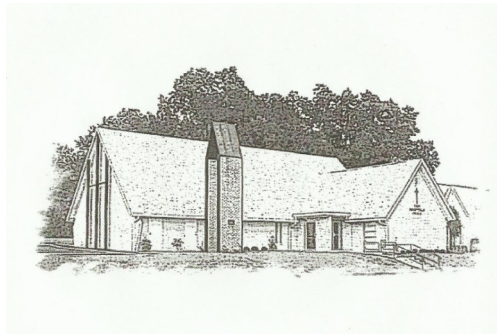




**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**  
Henderson, Texas



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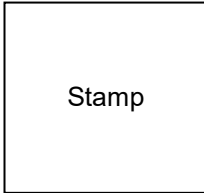
[www.fpchendersontx.org](http://www.fpchendersontx.org)



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



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



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Mailing Label



# Connections

**First Presbyterian Church**  
Henderson, Texas

March 2025 Vol. 58:03

March 5 is Ash Wednesday and the start of our Lenten journey.  
We will have an Ash Wednesday service at 5:30, and we do hope you will join us.

The purpose of Lent is to prepare Christians for Easter by reflecting on Jesus's death and resurrection, repenting sins, and practicing self-discipline.

According to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus spent 40 days fasting and resisting temptation by Satan in the Judean Desert.

There are many ways to observe Lent. If you don't wish to give up something, perhaps you can add something. Did you know that it only takes about 30 days of repeated behavior to become habit? What a wonderful time to start something new; maybe read a scripture every day, start going to Sunday school, volunteering your time...

The possibilities are endless. What would make Lent more meaningful to you?

Our pulpit supply for March:

- March 2 - Steve Newton
- March 5 - Jimmy Chapman,  
Ash Wednesday, 5:30 pm
- March 9 - Jimmy Chapman
- March 16 - Crosby Fleming
- March 23 - Jim Dees
- March 30 - Brendan McLean



**Lenten Poem by Ann Weems**

Lent is a time to take time to let the power of our faith story take hold of us,  
a time to let the events get up and walk around in us,  
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,  
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,  
a time to place our feet in the streets of Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and listen to his Word,  
a time to touch his robe and feel the healing surge through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to wonder...  
Lent is a time to allow a fresh new taste of God!  
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think, for thoughts come unbidden.  
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future knowing our past.  
Give us courage, O God, to hear your Word and to read our living into it.  
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven and give us the faith to take up our lives and walk.

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,  
 As we prepare for the Lenten season at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, we invite you to our annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Monday, March 4**, starting at 6:00 PM. This wonderful tradition is a time for fellowship, delicious pancakes, and a meaningful way to mark the beginning of Lent together. We hope you'll come enjoy a warm meal and great company as we gather in Christian community.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Blessings,  
 St. Matthews Episcopal Church

**Council Actions  
 Feb. 1, 2025**

- ◇ Prayed and shared together
- ◇ Elected clerk, treasurer, Moderator for the CONC, new member for H.I.M. Board, Commissioner for March 1 Presbytery meeting
- ◇ Established Committees and Committee Chairs
- ◇ Assigned Shepherd Groups
- ◇ Determined to meet every other month
- ◇ Signed up for duty elder and home communion
- ◇ Discussed whether there is a need for a zoom account and a social media account
- ◇ Approved the Statistical Report and Sunday School teachers
- ◇ Determined that Communion will be held on the first Sunday of the Month

**Christian Education** has selected "*Meeting Jesus at the Table*" as the book for our Lenten Study. It is like going on a glorious progressive dinner. At each stop, we gather at a different table with Jesus, learning how to love, serve, and expand the hospitality of God's grace to others. Add this study to your Lenten menu and enjoy the feast! It will start on Sunday, March 9 in the parlor.

**Fellowship / Member Care**

- Dates for after church fellowship luncheons (dinners) are:  
 April 13, July 13, September 28, December 21
  - Home communion will continue on the first Sunday of each month.
  - Our card ministry will be overseen by Suzanne.
  - Our next meeting will be May 18 after worship.
- Members are Mary, Suzanne, Kelly, Kathy and Jan



**THE STAFF**

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**FINANCE AT A GLANCE**



<b>January 2025:</b>			
	<b>IN</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
	\$6,137	\$6,265	-\$128
<b>December 2024:</b>			
	<b>IN</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
	\$9,667	\$11,255	-\$1,588
<b>Year to Date:</b>			
	<b>IN</b>	<b>OUT</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
	\$6,137	\$6,265	-\$128

Weekly your **Communication Committee** posts the church service bulletin to the website. Monthly we collect newsletter submissions, conduct multiple proofreads of the newsletter draft, and sign off on the newsletter for publication and distribution.

