

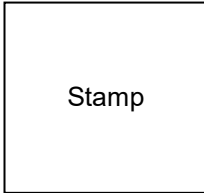
903-657-2529

www.fpchendersontx.org



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

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



February 2026 Vol. 59:02

Christmas is already more than a month in the past and Epiphany was several weeks ago. That means that the season of Lent will soon come before us. Ash Wednesday occurs on February 18, so that is when Lent officially begins. The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting, and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus at Easter. It is a period of 40 week-days; the Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord’s Day is a celebration of the resurrection. The 40 days in Lent remind us of the biblical stories also lasting 40 days—the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn on Mount Sinai as he received the 10 Commandments, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb as he fled from the wrath of Queen Jezebel, Jonah’s call to Ninevah to repent, and, especially, Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness. What we hear during Lent is that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. The church’s peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. At the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families, and our lives do not last forever: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that turn out to be not only our death tomb, but surprisingly our womb of life. Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms.

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

- February 1 (Communion) Steve Newton
- February 8 David Reeder
- February 15 Jimmy Chapman
- February 18 (Ash Wed.) Jimmy Chapman
- February 22 Kenny Rigoulot



Jimmy Chapman—Moderator of Worship Committee Members include Lynn Tieken, Mary Lowe, and Kathy Porter.

FELLOWSHIP/ MEMBER CARE

The fellowship/ member care team met for our first meeting on January 18th. Team members for 2026 include Kathy, Mary, Kelly and Suzanne.

Fellowship luncheons were set for March 29, September 13 and December 13.

Quarterly duties were assigned for luncheon coordinators, casserole distribution, card ministry and overseeing member care through care champion coordinators.

Dates for quarterly meetings were set for Sundays after worship on April 19, August 16 and November 8.

Jan, chair for Fellowship/Member Care



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The building and grounds team members are Kathy, Elizabeth, Charlie, John H., Steve and Tom.

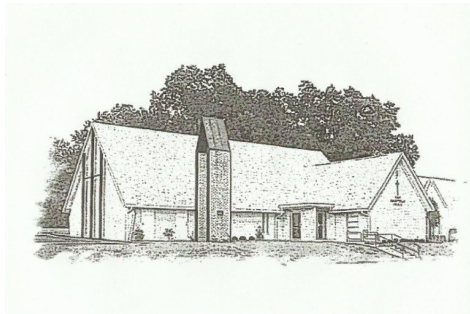
Quarterly duties were assigned for ice machine and AC maintenance, keeping a watch for light bulb and smoke alarm battery replacement, and seeing to fellowship hall, kitchen, and keeping courtyard drain free of debris. The team took a “field trip” through the inside and outside premises to be familiar with all mentioned areas for hands on experience.

The team decided to get a bid for inside/outside pest control and termite treatment from Mele Pest control to be presented at the April meeting.

Dates for quarterly meetings were set for Sundays after worship on April 19, August 16 and November 8.

Peace,

Jan, chair for Building and Grounds



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FINANCE AT A GLANCE



December 2025:

IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$10,584	\$13,282	-\$2,698

November 2025:

IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$7,332	\$9,816	-\$2,484

Year to Date:

IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$101,568	\$118,382	-\$16,814

Star Words for 2026



The magi followed the star to find baby Jesus, bringing their gifts. We are also seeking Jesus, trusting God can and does use many signs (or stars) to guide us closer to the Divine presence. Take a star from the basket in the narthex. Trust the star that you receive has something to offer you. Reflect on that word for the coming year. Ponder what significance this word might have in your life, and how God might be speaking to you through this simple message.

Place the star where you will see it: on the refrigerator, where you keep your keys, with your daily devotionals – someplace where you will be reminded of it often.

DID YOU KNOW?



zerowastesustainability

C.E. GREEN TEAM

OUTREACH

Outreach met in December to outline a timeline for 2026. They met again in January to firm up first quarter activities. Our first mid-morning coffee for 2026 will be February 12 at Full Armor Academy at 9:30. Everyone is welcome to join us.

On Saturday, February 14 we will wish our neighbors a Happy Valentines Day with our first Adopt-a-Block of 2026. We will meet at the church at 11:00 AM to prepare the bags before venturing into the neighborhood. Again, all are welcome since many hands make light work.

We will be supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing this spring so please begin considering what you might be able to donate.



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

COMMUNICATIONS

Weekly your Communication Committee posts the church service bulletin to the website and keeps 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.

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."

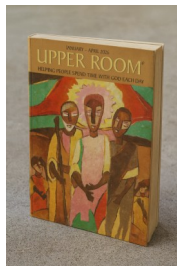
If you have something to include in the newsletter, the **submission deadline is the third Friday of each month.**



Please e-mail submissions to Liz, Louise, or Kathy.

The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide is available in the narthex for your use especially during this Lenten season.

The mission of *The Upper Room* daily devotional guide is to provide a practical way to listen to scripture, connect with believers around the world, and spend time with God each day. "Where the world meets to pray"



Tackle Hunger with Rusk County 4-H!



