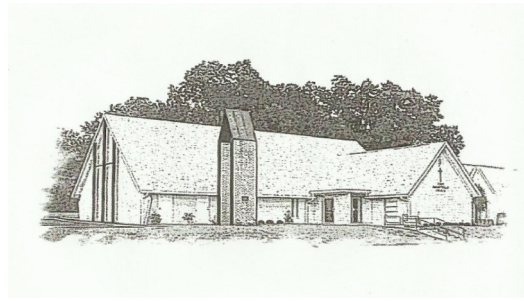




**First
Presbyterian
Church**
Henderson, Texas



903-657-2529

www.fpchendersontx.org



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



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

Stamp

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Connections

First Presbyterian Church
Henderson, Texas

November 2023 Vol. 55:11

A Reader's Bible

Many weeks when I sit down with the lectionary scriptures, I begin by comparing a few translations or interpretations in different Bibles. It might be easy to imagine why one might prefer the formality of the Elizabethan King James Version or the modern word choices of the Common English Bible. Words matter and word choices shape our understanding. One version I find useful is *The Message* by Eugene Peterson. This version is a reader's Bible, rather than a study Bible, meaning the language is enhanced to match the rhythm of how we speak. Rev Peterson's intention was to create a version of the bible that engaged modern readers who might otherwise turn away from reading the Bible altogether. Consider these well-known verses on vices and fruits of the spirit. Jesus said,

It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.

This isn't the first time I have warned you, you know. If you use your freedom this way, you will not inherit God's kingdom.

But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely.

Gal. 5:19-23, *The Message*

Reading a familiar passage like this one in adapted language can be a useful tool for opening our ears and our hearts to rediscovering God's word. Consider enriching your Bible reading habits with a fresh perspective and see what new insight the Spirit will lead you to discover.

Happy reading! *Rev Michele*

Council Actions

October 19, 2023

- ◇ Prayed and shared joys and concerns together
- ◇ Noted that pledges are due October 22
- ◇ Noted that Stewardship lunch will be November 12
- ◇ Noted that Congregational Meeting will be November 19 to elect elders
- ◇ Decided that remainder of C. Mitchell estate donation be distributed between broadcast efforts and safety efforts
- ◇ Approved the contract for Music and Worship Arts Facilitator as an Independent Contractor
- ◇ Approved one Service only on Sunday, December 24th—Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m.
- ◇ Acknowledged Pastor Appreciation Month

Remember to Vote!



The Texas Constitution, written in 1876, has been amended over 500 times. On the ballot now, 14 proposed amendments. The Texas Constitution cannot be amended by citizen-led ballot initiatives, referendums or petitions. In Texas, Constitutional Amendments must pass both houses of the Texas Legislature by at least a 2/3 majority and then they must be approved by Texas voters.

Because amendments can be and are notoriously confusing, we encourage you to do a little research on your own before casting your ballot. If you'd like to talk with someone who can give you the pros and cons of each amendment, feel free to contact Weldon or Claudia. In addition to the 14 Constitutional Amendments, you are also given the opportunity to vote on candidates vying for a seat on the Henderson Independent School District Board. And, for those that live outside the city but in the county (unincorporated areas) you can also vote on an emergency services proposition – Proposition A.

Early voting began on October 23 and ends on November 3. Election Day is November 7th!

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Music and Worship Arts Facilitator—Joshua Allen

FINANCE AT A GLANCE



September 2023:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$8,469	\$86,743**	-\$78,274
August 2023:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$13,663	\$13,845	-\$182
Year to Date:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$171,673*	\$188,214	-\$16,541

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

**Includes payment of \$72,500 for new roof.

The Outreach Team send you Thanksgiving Blessings.

Our congregation has such heart and we help in our community, our state and our world. Thank you to those that contributed to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. We gathered \$455 for this Special Offering. Of that, \$113.75 will stay with us for use in our community or at our church.



The need for people in our community who need a little extra help continues to grow. We participate in numerous ways to provide help where we can. We work with other community-minded organizations to try to direct the need to where it can be best addressed.

Our church reaches out to the community and neighbors in various ways. In October, we participated in the National Night Out – a national event brought to the local communities to partner citizens, neighbors and law enforcement and first responders. What a fabulous event for the whole community. We continue our participation and passion for HIM. In addition, to our regular collection of non-perishables every month, leading up to November we concentrated on helping those that need help from HIM have a Thanksgiving meal. And once again, this church with our heart full of grace and pockets full of generosity, will be helping uncounted number of families in our area enjoy a family Thanksgiving. Thank you. You are among the things we are so very grateful for now and always.

We continue our community outreach with our traditional Adopt-A-Block walk. Several FPC Outreach Team members walk our neighborhood to check in with our neighbors. In addition to seeing our smiling faces, our neighbors know that we are checking in with them and praying for them if asked. We usually take a small item that is useful or sometimes something that is just fun. Our next Adopt A Block is scheduled for Monday, November 27th, at 4:30pm. If you want to join us, the more the merrier.

The Meals on Wheels Volunteers—Lynn, Kelly, Mary, Kathy & Claudia-- deliver meals to our route on Fridays.

