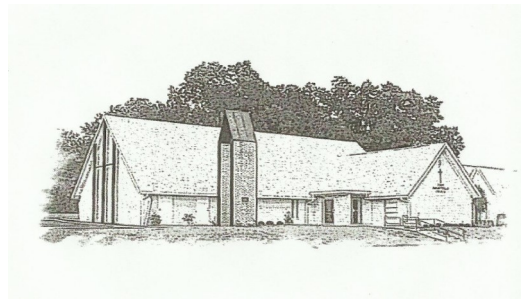




# First Presbyterian Church

Henderson, Texas



903-657-2529

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



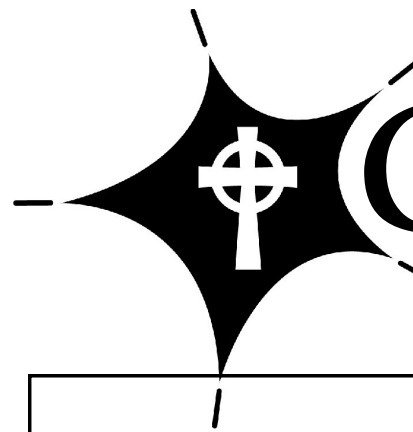
*“Serving God,  
Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences”*



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

Stamp

Mailing Label



# Connections

## First Presbyterian Church

Henderson, Texas

March 2023 Vol. 55:03

*Welcome Lent!*

How is your Lenten practice going? What commitment have you made this year? Are you giving up chocolate, soda, or dessert? Or perhaps you have chosen to explore a spiritual practice, write a poem a day, or give more time and treasure to a charity? Our Sunday School study, **A Time to Grow**, suggests that we plant a seedling and watch it grow on a sunny windowsill as a Lenten exercise.

Did you forget to set something aside? It's okay – you can start or restart your Lenten practice today. Just keep at it. Any simple act of adding or subtracting from our routine can help us tune in to God if pursued with intention.

Lent is the season leading up to the passion and resurrection of Jesus. During this season, we take time to reflect on how Jesus lived among us. Jesus faced temptations, challenges, and fatigue. Jesus ate, drank, and prayed. Jesus had friends and challengers. He knew which rules to follow, love God and love your neighbor, and which traditions to break, like speaking to strange women at the well. There were people who followed Jesus to learn and emulate his teachings and others who sought him for their own selfish reasons. Even his closest disciples did not completely comprehend what it meant when he said that he is the Son of God and would rise from the dead.



We enter the story knowing the outcome. We approach the cross knowing that death is not the end. We know that Christ returns, and nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

This Lent, let's examine how we have incorporated this knowledge into our lives. Let's walk through the remaining weeks of Lent reveling in the simultaneous particularity and grandiosity that God reveals in Jesus Christ. Let us journey with our Redeemer to the cross on Good Friday, and onward to the joy of Easter morning.

*Rev Michele*

## **We were made for WORSHIP!**

Come help us welcome March and Rev. Sharon Templeman to our pulpit on Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Sunday school meets from 9:45-10:30 am, Coffee Fellowship is from 10:00-10:55, and church service begins at 11:00. The Worship Team met on January 29<sup>th</sup> in the organizational gathering. As you might imagine, lots to discuss and lots to plan with the Lenten season upon us. We share some Lent and Holy Week services that are coming up. Please mark your calendars and join us for any or all:

- ◇ Holy Week will start on Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> with Palm Sunday.
- ◇ Holy Monday – Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>;
- ◇ Maundy Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> (combined Maundy Thursday & Good Friday service) at 6:00 pm
- ◇ Good Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>
- ◇ April 9<sup>th</sup> - He Has Risen Easter Sunday Sunrise Services at 7am  
Easter Brunch at 8:00 am  
Easter Service in the Sanctuary at 11:00

We invite you to come and worship with us.

**Worship Team:** Mary, Liz, Jimmy, Joshua, Kathy, Kelly, Lynn & Rev. Michele

### **COMMUNICATIONS**



We, your Communications Team, were pleased to help produce and distribute our first monthly “Connections” newsletter in February and look forward to improving the newsletter with each issue.

