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



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

Stamp

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July 2025 Vol. 58:07

Diana Butler Bass reminds us that “We now shift from the half-year of seasons (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter) that celebrate the life of Jesus to the single, very long season after Pentecost, in which we explore what it means to experience and live Jesus’ teachings in THIS world.” It is no accident that while half the year is about the adventure the disciples had with Jesus, the other half is about being people who do life a different way because Jesus lived. Who, even though he is not here physically, has the divine presence alive in each person making us the ongoing presence of Christ in the world.

The Holy Spirit empowers us to be new people of love and compassion. We are reminded not to let the world squeeze us into its mold, and not to be trapped by our old patterns, but to be people with hearts set free, ready to fight for justice, speak the truth, love fiercely, and spread hope.

That is who we are, but the secret is this —Christ in us!

The following persons will be in our pulpit for the month of July:

July 6 Jimmy Chapman

July 13 Steve Newton

July 20 David Reeder

July 27 Jim Dees

Jimmy, Moderator of Worship Committee

Members include Lynn, Mary, and Kathy



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

NOTE: As I wrote this article, I found myself in a humorous mood... hope you enjoy, or at least, tolerate it. LOL...

Your Building and Grounds team has been busy, to say the least. Over this past month we have met and talked with three tree services about bids, learned about certificate of insurance, discovered what the city will and will not do, listened to SWEPCO’s reasons of refusal, discussed and discussed some more about cost effective options to fix our “hallway flooding with heavy rain problem,” to brick or not to brick (THAT is the question!), walked fence lines (or those we could see), encouraged debris bagging, made a 5-foot square T-post with mesh, locked ourselves out of a closet, met with an engineer about routing water, had the plumbers take pictures of our “clean as a whistle” drain pipe, met with a gutter specialist for the north side, bent the mayor’s ear, called the tax office, fixed the 24x23x1 filter, got a shorter leaf catcher, checked out a concrete bottomed hole, and met until we are sick of the chair!

With great love and respect for this team, Jan

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Sunday School class is continuing its study of *Appreciate These Things—8 Ways to Cultivate Compassion* by Jill Duffield. Reverend Duffield was the editor of The Presbyterian Outlook for several years and is now the senior minister at a large Presbyterian Church in North Carolina. She is an excellent writer; the class has already studied her books on both Advent and Lent, and is enjoying this new one. The class meets in the church parlor at 9:45. All are invited to attend.

Jimmy, Moderator of Christian Education

Members of the CE team include John H., Lynn, Steve, Sylvia, and Kathy

OUTREACH

On June 28 we checked on our neighbors and provided them with fruit and a small American flag. Thanks to everyone that helped! Outreach supports Camp Gilmont, Grace Presbytery, HIM, Presbyterian Children’s Home, and Rusk County Children’s Advocacy Center through quarterly donations. Your financial support of First Presbyterian is shared beyond our congregation. Please check out the new Heart Gallery pictures in the Narthex and add Terrance, Reanna, and McArthur to your prayer list that they may be blessed with forever families. We will be hosting a sensory workshop on July 1 for parents and their children dealing with sensory issues.

Louise, Lynn, Sylvia, Jan, Kathy, John T., and John H.

THE STAFF

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FINANCE AT A GLANCE



May 2025:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$7,354	\$6,521	\$833
April 2025:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$8,250	\$6,226	\$2,024
Year to Date:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$38,411	\$38,421	-\$10

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Vatican City is now powered by solar energy? Pope Francis had a dream that the Vatican would run entirely on green energy. Since his 2015 encyclical “Laudato Si,” Pope Francis was a firm defender of climate action and repeatedly appealed to the international community to take swifter and more decisive measures. He wanted to highlight the need “to make a transition to a sustainable development model that reduces greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere, setting the goal of climate neutrality.” In 2024 to model what this could look like, he announced that an agrivoltaic solar plant would be installed on a Vatican-owned property outside Rome, and the power generated from that could supply all of Vatican City’s energy needs. An agrivoltaic solar plant is one that involves the dual use of land for solar energy production and agriculture. These plants are built with a series of solar panels that coexist with crops, livestock or both. Sometimes the solar arrays are situated on top of greenhouses, interwoven among crops, or elevated above them.

