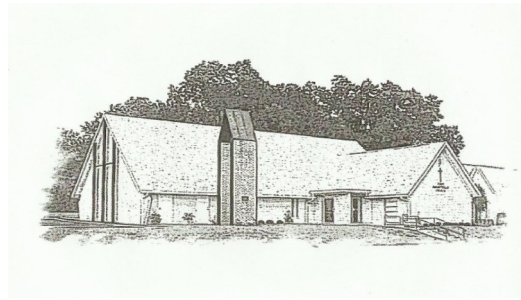




**First
Presbyterian
Church**
Henderson, Texas



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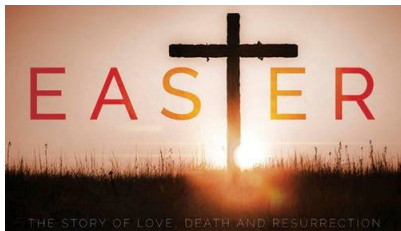
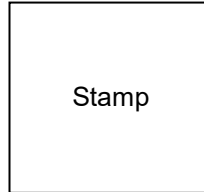
www.fpchendersontx.org



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



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



Connections

First Presbyterian Church
Henderson, Texas

April 2023 Vol. 55:04

Safety Training

I recently attended a full day of ALICE Safety Training. It was sponsored by our presbytery and four trainers from Grace came together to provide an informative event. Our congregation was well-represented among the attendees. John T. helped facilitate and Lynn, Stefen, Jimmy and I attended.

No one wants to imagine bad or even unpleasant things happening at our church, but having a plan can avoid panic and save valuable seconds in an emergency. Safety in church is multifaceted. While our minds may jump to headline grabbing violent events, church safety also includes planning for severe weather, medical emergencies, fire safety, and being prepared for violent critical events. Safety includes having well-supplied first aid kits, knowing exit and escape routes, and planning rally points for gathering after evacuating the building.

We learned two useful acronyms. ALICE stands for Alert/Awareness, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate. ALICE breaks down into two categories: Awareness and Communication, and Response Options. The second acronym we learned is OODA. In any situation, the human brain follows a particular pattern for decision making. This is the OODA loop. OODA stands for Observe, Orient, Decide, Act. For every new bit of information we observe, we must orient our perspective to take in the information, decide what we will do and then take action.

Our church has already implemented important measures. Moving forward, we will review those plans and procedures to keep ourselves informed and up to date. As individuals, we can do things to help each other. Learn the street address of the church. Sure, we all know how to get here on Sunday, but what if you had to tell a first responder where you were calling from? First Presbyterian Church of Henderson at 311 High Street on the Northeast corner of High Street and Fair Park.

It doesn't take much to be prepared, but a little planning today can help us take better care of each other tomorrow.

Rev Michele



Spring is busting out all over! In fact, we welcomed the official first day of Spring last month on the 20th. At the church, we're already seeing our flowers and shrubs return. How appropriate and lovely for beauty and more color in our life to return at the same time as Easter!

For those gardeners out there, you may have already planted onions, potatoes, radishes and other varieties of vegetables.

The **Building & Grounds Team** will be getting the church "spring-ready" too by checking and changing the A/C filters and checking all the vents and ducts at the church. It may be a good time for you all to check your A/C filters too.

Let's enjoy the beauty of Spring together.

The B&G Team

We, your **Communications Team**, have been busy collecting changes and additions for the church directory. Distribution of the directory is now underway.

Additionally, we continue to maintain a more active Facebook page as we post happenings of our active church membership and events. Sections of the church website continue to be updated with new photos and current information, and the phone tree has been updated.

Regarding the "Connections" newsletter, we work earnestly to provide an informative newsletter which includes reports from every committee each month. We are working to incorporate monthly photos of events, and with the finance committee we plan to include basic monthly church budget information known as "Finance At A Glance" in each issue.

Additionally, we post the weekly church service bulletin and monthly newsletter to the website, assist with streaming worship services, post songs used in the worship services to licensing companies each week as required by copyright laws, and assist as needed with newspaper columns.

Team Members are Liz - Chair, Claudia - 2nd Chair, Weldon, Kathy, and Rev. Michele. We remain excited about 2023 and are honored to serve the congregation.



THE STAFF

Pastor – Rev Michele Goff
ReverendGoff@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant – Debbi Ricci
hendersonfirstpres@gmail.com

Music Director – Joshua Allen

THE SESSION

Liz Cross
903-658-1732
eebuckner217@gmail.com

Mary Lowe
903-646-3133
barberlowe1@gmail.com

Steve Lowe
903-658-0323
stevel@lowetractor.com

Claudia Morgan-Gray
903-646-0506
claudiam@weldonrgray.com

Lynn Tieken
903-738-1621
johnlynnt@eastex.net

Kathy Porter - Clerk of Session
903-646-0162
kathyporter301@gmail.com



The **Outreach Team** not only reaches out externally in our community and neighborhood – we also reach out and welcome the faithful members and friends of our congregation. We help people know that our “welcome mat” is out for all.