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING FOOD DRIVE

Donate Nonperishable food items By February 15th

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

RUSK COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

GOOD HOPE FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

ALL DONATIONS WILL GO
TO HENDERSON
INTERCHURCH MINISTRIES



Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is an equal opportunity employer and program provider.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING FOOD DRIVE

What? The Souper Bowl of Caring is an annual national event that has a local impact. Through the Tackle Hunger organization, thousands of groups and communities utilize the Souper Bowl of Caring each year, using the energy surrounding football's biggest event of the year to generate support and donations for local food charities.

Why? The State of Texas has one of the highest food insecurity rates in America, with 16.4% of Texans suffering from some degree of food insecurity. Put simply, "Food insecurity is when people can't access the food they need to live their fullest lives." (Feeding America). To put this into context, Rusk County alone (numbers as of 2022) has around 8,000 food insecure individuals. An even starker number is that about 24% of children in Rusk County are a part of that, without access to adequate, nutritious food. Food charities are constantly working to bridge that gap, giving both nonperishable food as well as produce to families in need.

How? The Souper Bowl of Caring (SBoC) is unique in that it takes place *following* the Christmas season. Thanksgiving and Christmas are often food charities' busiest times of the year, so the SBoC helps them be better able to restock and continue serving families throughout the winter. As a church partnering with Rusk County 4-H, we ask that you let us know how much food (in pounds) or money you end up donating to the food charity you already give to at other times so that it can be added to the national Tackle Hunger total. (<https://map.tacklehunger.org/>)

When? Where? Who?

Collecting from **February 1st** until **February 15th** a display will be set up in the narthex for easy donation of items.

Our hope is that through this drive we will be able to help food charities help those in need. Imagine the impact we could have if everyone donated just \$1 or 1 can of food?

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Sunday School class which meets in the parlor has now, temporarily at least, resumed its study of *Making Sense of the Bible*.

However, the season of Lent will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Therefore, the class will begin its Lenten study on Sunday, February 22. We will be studying the book *Meeting Jesus on the Road*, by Cynthia Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. The Gospels are full of stories of Jesus traveling from here to there. The book contains 7 Gospel stories of Jesus as he went from place to place. If the book title sounds familiar, last year at Lent we read *Meeting Jesus at the Table* by the same two authors. It was an excellent study.

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

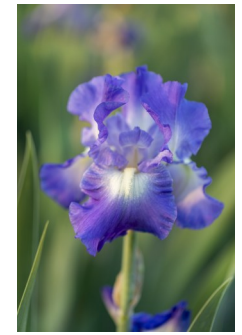
Members of CE include Lynn Tieken, Kathy Porter, Sylvia Conlee, John Hillin, Steve Lowe.

My Lenten Practice

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes with the celebration of Easter. These 40 days of preparation lead us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a special time to grow in faith through practices of spiritual discipline, prayer, self-examination, and repentance. While these practices are part of our year-round Christian Walk, Lent is a good time to refine our discipline, adjust our techniques, or even try something new.

- Make a list of things, people, and experiences for which you are thankful. Add to it each day. Give prayerful thanks.
- Light a candle and meditate for five minutes each day on a word your spirit needs to hear right now. Maybe your star word, a name for God, or a phrase like "I am forgiven."
- Go outside and don't take any pictures. Just appreciate the beauty of nature for yourself through your senses.
- Participate in the Lenten Sunday School class "*Meeting Jesus on the Road*" beginning February 22nd in the parlor.
- Invite a friend to worship on Sunday mornings.
- Pray the Jesus prayer daily several times a day using "Lord Jesus, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner." Then change the next day to, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me your beloved child."
- Do a traditional fast, like abstaining from meat, dessert, cola, or chocolate and donate the money saved to charity like HIM, or Rusk County Children's Advocacy.

February 2026



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship & Communion with Steve Newton Home Communion</p>	<p>2 11:00 Worship Meeting</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with David Reeder Souper Bowl Food Drive</p>	<p>9 11:00 Worship Meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 9:30 Chamber Mid Morning Coffee at Full Armor Christian Academy</p>	<p>13 Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>14 Valentine's Day 11:00 Adopt-a-Block </p>
<p>15 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jimmy Chapman Souper Bowl Food Drive</p>	<p>16 President's' Day 11:00 Worship Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 Ash Wednesday 5:30 Worship with Jimmy Chapman </p>	<p>19 2:30 L.E.A.N Coalition</p>	<p>20 Meals on Wheels Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>21 10 am Session Meeting</p>
<p>22 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Kenny Rigoulot</p>	<p>23 11:00 Worship Meeting</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Presbytery Meeting Trinity-Flower Mound</p>	<p>27 Meals on Wheels</p>	<p>28</p>



Liturgists for February

1—Steve

8—Lynn

15—Suzanne

22—Kelly

Birthdays of the Month

February Birthdays:

