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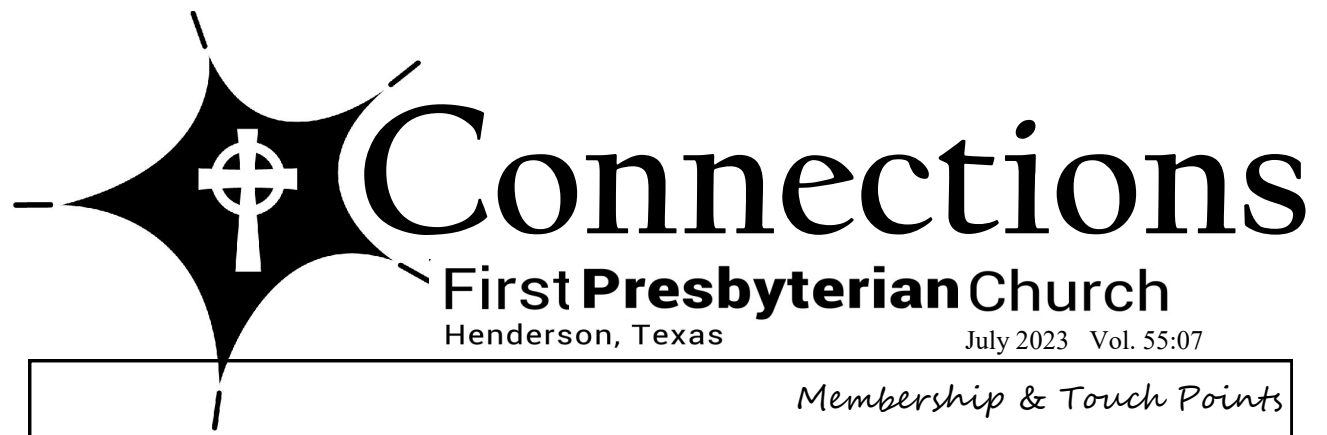
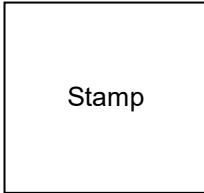
www.fpchendersontx.org



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



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



Membership & Touch Points

Membership. It's the one number that haunts the church that never bothered Jesus. Somehow, our modern values have taught us that more members is equal to success. It is helpful to remember that church is not a business and God is not a commodity. Faith is not for sale, and Jesus didn't keep count of the number of souls saved. In fact, God is more concerned with finding the lost one.

So, what is the purpose of the church if it isn't to grow in numbers? Our Presbyterian Book of Order describes the church as the body of Christ.

F-1.0301 The Church is the body of Christ. Christ gives to the Church all the gifts necessary to be his body. The Church strives to demonstrate these gifts in its life as a community in the world (1 Cor 12:27-28):

- The Church is to be a community of faith, entrusting itself to God alone, even at the risk of losing its life.*
- The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation. This new creation is a new beginning for human life and for all things. The Church lives in the present on the strength of that promised new creation.*
- The Church is to be a community of love, where sin is forgiven, reconciliation is accomplished, and the dividing walls of hostility are torn down.*
- The Church is to be a community of witness, pointing beyond itself through word and work to the good news of God's transforming grace in Christ Jesus its Lord.*

The church has received the gifts of faith, hope, love, and witness for the purpose of shaping the community. We can assess our impact on the community by counting "touch points". A touch point is anytime we have contact with another person, regardless of their membership status. In the past four weeks alone, we provided food for the HIM pantry, attended PRIDE in Longview, delivered Meals on Wheels, and shared prayer and small gifts with our neighbors through Adopt a Block. We have shared our resources, our joy, our care and compassion, and our living testimony to the unconditional love of God. Our membership may be small, but we serve our calling to be the body of Christ in a big way. May God continue to work in us and through us.

Rev Michele

The shelves are critically low at the **Henderson Interchurch Ministry**. If you can help with the needed items, please bring to the church or to H.I.M. at 769 State Hwy 64 W. in Henderson. Hours of operation are Monday—Thursday 8 am—12 pm.

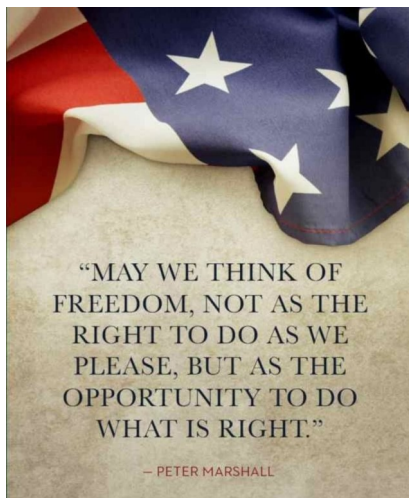
Your help will be gratefully received.