As part of our Outreach mission, we help people who have fallen on hard times and need our help for one reason or another. This past month we had two special requests -- one for help paying the electric bill and one needing help paying a significantly increased rent payment while struggling with some health issues. Both were very appreciative for our help and send thanks to all of us.

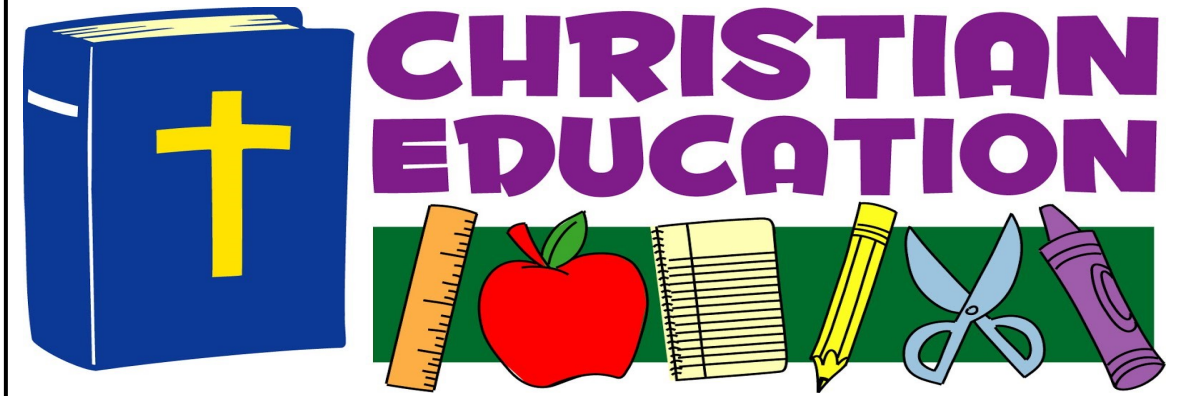
One Great Hour of Sharing special offering is in progress and will end at Easter. This offering helps so many people in so many ways. We encourage those that can to contribute to the offering.

April is **Child Abuse Awareness** month. As we have done in the past, we support the efforts and message of the Rusk/Panola Child Advocacy program and we will be handing out the blue ribbons and ask that you wear them not only in church but also while you are out and about in the community to help keep this important awareness in everyone’s mind. In addition, we will be adding a blue banner to the outside of the church to support in the wrap the town in blue.

Our **Hustling Kindness Team** kicked off this mission project last month by providing breakfast to the Rusk/Panola County Child Advocacy’s MDT breakfast meeting. We were treated to a tour of the facility and an introduction to the staff. We left them with a note that they had been “Hustled” and asked for them to also do a random act of kindness. Stay tune for our next Hustle!

We continue our volunteerism with Meals on Wheels each Friday and we visit our neighbors on a regular basis through our Adopt-A-Block walk. If you’re interested in joining us for any or all of these special outreach programs, please contact Lynn.

With welcoming hearts and hands,
Lynn, John T, Rev. Michele, Jimmy, Mary, Kathy, Claudia, Louise and Kelly



The CE Team met to review books that have been given to the church for the library and to discuss our more limited role of participation in Vacation Bible School going forward.

In other business, as a church, we will celebrate Earth Day on **Earth Day April 22, 2023**. We hope you will join us in front of the church for a brief but beautiful celebration of God’s Creation. We will invite our neighbors to celebrate with us. There is high hope that our new T-Shirts will be in for this event.

After Easter, the Sunday School class will start a Bible book study of Matthew, using N.T. Wright’s guide from our library.

The CE Team also approved a request from Presbyterian churches (PCUSA) for our church to join with Mission Presbytery (Uvalde) to send a resolution to lawmakers urging the 2023 Texas Legislature to pass measures that ensure responsible gun ownership including: universal background checks, red flag laws, smaller magazine requirements, and raising the age for purchase of assault rifles. We believe that a majority of Texans currently support these common sense measures. On a motion from CE, the Session approved our church sending the resolution to members of the Texas Legislature including the Governor and Lt. Governor. We encourage any of you to please feel free to write individual letters to your legislators. Remember, too, to mark June 2nd on your calendar as National Gun Violence Awareness Day—and wear orange!!

Educating in Grace,

Lynn, Claudia, Liz, Kathy, Jimmy and Rev. Michele

We enter the month looking to Holy Week.

We will recognize **Palm Sunday on April 2nd**. Normally we celebrate communion on the first Sunday of every month; however, this month we will not share communion on April 2nd.

We will share communion during our combined **Maundy Thursday/Good Friday service at 5:30 on Thursday, April 6th**. We will leave the service that evening in silence and return in celebration on **Easter Sunday, April 9th**. Sunrise Service will begin at 7:00 am in the outdoor area near the bell tower. Following the Sunrise Service, the Fellowship Committee will host a wonderful **Easter Brunch** in the Fellowship Hall beginning around 8:00 am. The celebration will continue in the Sanctuary during our regular church service at 11:00. **We will share the Lord's Table during the 11:00 service.**

We will welcome **Jerry Carpenter to our pulpit on April 16th**. Please plan to join us to welcome and hear him.

