



First  
Presbyterian  
Church

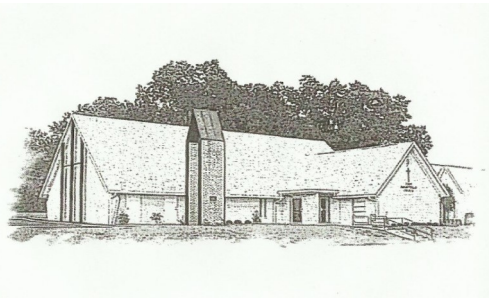
Henderson, Texas



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

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

Mailing Label



903-657-2529

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



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# Connections

First Presbyterian Church  
Henderson, Texas February 2024 Vol. 56:02

ByLent 2024

Revised Common Lectionary Cycle Year B

Worship Arts Theme: Remember You Are...

### Theme Interpretation:

Lent is a time to remember who we are and who God is calling us to be. During worship this Lenten season, our songs and prayers will help reflect on our community life, what we release and let go of, and how we are rising into new ways of being. To help us pray, we will sing music from the Taize community, a Christian fraternity in France known for its inclusive and ecumenical spirit. Lent is a time to remember, to explore, and to prepare for new life. Remember, you are...



### Worship Elements to Sing and Pray the Journey:

\***Taize** songs used as service music: Kyrie, Gloria, Prayer for Illumination, Postlude

\***Community Prayer Refrain: "Fresh As the Morning"** by Shirley Erena Murray This song will be a call to prayer and a congregational response for the prayers of the people each week. On Easter Sunday, the prayer response becomes the Sending Hymn as we sing the entire song together.

\***Crafted Prayers of the People** each week that reflect our journey together as a community (Worship Planning Team, others)

### Crafted Prayers of the People

\***Our Lenten Prayer Practice: "Remember You Are...a prayerful people."**

(Lenten Prayer Station in Narthex beginning Ash Wednesday) What is a prayer you currently have for our community of faith? Write it down and leave it in the basket for the worship team to include during the prayers of the people each Sunday in Lent.

\***Weekly Community Prayers of the People Focus:** The planning team (+others) will put together the prayers of the people around the central theme of the Gospel reading for each week.

2/14/24 Ash Wednesday: Remember You Are Dust... and Hopeful  
 2/18/24 Lent 1: You Are Beloved and Empowered  
 2/25/24 Lent 2: You Are Called and Challenged  
 3/3/24 Lent 3: You Are Cleansed and Changed  
 3/10/24 Lent 4: You Are Welcomed and Inviting  
 3/17/24 Lent 5: You Are Dying and Living

**Carrying the Theme into Holy Week and Easter**

3/24/24 Palm Sunday 11AM (Final Community Prayers of the People)  
 3/28/24 Holy Week Service, Maundy Thursday 5:30 PM  
 (Curated Holy Thursday and Good Friday combined Service, no communion or sermon)  
 3/31/24 Easter Sunday

**Council Actions**

January 25, 2024

- ◇ Welcomed Rev. Will Wilson as Moderator
- ◇ Prayed, shared joys and concerns together
- ◇ Approved Statistical Report
- ◇ Determined Committees and Committee Chairs
- ◇ Determined Shepherd Groups
- ◇ Determined Home Communion Elders for February
- ◇ Noted that the Ash Wednesday Service would be on February 14 at 5:30

**PRIMARY ELECTION**

Tuesday, March 5, 2024

Last Day to Register for Primary February 5, 2024

EARLY VOTING February 20<sup>th</sup> – March 1<sup>st</sup>

**THE STAFF**

Administrative Assistant – Debbi Ricci  
[hendersonfirstpres@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonfirstpres@gmail.com)

**THE SESSION**

Liz Cross  
 903-658-1732  
[eebuckner217@gmail.com](mailto:eebuckner217@gmail.com)