Things needed:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| canned veggies | jelly |
| peanut butter | canned fruit |
| hearty soups | spaghetti o's |
| mac & cheese | ramen noodles |
| rice | canned beans |
| noodles - assorted | mashed potatoes |
| spaghetti sauce | |



With many responsibilities, we, your Communications Team, keep busy and meet multiple times per month by telephone, text, face-to-face, and e-mail doing what we do best – “communicating”.



Our responsibilities include keeping the church website updated and the Facebook page active with current postings. We also collected newsletter submissions, proofread newsletter drafts, and signed off on the newsletter for publication and distribution.

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

We are honored to serve the congregation.

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

THE STAFF

Pastor – Rev Michele Goff
ReverendGoff@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant – Debbi Ricci
hendersonfirstpres@gmail.com

Music Director – Joshua Allen

THE SESSION

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 903-658-0323
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Kathy Porter - Clerk of Session
 903-646-0162
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FINANCE AT A GLANCE



May 2023:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$84,846*	\$12,351	\$72,495
April 2023:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$9,635	\$13,103	-\$3,468
Year to Date:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$120,457	\$61,793	\$58,664

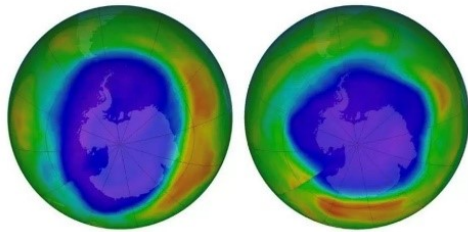
*Includes \$75,117.80 insurance receipt for roof damage. A large portion of this amount will be used to pay for the roof replacement.

DID YOU KNOW?



GOOD NEWS

The ozone hole is healing



Sept. 2000

Sept. 2018

The ozone hole was at its highest in 1994
and is slowly recovering since then



The Ozone layer is slowly, but surely recovering.

According to a report from the United Nations, the infamous hole in the ozone layer could be totally healed by the 2060's - and it could be as soon as 2030.

In 1987, an agreement known as the Montreal Protocol called for the elimination of chemicals found in consumer products like refrigerators and aerosol cans that were harmful to the ozone layer, also known as ozone-depleting substances (ODS).

It is only the beginning, and it's important to continue the efforts! This situation shows how politics and governments can come together to repair the man-made damage to Earth!

We all need to continue to do our part by recycling and making sustainable choices, but it is also time for us to help our legislators to make good choices for the Earth.

Christian Education Green Team

Last month (June) the **Christian Education Team** and it's subset the Social Justice Team members presented a presence to the Henderson community and our neighborhood of our support of Gun Violence/Safety Awareness.



Under a pop-up tent in front of our bell tower wrapped in orange wearing orange t-shirts with numerous small orange crosses in our church yard, we made a verbal and visual statement that far too many gun violence events have taken place in the United States and Texas and too many lives have been lost or forever altered – including way too many children.

Wear Orange Program was adopted years ago and the color orange is used to indicate support for safety. (*Orange is the color used by hunters to keep themselves safe.*) This annual and National event is held each year on the first Friday in June. We are still hopeful that the local newspaper will print an article we submitted to them about our event. If you weren't able to participate with us this year, please save the date for next year. Let's make Gun Violence/Safety Awareness a priority in our community and help curb it in our country.

Sunday School continues the study of N. T. Wright's Matthew for Everyone. We are discussing the words of Jesus in Matthew and what those words of Jesus mean for us in today's world. You are welcome anytime and every time to join us.

CE Team, Lynn, Claudia, Kathy, Jimmy and Rev. Michele

with supporters Louise, Weldon & Assane

COUNCIL ACTIONS

June 15, 2023

- ◇ Worshiped and prayed together
- ◇ Shared joys and concerns
- ◇ Reviewed revised Duty Elder List
- ◇ Discussed safety issues for the church
- ◇ Reviewed church finances
- ◇ Reviewed status of replacing roof
- ◇ Decided not to formally meet in July



July is here and we find ourselves halfway through 2023. The weather has been so unpredictable and likely to be for a time to come. The Texas summer heat is setting in on us as summer officially arrived on June 21st.

The **Building & Grounds Team** met, surveyed and assessed the recent storm damages. We will be having the roof of the church replaced in the near future along with some updates and repairs to windows that were impacted by the hail storm. So just a heads up, if you drive past the church in the near future, you may see people on top of the roof and around the building.

Remember to be as energy mindful as you can and as the temperatures continue to rise, remember to keep yourself, your pets and your plants hydrated... and check on neighbors too. An additional suggestion to help ease the sticker shock of the summer air conditioning trauma – remember to check and replace your air conditioning filters a little more often.

Stay safe and as cool as you can and Happy Fourth of July!



It is a new month full of new hope and new opportunity. Let it be so!

Hello July! The month of celebration and sweat. Did you know that Americans spend 1 billion (with a B) on fireworks during the month of July? That seems excessive and imagine it could probably be put to better celebratory use.

While no specific fellowship gatherings are currently planned, our team members continue to look for opportunities for us to gather. We'll look for group outings soon.

