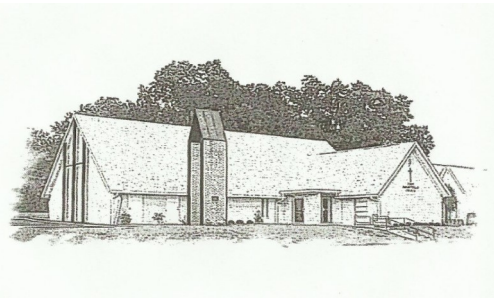




**First
Presbyterian
Church**
Henderson, Texas



903-657-2529

www.fpchendersontx.org



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



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

Stamp

Mailing Label



Connections

First Presbyterian Church
Henderson, Texas

April 2024 Vol. 56:04



If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or being hated don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;
If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim,
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster
And treat those two impostors just the same:
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools;
If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss:
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'
If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,
If all men count with you, but none too much:
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it.

Rudyard Kipling *Modified*

As we have done for many years, our congregation, lead by the CE Green Team, will be celebrating Earth Day on April 22. In the spirit of celebrating the Earth, we will continue the tradition of a planting ceremony during our Earth Day service. Please plan to join us on **Earth Day, April 22nd at 4:00 pm.**



Our Adult Sunday Discussion class will begin a new study on **Sunday, April 7 at 9:45 am.** We will be reading and studying “*The Making of the Bible: From the First Fragments to Sacred Scripture.*” If you have ever wanted to know more about how the Bible came to be, or the differences in different versions of the Bible, or if you are curious about biblical history, this is a discussion/study for you! We meet in the Parlor and all are welcome.

We were given the opportunity to participate in adopting an Overture from our Presbytery calling for Action so that children may live free from Gun Violence. This Overture will be presented to the 226th General Assembly for consideration and hopeful adoption. The CE Team approved the Overture and took it before Session for approval. It was approved during the April Session meeting and will be sent to Presbytery for inclusion in their communications with other PCUSA congregations. Along this line, please save the date of **Friday, June 7** – which is National Gun Violence Awareness Day. We will have an activity or action on this date.

We continue to provide our devotional books: *These Days* and *The Upper Room*. They are available in the narthex.

CE Team,
Jimmy, Steve, Kathy, Lynn, Liz & Claudia



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FINANCE AT A GLANCE



| | | | |
|-----------------------|----------|----------|--|
| February 2024: | | | |
| IN | OUT | BALANCE | |
| \$5,205 | \$12,391 | -\$7,186 | |
| January 2024: | | | |
| IN | OUT | BALANCE | |
| \$8,577 | \$9,583 | -\$1,006 | |
| Year to Date: | | | |
| IN | OUT | BALANCE | |
| \$13,782 | \$21,974 | -\$8,192 | |

Did You Know?

It takes the same
energy to produce:



=



1 NEW CAN

20 RECYCLED CANS

! Aluminum can be recycled indefinitely, without losing quality. Always reduce, reuse, recycle!



C. E. Green Team

Greetings from the **Building & Grounds Team!**

April brings a sense to us all – that Spring-cleaning itch and that Spring-planting itch. With that in mind, the B&G Team, is turning our itch into action.

During our last meeting (on March 20th) the Team did a review and update of the Spring things To Do List. For the outside, we'll work with the lawn crew to increase the maintenance of our grounds. During the winter months, the lawn crew only comes and is only needed twice a month as not much growth occurs during those months. So beginning this month (April), the crew will resume coming weekly to tend to the lawn mowing and edging and the hedge trimming. Along with that, we will also be adding days for our sprinklers. Some of the foliage in the backyard area that we share with some of our neighbors has gotten a little wild and we hope to get that trimmed back in the near future too. You may have noticed that some of our flowering plants are already showing off. The azaleas have burst with their color and the knock-out roses by the Bell Tower and by the entrance to the Fellowship Hall...they are truly already knock-out pretty!

