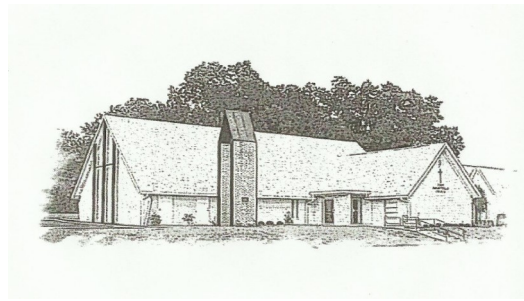




**First  
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Church**  
Henderson, Texas



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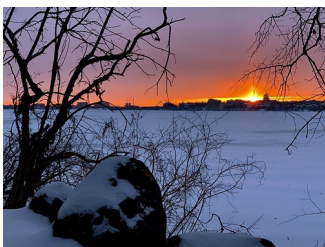
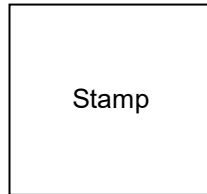
[www.fpchendersontx.org](http://www.fpchendersontx.org)



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



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



# Connections

**First Presbyterian Church**  
Henderson, Texas

January 2024 Vol. 56:01

*Following into the Unfamiliar*

It is time to wish one another Happy New Year and blessings for the year to come. The star word tradition invites us to ponder questions of faith. The star is a centering tool to explore wonder. The magi expected to find the Christ child when they followed the star, but what will we find on our journeys? We wonder about the year ahead, what God will have us do, what God will have us notice, and what God would have us learn along the way.

As I move on to my next call, other questions are buzzing around the church. What will happen next and what path should the church follow?

In the book, *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going*, Susan Beaumont has four questions that churches can ask during times of transition.

- Who are we?
- Who do we serve?
- What do we stand for?
- What are we called to do next?

These questions guide the church through a process that explores identity, context, community, and assesses current values. Like star words, the church can follow the questions through a season of discernment to discover her purpose anew. The answers to the first three questions may be used to form a Venn diagram. The overlapping area of the three circles provides the answer to the fourth question: what is the church called to do next? This is the purpose of God's church in this time and place.

Accepting a new call is a bittersweet time. Please know that I take many fond memories with me as I go. I will always cherish the time I have spent as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Henderson.

With hope and sincerity,

*Rev Michele*



We bid farewell to Rev. Michele and Larry this month. Her last time in our pulpit was January 7<sup>th</sup>. We wish them both blessings on their new adventure. We will be in transition for a little while; however, the Session working with the Worship Committee and Joshua will ensure that our services will continue to be inspiring and joyful.

On January 14<sup>th</sup>, David Reeder will return to our pulpit and Sharon Templeman will be with us on January 21<sup>st</sup>. Our own Jimmy Chapman will preach for us on January 28<sup>th</sup>. How is that for a way to start the New Year? We invite you to join us in the sanctuary every Sunday at 11:00 am or join via Facebook Live.

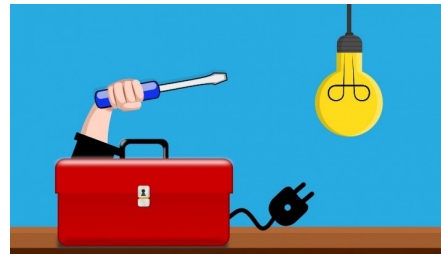
To a wonderful and shared 2024, **The Worship Team**



Hello 2024..... We've been waiting for you! **The Building & Grounds Team** is looking forward to serving you and the church in the New Year.

We did a lot of fixing, fluffing and maintaining this last year. And how hopeful are all of us that we are fixed, fluffed and maintained for a while!

As always, if you see something say something if you notice something in the church that needs more special attention. Looking forward to serving you in 2024.



### THE STAFF

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Music and Worship Arts Facilitator—Joshua Allen

### FINANCE AT A GLANCE



<b>November 2023:</b>		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$8,169	\$11,720	-\$3,551
<b>October 2023:</b>		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$9,519	\$18,323	-\$8,804
<b>Year to Date:</b>		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$181,192*	\$206,537**	-\$25,345

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

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

REACHING OUT TO WISH YOU A HAPPY NEW YEAR!

May the New Year fill our world and hearts with health, happiness, love, purpose, friendship, joy, peace, hope, grace, understanding and Christ.

**The Outreach Team** will be reaching out to the congregation, the neighborhood and the community to continue to share our grace and God's love in 2024.

Lynn, Claudia, Jimmy, Kathy, Kelly, Louise, John, and Weldon



**Christian Education** Welcomes 2024

Hope your Christmas was lovely, and your 2024 is bright!

