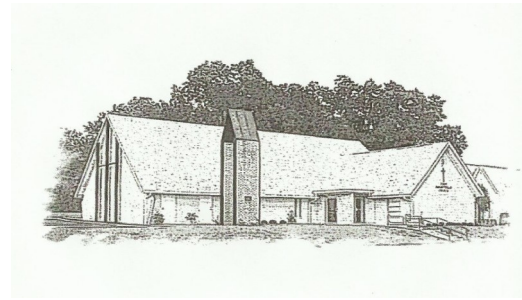




*"Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences"*

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



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[www.fpchendersontx.org](http://www.fpchendersontx.org)



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February 2023 Vol. 55:02

*Making Plans*

Dear Church,

Your Session and I enjoyed a productive retreat in mid-January to kick off 2023. We shared ideas and assigned Committee responsibilities. Your 2023 Committee Chairs are: Claudia for Fellowship/ Member Care, Liz for Communications, Mary for Worship/CE, Lynn for Outreach, Steve for Building and Grounds, and Kathy as our Clerk. We would love to put your helping hands to work. Please don't hesitate to contact any Chair or Rev. Michele and we will find a committee or project that suits your gifts.

During our work day we prayed, ate, talked strategy, and shared Communion. We discussed last year's schedule and mission activities and reflected on what was fruitful and made lasting impacts. We reviewed new things, like the Narnia move night, and recurring events, like the expanded Adopt-a-Block/Fellowship Watermelon Bust. We planned small adjustments, like moving Holy Week services into the Sanctuary instead of the Fellowship Hall. We also planned to fine tune some of our traditional activities, focusing on quality over quantity to make the most of our available time, talent, and treasure.

We committed to work together, communicate better, and include more people and voices beyond the Session in the work – and play! – of our church.

One thing I'm very excited about is the printing of new church t-shirts! We will use our star and cross logo and our motto, Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences. We will be collecting sizes soon. Wouldn't it be awesome for us to gather in the park for worship or fellowship in our matching t-shirts? The song says, "They'll know we are Christians by our love," but they will know we are Presbyterians by our t-shirts.

I am confident that we will continue to give generously, sing joyfully, love compassionately, and be the welcoming church that God is calling us to be in the year ahead. With courage for the road ahead of us.

*Rev. Michele*



## COFFEE, TEA AND THEE FELLOWSHIP

Coffee Fellowship on Sunday mornings is a great way to connect with each other! Due to the pandemic and our cautionary provisions, our coffee fellowship moments were curbed. But now, it's time to regather for time share, conversation, coffee and treats.

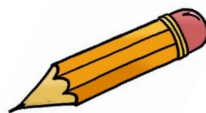
As we restart this social time together, we may try different times to see what works the best for our group. But we'll start with 10:00-11:00 – those that attend Sunday School can join us after the class but before service. Those that don't regularly attend Sunday School, come early to church and let's visit. We'll have options for the wee ones too!

Put it in your mind and on your calendar to come for coffee, conversation, fellowship and breakfast goodies beginning **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall.**

The **Communications Team** wears many hats within our congregation. We help produce and distribute the monthly "Connections" newsletter, post the weekly church service bulletin and monthly newsletter to the website, update the front page of the website each month, compile and publish an annual church directory, assist with the phone tree, make multiple weekly posts to the Facebook page, assist with streaming worship services, post songs used in the worship services to licensing companies each week as required by copyright laws, maintain a current church brochure, and assist as needed with newspaper columns.

Your 2023 Communications Team met January 23<sup>rd</sup>, in the church library and reviewed the 2022 committee activities and 2023 committee goals which gave us an outline to follow and make committee assignments. - With the responsibility and honor of being tasked with the "Connections" newsletter, the committee anticipates meeting monthly in order to properly prepare for the newsletter.

Team Members are: Liz C- Chair, Claudia - 2nd Chair, Weldon, Kathy, and Rev. Michele. We are excited about 2023 and are honored to serve the congregation. We invite any and all that would like to join this committee, please let any of us know.



## THE STAFF

Pastor – Rev Michele Goff  
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Administrative Assistant – Debbi Ricci  
[hendersonfirstpres@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonfirstpres@gmail.com)

Music Director – Joshua Allen

## THE SESSION

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## OUTREACHING.....

The Outreach Team will meet sometime the first week or two of February. Depending on our “action plan for outreach,” we anticipate meeting perhaps quarterly. As with all the Committees beginning this new and wonderful year, we are looking and inviting any and all interested minds, bodies and souls to come work and help plan what this body of Christ will do this year.



This we already know -- we plan to continue our financial contributions to Grace Presbytery, Presbyterian Children’s Home and Services, Rusk/Panola Children’s Advocacy, Henderson Interchurch Ministry, Camp Gilmont and More Light. These are advocacies that we hold dear and they are already included in the current budget. In addition, we will continue to ask our members and friends to help support the annual Yates Park School Supply Drive, the monthly food drive drop off (first Sunday of every month), our Adopt-A-Block neighborhood care – which we try to do every other month –, and our volunteerism with Meals on Wheels every Friday. At this time, we may be the only volunteers that Meals on Wheels have! At our first Team Meeting we will discuss the Presbytery Special Offerings with a recommendation that we continue with three of the four Special Offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, and Peace and Global Witness. In the spirit of reaching out to our community and our neighbors, we also will coordinate sign-up for changing the outdoor sign on a more regular schedule.

