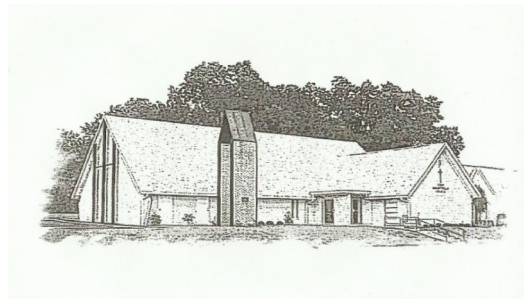




**First
Presbyterian
Church**
Henderson, Texas



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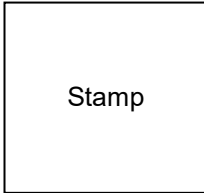
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*“Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences”*



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



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Connections

First Presbyterian Church
Henderson, Texas

October 2023 Vol. 55:10

Worship at a Presbytery Meeting

On Saturday, Sept 23, I attended worship with 300+ people at the Grace Presbytery meeting at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church. It was nice to be seated on the congregational side of the pulpit for a change. Worship included elements one might expect like prayer, song, preaching, and communion. But there were surprising elements as well.

The celebrants were pulled from Beyond the Walls ministers. These individuals found their calling to serve God in ways that take them outside the traditional boundaries of church, like hospital chaplaincy, Spiritual Directors, seminary professors, and family counseling. Even though the service was large, there were intentional moments that helped the service be intimate, lively, and welcoming. Some of the quiet intimate elements included the use of one-on-one prayer and personal blessing stations.

Our presbytery is in a time of transition and the first few months have challenged the new leadership. By utilizing the Beyond the Walls pastors to preside at this worship service, the service was both earthy and sacred. We acknowledged that we are in an uncomfortable stage of change. And we embraced that God is with us right where we are, where the rubber meets the road.

Music was sung in English, Duala (from Cameroon), Urdu (the national language of Pakistan), and led primarily by the choir from the First Presbyterian Church of Garland. Songs included a variety of drums, piccolo, organ, electric guitar, piano, and acapella voices. For the offering, the congregation was “invited to dance your offering down to the front with cheerful heart.” More than one of the hymns is familiar to our congregation, “We Are Marching in the Light of God.”

Being able to sing together, dance joyfully together, pray loudly together, and step discreetly to the side and pray intimately together created an environment that honored each one of us as significant parts of our interconnected whole. For this presbyterian pastor, it felt like reconnecting to some of the best parts of what it means to be the church.

Rev Michele

*“Let them praise his name with dancing,
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.” Psalm 149:3*

Council Actions

September 21, 2023

- ◇ Prayed and shared joys and concerns
- ◇ Received Committee Budget requests for 2024
- ◇ Received the report from the Church Officer Nominating Committee on suggested elders for the Class of 2025 as well as the CONC for 2024
- ◇ Determined the time of Stewardship Season to be October 10-22.
- ◇ Set the date of November 12 for the Stewardship luncheon
- ◇ Reviewed and discussed the Session's Shepherd lists
- ◇ Did End of Year Sign Ups for Duty Elder, Bank Deposit, & Home Communion
- ◇ Reviewed End of Year Session Responsibilities
- ◇ Discussed recent benevolence to the church



Follow us on
facebook

Weekly the **Communication Committee** posts the church service bulletin to the website, assists with streaming worship services, posts songs used in the worship to licensing companies each week as required by copyright laws, and assists as needed with newspaper columns. Also, we have continued to keep the church website updated and the Facebook page active with current postings.

Monthly we collect newsletter submissions, conduct multiple proofreads of the newsletter draft, and sign off on the newsletter for publication and distribution. Additionally, we are exploring additional avenues to enhance communication about upcoming church activities and events.

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.



THE STAFF

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ReverendGoff@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant – Debbi Ricci
hendersonfirstpres@gmail.com

Music Director – Joshua Allen

THE SESSION

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FINANCE AT A GLANCE



August 2023:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$13,663	\$13,845	-\$182
July 2023:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$11,455	\$12,652	-\$1,197
Year to Date:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$163,204*	101,471	\$61,733

* Includes \$75,117.80 & \$10,796.30 insurance receipts for roof damage.



Can't you just smell pumpkin-spice something? Fall is one of the favorite seasons--the cool air, the smells and tastes, the gatherings around fire pits or fire places. The bustle of pre-holiday activities. For some, the tug of high school Friday night lights and the Sunday/Monday football mania.

While all the plans are still being worked and no details are finalized, the Fellowship Committee is hoping to host a "Soup & Salad" gathering toward the end of October – and it may be after worship October 22nd (So please pencil in and Save the Date). We will get back to you with the details as soon as we can.

