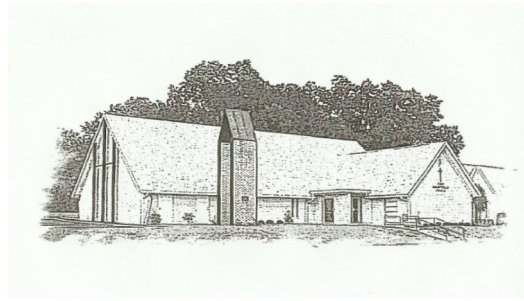




**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**  
Henderson, Texas



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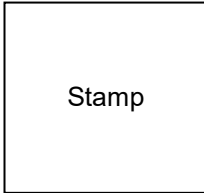
[www.fpchendersontx.org](http://www.fpchendersontx.org)



*“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

June 2023 Vol. 55:06

*All will be well, and more.*

This year marks the 650<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the writings of Julian of Norwich. If this mystic’s name or circumstances are not familiar to you, perhaps her oft repeated prayer is: *“All will be well, and all will be well, and all manner of all things will be well.”* These words are found in hymns and liturgy offering comfort, reassurance, and hope. In icons, Julian is portrayed holding a hazelnut in the palm of her hand – the hazelnut being an image she used to describe God’s love for the world.

But she was more than a fourteenth century anchoress dedicated to praying for the needs of the church and community. In her lifetime, the British city of Norwich was decimated by two plagues, and Julian experienced her visions from God while very sick. She shared these visions in her book, *Showings*, which she wrote in two versions. Her writings offer timeless theological insights, describing how Christ revealed God’s deep love for humanity.

She describes the nature of the Trinity and recognizes that we are trinitarian creatures in our being, increasing, and fulfilling. She insists on the mothering nature of God and explores concepts of sin and substance. She was the first woman to write a book in English. She could have been burned at the stake for writing as a woman, or for writing on spirituality, but her secret was kept safe. As we do today, she used her faith to interpret human suffering.

I’ll close with this insight from her *Showings*:

*“For as the body is clad in the cloth, and the flesh in the skin, and the bones in the flesh, and the heart in the trunk, so are we, soul and body, clad and enclosed in the goodness of God. Yes, and more closely, for all these vanish and waste away; the goodness of God is always complete, and closer to us, beyond any comparison. ...That is to say, there is no created being who can know how much and how sweetly and how tenderly the Creator loves us.”* Julian of Norwich, *Showings*, The Sixth Chapter.

*Rev Michele*

Thanks to Amy Frykholm’s feature, “Julian the theologian” for revealing more of Julian’s story.  
See [TheChristianCentury.org](http://TheChristianCentury.org), May 2023. .



There is that saying that into every life a little rain must fall – don't recall it saying into every life a little hail must fall! It has been and will continue to be a busy upcoming month for the **Building & Grounds Team**. As with many of us, the church experienced noticeable damage to the roof, gutters and windows during the recent hail torrent. The insurance company has reviewed the damage and we are currently getting bids for the needed repairs.

The Building & Grounds Team has recommended and the Session has approved getting the repairs made once we have all the bids in and have reviewed and accepted a proposal. We will keep the congregation advised as we progress through the process. It is likely that we'll need to bring our capital campaign church house back out to help raise some additional funds for the needed repairs. Thanking you in advance for your prayerful thoughts at this time.

Special thanks to Weldon and Assane for the work they did on the waylay drain in the back of the church to avoid water seepage in the hall across from the pastor's office.

Just a reminder that the Rusk County Farmer's Market will be opening June 3, 2023 at 7:00 am.

Building a Better World Together,

Steve, John, Weldon, Tom, Kathy & Claudia (and honorary member Assane)

### 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  
[eebuckner217@gmail.com](mailto:eebuckner217@gmail.com)

Claudia Morgan-Gray  
 903-646-0506  
[claudiam@weldongrgray.com](mailto:claudiam@weldongrgray.com)

Mary Lowe  
 903-646-3133  
[barberlowe1@gmail.com](mailto:barberlowe1@gmail.com)

Lynn Tieken  
 903-738-1621  
[johnlynnt@eastex.net](mailto:johnlynnt@eastex.net)

Steve Lowe  
 903-658-0323  
[stevel@lowetractor.com](mailto:stevel@lowetractor.com)

Kathy Porter - Clerk of Session  
 903-646-0162  
[kathyporter301@gmail.com](mailto:kathyporter301@gmail.com)

### FINANCE AT A GLANCE



#### April 2023:

IN	OUT	NET CHANGE
\$9,635	\$13,103	-\$3,468

#### March 2023:

IN	OUT	NET CHANGE
\$8,633	\$13,102	-\$4,469

#### Year to Date:

IN	OUT	NET CHANGE
\$35,611	\$49,442	-\$13,831

## DID YOU KNOW?



Did You know that “climate change” and “global warming” are often used interchangeably but have distinct meanings?