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

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

Jimmy Chapman  
 903-649-0341  
[jimmychapman46@hotmail.com](mailto:jimmychapman46@hotmail.com)

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

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

Music and Worship Arts Facilitator—Joshua Allen

**FINANCE AT A GLANCE**



<b>December 2023:</b>		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$11,994	\$17,018	-\$5,024
<b>November 2023:</b>		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$8,169	\$11,720	-\$3,551
<b>Year to Date:</b>		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$201,354*	235,221**	-\$33,867

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

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

Our Sunday Study group are continuing the study of Barbara Brown Taylor’s wonderful book, **Learning to Walk in the Dark**. This Study class will continue through February 11<sup>th</sup>. This study journey takes us on a spiritual guide through nighttime, teaching us how to find God—or let God find us—even when it is dark, and giving us a way to let darkness teach us what we most need to know. The Study begins every Sunday morning at 9:45 AM in the church parlor. Anyone can join the class at any time.

The season of Lent is upon us. Ash Wednesday is February 14. We will begin a Lenten study on February 18 and continue it throughout the season of Lent. Our Lent study book will be **“A Way Other Than Our Own”** by Walter Brueggemann. See Jimmy or Steve to obtain a copy of the book.

**Christian Ed Team**



According to the Farmer’s Almanac, February may be the coldest month of the year!! Yippee.

Thankfully, all is good on the building structure front right now at the Church. Our inside and our outside held up just fine to the cold (some days, really cold) temperatures and the torrential rains we had. While we endure a little more cool weather, we will also be looking forward to the dawn of Spring next month.

We’ll look forward to “blooming” with you in the months to come.

**Building and Grounds Team**

**SO MANY  
BOOKS,  
SO LITTLE  
TIME**



Just an ever-so-gentle reminder of the glorious treasure we have in our FPC-Library.

It is so much more than a room full of books – it is a room full of knowledge, history, adventure, past moments and future miracles.

If you like having someone read to you -- we have the audio book of the Bible. In addition, each book that the Sunday School class reads are included in our Library.

So, spend some time with yourself and a book and experience the Library!

## **NEW COMMITTEE LEADERS**

Building & Grounds	Steve, Chair	John, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chair
Christian Education	Jimmy, Chair	Steve, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chair
Communications	Liz, Chair	Claudia, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chair
Fellowship/Member Care	Mary, Chair	Claudia, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chair
Stewardship/Finance	Tom, Chair	Steve, Liaison
Outreach	Mary, Chair	Liz, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chair
Personnel	Claudia, Chair	Lynn, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chair
Worship	Claudia, Chair	Jimmy, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chair
Clerk of Session	Kathy	Jimmy, Vice Clerk

We invite you to join one of these Committees –  
There are many ways to share your time and talents with us.  
Thank you.





Greetings, Grace and Peace to you all.

As we enter the season of Lent, our dedicated Worship Committee has put together a worship schedule for February that is welcoming, meaningful and captures the spiritual essence of the season. In addition to our regular Sunday services at 11:00 am, we will also gather for an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. Jimmy Chapman will lead this important service.

We are fortunate to have the following spiritual leaders lead our services in February:

**Sunday - February 4, 2024** - Rev. Jerry Carpenter from Tyler. Rev. Carpenter has been with us before and we're looking forward to hearing him again. We will share communion this Sunday and Home Communion will also be shared.

**Sunday - February 11, 2024** – Rev. Jerry Carpenter will join us again.

**Wednesday–February 14, 2024**-Jimmy Chapman will lead Ash Wednesday Service at 5:30 pm.

**Sunday – February 18, 2024** – Rev. David Reeder

**Sunday – February 25, 2024** – Rev. Kenny Rigoulot

We invite you to join us each Sunday as we share the word and grace of God.

Peace be with you,

**Worship Committee**

A study by the University of Newcastle in Australia has found that on average, people ingest 5 grams of plastic every week, or 2000 microplastic particles. This is equivalent to eating a credit card every week.