While we will celebrate communion on Sunday, October 1st (World Communion) we will be sharing Home Communion on Monday October 2nd. Extending our table is a welcomed time for in person visit with our friends and members who are unable to attend in person.

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

"Autumn serenades the breeze into dancing a cha cha cha; the mountains echo in the background. October sky never looked more charming nor the sublime leaves of the trees so graceful."

Avijeet Das



October

Be present.

Let the day flow with grace.

Expect joy. Be positive.

Serve with compassion.

Speak only kindness.

Impart only love.

Never forget you're not alone.

Give thanks for everything.

See goodness in others. mary davis

EVERY DAY SPIRIT
.NET



Margaret

October 12

The **Worship Committee** wishes you a Happy October! Hope you will enjoy the cooler temperatures of October.

October 1st is World Communion Day. World Communion Sunday is a celebration observed by several denominations and takes place on the first Sunday of every October. The focus of World Communion Sunday is to promote Christian unity and ecumenical cooperation and focuses on an observance of the Eucharist. We will welcome Brendan McLean to our pulpit for World Communion service. Home communion will be served on Monday, October 2nd.

As always, Sunday School begins at 9:45 and worship services at 11:00 – you can join us in the sanctuary or we stream live on Facebook.

The Worship Committee

When Autumn Leaves Begin to Fall
By Kathleen Higham

When autumn leaves begin to fall
I think of Him most of all
Colors bursting with the sun
Rays shine down on everyone.

There is a leafy autumn smell
I walk on softness where they fell
Floating gently to the ground
Touching down without a sound.

Animal are scurrying to and fro
Instinctively the creatures know
The leaves scattered everywhere
Beautifies a place once bare.

Rising up to the bluest sky
A tree looks down, creaks a sigh
Nestled in her hollowed place
Life will wait through winter's race.

When the tress at last have shed

Sturdy branches though not dead
Beneath the earth roots hold tight
Tall and stately through the night.

When autumn leaves begin to fall
The Father orchestrates it all
Blooms in waiting seem to say
He is coming back someday.

Again dressed in a formal gown
Branches filled and hanging down
See the miracle of God once more
Birds leap from her branch to soar.

Here I stand in wonder of this
A soft wind blows to me a kiss
My spirit tells my mind to hush
Peace abounds in Christ for us.

The seasons change, come and go
But this is what I truly know
When autumn leaves begin to fall
I think of Him most of all.



Yes, we have another new roof! While the wilds and winds of Mother Nature have taken a toll on the brick and mortar building of our church, our “internal” church remains strong and sturdy. The roof did take a bit longer than anticipated due to opportunities the roofer faced with areas of production and shipping delays.

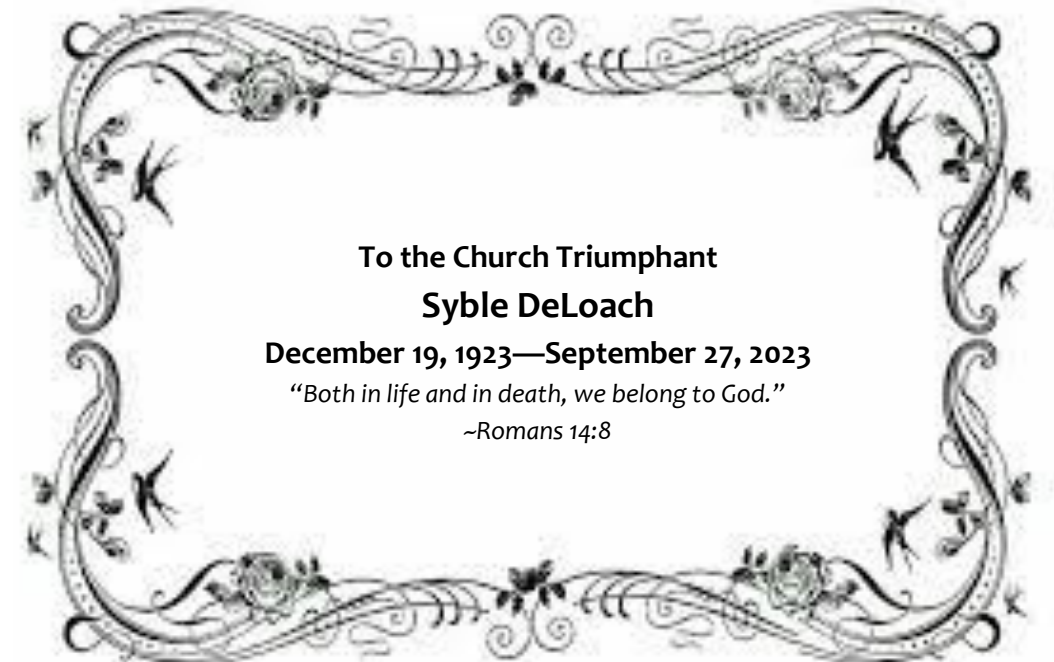
Fall is definitely in the air – the 80 - 90 degree air! But before we know it, we’ll be smelling the sweet scent of fires in the fireplaces and heating systems being cranked up.

