

903-657-2529

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*“Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences”*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
P. O. BOX 773  
HENDERSON, TEXAS 75653-0773**



## **THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE**

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

Volume 52

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Issue Two

Dear Saints,

February is here and Lent is on the horizon!

Just a few more weeks before signs of spring begin to push through the earth. We are nearing the time for reflection and renewal of our faith as we remember the death and resurrection of our Savior in the season of Lent and Easter.

The worship leaders and I are planning special music and arranging times for the additional worship services the season brings. We are reviewing curriculum for the combined Sunday school class and seasonal devotions. Lent is a special time of sensory experience as we feel the oily-grit of the ashes on our foreheads, smell the fresh green dampness of the palms, sink into the dark silence of the tomb on Good Friday, and burst forth rejoicing with flowers and cries of glory alleluia at the rising of our Savior on Easter morning.

More than anything, Lent for me is a time of curiosity. Perhaps because we start at the beginning of everything remembering that we are made from the same claylike soil of the earth, I feel especially rooted. I feel connected to the natural world, as if I'm a bit more tuned in. Or perhaps it is the season of the year, with the awakening of new growth, the increase of animal activity, spring rains and warmer days inviting me to come outside and play.

It is important to remember that faith is an adventure. Faith never promises to give us the answer. Faith is many things, but it doesn't mean that we have defined God to be one particular thing at one particular time. God is mystery! Faith means we trust our unknowable God. Practices of prayer, reflection, meditation and discipline help us connect to God and make space for God in our lives in new ways. Our Lenten practices may even lead to new depth in our understanding, but we need to be gentle with ourselves and allow space for God to be more deeply known without the expectation of absolute certainty.

It is in this way that Lenten practices and disciplines can enrich our faith during this season. Whether we experiment with fasting, abstinence, journaling, prayer, silence, stillness, reading scripture, praying with beads, generosity, volunteering or keeping Sabbath, engaging in a new habit is an opportunity to explore how God is present in us, in our lives, and in the lives of others.

With the special additions to worship and opportunities to study and share, the end of February will bring engaging ideas to help your Lent be reflective and transformative. I hope that you will find these dimensions of our church life together enriching and meaningful.

With anticipation and joy,

*Rev Michele*



The Outreach Committee is “reaching out” to you as we recruit members to our 2020 group.

We will be meeting soon to review our areas of participation in the four special offerings of **One Great Hour of Sharing** that focuses on hunger, disaster (PDA) and development; **Pentecost** focuses on children at risk, youth and young adults; **Peace & Global** focuses on peacemaking and reconciliation; and, **Joy Gifts** focuses on church leaders past, present and future.

We will also review the many organizations that we currently provide assistance to for re-upping of our commitment including Grace Presbytery, Henderson Interchurch Ministry (HIM), Presbyterian Children’s Home, Rusk County Children’s Advocacy, and Camp Gilmont. We will also consider any new areas that members want to bring forth.

Through Outreach, we continue to reach out to our neighbors, our neighborhood, our community and beyond. In addition to those programs listed above, we reach close to FPC through our Adopt A Block program, our weekly Meals on Wheels delivery, and our support of the School Supply Train. Part of the “mission” of our outreach also includes extending our hands and God’s love to those involved or caught up in the crisis at our border.

There are many ways to be involved in the Outreach of our congregation. We are excited about the challenges before us and welcoming for your consideration of being part of the team – in body and/or spirit!  
Peace & Grace,

*Claudia, Katie, John T, Kathy, Jan P, Jan M, Jimmy, Lynn, & Rev. Michele*

## Member Care

Member Care starts anew and we will be trying new things. We hope to include more visits, phone calls, cards, interaction including all members of our congregation. We plan and hope to be available to help those needing rides to appointments, grocery shopping, or just help around the house, like screwing in a light bulb or providing assistance in making it easier to get around the house and/or yard. Once we get our plan finalized, we will have a contact for folks to call about any assistance through this service. In the meantime, you can call the church office at 903 657-2529.

Our mission is member care – and we care.

*Jan Mims, Chair & Lynn Tieken, Second Chair and the whole Member Care Team*



“Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a greater person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.”