Additionally, we are maintaining a more active Facebook page to keep the church and activities visible to the community. The page currently has 265 followers composed of 68% women and 31% men.

Concerning the website, the team updated sections with new photos and current information. Currently the team is working to update the FPC church directory.

Team Members are: Liz - Chair, Claudia - 2nd Chair, Weldon, Kathy, and Rev. Michele.

We are honored to serve the congregation.

### **THE STAFF**

Pastor – Rev Michele Goff  
[ReverendGoff@gmail.com](mailto:ReverendGoff@gmail.com)

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

Music Director – Joshua Allen

### **THE SESSION**

Liz Cross  
903-658-1732  
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Lynn Tieken  
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Kathy Porter - Clerk of Session  
903-646-0162  
[kathyporter301@gmail.com](mailto:kathyporter301@gmail.com)



Sunday, February 5th, Rev. Michele is pictured meeting with the children during the morning service to give each of them a special gift of a votive candle. The candle is to remind them that they are God's Light in the World.

FPC was happy to host the **Henderson Interchurch Ministry (HIM)** Board meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>, as the church has been supportive of this worthwhile organization since it began many years ago. At the meeting Claudia and Kathy were elected as new board members.



Like us on  
**Facebook**

## Council Actions

February 16, 2023

- Worshiped and prayed together
- Shared Joys and Concerns
- Reviewed Church Finances
- Elected Commissioner to March 4 Presbytery Meeting
- Received Commissioner Report of January Called Presbytery Meeting
- Discussed Home Communion Times
- Updated Committee List and Session Members Contact Information
- Discussed events of Ash Wednesday-February 22
- Reviewed Calendar Reminders through the month of April

As we enter the third month of this New Year, let's introduce and welcome our 2023 **Building and Grounds** committee: Steve, John T., Kathy, Tom, Weldon, Claudia, Rev. Michele and our newest member Charlie.

We are continuing to upkeep the outside of the church and maintain our "curb appeal" look, as well as upkeep in the inside for maintenance and comfort for our membership.

Spring will be here before we know it. While we maintain our "To Do List," we are always grateful to hear from our members on items they see that may need our attention. You can play a big role in helping us keep our goals of keeping the building and grounds safe, functional and lovely!

Grateful to serve – Building & Grounds Team





*For now and always, keep love in your heart, peace in your soul and joy in every action toward your fellow people.*

It's March! This month is going to be full for us here at FPC. Exciting time.

Please join us for a Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner in the Fellowship Hall on **Friday, March 17, 2023 at 5:30 pm.**

We'll share a meal and conversation and a fun movie! Rides are available.

Hope to see you there.



Many of you have already noted that we've brought back our Sunday morning Coffee, Fellowship & Thee. It is fellowship time prior to church service where you can share some time with each other over a cup of coffee and a donut (or other treat.) We invite you all to come and join us from 10:00 to 10:45 each Sunday.

Save the date for some upcoming April events too. We will also be having our after Sunrise Service Brunch on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> after the 7:00 am sunrise service. Set your reminder now!

You are all always welcome at the Fellowship table –Claudia, Lynn, Kathy, Mary, John T., Chris, Weldon and Rev. Michele.

### UPDATING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY!

Please take a minute to review your information in the current FPC Church Directory and let us know if you have any changes or additions. For those of you that aren't in the current directory but we'll be adding, please contact Claudia for a form to complete. As we'd like to have the directory ready for publication and distribution in March, please provide your update or information to Claudia or Liz by **March 5th.**



### DID YOU KNOW?



Some of Australia's most popular chocolate bars – including Mars Bars and Snickers – are getting an environmentally friendly makeover in a move that is expected to inspire its competitors to follow suit.

From April 2023, Mars Wrigley, the company behind Mars Bars, Milky Way and Snickers, will roll out paper packaging that can be recycled in curbside recycling bins.

This comes after two years of research in Australia.

“The Ballarat-based R&D team leading this project is pioneering paper-based sustainable packaging solutions for the Mars Wrigley business globally,” the company said.

