found acupuncture to bring short-term pain relief.

NOTE: I, personally, have had acupuncture for hip pain and found it to be very successful. I went in with a positive attitude toward success, and it was.

Each year, there are over 500,000 total knee replacements and 250,000 hip replacements, mostly to treat arthritis. Prosthesis and surgical techniques are being refined over time. Studies have shown that patients who develop muscle strength before surgery have a faster recovery. Some studies have shown that dietary supplements, like glucosamine, chondroitin and herbal preparations have little long-term effect on osteoarthritis.

As always, check with a medical professional when having joint pain, stiffness and swelling to identify the cause and obtain possible relief.

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Sunday April

14, 2024

Come and join us on Sunday, April 14th for worship service led by our Youth. They are busy preparing a service filled with inspiration, praise, and worship. Don't miss it!

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*Administrative
Professionals
Week*

Celebrate Administrative Professionals Week,

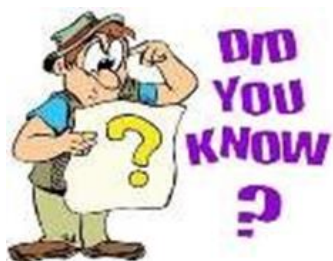
April 22 – April 26, 2024.

Administrative Professionals Day is Wednesday,

April 24, 2024.



*Administrative
Professionals
Day*



Jesse Weimar Siler, 1863-1912

The **Rev. J. W. Siler, D.D.**, who was born and raised in a large and well-known family in Macon County, North Carolina, served the Seguin Presbyterian Church 1902-1904, following the pastorate of the **Rev. A. H. Porter McCurdy, D.D.** Nothing about Siler's service or the sessional minutes were found in Nettie Nolte's 1932 history book, but some sources were located.

A listing for **Rev. J. W. Siler** was found in the *Ministerial directory of the Presbyterian church, U.S., 1861-1941*, compiled by Rev. E. C. Scott, D.D., 1942, Von Boeckman-Jones Co., Austin, Texas, on actual page 650. [The image number is 658; it was accessed on the *Family Search* website.] It is detailed below in its expanded form.

Siler, Jesse Weimar---born in Franklin, North Carolina, February 9, 1863; Father, Rev. Leon F Siler; mother, Mary Trotter; wife, Maggie McDowell, Franklin, North Carolina, 1888; Davidson College (North Carolina), 1881-1885, B.A.; Union Theological Seminary of Virginia, Richmond (formerly located at Hampden-Sydney), 1885-1888, B.D.; Licensed, May 1888, Ordained October 1888, Mecklenburg Presbytery; stated supply, Murphy, North Carolina, and evangelist, Mecklenburg Presbytery, 1888-1889; city missionary, Charlotte, North Carolina, 1889-1890; pastor, Shelby and Rutherfordton, 1890-1891; stated supply, Cameron, Texas, 1891-1892; pastor, Providence and Banks group, Mecklenburg Presbytery, 1892-1900; stated supply, Hendersonville, North Carolina, 1900; Teacher, Gastonia, 1900-1901; pastor, LaVernia, Texas, 1901— (stated supply, Floresville) —1902; pastor, Seguin, 1902— (stated supply, Luling and Waelder) —1903; pastor, San Angelo, 1903-1910; pastor, Silver City, New Mexico (Presbyterian Church in the United States of America), 1910-1912; died there, December 20, 1912. DD, Austin College, 1909. Stated Clerk, Mecklenburg Presbytery, 1897-1899.

Our subject's father, **Rev. Leonidas Fidelio Siler**, was a Methodist minister, who in 1860 also owned seven enslaved persons. (The 1870 Census also lists him as a retired lawyer.) Another of Leon Siler's sons, **Eugene Leon Siler**, was also listed in the Scott ministerial directory; he served in Caldwell County, Texas, from 1890-1892, while his brother Jesse was in Cameron. Both Jesse and Eugene returned to North Carolina for a period, before moving on to pastorates in different states.

Rev. Jesse W. Siler graduated at the top of his class at Davidson College, where he was president of the Philanthropic Society, before earning his B.D. at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. Licensed to preach in May 1888, he was ordained in October 1888, likely after he married **Margaret "Maggie" Annie Augusta McDowell** on October 2, 1888.

They had three children: **Arnold Miller Siler** (1889-1971), **Leon McDowell Siler** (1892-1976), and **Mary Louise Siler** (1894-1973). This undated photo of the family was located through Ancestry.com, on the FindAGrave website.

A search for additional detail about Siler's papers revealed that the Austin Theological Seminary holds 3 volumes. Dated 1901-1909, they are described in this summary:

Jesse Weimar Siler (1863-1912) was a Presbyterian minister who served congregations in North Carolina, Texas, and New Mexico. This collection comprises three pastoral record books which contain sermons and records of marriages performed between 1901 and 1909. During this period, Siler worked with congregations in and around Lavernia, Seguin and San Angelo, Texas. Most marriages listed were performed in San Angelo, Texas.

