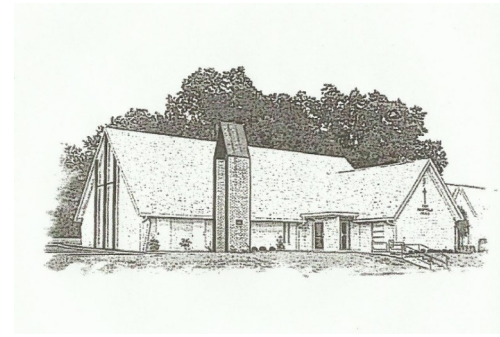




903-657-2529

www.fpchendersontx.org



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



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

Stamp

Mailing Label



December 2025 Vol. 58:12

November 30 is the first Sunday of Advent. We will notice that the church is decorated differently on Sunday morning; the paraments are now blue, a different color from the mostly green that has been there for quite some time. We also see the Advent wreath and a lone lit candle. The congregation that observes Advent will mark time differently from those people who live December as a countdown to Christmas and the end of the year. The Sundays of Advent count forward to a time that begins with the birth of Christ. The first Sunday of Advent is for Christians the first Sunday of the year, a new year in sacred time, opening to the mystery and certainty of God's presence. This is a time in which we reaffirm our trust in God's promises—past, present, and future. Advent also leaves us dizzy over time. Advent is not a steady, constant, "time marches on" kind of time, a persistent drumbeat day after day, year after year. Advent is unpredictable time, unsteady time. In this time tumbling season, we look for a baby to be born while we know that the baby has already been born, and still is being born in us—this Emmanuel who came and is coming and is among us right now. Not only is Advent not well-behaved, neat, and orderly, it contorts time. Its heralds will be the prophet Isaiah and Jesus' forerunner, John the Baptist. The good news of Advent is not simply that Christ is coming, but that his coming means we can hope, despite all that is falling apart in our lives, our communities, and the world around us. May all of us who come to Advent worship leave with a commitment to use this season of Advent to prepare for God's kingdom breaking forth, as we await the radical, earth-shattering welcome of the Prince of Peace—the little baby Jesus, and the risen Lord.

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

December 7 (Communion) Steve Newton

December 14 Jimmy Chapman

December 21 Kris Crawford

December 24 Jimmy Chapman

December 28 Evan Dolive

Jimmy Chapman—Moderator of Worship

Committee Members include Lynn Tieken, Mary Lowe, and Kathy Porter.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

MERRY CHRISTMAS from your B&G team!

Isaiah 9:6 “For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace”.

Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful”.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!”



FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee requests that you give donations for gifts for the staff to any member of the Finance Committee by December 17. We will present these gifts at the luncheon on December 21.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Sunday School class which meets in the parlor has begun its Advent study of the book *Stay Awhile, Advent Lessons in Divine Hospitality* by Kara Eidson. The book contains lessons for each of the four Sundays in Advent along with Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and Beyond. It also has questions for reflection and short Daily Reflections for each day of the week in the Advent season. In January, the class will resume its study of *Making Sense of the Bible*. All are invited to the church parlor at 9:45 each Sunday morning to join the class in its study.

Jimmy Chapman—Moderator of Worship/Christian Education
Members of CE include Lynn, Kathy, Sylvia, John H., and Steve.



THE STAFF

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FINANCE AT A GLANCE



October 2025:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$11,169	\$10,601	\$568
September 2025:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$7,295	\$19,003	-\$11,708
Year to Date:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$83,652	\$95,284	-\$11,632

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that right now, across the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, animals are tucking in for the long winter months ahead. From ground squirrels to grizzly bears, these critters have cracked the code on how to stay safe in one of the wildest-coldest-places on Earth.

Arctic marmots who nap together, stay together. During their hibernation, these little winter warriors cuddle with their families in what’s basically a season-long group hug. To hibernate these cat-sized critters burrow deep into the ground, and then they hit the hay—hard. And once they are asleep, a marmot’s heart rate drops from 200 all the way down to 30 beats per minute.



 Bears in the Arctic pack on the pounds before hibernation—up to 500 pounds for some male bears. During hibernation, mama bears give birth to cubs that are as petite as they are precious. Bear cubs are born blind, deaf, basically bald, and totally dependent on their parents. Throughout the winter months, mama bears keep their babies warm and fed in their safe, dark dens until the worst of winter is over. Come springtime, polar, grizzly, and black bear cubs are all ready to hit the Arctic running—just not too far from the moms who fed and snuggled them all winter long.

When it comes to hibernating, Arctic ground squirrels are about as adorable as they are efficient: During the eight coldest months of the year, these little critters tuck in for a long, cozy hibernation. But before ground squirrels get eight months of shut-eye, they must eat—a lot. Think of Thanksgiving-sized meals every day for four months. And at the end of this foraging feast, their body weight doubles. Before hibernation, these chunky squirrels grow thicker, longer hair before the big nap. With a built-in blanket and a full belly, ground squirrels sleep through some of the coldest winter weather on Earth.



Right now, as colder weather creeps in, these critters are ready for all that winter can throw at them. Also, right now, environmentalists are working to make sure that these hibernators wake up to the same pristine Arctic they knew before their big nap. Can you imagine what oil companies’ drilling, disruptive, dangerous seismic blasting to find oil underground will do to the pristine wilderness of the Arctic and its hibernators? If you think this Arctic wilderness should not be disturbed by oil companies, then let your government representatives and officials of the Interior Department know your thoughts. This is one thing that all of us can do to help protect Mother Earth.