Global warming is the long-term heating of Earth’s surface observed since the preindustrial period due to human activities which increases heat-trapping greenhouse gas levels in Earth’s atmosphere. This term is not interchangeable with the term “climate change.”

Climate change is a long-term change in the average weather patterns that have come to define Earth’s local, regional and global climates. These changes have a broad range of observed effect that are synonymous with the term. Changes observed in Earth’s climate since the mid-20th century are driven by human activities which increases heat-trapping gas levels in Earth’s atmosphere, raising Earth’s average surface temperature. Natural processes, which have been overwhelmed by human activities, can also contribute to climate change, including such ocean patterns like El Niño and La Niña and external forces such as volcanic activity, changes in the Sun’s energy output, and variations in Earth’s orbit.

Scientists use observations from the ground, air, and space, along with computer models, to monitor and study past, present, and future climate change. Climate data records provide evidence of climate change key indicators, such as global land and ocean temperature increases; rising sea levels; ice loss at Earth’s poles and in mountain glaciers; frequency and severity changes in extreme weather such as hurricanes, heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, floods, and precipitation.

To find out more: <https://climate.nasa.gov>

**Christian Education Green Team**

Sunday School continues each Sunday at 9:45am and our study is the book of Matthew, using N. T. Wright’s Matthew for Everyone from our library. Each Sunday we take up 2 chapters of Matthew and glean the message for us as to the many sides of Jesus.

Last month, we celebrated and honored Earth Day with a tent in the front of the church. On June 2nd, we plan to engage the community in a similar way for Gun Violence/Safety Awareness Day that Friday. We will gather wearing orange (the color of safety) and have some information and hand-out Tips to protect our families, our community, and ourselves. We hope to engage and connect with other responsible gun owners in our area in asking for responsible gun safety legislation. We want to share with the community our stand on this issue and to hopefully open dialogue with others.

If you are looking for a great place to sit and read a book or to find a book, we invite you to visit our Library. If it’s been a while since you were in the church Library or if you’ve never been in the church Library, come see what you’re missing. You can check out a book or look at all that is available. Trust us, you’ll be pleasantly surprised. Look for notice on some book giveaways soon.

The Ruyter family will be returning to their northern home soon. We have so enjoyed having them here with us and getting to share time with them. We wish them traveling mercies on their journey and look forward to seeing them again when they return. We all signed a book, Dear Mama God, for them to take with them.

**Christian Education Team**

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





## COUNCIL ACTIONS

May 18, 2023

- ◇ Prayed and worshiped together
- ◇ Shared joys and concerns
- ◇ Heard report on Grace Presbytery Fellowship event at Gilmont
- ◇ Determined elders for Home Communion on June 4
- ◇ Approved pastor's working "away" days of Oct. 30-Nov. 2
- ◇ Reviewed calendar reminders for May and June

We, your **Communications Team**, have continued to keep the church website updated and the Facebook page active with current postings. We collected newsletter submissions, conducted multiple proofreads of newsletter drafts, and signed off on the newsletter draft for publication and distribution. We also distributed the new membership directory by way of mail and personal delivery.

Additionally, it is our committee's responsibility to 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.

With many responsibilities, our committee members keep busy and meet multiple times per month by telephone, text, face-to-face, and email doing what they do best – "communicating".

We are honored to serve the congregation.

Your Communications Team – Liz, Claudia, Weldon, Kathy, and Rev. Michele



within our community. We have responded to numerous requests for a little extra help in recent months. We have set up guidelines to help address these additional requests that we are receiving. We support the Henderson Interchurch Ministries (HIM) through our budgeted support. We have worked with them closely on these additional requests. What a gift they are to this community as well! Currently FPC is represented on the HIM Board by Kathy and Claudia.

We are devoted Meals on Wheels volunteers and with participation by Mary, Kelly, Kathy, Claudia, and Lynn will continue to deliver each Friday. In addition, our backup volunteers are John and Larry.

With Outreached Hands and Hearts, Lynn, Mary, Kelly, Jimmy, Louise, John T, Kathy, Claudia and Rev. Michele

Hello June and Summer! June will be another active month for the FPC family.