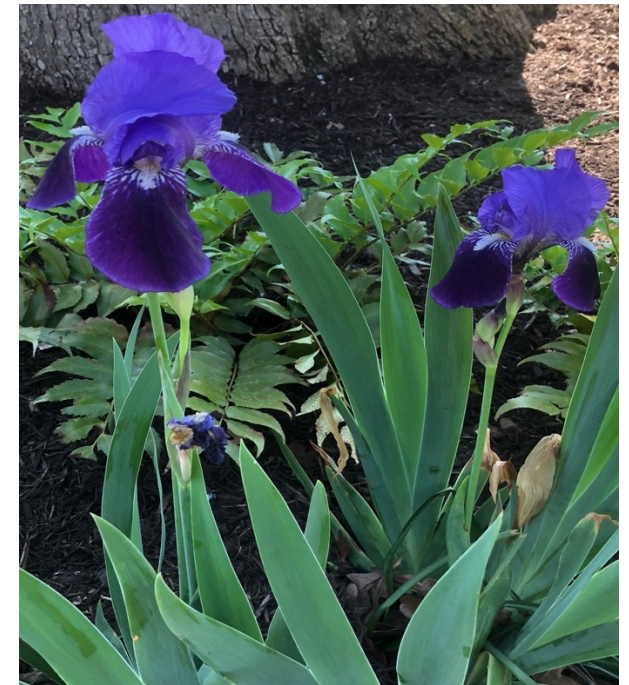
For the inside, we continue to keep everything in working order and try to conserve energy when and where we can. We change the air filters, we clean the ice machine, we monitor plumbing use and issues, we oversee pest control and we fix what needs to be fixed.

We are the handy (and sometimes dandy) men/women of FPC.

As the beautiful weather arrives and the symphony of nature's colors arrive, get out and enjoy the beauty and blessings of spring!

The Building & Grounds Team

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





*Upon a gentle breeze, whispers soft and sweet,
In the vernal choir, where earth and heaven meet.
Life from slumber wakes, in a sacred dance,
Buds to blossoms bloom, in divine romance.*

*Trees in hallowed robes, praise the sky anew,
Rivers sing of blessings, in the morning dew.
Every leaf and petal, a silent prayer,
Gratitude for life, floating in the air.*

*In the warmth of sun, and the cool of rain,
Nature finds its faith, and begins again.
Spring, a sacred hymn, of renewal sung,
In every heart, where the divine is sprung. ~Emily Verse*

Awakening in Spring – yes we are. **The Worship Team** continues to work hard together, pray together and put our weekly worship services together. Our Team uses the individual and collective talents to provide liturgy, music, and sermon-providers to bring a joyful, cohesive and meaningful service each week.

Our pulpit will be filled this month with some familiar and some new faces and inspiration. Joining us in April will be: Rev. Pepa Paniagua, Grace Presbytery; Jimmy Chapman, FPC-Henderson; and, Rev. Christopher Lee, Executive Presbyter, Grace Presbytery. This wonderful array of preachers for our congregation and the accompanying music during the month of April are sure to continue to fill our spirits.

If you'd like to join us for our Adult Sunday Discussion (Sunday School) it begins at 9:45 in the Parlor. Our morning refreshment fellowship begins at 10:00 am (or a little earlier for some) – come enjoy some conversation and treats before church begins at 11:00 in the Sanctuary or on Facebook Live.

We pray you have a love filled April,
Mary, Jimmy, Joshua, Kathy, Lynn, Claudia & Liz

With Outreached Hands

Our “core” team members are wonderful and active and engaged. But we are always open and inviting to any and all other interested minds, bodies and souls that would like to come work and help plan what this body of Christ will continue to do inside and outside and beyond the mortar walls of the church building.



We continue as the only volunteer deliverers of **Meals on Wheels** – we are the Friday crew. Current participants are: Lynn, Kathy, Kelly, Mary and Claudia.

As a Board represented church that supports the ministry of **Henderson Interchurch Ministry (HIM)** both financially and with our on-going food contributions, we support all community events which also help benefit HIM.