The C E Green Team

Environmental Action Since 1970

FELLOWSHIP

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

Our Christmas fellowship luncheon will be on **Sunday, December 21**. The menu will be oven roasted turkey and pork loin, roasted vegetables, cornbread dressing and rolls. Pecan pie and coconut cake will be served for dessert.

David Reeder was scheduled to preach and present a program of interest during our luncheon, but due to family business, he and his wife Sonya will not be able to join us after all.

Again..... DECEMBER 21-----FPC CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON!!!
Put this date on your calendar and come join our membership for a time of fellowship over food as we celebrate this special season of our Lord’s birth!



Colossians 1:16 “For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him”.

Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go”.

MEMBER CARE

Merry Christmas to all members of FPC and your beloved family members!!

John 1:14 “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth”.

Matthew 1:21 “She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”.





Dear Friends and Family,

You are cordially invited

to join us for our

Christmas Eve service

December 24, 2025

5:30 pm

*As we share the wonder and joy of the birth of
our Lord, Jesus Christ.*

OUTREACH

Members of the Outreach Committee put out pink flags and a pink ribbon around the bell tower in support of the fire department's Paint the Town Pink effort which provides financial support for local residents dealing with cancer. They stayed up the entire month of October.

On October 4th the committee helped set up the "rehoming" sale which took place on October 11th. \$2100 dollars were raised to benefit Camp Gilmont which managed to meet the deadline to receive a matching grant in excess of one million dollars. Our donations earned the church a brick in the sidewalk with our church name on it.

Several of the church members manned a table at the National Night Out held on October 7th. Members also joined John Hillin on October 10th to celebrate his mother's 102nd birthday. Jan and Louise attended Mid-Morning Coffee on November 9th to advertise the sale. Charlie covered for Monica at HIM so she could attend the coffee. On October 29th the committee Hustled the staff at the Rusk County Main Library by providing them lunch and a certificate. October was a busy month.

Kathy and Louise continue to represent the church on the board for HIM and Friends Helping Friends. They have outgrown the building they are currently in. The search for a new location identified the building at the corner of Van Buren and Jenkins as a possibility. The board entered into an agreement that allowed 90 days to raise the necessary funds to purchase and begin renovation. The 90 days will be up the end of December. The Outreach Committee voted unanimously to request a \$5,000 donation be made toward this effort.

The final adopt-a-block of 2025 took place on November 1st. Our neighbors were given a Thanksgiving tea towel and a pie recipe. We continue to try to find a time when our neighbors are home.

The members of the congregation donated a total of \$255 to HIM for the Thanksgiving baskets. The HIM board had approved a motion to provide a basket a week to those individuals who were doing without SNAP or WIC funds and any local federal employee that was furloughed with no pay during the shutdown. Numerous local organizations and individuals have been donating food towards this effort. Thanks to Charles Cochran for the hours that he has put in helping process the donations.

The Outreach meeting scheduled for November 17 has been postponed until December 3 due to several members being unable to attend. The purpose of the meeting will be to schedule activities for 2026. Louise, Chair of Outreach

HENDERSON INTERCHURCH MINISTRY



As your representative on the HIM/Friends Helping Friends boards, Kathy Porter and Louise Cochran were thrilled to participate in the acceptance of the check from Vera Bank. The bank contributed \$25,000 to the capital campaign. We have until the end of December to complete the \$250,000 challenge to purchase the building at the corner of Van Buren and Jenkins. This will double the space for HIM and include a larger office for Friends.

The Session meeting on November 23 approved a \$5,000 donation to the HIM/Friends capital campaign.

The outreach committee will meet on December 3 at 1:00 to plan for the 2026 events. We will be attending the December 11 Mid-morning Coffee at the Vera Bank Training Center and helping ring the Salvation Army bell.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from

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

THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

*"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them:*

and they were sore afraid.

*And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people.*

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."*

~ Luke 2:8-14

Merry Christmas

from the

Communications Committee



COUNCIL ACTIONS

November 23, 2025

- Prayed and shared joys and concerns together
- Received a member
- Examined Elders-Elect
- Reviewed Operations Manual
- Approved the Financial Review
- Reviewed the Membership Roll
- Set date for Installation of Elders
- Made Home Communion and Duty Elder assignments
- Reviewed the Grace Presbytery Meeting Report

December 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



Liturgists for December

7—Kelly

14—John H.

21—Jimmy

28—Liz



December Birthdays:

2—Bill B.

31—Carol

	1	2	3 1:00 Outreach meeting	4	5 Meals on Wheels	6
7 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship & Communion with Steve Newton Home Communion	8 11:00 Worship Meeting	9	10	11 Presbytery Meeting @ Flower Mound 9:30 Chamber Mid-Morning Coffee at Vera-Bank Training Center	12 Meals on Wheels	13
14 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jimmy Chapman	15 11:00 Worship Meeting	16	17	18 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition	19 Meals on Wheels	20
21 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Kris Crawford Fellowship Luncheon	22 11:00 Worship Meeting Newsletter Deadline	23	24 Christmas Eve 5:30 Worship with Jimmy Chapman 	25 Christmas Day 	26 Meals on Wheels	27
28 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Evan Dolive	29 11:00 Worship Meeting	30	31 New Years Eve 			