With many responsibilities, our committee members keep busy and meet multiple times per month by telephone, text, face-to-face, and e-mail doing what they do best - "communicating."

The submission date has changed for the newsletter. So, if you have something to submit, the deadline is the fourth Monday of each month. Please send e-mail submissions to Liz and Louise.

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

Team Members are Liz, Louise, and Kathy.



### Building and Grounds

No meeting has been called to date, but committee lead member, Steve Lowe reported that the fellowship hall and hallway carpets have been cleaned. Also, John Hillin and John Tieken fixed the loose table and chair in the parlor.

Committee members are: Steve - lead, John T., John H., Charlie, Tom and Michael D.

The **Outreach Committee** met and outlined outreach opportunities for 2025.

**One Great Hour of Sharing** offerings will be accepted from March 5 through April 20. Offering envelopes will be placed in the pews and will be available beginning Sunday, March 9. These offerings help with hunger, disaster relief, and self-development of people.

Our first quarter **Adopt-a-Block** will take place on Saturday, March 15. We will gather at the church at 9:00 to prepare the bags then check on our neighbors and distribute the bags at 10:00. Many hands make light work. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to help.

The first Sunday in May we will hear about an opportunity to help Camp Gilmont. That weekend is also a women's retreat at Camp Gilmont and a men's retreat at Mo Ranch.

Your Outreach Committee: Louise, Lynn, John T., Jan, John H., Kathy, and Sylvia



### Souper Bowl of Caring

Leading up to the NFL Super Bowl matchup between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs, Henderson's First Presbyterian Church took part in the national Souper Bowl of Caring, running concurrently with a Souper Bowl of Caring drive led by Rusk County 4-H. For about two weeks, members collected nonperishable food for the Henderson Interchurch Ministry. Because of the competitive energy surrounding American football's biggest event of the year, members competed through their donations, by putting their items in a decorated box that corresponded with the team they were cheering for.



Not only was this to add some competition, but also to bolster excitement about fighting food insecurity. Henderson Interchurch Ministry (HIM), located on State Highway 64 in Henderson, provides local families with things like food assistance and help paying utility bills. Fighting food insecurity, which is where individuals and families are without access to adequate, nutritious food, is one of their focuses. There are approximately 8000 food insecure people in Rusk County, according to the nonprofit Feeding America, and HIM is one of the charities working to lower that number.



The Souper Bowl of Caring food drive was started in 1990 by a youth group at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC. The first year, 22 area churches collected \$5,700 for food charities. Since then, the drive, headed by the nonprofit parent organization Tackle Hunger, has expanded across the nation and raised over 200 million dollars to fight food insecurity. This year alone, well over 20 million dollars have been collected, and about 1,500 food charities, including HIM, have been helped. From that church halfway across America 34 years ago to their sister church right here in Henderson, the Souper Bowl of Caring continues to equip groups to support food charities at the local level. For more information, you can visit [tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org).

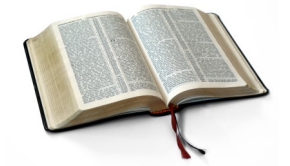
Charlie Rodriguez  
Rusk County 4-Her  
Healthy Texas Youth Ambassador

# March 2025



Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat

						1 9:00 Grace Presbytery Meeting, FPC Longview
2 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/ Communion with Rev. Steve Newton <b>Home Communion</b>	3 11:00 Worship Meeting	4 Shrove Tuesday 6-8:00 Pancake Supper at St. Matthews Episcopal Church	5 Ash Wednesday 5:30 Worship with Jimmy Chapman	6	7 Meals on Wheels	8 
9 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jimmy Chapman	10 11:00 Worship Meeting	11	12	13	14 Meals on Wheels	15 9:00 Adopt-a-Block
16 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Crosby Fleming	17  11:00 Worship Meeting	18	19	20 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition Meeting	21 Meals on Wheels	22
23 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jim Dees <b>Session Meeting</b>	24 11:00 Worship Meeting Newsletter Deadline	25	26	27	28 Meals on Wheels	29
30 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Brendan McLean	31 11:00 Worship Meeting					



## Liturgists for March:

- 2—Steve L.
- 9—John H.
- 16—Liz
- 23—John T.
- 30—Kelly



## March Birthdays:

- 20—John H.
- 23—Robbie
- 27—Debbi