We are also hoping to implement one of our talked about Outreach programs called, **“Hustling Kindness.”** Details on this fabulous program will be fine-tuned during our organizational meeting too. All activities that we as a church and as individuals do are generally more successful when we do them together. None of us can achieve alone what we can do as a community of believers and doers in and for our Lord. Whether you can contribute a little or a lot of time, you will be part of a really good thing. We hope to be the voice for those that may not be heard, the hand that helps someone up in troubled times, the smile that sends light into dark moments, a gentle glance that lets someone know they are not alone and a presence that shows the love of God and the compassion of humanity. Thanks for considering service on this team. Current team members are: Lynn, Mary, Kathy, Claudia, Kelly, Jimmy and Rev. Michele.

## Council Actions

Annual Retreat ~ January 14, 2023

- Spent the day worshipping, praying, planning
- Elected Clerk of Session
- Elected Treasurer
- Elected Commissioner for January 21 Presbytery Meeting
- Assigned Shepherd Groups
- Determined Committees and Committee Chairs for 2023



With thanksgiving, hope, and celebration, new Ruling Elders to lead the church in 2023 were installed on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Pictured from left: Steve, Mary, Claudia, Rev. Michele, Lynn, Liz

## Worship/ Christian Education

New things are happening at FPC this year. One new way, we've combined some of the committees. We've combined the **Worship Committee and Christian Education (CE)**. Shall we be the "Educated Worshipers," "Worship Learners" or the Worship/Christian Ed? Help us!!

Team Members are: Mary L- Chair, Liz C- 2nd Chair, Joshua, Jimmy C, Claudia, Kathy, Lynn, Kelly and Rev. Michele. We are excited about 2023 and look forward to serving this congregation. We invite any and all that would like to join this committee, please let any of us know.

Just a reminder: Sunday School starts 9:45 (in the parlor). On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday School class will begin a new book study – ***A Time to Grow: Lenten Lessons from the Garden to the Table*** by Kara Eidson. It is described as "With the care of a pastor and gardener, ... helpfully introduces a variety of ways in which food intersects with Christian faith. Grounded in incarnational spiritual exercises, this book marks out a Lenten journey of personal growth..." Doesn't that sound delicious and perhaps a little food for the soul?

Church services begin at 11:00 in person and on Facebook Live. Lent will begin on **Ash Wednesday**, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will share an Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 6:00 that evening following a lite soup supper in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:00.

### Lenten Poem by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power  
of our faith story take hold of us,  
a time to let the events get up  
and walk around in us,  
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,  
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,  
a time to place our feet in the streets of  
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and  
listen to his Word,  
a time to touch his robe  
and feel the healing surge through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....

Lent is a time to allow  
a fresh new taste of God!  
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,

for thoughts come unbidden.  
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future  
knowing our past.  
Give us courage, O God,  
to hear your Word  
and to read our living into it.  
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven  
and give us the faith  
to take up our lives and walk.