As good neighbors, we routinely check in on our neighbors through our **Adopt A Block** visits. Last month we tried something new and did our neighborhood visits after church on Sunday, March 10th. It was a good neighborhood check-in and special thanks to Louise for getting and putting our leave behind bags together. Our next Adopt A Block will be in June.

As active participants in community advocacy, April brings a focus on **Child Abuse Prevention** through one of our supported entities. The Rusk/Panola Children's Advocacy Center does a citywide campaign to display blue ribbons and pinwheels to show support and attention to this national cause. At FPC-Henderson, we, too, display blue ribbons and we put blue pinwheels in the yard of the church.

Our newest venture “**Hustling Kindness**” will get back into full swing this month too. Once we get our surprise Hustle planned, we'll let you know in case you want to Hustle Kindness with us.

We invite each of you to share the grace of God with all you meet. **The Outreach Team** invites you to join us -- there's always room for more helping hands and open hearts.

As always, peace be with you.

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

Hello and Welcome April. April – this year the month of April Fools, Earth Day and Eclipse!!

The Fellowship Team was happy to bring our church family and friends together last month for our Corned Beef and Cabbage luncheon. What a lovely day spent together.



March 17th



Corned Beef & Cabbage Luncheon



We also partnered with the Worship Team to provide an Agape Meal for the Maundy Thursday/Good Friday observance.

Stay tuned for more Fellowship opportunities in the coming months.

In the meantime, always know, that each of you are with us always in mind, body and spirit even when we're not together in person.

The Fellowship and Member Care Team
Claudia, Mary, Lynn, Kathy, Chris, Suzanne



Council Actions

March 21, 2024

- ◇ Prayed and shared joys and concerns together
- ◇ Reviewed Transition Team Report recommending continuing on in the same manner
- ◇ Discussed possibilities for Supply Preachers
- ◇ Reviewed the Commissioner's Report on the Grace Presbytery meeting in Ft. Worth
- ◇ Discussed Holy Week
- ◇ The Gun Violence Overture was discussed and approved to be sent to Presbytery
- ◇ Discussed the visit of Pepa Paniagua, Coordinator of Innovation & New Ministry of Grace Presbytery, on April 7

Communications

The Communications Team wears many hats within our congregation. We help produce and distribute the monthly "Connections" newsletter, post the weekly church service bulletin and monthly newsletter to the website, update the front page of the website each month, compile and publish an annual church directory, assist with the phone tree, make multiple weekly posts to the Facebook page, assist with streaming worship services, post songs used in the worship services to licensing companies each week as required by copyright laws, maintain a current church brochure, and assist with special submissions to the newspaper.

Your 2024 Communications Team met March 18th, and discussed and made plans to update the church brochure and membership directory, discussed new ideas and suggestions regarding the newsletter, discussed expanding our social media reach, agreed to research options to improve our online worship services, and agreed to continue to add to our website photo album.

Team Members are: Liz - Chair, Claudia - 2nd Chair, Weldon, and Kathy.
We are excited about 2024 and are honored to serve the congregation.



April 2024



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|-----------|--|--|-----------|
| | 1 Office Closed for Easter Holiday | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 Meals on Wheels | 6 |
| 7 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/ Communion with Rev. Pepa Paniagua | 8 Total Eclipse Event at Camp Gilmont | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 Meals on Wheels | 13 |
| 14 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jimmy Chapman | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 2:30 L.E.A.N. Meeting 6:00 Session Meeting | 19 Meals on Wheels Connections Deadline | 20 |
| 21 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Rev. Christopher Lee | 22 4:00 Earth Day planting ceremony | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Meals on Wheels | 27 |
| 28 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with | 29 | 30 | | | | |

Duty Elder for April:
Liz

Liturgists for April:
7-Lynn
14-Kelly
21-John T.
28-Steve

April Birthdays:
13-Tom W.
29-Lavonne

**Total Eclipse Event at
Camp Gilmont**
April 7-8, 2024

Learn more and register at
Gilmont.org/Eclipse-Event