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

## Worship Team

Your Worship Team continues to meet monthly to plan worship services that are meaningful and exciting. We continue to be blessed to have Rev. Michele Goff and Music Director Joshua Allen to lead our worship services. After the Christmas Season in December and the Martin Luther King Celebration in January, we are now planning for Lent and Easter. Kelly Weaver will be our Second Chair, and several of our members plan to continue as members of Worship Committee. There are many ways people can assist, and you don’t even have to attend the meetings. Many of you already do help in so many ways, and we are so thankful.

Communion dates have been set and most are on the first Sunday of the month, with a few special dates interspersed. Jimmy Chapman, Commissioned Pastor, will fill the Pulpit on Sunday, February 9. We will have Ash Wednesday Service on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Prior to the Ash Wednesday Service, you are invited to join us for a soup supper at 5:45 pm.

Our Choir, under the direction of Joshua Allen, have some special music pieces and guest musicians and artists lined up for Holy Week services. It is sure to be added wonder to an already wonderful time.

It is easy for some of us to take for granted or not even know all of the pieces that go into making our worship services run smooth. It truly takes a whole committee or a village to make sure all I’s are dotted and all T’s are crossed. Some of those I-dotters and T-crossers are Kathy and Fonta for sanctuary special enhancements; Sound/Lighting/Recording Group, Kelly, Claudia, Scott, and John; Steve, Travis & Patsy and Michael our ushers and greeters; and, always our choir. We remain grateful for all blessings abound!



## A communion of hearts and minds on January 18 at the Commemoration of the Legacy of MLK, Jr. at the Mother Zion Baptist Church.



*Rev. Michele preparing to lead in prayer.*



*Betty Elder coordinated the Commemoration of MLK, Jr.*

*Chancel Choir Sings*



*Bert sings  
"His Eye is on the Sparrow"*



## Building & Grounds Committee

We begin 2020 with new leadership in some of our committees. Steve and Claudia were the chair and vice chair last year and have switched the order of that leadership this year. As you recall, your Building & Grounds group tackled some heavy issues last year – roof, lawn service, and ice machine. Well, we also have a promising To Do List on-going for this year too. For those of you that haven't noticed the sign-up sheet in the narthex, we are looking for a few good men and women to join our small but mighty committee.

We accept all forms of brains and/or brawn (the combination of both is greatly appreciated). Specific talents are not necessary only a willingness to help. There are no auditions, no votes off the island, no final roses given – We will be meeting soon to prioritize our "To Do List."

For those on and off the committee, please take to heart that if you see something in the church that needs our attention, please follow this simple rule of thumb – "If You See Something, Say Something"

We are looking forward to serving you,

Claudia – Chair

Steve – Vice Chair

## Musical Notes



Our worship together is meant to rehearse the Reign of God. We rehearse God's reign "on earth, as it is in heaven" when we honor the gifts of the people of God from "every kindred and tribe," and when we amplify the voices of historically marginalized groups. When we practice God's Kingdom in this way of worshipping, we become the benefactors of a rich theological and liturgical heritage that helps us connect with God and with the church universal.

In observance of Black History Month, we will celebrate and sing the musical and theological contributions of black sisters and brothers around the world. The Kyrie, the communal prayer for mercy, will be the African-American Spiritual, "It's Me, O Lord Standing in the Need of Prayer." You will also hear the music of Anti-Apartheid South Africa, the Black American South, and the Southern Freedom Movement in the U.S.

Council Actions

January 25, 2020

- ♦ Worshiped, prayed, and communed together
- ♦ Approved the church statistical report for 2019
- ♦ Approved Christian Education Teachers for 2020
- ♦ Approved application for recertification of Earth Care Congregation
- ♦ Made committee assignments
- ♦ Elected clerk of session
- ♦ Elected commissioners for Feb. 22 Presbytery meeting in Dallas
- ♦ Received a request for letters of transfer
- ♦ Assigned duty elders for the year
- ♦ Assigned elders for home communion
- ♦ Spent time in retreat together at the Henderson Civic Center

The 2020 Committees’ Leadership Announced

Building & Ground:	Chair: Claudia Morgan-Gray	Vice Chair: Steve Lowe
Christian Ed:	Chair: Steve Lowe	Vice Chair: Kathy Porter
Communications:	Chair: Kathy Porter	Vice Chair: Claudia Morgan-Gray
Fellowship:	Chair: Katie Hurst	Vice Chair: Jan Mims
Finance/Stewardship:	Chair: Kelly Weaver	Vice Chair: Kathy Porter
Member Care:	Chair: Jan Mims	Vice Chair: Lynn Tieken
Outreach:	Chair: Claudia Morgan-Gray	Vice Chair: Katie Hurst
Personnel:	Chair: Claudia Morgan-Gray	Vice Chair: Lynn Tieken
Worship:	Chair: Lynn Tieken	Vice Chair: Kelly Weaver

Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee is under new leadership this year, but fear not! We are excited to plan our traditional fellowships during the year as well as a few new fellowship opportunities. While we will have a more thorough update on events next month, we would like to invite you to mark your calendars for our Ash Wednesday Service on February 26 at 6:30 pm. We will serve a light soup dinner at 5:45 pm before the service and hope everyone will be able to join us.

As you choose which committees to join this year, please consider sharing your gifts with our committee and the entire congregation. We would love to have fresh ideas from new committee members!

Katie Hurst, Chair



Our two Sunday School Classes are off to a grand start in the New Year.

The Andrews Class is currently studying the book of Timothy and will then move to a study of Titus. The team leaders for this class are Jimmy Chapman and John Hillin.

The Seekers Class is currently studying the book The Great Spiritual Migration by Brian D. McLaren. After that, Rev. Michele will lead a study of the Belhar Confession.

There are reserved seats just for you in both classes. The lessons are invigorating. The fellowship encouraging. And did we mention, there’s coffee and doughnuts? The lights are on and your seat is warm so join and learn with us at 9:45 on Sunday mornings.

The Christian Ed Team



*Sunday, January 19,  
was a day of  
consecration,  
dedication, and  
renewal and  
installation of elders:  
Lynn, Claudia, and  
Katie  
with Rev. Michele.*





## DID YOU KNOW?

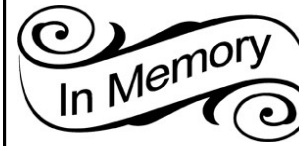


### Something to think about:

The Earth is 4.6 billion years old. Let's scale that to 46 years. We have been here for 4 hours. Our industrial revolution began 1 minute ago. In that time, we have destroyed more than 50% of the world's forests. **This isn't sustainable.**

*Let's strive to use recycled paper products.*

**The Christian Education Green Team**



Memorials received January were for:

◇ Ed Wingo

Honorary gifts received  
in January were...

*In Honor of*

First Presbyterian Church  
Henderson

**DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY:**  
**Katie Hurst**

### Liturgists for February:

02/02 Katie Hurst

02/09 John Hillin

02/16 TBA

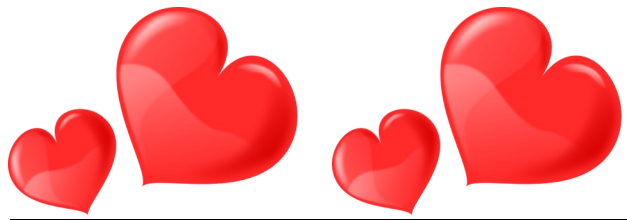
02/23 Tim Wasson

*Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:*

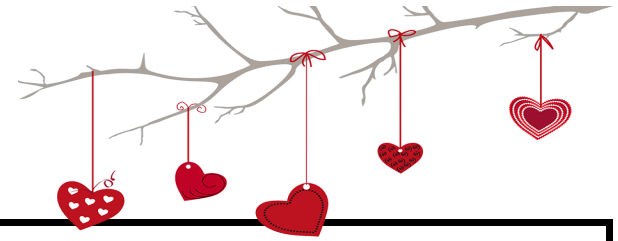
◇ *Our home bound members:*  
*Sue, Debbie, Joyce, and Kay.*

◇ *All who need our prayers*





# February



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>Michele Goff</i>  Communion	3 <i>Travis Reynolds</i>	4  Choir 6 PM	5  Christian Education Meeting 10 AM	6	7  Meals on Wheels	8
9  Pastor Jimmy Chapman	10	11  Choir 6 PM	12	13	14 <i>David Fahle</i>  Meals on Wheels	15
16	17  President's Day	18  Choir 6 PM	19	20	21  Meals on Wheels	22 <i>Briar Hurst</i>  Grace Presbytery Meeting Dallas
23	24  Pipeline Deadline	25  Choir 6 PM	26  ASH WEDNESDAY Soup Supper - 5:45 pm Ash Wednesday Service - 6:00 pm	27	28  Meals on Wheels	29