I was fortunate to find on Google Books an online copy of *History of the McDowells, Erwins, Irwins, and Connections*, compiled by the Hon. John Hugh McDowell. Memphis, C. B. Johnston & Co. Publishers, 1918. The compiler was at the time of publication the "Chieftain of the McDowell Clan of



America." Officials of the McDowell Clan of America listed therein include our subject's widow, Mrs. Margaret McDowell Siler, Secretary of the Clan.

The book contains an obituary of Jese Weimar Siler, with a photo of his wife, as well. [See pages 326-331.] Margaret lived to the age of 96, dying in May 1954, surviving her husband by almost 42 years. An obituary for her, as published in the Winston-Salem Journal, Friday, May 28, 1954, page 9, is also included here. She was a longtime teacher, and ran a private school at one time. Their daughter Mary Louise was a music teacher. She never married, and maintained a home for her retired mother.

REV. JESSE W SILER, D.D.

On Sunday, Dec. 29, 1912, as Rev. Jesse W. Siler was preparing to preach he was seized with a violent hemorrhage of the lungs. This was followed by others Monday, and at 7 o'clock p.m. the heroic warfare of a good soldier had ended. He had entered through the gates of death from the Church Militant to the Church Triumphant.

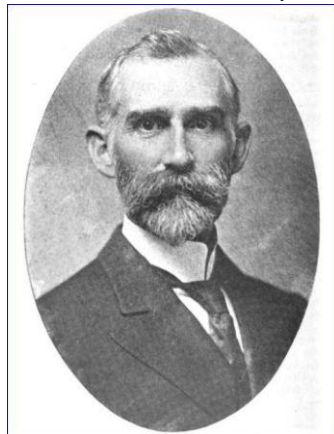
Jesse W. Siler was born in Franklin, N.C., Feb.9, 1863. After a distinguished course, in which he won several medals and was valedictorian of this class, he graduated from Davidson College in 1885. He had prepared himself especially for mission work in China, but being denied this privilege on account of ill-health, he invested his life for the Master in North Carolina and Texas. The last great work in Texas was inspiring, and led his people to erect the magnificent church building at San Angelo, Texas. The strain was too much for his feeble body, but his brave spirit would not allow him to give up service for his King. Removing to Silver City, N.M., he continued preaching and witnessing for Jesus till God said, "It is enough," and being willing and ready to obey his Lord, whether going or staying, he passed on to his reward above.

In 1888 he married Miss Margaret McDowell, a graduate of the old Moravian School in Salem, N.C., who, with two sons and one daughter, still survives. Dr. Siler's fidelity to God was impressed upon his brethren at all times, especially by his presence in the church courts, even when he had to lean upon his pillow. His wise counsel, his clear vision and his warm heart gave him a high place in the esteem of all who knew him, but particularly his fellow-presbyters. His messages glowed with love for him whom he served. His character grew sweeter and more God-like as his body grew weaker. Shall not the memory of such a heroic life be a benediction [sic] and an inspiration to loved ones left in service yet a little while?

And now, while he rests from his labors, his work goes on in the lives he touched and the hearts he cheered to nobler deeds, to sweeter songs, to richer experience, and to deeper trust in God.

C.B.H.

Rev. Jesse Weimar Siler, D.D.



Margaret McDowell Siler



Church News

Interim Search Committee Submitted by Elizabeth Anderson

The Transition Team is now known as the **Interim Search Committee**.

Session has appointed an **Interim Search Committee**. Travis Anderson is the Chair and other committee members include: Louella Wilson, Rochelle Carter, Jennifer Wilson and Cecily Dwyer.

The **Interim Search Committee** along with Session has compiled a list of questions to ask potential Interim pastors. The committee has already interviewed one potential Interim pastor. They are in the process of meeting with a second potential Interim pastor.

*Looking ahead after the **Interim Search Committee** has secured an Interim Pastor the Session will then form a **Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)** to begin work on finding a permanent pastor to call. Prayerfully consider if you would like to be part of this committee.*



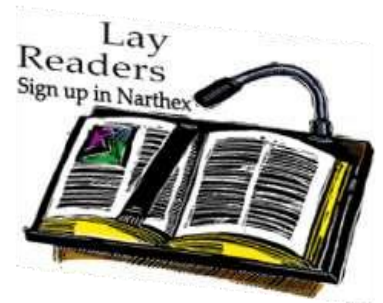
Ron Colunga along with the First Presbyterian Outreach Committee is working with Grandparents Raising Grandchildren organization. The Outreach Committee has been sending out announcements to community service organizations and churches for three months in an effort to reach as many grandparents as possible, who are raising their grandchildren. Ron and the Outreach Committee are providing a booklet to the grandparents to help them know the information and resources available to them from the state of Texas as well as their City and County.