Jimmy Chapman will preach the first Sunday in June – June 4<sup>th</sup>. We will also share the communion table that day in service and will do home communion that afternoon. Remember, too, to bring items for the HIM basket.

June is Pride Month and we will observe Pride Sunday on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

June 18<sup>th</sup> we will celebrate Father's Day.

*"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" 1 John 3:1*

**Worship Team:** Mary, Liz, Jimmy, Kathy, Lynn, Kelly, Joshua and Rev. Michelle

**We  
were made  
for  
WORSHIP!**

The Outreach Team is taking names and making things happen in June!



We ended the month of May with a successful Pentecost Special Offering. Thanks to everyone that supported and participated in building up the body of Christ and helped provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in faith in Christ.

We invite you to join us and the Christian Education Social Justice Team to show our community our interest in making the world safer by recognizing and honoring Gun Violence/ Safety Awareness Day on Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 am. This day we ask that you wear orange to outwardly acknowledge your

commitment to gun safety. We plan to display a large orange ribbon on the bell tower, display our orange crosses and wear orange as we set up a tent in front of the church and help provide information to interested parties on the devastating impacts that gun violence is having in our state. We will also hold a prayer service. Please plan to join us.

The Hustle Kindness Team “Hustled” the Rusk County Sheriff’s Office on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. At 7:30 am, we took homemade muffins for the numerous shifts of the Sheriff’s office. It was a good “hustle.”



June is Pride Month and we plan to participate again this year in the Pride Festival in Longview at Maude Cobb Convention Center on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. As More Light Presbyterians, we hope to have a large group there! Please check with Lynn or Rev. Michele for information and join us!

On Monday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, we will visit our neighbors in our traditional Adopt-A-Block walk. We generally begin around 4:30 and it is a time for us to walk the neighborhood around the church and visit with our neighbors and just check in on them. It is really a lovely outreach and if you’d like to join us .... Come on.

As we all know, times have become harder and needs have increased for many people



**“When the weather is hot, keep a cool mind. When the weather is cold, keep a warm heart”**  
~Ajahn Brahm

As we gaze into the month of June, lots to look forward to with glee and some with a little uncertainty! We’ll honor Fathers on **Father’s Day**; We will celebrate the many avenues of diversity in recognizing **Pride** month and **Juneteenth**; We’ll celebrate with caution the first day of summer on June 21<sup>st</sup>; and, we’ll acknowledge to the community our support of gun safety and reducing gun violence in our world. We are planning a short ceremony on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at our Bell Tower.

As you all know, our attempt at a Fellowship planning meeting got interrupted with that pesky hail storm that came through. We’ve not had the opportunity to reconvene yet. We will, however, be meeting during the month of June to plan another fellowship gathering. In the meantime, know that you are thought of, loved and always invited to our table and any of our gatherings or outings. Also, if you have a suggestion for a group get together that you’d like us to consider, please let us know.

Our May home communion visits after service was a welcomed change for everyone. We will continue to share our communion table for those friends and congregation members that are not currently joining us for in church service. Communion and home communion for June will be on **Sunday, June 4th**. As always, remember to keep our friends and members in your prayers.

There is always room at our table for everyone.

Claudia, Lynn, John, Kathy, Chris, Suzanne, Dee Lee, Weldon, Mary & Rev. Michele

# June 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 10:00 Gun Safety Awareness Day Meals on Wheels 	3 Opening of Farmers' Market at Fair Park
4 <b>TRINITY Sunday</b> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/ FB /Communion Home Communion afternoon	5	6	7	8 9:30 Chamber Mid-Morning Coffee	9 Meals on Wheels	10  Longview PRIDE at Maude Cobb Convention Center
11 <b>PRIDE Sunday</b> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB 3:00 Walk with a Doc	12	13	14 <b>Flag Day</b> 	15 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition Meeting 6:00 Session Meeting	16 Meals on Wheels Newsletter Deadline	17 10:00 Juneteenth Celebration at Yates Park
18 <b>Fathers Day</b> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB	19  <b>JUNETEENTH</b> 4:30 Adopt-a-Block	20	21 <b>Summer Begins</b> 	22	23 Meals on Wheels	24
25 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB	26	27	28	29	30 Meals on Wheels	

**Duty Elder for June:**  
Liz

**Liturgists for June:**  
4– Lynn  
11– Jimmy  
18– Steve  
25—John T.

**June Birthdays:**  
11– Tim  
30—Mariella