You are within our Reach and Always in our Prayers,

Lynn, Mary, Jimmy, Louise, Claudia, Kathy, John, Weldon & Kelly

Friends, Family & Fellowship

The Fellowship Committee, with the assistance of some in-house talent, hosted a delicious and fun Soup and Salad lunch after church service on October 22. We had a good turn-out as everyone had the option of three different soups: Larry's Now Famous Chicken Noodle; Santa Fe Soup or Butternut Squash Soup. Suzanne brought her fan-favorite Pistachio Fluff. It was a fun and delicious time together.

Our next official Fellowship event will be a celebration for MaryAnn's 100th birthday. Her birthday is on Saturday, November 18th. Her relation-family and her church-family invite you to come help celebrate this important day during a come and go reception that afternoon. We hope you will stop by and wish MaryAnn a very happy 100th Birthday and enjoy some birthday cake and fellowship. The reception will be at the First Presbyterian Church, 311 S. High Street in the Fellowship Hall (the end of the church closest to the DPS office) from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Before we know it, it will be time to be talking and planning for the Christmas Luncheon – so stay tuned for details about that in the coming month.

Peace Be With You

The Member Care Team continues to keep each and every one of you in our thoughts and prayers. We shared celebratory thoughts, prayers and flowers with Margaret as she celebrated her 100th birthday. We shared tender time with Kelly and Tom after the passing of Tom's dad. But every day, we keep everyone in our prayers.

The delivery of Home Communion continues monthly for those in our friends and flock that cannot attend service.

With grace in our hearts and hope in our hands,
FPC Fellowship & Member Care Team



Mary Ann

November 18



The first Sunday this month (November) will be a wonderfully full day. In addition to being communion Sunday, we will also be recognizing All Saints Day (which is actually on Wednesday, November 1st) during this special service. **The Worship Team** set up this beautiful tribute area for the congregation and friends to place a picture or special memento of someone special who has left their earthly presence at any time but remains in our hearts. In addition, we will recognize and honor those in our flock and hearts that entered the Church Triumphant this year. Please make plans to join us for this service.

Not to rush through this season of Thanksgiving, but December and the Christmas Season is also already almost here. With that in mind, we invite you to please mark on your calendar to join us for the Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24, 2023 at 5:30 pm. We will not have a morning service that day but will share Christmas Eve together that evening during our special service.

We invite you all to join us for Sunday School in the parlor every Sunday beginning at 9:45 am. Worship service follows at 11:00 in the sanctuary or on Facebook live.

Happy Thanksgiving to All,
Mary, Liz, Kathy, Lynn, Jimmy, Joshua & Rev. Michele



Faith and Grief at Gilmont: Finding Hope and Comfort in Your Grief Journey

December 1-3, 2023

Faith & Grief Ministries provides resources for on-going comfort to persons who have experienced the death of a loved one. Learn more about this and all our grief support programs at www.faithandgrief.org.



“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” Matthew 5:4 (NRSV)

Faith & Grief offers both workshops and retreats, each of which provide time and space to process personal grief in community with others. Some choose to attend both, finding comfort and helpful insights in each setting. Faith & Grief retreats, like the one at Gilmont, are more of an immersion experience and provide a safe venue to wrestle with the dynamics of grief and to experience significant measures of hope and encouragement. Whether you are standing in raw grief, navigating the chaos of grief’s confusion or recovering from a recent ambush of grief, this retreat is designed for you. Plan to experience comfort through scripture, spiritual practices and interaction within a compassionate community of people who “get it”—get the heartache, get the lingering sorrow, get the continual yearning to be with your loved one and get the longing for peace.

Learn more at gilmont.org

Your **Communications Team** met October 15th, after Sunday service and discussed minor changes to improve the website, Facebook page, and the newsletter.

We explored ways of utilizing the phone tree to keep the congregation informed of upcoming church events, reviewed the 2023 committee activities, and established 2024 committee goals.

In addition to the October 15th, face to face meeting, the Communications Committee meets informally multiple times per month doing what we do best – “communicating” - by telephone, text, face-to-face, and e-mail.

We remain resolute, excited, devoted, and honored to serve the congregation.

Team Members are:

Liz -Chair, Claudia - 2nd Chair, Weldon, Kathy, and Rev. Michele



November 2023



Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3 Meals on Wheels	4
5 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB/ Communion Home Communion	6	7 6:00 Theology on Tap— Oil Horse Draft House, Longview	8	9	10 Meals on Wheels	11
12 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB Stewardship Luncheon 3:00 Walk with a Doc	13 6:30 Worship Zoom Meeting	14	15	16 L.E.A.N. Coalition 6:00 Session Meeting	17 Meals on Wheels Newsletter Deadline	18 1:00—3:00 Mary Ann 100th Birthday— Fellowship Hall
19 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB Congregational Meeting	20	21	22	23 Office Closed 	24 Office Closed Meals on Wheels	25
26 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship Sanctuary/FB	27 Adopt-a-Block	28	29	30		

Duty Elders for November:

5th & 12th—Lynn
19th & 26th—Mary & Steve

Liturgists for November:

5—Kathy
12—Carol
19—Lynn
26—Kelly



November Birthdays:

4—Suzanne
14—Kelly
18—Mary Ann
23—Patricia
25—Bob R.
30—Betty