The **Building & Grounds** tip for the day: Make sure to keep your furniture and other items away from blocking the fresh air intake areas where your filters reside. Giving the air flow room to flow will make your system work more efficiently and save money on your bills.

Wishing you a happy and safe Halloween.

Building & Grounds Team:

Steve, John T., Tom, Weldon, Charlie, Michael, Kathy, Rev. Michele & Claudia



With Outreached Arms

Our **Hustle Kindness Team** “Hustled” the Boys and Girls Club on August 30th. The Team dished up ice cream and kindness with all the fun garnishes. Boys & Girls Club Executive Director, Peggy McAlister, and her staff graciously welcomed us. There is no doubt that they were happy to see us and that they very well may “hustle kindness” themselves to others.



Lynn, Weldon, Kelly & Michele serve ice cream

The **Peace and Global Witness Offering**

completed on World Communion Sunday, October 1st. The generosity of our congregation continues through this special offering.

You will notice in the narthex that we are beginning our **Thanksgiving Basket** drive for HIM. Because the need is so great this year, we are beginning our drive a little early. HIM will begin distributing the Thanksgiving Holiday boxes on November 1st. As we have done before, we have put a sign-up sheet out for you to make monetary gifts *In Memory* or *In Honor* of someone to help provide funds for food purchases. FPC is a founding member of the HIM Ministry and Claudia and Kathy currently serve on the Board. Our congregation continues to be part of the hands of grace for the people in need in our community.

Please come and join us and the rest of the community at the **National Night Out** event on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 from 5:30 – 8:30pm. This come and go event will take place at Fair Park – across the street from the church. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement – it helps bring back a true sense of community. It provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances. FPC will have a table at the event and we invite each of you to come to the event and to come visit our table.

Adopt-A-Block is planned for Monday, November 27th at 4:30. This special time with our neighbors is time well-spent. For anyone who wants to join us, we’d love to have you come. You don’t have to be on Outreach to be part of this outreach.

The Outreach Team would love for you to join with us at any time and share any ideas you might have to areas that interest you.

World Communion Day



Christian Education, October, 2023

Have you been in the church Library lately? If not, you really need to go in and check out the changes. While the change isn’t monumental, hopefully it is just enough to make the invitation to spend time inside a little more appealing, relaxing and comfortable. There is a lot of books and knowledge to avail yourself- it’s also a nice place for a little “me time” too. If you need help finding something, or just want to talk about what is available, Lynn, Kathy or Rev. Michele can be your guides. While you’re in the Library, pop your head into the parlor too. If you have a small group meeting or perhaps even a bridge group, the small round table in the parlor is perfect for that. Check them out and let us know.

Our present study in Sunday School is **Making Room: Soul-Deep Satisfaction Through Simple Living**, by Kyle Kramer. This book encourages readers to move toward a way of life that is spiritually nurturing, socially just, and environmentally sustainable.

Before we know it, our Advent study will begin. In fact, the Advent Study will begin on Sunday, December 3rd. While you are welcome to join the Sunday studies anytime, we hope that you might consider joining us for the Advent study as we prepare for the Christmas Season.

October 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/ FB/Communion	2 Home Communion 4-H Week Oct. 1-7	3 5:30-8:30 National Night Out @ Fair Park	4	5	6 Meals on Wheels	7
8 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB Worship Committee Mtg.	9	10	11	12 5:30-8:00 United Way Taste of Rusk County @ Expo Center	13 Meals on Wheels	14
15 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB	16	17	18	19 2:00 L.E.A.N. 5:00 Candidate Forum @ Civic Center 6:00 Session Meeting	20 Meals on Wheels Newsletter Deadline	21
22 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB Fellowship Soup & Salad	23 Early Voting Begins	24	25	26	27 Meals on Wheels	28
29 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB	30	31 Halloween 				

Duty Elder for October:

Liz

Liturgists for October:

10/01—Claudia

10/08—Jimmy

10/15—Steve

10/22—Suzanne

10/29—John T.



October Birthdays:

10/04—Shirley

10/09—Fonda

10/12—Margaret

10/27—Judy