Microplastic particles generally come from plastic gradually breaking down into small pieces in nature. They make their way into our rivers and ocean, and can be eaten by fish. However, microplastics have also been found in many everyday food and drinks, such as water, beer, shellfish or salt.

Surprisingly, where we find the most microplastic is in drinking water. Every person consumes around 1769 microplastic particles every week just by drinking water. It is even more when drinking bottled water!

What can we do about it? The only way to reduce the amount of microplastics in the environment is to reduce the amount of plastic we use:

- Use a biodegradable bamboo toothbrush
- Say no to plastic straws
- Use soap bars for hand and body wash
- Carry a reusable bottle with you at all times
- Bring your reusable bag when shopping
- Bring your own cup when buying coffee

**The C. E. Green Team**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
People ingest 5 grams  
of plastic per week



In average, it's 2,000  
microplastic particles  
every week!

It is the equivalent of eating  
a credit card every week!





### With Outreached Hands – We Reach Out

As with all the FPC Committees, we are in the transition phase right now. Mary will be moving from 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair to Team Leader of Outreach and supported by 2<sup>nd</sup> Chair Liz as we move into 2024.

We will continue to be helping hands in this church and this community. We are always looking for and welcoming to friends and members to join us in the work of this committee. We take turns in teams of two to deliver Meals on Wheels every Friday; we touch in with many of our neighbors during our Adopt A Block walks around the neighborhood; we began our “Hustle Kindness” hustles that will continue in this year; we facilitate the church participation in the special offerings; we are the liaison with delivering the food we collect for HIM and our quarterly financial support; we determine levels of support and distribution for other causes we support including but not limited to: Rusk County Children’s Advocacy, HIM, Camp Gilmont, Presbyterian Children’s Home, Grace Presbytery and our support of the four special offerings through PCUSA.

We try ever so hard to fill the neighborhood, community and hearts that we encounter with the grace of God, with an introduction to happiness, an observation of purpose, a hand of friendship and an extension of love, peace and understanding.

The **Outreach Team** is reaching out to each of you to join us in this Outreach ministry. There’s always room for more helping hands. We’ll be scheduling our Adopt A Block and Hustle Kindness outings soon and will let you know in time to participate. Until then, peace be with you.

Mary, Liz, Claudia, Kathy, Lynn, Louise, John, Kelly, Jimmy



# Fellowship

Hello Friends and Neighbors. With the new year, we celebrate renewed or new leadership in our committees. Mary will be taking over the leadership of Fellowship/Member Care with the assistance of Claudia and other members – Lynn, Kathy, Chris, Suzanne, Weldon, and John.

As we work to get ourselves organized, we’ll be communicating group fellowship opportunities in the near future. Stay Tuned. And always know, that each of you are with us always in mind, body and spirit even when we’re not together in person.

Let’s surprise and celebrate each other and ourselves together in 2024.

### The Fellowship and Member Care Team



Memorial Gifts have been received

in Memory of:

Pat Laney

and

Mary Ann Chapman

# February 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

				1	2 Meals on Wheels	3
4 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship/ Communion with Jerry Carpenter <b>Home Communion</b>	5	6	7	8	9 Meals on Wheels	10
11 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship with Jerry Carpenter	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 5:30 <b>Ash Wednesday Service</b>	15 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition Meeting 6:00 Session Meeting	16 Meals on Wheels Newsletter Deadline	17
18 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship with David Reeder	19	20	21	22	23 Meals on Wheels	24
25 9:45 Sunday School 10:00 Coffee Fellowship 11:00 Worship with Kenny Rigoulot	26	27	28	29		

Duty Elder for February:

Claudia

Liturgists for February:

4-John T.

11-Steve

14-Carol

18-John H.

25-Jimmy



February Birthdays:

2-Michele

12-Bill

14-David

22-Briar