Fast forward to 2025, and the project is completed. The last steps were taken with the installation of panels on the Paul VI Audience Hall and the Courtyard of the Corazze entrance to the Vatican Museums inside the Vatican City. That Pope Francis cared about planet Earth will always be a part of his legacy.

By the way, have you seen Rusk County’s own Solar Farm? Travel out Chicken Feather Road (Hwy 782) about 3-5 miles and there are solar panels on both sides of the road.



C.E. Green Team

cleantechnica.com

FINANCE

Following the presentation by Kenny Rigoulot concerning Camp Gilmont’s Capital Campaign, the Session decided to make a gift of \$5,000 from our undesignated memorials to this project. We feel that the programs provided at Camp Gilmont are beneficial to all age groups. As one of the founding churches of this camp, we are pleased to be able to assist with their expansion plans. If you would like to make an individual contribution, there are brochures available in the narthex explaining the opportunities that are available.

Carol Scoggins, Finance Committee chairperson

FELLOWSHIP/MEMBER CARE



Our next catered fellowship luncheon will be **Sunday, July 13**. Food and fellowship is on the agenda. Come and enjoy both!!

On **Sunday, September 28**, we will have our third fellowship luncheon for the year. Please mark this date on your calendar. It will also be catered. As you all know, our church has several items (furniture, children's toys, church music, supplies, etc.) that we no longer use. At this September luncheon gathering we will present plans for an October church sale. Louise Cochran and others will head this up. A show-and-tell strategy is in the works. Don't miss it!



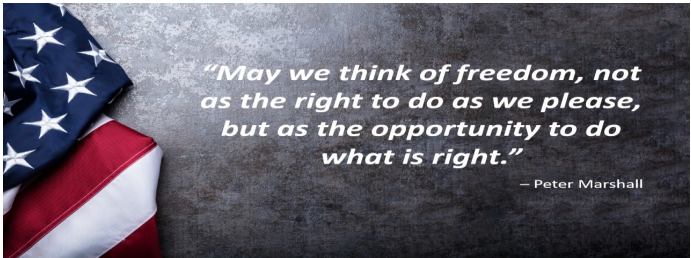
You are asked to pray for each other and especially our members who are not able to join us for worship. Pray for Bob and Cindy and continuing health issues for each. Please pray for Bert. Home communion is offered each month to Bill and Carolyn, Bob and Cindy and Margaret.

Thanks be to God for all these people we know and love. In Christ, Jan

The **COMMUNICATIONS TEAM** formally met June 22nd and discussed upcoming opportunities to promote FPC-Henderson in the local newspaper. The committee also discussed the new church directories which are available for pick-up in the narthex. Additionally discussed was the ongoing work to update the church brochure and the upcoming newsletter.

As is our norm each week your Communication Committee posts the church service bulletin to the website and strives to keep the church website updated. Monthly we collect newsletter submissions, conduct multiple proofreads of the newsletter draft, and sign off on the newsletter for publication and distribution by mail and e-mail. If you have something to include in the newsletter, the submission 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 (Suzanne-proofreader).



July 2025



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 9:00-2:00 Sensory Workshop	2	3	4 Independence Day 	5
6 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship & Communion with Jimmy Chapman Home Communion	7 11:00 Worship Meeting	8	9	10 9:30 Chamber Mid-Morning Coffee @ What-a-Burger	11 Meals on Wheels	12
13 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Steve Newton Fellowship Lunch	14 11:00 Worship Meeting	15	16	17 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition Meeting	18 Meals on Wheels	19
20 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with David Reeder Fellowship Meeting	21 11:00 Worship Meeting	22	23	24	25 Meals on Wheels	26
27 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jim Dees Session Meeting	28 11:00 Worship Meeting Newsletter Deadline	29	30	31		



Liturgists for July:

6—John H.

13—Jimmy

20—John T.

27—Lynn



July Birthdays:

18—John T.

19—Steve

19—Chris

20—Carolyn

23—Jan

27—Jimmy