Home communion visits continue on the first Sunday of each month after church service. Extending our table is a welcomed time for in person visit with our friends and members. Communion and home communion for July will be on Sunday, July 2nd. As always, remember to keep our friends and members in your prayers.

There is always room at our table and in our hearts for everyone.
Claudia, Lynn, John, Kathy, Chris, Suzanne, Dee Lee, Weldon, Mary & Rev. Michele

The Worship Team invites everyone to come and participate in the weekly Sunday School lessons which begin on Sundays at 9:45 am in the parlor. Everyone is welcome.

Worship service begins at 11:00 in our sanctuary -- Come and enjoy beautiful music, fellowship, and an inspiring message. You, your friends, neighbors and family -- let them know All are WELCOME!

May our celebration of July 4th help us remember what independence and freedoms really mean.

Your Worship Team,

Mary (chair), Liz (second chair), Jimmy, Joshua, Kathy, Lynn and Rev. Michele

2 Corinthians 3:17 ESV

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

While we are not a full partner this year in the Vacation Bible School, we are still involved with First Christian Church and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in presenting VBS this year. We are providing some helping hands and some helping dollars.

Vacation Bible School will be held at the First Christian Church, 306 North Main Street, Henderson on Saturday, July 15 from 10:00 – 3:00 pm. If you're interested in participating or helping, please contact Lynn.

“Generosity is love in action”

~Harold Becker

Thank you to all that participated in the Special Pentecost offering. Through your generosity, we collected \$317 to be used in support of youth projects. With this special offering, our church retains \$126.80 of that to be used in our community for supporting youth programs. We will use our portion to support events like: Vacation Church School, Yates Park School Supplies, and/or for activity and liturgical supplies for children who attend our services.



Last month was Pride month. Our Outreach Team joined in celebration of our LGBTQ+ community at the Pride Festival in Longview at Maude Cobb Convention Center on Saturday, June 10th. We greeted and handed out cards and buttons and love; our message: “You Are Loved”. In our new FPC t-shirts, we had a delightful day!

In church, we celebrated Pride Sunday on June 11th and donned the pulpit in color and wrapped the Bell Tower with colorful

ribbons to add to the celebration. We enjoyed a special message and special music.

We visited our neighbors for our Adopt-A-Block walk on Monday, June 19th. It was hot but meaningful. Each neighbor was left with a butterfly treasure from us and Gun Violence Awareness and Safety placards.

Meals on Wheels continues each Friday, lately with assistance from Assane. If you would consider helping in this ministry, please contact Lynn.

July's emphasis is our traditional Yates Park School Supply Drive under the lead of Louise Cochran. We will gather donations of school supplies and/or cash to purchase school supplies for the children and teachers of Rusk County. A little goes a long way.

May there be Peace, Love and Color in your world,

Outreach Team – Lynn, Mary, Claudia, Kathy, John, Louise, Jimmy, Kelly & Rev. Michele

July 2023



Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/ FB /Communion Home Communion	3	4 Independence Day Office Closed 	5	6	7 Meals on Wheels	8
9 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB 3:00 Walk with a Doc	10	11	12	13 9:30 Chamber Mid-Morning Coffee	14 Meals on Wheels	15 10:00 VBS First Christian Church
16 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB	17	18	19	20 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition Meeting Session Summer Break	21 Meals on Wheels Newsletter Deadline	22
23 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB	24	25	26	27	28 Meals on Wheels	29
30 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB	31					

Duty Elder for July:

Mary & Steve

Liturgists for July:

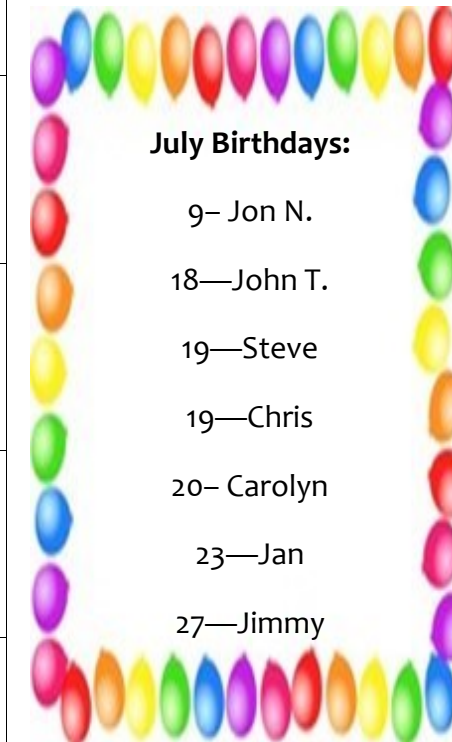
2—Kathy

9— John H.

16— Claudia

23— Kelly

30— Stefan



July Birthdays:

9— Jon N.

18—John T.

19—Steve

19—Chris

20— Carolyn

23—Jan

27—Jimmy