GRG meets monthly at First Presbyterian Church. We ask that you share this information with any grandparents that you may know who are raising their grandchildren.

For more information, they may call the church at 830-379-5421. If there is no answer, they may leave a message, and someone will call them back as soon as possible.

Church News

Continued ...



Lay Readers Needed

**Sign up in Karrick Hall to help bring refreshments for Sunday Fellowship.
For more info., call or text Ree Mawande-Brownfield: 830-433-1045**



The Morning Angels will meet Tuesday April 2nd, at 9:30 a.m. in Karrick Hall. The Bible Study will be led by Claribel Sebesta, and Marjorie Bronk and Sue Bierman will be hostesses.

The Evening Angels will meet Thursday April 4th in the Blue Room at 6:30p.m.

Church Women United Meeting ~ Church Women United Forum and Business Meeting at St James Catholic Church, Friday, April 5th at 10:00 am.



Thank you to Mike and Liz Taft for March 10th flowers given in glory to God and in celebration of their wedding anniversary. Happy anniversary Mike and Liz.

The Flower signup calendar is available in the church office, in Karrick Hall, and online.

Honor a loved one or donate to your favorite charity!

Signup at: <https://www.signupgenius.com>, or signup on the calendar in Karrick Hall or in the church office. For assistance, call Remia at 830-379-5421.



God bless you on your birthday and always!

Dottsy Dwyer	April 6
Spencer Dwyer	April 17
Bettye Tuten	April 17
Ron Colunga	April 20
Jordyn Taft	April 20
Cecily Dwyer	April 30

*We always thank
God for all of you
and continually
mention you in
our prayers.*

1 Thessalonians 1:2, NIV



† **Nursing Home, Assisted Living, Hospital, Homebound, and Hospice:**
Wayne McCurry (Windsor Nursing & Rehab), Charlie Willmann (Argent Court)

† **Continued Prayers of Healing:** Ann Hodges, Pastor Lemlyn, Cathy Lemlyn, Hubert Lemlyn, Charlie Willmann, Dan Willmann, Mike Taft, Sue Bierman, Rochelle Carter, Sharon Durbin, Vicki Eckhardt, David Kee III, Landa King, Rev. Bobby Lewis, Kristin Mueller, Remia Nobles, Ruth Owens, Diane Paterson, Bob Sebesta, Claribel Sebesta, Rev. Diana Whitley, Jennifer Wilson.

† **Missionaries in Zambia:** Liezl & Arthur Pienaar, Rev. Dr. Dustin & Sherri Ellington, Rev. Lovemore Nyirenda, and Rev. Elijah Mwandila.

† **Bereaved Families:** All bereaved families.



Every Sunday ~ Sunday School for Children and Adults begins at 9:00 a.m. Worship Service is at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary.

Sunday April 7 ~ Mike Schuchs, Guest Speaker

Sunday April 14 ~ Youth Sunday with Communion

Sunday April 21 ~ Rev. Cameron Allen , Guest Pastor

Sunday April 28 – Rev. Mike Austin, Guest Pastor

Monday April 22 ~ The Presbyterian Women's Council will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Jennifer Wilson.

Every Tuesday ~ Men's Bible Study via ZOOM 7-8 a.m. Get the link at: tome.walters@thwllc.com.

Tuesday April 2 ~ Morning Angels Circle meeting in Karrick Hall at 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday April 2 ~ Meet to Pray in the Blue Room at 11:00 a.m.

Thursday April 11 ~ Evening Angels meeting in the Blue Room at 6:30 p.m.



Presbyterian Church
1121 East Walnut Street
Seguin, Texas 78155
Return Service Requested

fpcseguin@att.net
www.firstpresseguin.org
(830) 379-5421

April 2024

Precious Life Suicide Prevention – Crisis Hotline Services – Suicide Prevention Lifeline Call 988 or 1-800-273-8255

Support Group for Caregivers - (830) 379-5046 | info@elcseguin.org

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2024

First Presbyterian Church

1121 E. Walnut St. Seguin, TX 78155

830-379-5421

fpcseguin@att.net

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Men's Bible Study 7 am. Morning Circle 9:30 a.m.	3	4	5	6
7 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Tome Walters – LR	8	9 Men's Bible Study 7 am.	10	11 Evening Angels Circle 6:30 p.m.	12	13
14 Sunday School 9 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday	15	16 Men's Bible Study 7 am.	17	18	19	20
21 Sunday School 9am Worship 10:30 a.m. Claribel Sebesta - LR	22 P.W. Council Meeting – 9:30am.	23 Men's Bible Study 7 am.	24	25	26	27
28 Sunday School 9am Worship 10:30 am	29	30 Men's Bible Study 7 am				