“The plan [is] for the technology, learnings and insights developed and deployed locally in Australia to be shared and implemented in other Mars Wrigley markets across the globe.”

The company has pledged that all its packaging will be recyclable, reusable or compostable by 2025.

<https://thenewdaily.com.au>

**The CE Green Team**

## OUTREACH TEAM



This wonder-filled team met on January 30th and began laying out our Outreach Plans for 2023! Our Meals on Wheels Team continues to be stellar volunteers for this ministry. See the special segment about this project and our association with MOW in the next edition of Connections. We also continue to care for our neighbors in the neighborhood through our **Adopt-A-Block** which we will do at least quarterly – beginning back on **Monday, March 20th at 5:00 pm**. Our commitment to **HIM** both financial and with our collection of food items continues. While our official collection date is the first Sunday of every month, please feel free to bring your donations anytime during the month – we'll make sure they get delivered.

Our marquee sign out front is going to be messaging on a more regular basis! You may need/want to drive by just to see what we're saying each week. If you have a sign message you'd like to see displayed, please let Claudia know. We encourage each of you to be ambassadors for our church and our ministry. Invite friends and neighbors to come and share church with us or special invitations to special services -- like: **Maundy Thursday** (April 6<sup>th</sup> 6:00 pm Combined Good Friday Service); **Easter** (April 9<sup>th</sup> – Sunrise service 7:00 am, Breakfast 8:00, Regular service 11:00); Save the Date for **Earth Day** (Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>); **National Gun Violence Awareness Day** (June 2<sup>nd</sup> ((and we'll all wear orange))); and June is also **Pride** month. Thank you to all that ordered new FPC T-shirts. We are looking to have them for our first "Hustle Kindness" event which will be **March 8<sup>th</sup>** as we help feed the Rusk County Children's Advocacy monthly team meeting. FPC has been a member of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce for 15 years now. We are increasing our participation in the group activities and including them in our outreach information for special events. Our Outreach Team: Lynn, Mary, Jimmy, Claudia, Kathy, Kelly, John T., Rev. Michele and our newest member, Louise. We'd love to have more hands and hearts on our team.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Sunday School class began the Lenten Study of [A Time To Grow](#) by Kara Eidson in February and will continue up to Easter. Everyone is welcome to join this class taught by several of our ordained elders with lively discussion among all attendees. After Easter, the class will study a selection from one of the books of the Bible using reformed theology materials. The materials we will use reside in our lovely library. We hope to encourage more of you to use and enjoy the materials, quietness and atmosphere of our beloved library.

As a Certified Earth Care Congregation, we are always encouraging everyone to be cognoscente of God's Creation – all of God's Creation. To continue and enhance our annual tradition of honoring and celebrating God's Creation-- our Earth, we invite everyone to Save the Date of Saturday, **April 22<sup>nd</sup>** and join us and others from our neighborhood and community for an **Earth Day Celebration** outside near the Fellowship Hall end of the church. We will share our advocacy and our actions as a church to encourage new participation with recycling and caring for our planet. You will know we are members of our Earth Care Team by our shirts! Please plan to join us.

Lynn & Claudia - Co-Team Leaders

Kathy, Jimmy, Mary, Liz & Rev. Michele

(Please join with us; next meeting, March 13, 11:30 am at the church)

# March 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2 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 Outreach Meeting	8 FPC "Kindness Hustle" RCCA-MDA	9	10 Meals on Wheels	11 
12 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Tea & Thee 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	13 11:30 CE Meeting	14	15	16 2:00 L.E.A.N. 6:00 Session Meeting	17 5:30 <b>Corned Beef &amp; Cabbage Dinner</b>  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  5:00 Adopt-a-Block	21	22	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	29	30	31 Meals on Wheels	

**Duty Elder for March:**

Lynn

**Liturgists for March:**

5— Lynn

12— John H.

19— Claudia

26— Jimmy



**March Birthdays:**

20—John Bruce Hillin

23—Robbie Brooks

27—Debbi Ricci