We are entering the New Year with a little bit of a new and uncertain plan. But rest assured, the Christian Education Team remains engaged and alert to new and engaging things for our church. We will take lessons and knowledge from the past and chart the new path forward – together. You are special to all of us and we look forward to sharing a new and wonderful year together.



CE Team: Lynn, Jimmy, Kathy, Claudia, Liz and Mary



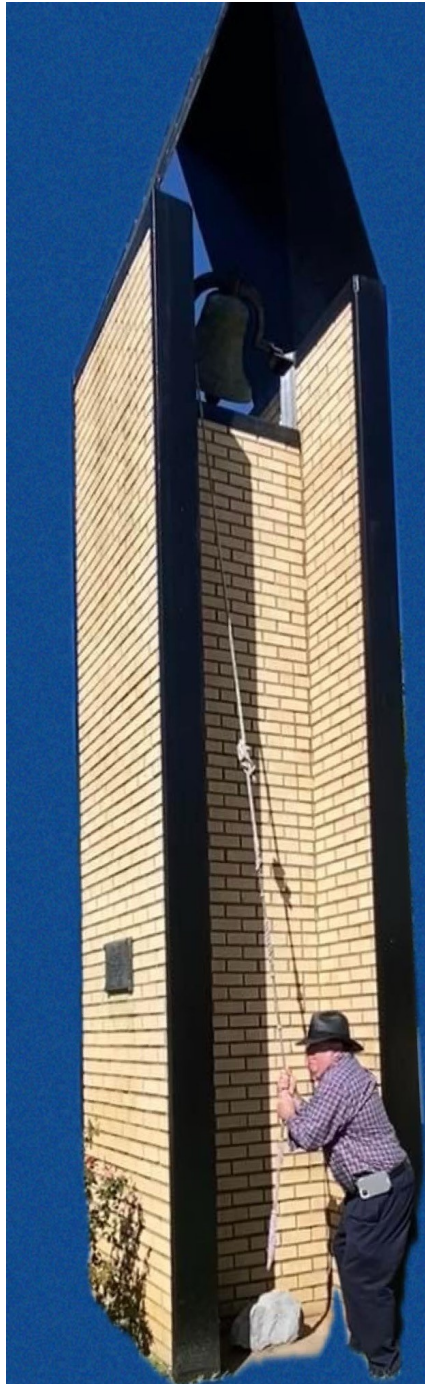
Members of the 2024 Session were installed Sunday, January 7th, and charged by outgoing Pastor Michele to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

(From L: Mary, Jimmy, Claudia, Michele, Kathy, Steve, Lynn, Liz)

Sunday, January 7th, was a bittersweet day filled with a service of dissolution for our pastor, good food, and best wishes for the pastor, a token of love given with the following blessing:

“O hear us as this day we say grace; this day we say grateful; this day we say blessing; this day we release you in God’s keeping, and hold you in gladness and love.”





*"Ring out the old,  
ring in the new,  
Ring, happy bells,  
across the snow:  
The year is going, let  
him go;  
Ring out the false,  
ring in the true."*

*Happy New Year  
from the  
Communications  
Team*



**To the Church Triumphant  
Patricia Park Laney**

May 13, 1940 - Dec. 20, 2023  
"Both in life and in death, we belong to God."  
~Romans 14:8





To the Church Triumphant  
**Mary Ann Chapman**  
November 18, 1923—January 3, 2024  
“Both in life and in death, we belong to God.”  
~Romans 14:8



Looking forward to magic and color and fellowship  
with each of you during the coming  
New Year.  
May 2024 surprise us, challenge us, comfort us and bring us joy together.

**The Fellowship and Member Care Team**

***“Allow the road ahead to speak louder  
than the one behind you”***

# January 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	<b>1</b> New Year's Day Office Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Epiphany of the Lord 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship/Communion <b>Home Communion</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship with David Reeder	<b>15</b> <b>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</b> Office Closed	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 2:30 L.E.A.N Coalition Meeting 6:00 Session Meeting	<b>19</b> Meals on Wheels Newsletter Deadline	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship with Sharon Templeman	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Henderson Area Chamber of Commerce Banquet	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship with Jimmy Chapman	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 11:00-2:00 HIM Board will meet in Fellowship Hall			

**Duty Elders for January:**  
Mary and Steve

**Liturgists for January:**  
7—Suzanne  
14—Claudia  
21—Lynn  
28—Kelly



**January Birthdays:**

- 10—Dee Lee
- 13— Kay
- 19—Kathy
- 28—Katie