

903-657-2529

www.fpchendersontx.org

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



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

Stamp



THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

Volume 53

August 2021

Issue Seven

You Are Loved, Unconditionally

Rest in this thought for a few minutes. You are loved, unconditionally.

Be still and know that I am God. Ps 46:10 God our Creator knows us better than anyone else possibly could and calls us beloved. Yet, as well as God knows us, nothing in *all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God.* Rom 8:38 This means no sin or transgression, no heritage or fortune, no happenstance or accident can interfere with God’s love for us.

God created us to be unique. With our gifts and unique perspectives, God expects us to work together as community. We are made in God’s image to be part of one body in the Spirit. *The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ.* 1 Cor 12:12 Our differences, like where we grew up, what language we speak, the color of our hair, the pigmentation of our skin, or who we love, do not prevent us from being untied in the family of God. *There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* Gal 3:28

Yet, in our human weakness, we continue to judge ourselves and each other as unworthy of unconditional love. We debase ourselves as sinners; we convince ourselves that we aren’t good enough for God’s overflowing grace. We feel undeserving of mercy and deny opportunities for forgiveness. And if we think we aren’t good enough, surely, we imagine, others aren’t worthy either. But this is distorted thinking.

The love God has demonstrated for us throughout the ages testifies that God believes in us. God bestows grace on us freely. God grants us forgiveness before we ask. God is merciful! *For I desire mercy, not sacrifice, and acknowledgment of God rather than burnt offerings.* Hos 6:6

Our Savior Jesus gave his life on a cross so that we might know death is conquered. He came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Judgment is a fear tactic of human design. Generosity, mercy and unconditional love are the hallmarks of God’s reign.

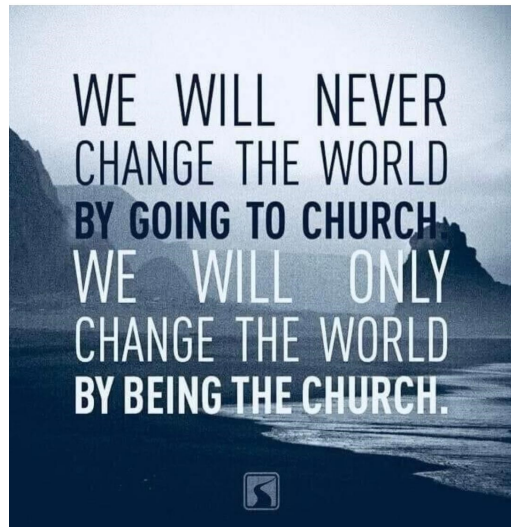
Therefore, to fully embrace life we need to let go of our judgments for ourselves and others. No more defensiveness, no more looking for mistakes, and no more expecting the worst. Instead, may we look with mercy, share with grace, and welcome every chance to love and share bountifully. We are loved unconditionally. Let’s celebrate.

Rev Michele

Council Actions

July 15, 2021

- ♦ Prayed and worshiped together
- ♦ Discussed lighting for office and choir room
- ♦ Elected commissioners for Grace Presbytery meeting on Sept. 25
- ♦ Reviewed the More Light surveys; will continue discussion in September meeting
- ♦ Discussed an evening book study of *A Bigger Table* by John Pavlovitz
- ♦ Determined that two teams are needed for Home Communion and selected elders to serve in August
- ♦ Determined that the Stewardship Campaign will begin in October and Committee budgets will be due Sept. 23
- ♦ Moved September session meeting date from Sept. 16 to 23 to accommodate Pastor's vacation
- ♦ Celebrated the hiring of Debbi Ricci as Administrative Assistant
- ♦ Reviewed the timeline of work to be done by session by year end



**HELP US TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WE ARE HERE!
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HENDERSON, TX.**



Vacation Bible School 2021

VBS at First Christian with First Presbyterian and St. Matthew's Episcopal Churches





We are gearing up for the **YATES PARK SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE** that will happen this year, August 6th at the Henderson Civic Center.

The distribution times will be from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm. We have a supplies collection box in the narthex and will be collecting items until August 2nd.

If you'd like to participate you can either bring school supplies or you can make a financial donation (make your check to FPC-Henderson and in the memo line please add for Yates Park School Supplies).

This is an important community effort that we've participated with for many years.

We thank you in advance for your continued and always generous hearts.
If you have any questions, please contact Claudia.



When you shop AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to First Presbyterian Church Henderson.

Login to <https://smile.amazon.com> and select First Presbyterian Church Henderson, TX to start giving while you shop.



Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

- ◇ Tolly D., for an increase in his appetite
- ◇ Kanaan, 2 week-old great-grandson of Travis & Patsy, who came early
- ◇ Charlie, 1 year- old great-granddaughter of Travis & Patsy, hospitalized with health issues
- ◇ For our church, during this time of discernment
- ◇ For all the front-line health care specialists who continue to put their lives at risk to help others during this time of pandemic.



happy anniversary

CONGRATULATIONS

PATSY & TRAVIS

ON YOUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY

The Outreach Team

Kindness

is just
Love
with its
work boots
on.



Henderson Interchurch Ministry
Needs for the month of August:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| Canned Soup (hearty preferred) | Ramen Noodles |
| Canned Chili | Oatmeal |
| Peanut Butter | Corn Bread |
| Canned Chicken | Canned Tuna |
| Chicken Broth | Che Boyardee |
| Beef Broth | Cream of Mushroom Soup |
| Instant Mashed Potatoes | Canned Corn |
| Canned Fruit | Canned Green Beans |
| Cereal | |
| Cream of Chicken Soup | |
| Canned Mixed Vegetables | |
| Breakfast Items | |

From Hustle Kindness Central,
Your Outreach Team
Claudia, Tom, Kathy, Katie, Lynn, John, Jimmy, Elizabeth, Scott & Rev. Michele

Finance

Your 2021 Finance Committee did not meet this month. Our team members consist of **Tammy Hillin, Kathy Porter, Carol Scoggins, Kelly Weaver and Steve Lowe (Vice Chair)**. This committee reviews the finances of the church and works with the church's Administrative Assistant, in accounting for the church's receipts and disbursements.

It is hard to believe that half of 2021 is over but thankfully the Church's finances are in good shape. We are approximately on budget for our pledges and slightly over budget on our plate. Year to date we continue to be under budget for our expenses.

Many thanks to everyone who makes their pledge commitment or donates to the plate. Also, thank you to our committee chairs in being vigilant in controlling the church's expenses.

Peace and thankfulness,
Tom Weaver, Chair



DID YOU KNOW?

The average temperature of the Earth is rising, but that's not the only way we can tell that the climate is changing. In fact, the signs are all around us! Observations and measurements from all over the world provide strong evidence that the climate is changing.



The CE Green Team

In
Loving
Memory
of

*July Memorials
were received for...
Fonta Conway*



Prayer For Our Community

Loving God, you fill all things with a fullness and hope that we can never comprehend. Thank you for leading us into a time where more of reality is being unveiled for us all to see. We pray that you will take away our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear and despair. Help us have the courage to awaken to greater truth, greater humility, and greater care for one another. May we place our hope in what matters and what lasts, trusting in your eternal presence and love. Listen to our hearts' longings for the healing of our suffering world. Please add your own intentions . . . Knowing, good God, you are hearing us better than we are speaking, we offer these prayers in all the holy names of God. Amen.

New address for Michael DeLeon:

SN MICHAEL E. DELEON
USS ENGLAND BLDG-836
320 A DEWEY AVE.
GREAT LAKES, IL 60088-2911



Birthday
August 14



The Rusk County Office of DSHS reports that the active cases of COVID in Rusk County are up 260% between the weeks of 7/18 and 7/25.

Please encourage your friends and family to get their COVID shot today. Vaccinations save lives!

The Personnel Team is happy and honored to introduce you to our new Administrative Assistant, Debbi Ricci.



Debbi hails from the great state of Massachusetts (no she's not from around here!). Debbi raised her two sons in Massachusetts and coincidentally her second husband also raised his two children there. Once their children were grown, Debbi and her husband embarked on a new adventure – they became lighthouse keepers for three years. After braving the harsh New England winters for so long, they decided to move to Florida.

While in Florida, Debbi worked for the Boca Grande Area Chamber of Commerce, the Charlotte Community Foundation, and the Sarasota Ballet. These opportunities allowed Debbi to grow her office management and nonprofit skills. Three years ago, Debbi and her husband Bill moved to Henderson where they are close to family including two of their six grandchildren. They are also the proud parents of a rescue German Shepherd named Bailey. When not working or enjoying grandchildren, Debbi enjoys kayak fishing, counted cross stitch embroidery, reading, ceramic and paper crafting.

If you have not already met Debbi at the office during her office hours of Monday-Thursday, 8:00 am – 1:00 pm, we encourage you to go by and welcome her in person. She is a delightful addition to our church.



**This year,
the Texas State Sales Tax Holiday is
August 6-8, 2021**

A picnic basket, a straw hat, and a glass of lemonade on a red and white checkered picnic blanket on a grassy field.

Duty Elder for August

Lynn Tieken



Liturgists for August

8/01 Steve Lowe

8/08 Carol Skoggins

8/15 John Hillin

8/22 Lynn Tieken

8/29 Steve Lowe



August Birthdays

Joshua Allen 1
Michael DeLeon 14
Tom Laney 19
Weldon Gray 22
Tammy Hillin 28