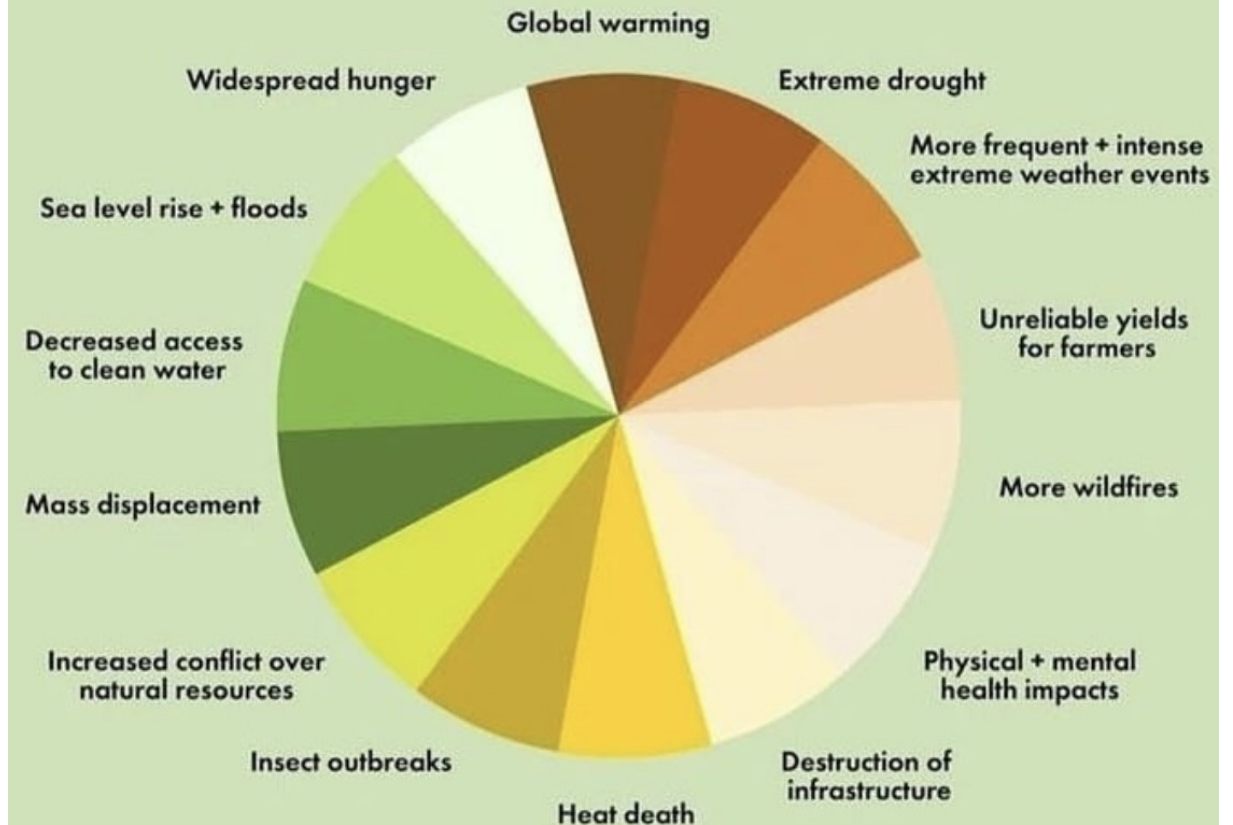
The Christian Education Green Team



## zerowastesustainability

...

## What climate change really means:







## FELLOWSHIP/ MEMBER CARE

For this coming year, we have combined the Fellowship and the Member Care Committees.

This combination will be fun and fruitful for our congregation – internal and external – and we look forward to being the “fellowship and care team.”

In addition to providing “fellowship” opportunities throughout the year, we will also coordinate visits, food, home communion and extra prayer needs for our congregation and our home bound members and friends.

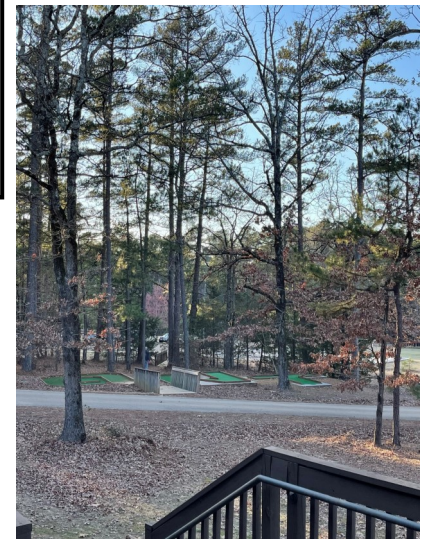
The current membership of Fellowship/Member Care Team is: Claudia, Lynn, Chris, Kathy, John T, Weldon and Rev. Michele. **If you’d like/love to be part of this awesome team, please let one of us know.** In addition to those listed above, we also have others that specifically participate in a small and special circle of Prayer Companions – Mariella, Carolyn, Mary and Steve.

The Fellowship specific part of this Team’s upcoming events includes working with the Worship Team to provide a lite **soup supper** prior to the Ash Wednesday service on **Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>**. **The Soup Supper will begin at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall** with the service following at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary.



Rev. Michele and Elder Kathy represented First Presbyterian Church-Henderson at the annual meeting at Camp Gilmont.

The meeting was led by Rev. Kenny Rigoulot, Director of Camp Gilmont in Gilmer, Texas.





The **Building and Grounds Committee** is excited about the new and upcoming year. We look forward to doing good things in 2023. Please let us know of any concerns or issues that you are aware of so we can address them in the coming year.

The Building and Grounds Committee members are:  
Steve - chair, Claudia, Weldon, John T., Tom, Kathy, Rev. Michele

# February 2023



Sun                      Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat

			1	2 12:00-2:00 Modern Study Women’s Group	3 Meals on Wheels	4
5 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Tea & Thee 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live/ Communion <b>HIM Donation Day</b>	6 Home Communion	7	8	9 9:30 Chamber of Commerce Coffee at Boys & Girls Club	10 Meals on Wheels	11
12 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Tea & Thee 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	13	14 Valentine’s Day 	15	16 2:00 L.E.A.N. 6:00 Session Meeting	17 Meals on Wheels Newsletter Deadline	18
19 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Tea & Thee 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	20 Presidents’ Day 	21	22 10-2 Drive-Thru Ashes 5:00 Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall 6:00 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> Service in Sanctuary	23	24 Meals on Wheels	25
26 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Tea & Thee 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	27	28				

Duty Elder for February:

Claudia

Liturgists for February:

5— Kathy

12— Steve

19— John T.

26— Jimmy



February Birthdays:

2—Michele

14—David

22—Briar