You will be noticing some new participants in our services in the near future. Isla, Moses, Reya and River will be assisting with important parts of our Sunday services.

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



SESSION COUNCIL ACTIONS

March 16, 2023

- ◇ Worshiped and prayed together
- ◇ Shared Joys and Concerns
- ◇ Reviewed Church Finances
- ◇ Elected Moderator for CONC
- ◇ Received Commissioner Report of February Called Presbytery Meeting
- ◇ Elected Coordinator for Personnel
- ◇ Set date to review Operations Manual
- ◇ Discussed events of Holy Week
- ◇ Discussed and acted on membership role review and standards
- ◇ Reviewed Calendar Reminders through the month of May

DID YOU KNOW?

ECO TIP 295
It takes the same
energy to produce:



1 NEW CAN

=



20 RECYCLED CANS

! Aluminum can be recycled indefinitely, without losing quality. Always reduce, reuse, recycle!



Did you know that aluminum is indefinitely recyclable? Plastic and paper are downcycled, which means that they lose quality each time they are recycled. However, aluminum can be recycled over and over again, without losing quality. And the best part? Recycling aluminum consumes a lot less energy than producing new.

For example, it takes the same energy to produce one aluminum can than to produce 20 recycled ones! Recycling aluminum prevents the need to mine for ore to create new aluminum. It requires 4 tons of ore to create 1 ton of aluminum.

So remember, if you have an empty can in your hands, always recycle it!

The CE Green Team

The shelves are getting low at the **Henderson Interchurch Ministry**. If you can help with the needed items, please bring to the **church** or **H.I.M.** at 769 State Hwy 64 W. Your help will be gratefully received.

Things needed:

Peanut Butter
Canned corn
Pasta
Chef Boyardee
Canned peas
Canned fruit
Canned carrots

Spam
Canned mixed vegetables
Pasta sauce
Ramen noodles
Canned beans
Vienna sausage





FPC Ensemble
Stefen, Joshua, Louise, Lynn



Meals On Wheels Volunteers



Grace Presbytery Meeting - McKinney, Texas
Installation of new General Presbyter and new
Stated Clerk March 5th
(From Left) Commissioner Lynn, Committee Member Kathy,
and Director of Ministry Services Joanna

At the Henderson Area Chamber of
Commerce Mid-Morning Coffee Break held
March 9th, at the Rusk County Sheriff's
Department Annex,
Suzanne was presented her
recognition plaque as the
2022 Chamber Ambassador of the Year.



The thing about teamwork is you always have someone on your side.

WOW – we rocked March activities together and will make memorable moments in April too.

Our March 17th St. Patrick's Day was a resounding success. Not only did we enjoy a wonderful meal together that was prepared by many hands, we also had the opportunity to sit and visit and enjoy each other's company. It was grand.

In the spirit of full disclosure, while the first month of the return of Coffee Fellowship was the **Fellowship Team** playing host – going forward, the Duty Elder is the primary host of Coffee Fellowship. It appears that this little jewel was missed as we've had a good turnout and good times together just before service.



Easter is a very important day in the life of the church – it is a celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. In addition to the wonderful church services that are planned, we will also be celebrating with an **Easter Brunch** between the Sunrise Service at 7:00 am and the regular service at 11:00. Please come and join us for some Easter Brunch at 8:00 am on Easter morning. We'll be in the Fellowship Hall and there's always room at our tables.

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

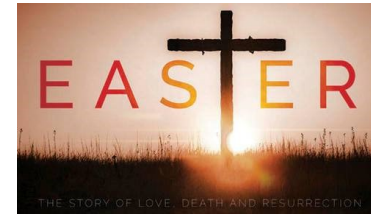
FINANCE AT A GLANCE

	IN	OUT	NET CHANGE
February 2023:	\$9,890	\$12,219	-\$2,329
January 2023:	\$7,453	\$11,018	-\$3,565
Year to Date:	\$17,343	\$23,237	-\$5,894





April 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 Palm Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live HIM Donation Day	3 Monday of Holy Week	4 Tuesday of Holy Week	5 Wednesday of Holy Week	6 Maundy Thursday 5:30 Maundy Thursday & Good Friday Service/ Communion	7 Good Friday	8 Great Vigil of Easter
9 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday 7:00 Sunrise Service 8:00 Easter Brunch 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live /Communion	10 Home Communion	11	12	13	14 Meals on Wheels	15
16 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	17	18	19	20 2:00 L.E.A.N. 6:00 Session Meeting	21 Meals on Wheels Newsletter Deadline	22 10:00 Earth Day Celebration 
23 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live	24	25	26 12:00 HIM Board Meeting	27	28 Meals on Wheels	29
30 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary and FB Live						

Duty Elders for April:

Mary & Steve

Liturgists for April:

2- Jimmy

6- Kelly

9- Kathy

16- John T.

23- Steve

30- Lynn

April Birthdays:

2-Bill

13-Tom

15- Larry

17-Jetti

29-Lavonne

