

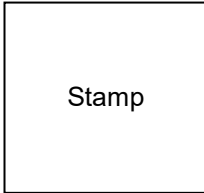
903-657-2529

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

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



Connections

First Presbyterian Church
Henderson, Texas

May 2026 Vol. 59:05

The month of May opens with the church still in the season of Easter. The paraments are white, as the church celebrates the good news that Jesus is risen from the dead. This celebration continues for seven Sundays, ending on Sunday, May 17. The following Sunday, May 24, is Pentecost Sunday, celebrating the time when the Holy Spirit descended on all of the apostles and new converts in Jerusalem on the fiftieth day after Easter. The paraments will be red on this Sunday. Pentecost always occurs fifty days after Easter Sunday. Since the date of Easter changes each year, so does the date of Pentecost Sunday. The name “Pentecost” comes from a Greek word meaning “fiftieth,” reflecting this exact timing. In the Bible, Pentecost was originally a Jewish feast known as the Feast of Weeks. It was celebrated fifty days after Passover and was associated with the harvest. For Christians, Pentecost took on a deeper meaning. It became the day in which the Holy Spirit came upon the followers of Jesus. This event marked the beginning of the spread of the Christian message. It was not planned by human effort. It began with divine action. It marks the moment when fear turned into boldness and when a small group became a growing movement. Today, Pentecost is celebrated as the birth of the church.

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

May 3 (Communion) Steve Newton

May 10 Jimmy Chapman

May 17 Crosby Fleming

May 24 Jim Dees

May 31 Evan Dolive

Jimmy Chapman—Moderator of Worship

Committee Members include Lynn, Mary, and Kathy.



DID YOU KNOW?

Tim Sweeney, the CEO of Epic Games, known for Fortnite and Unreal Engine, is worth billions. For years, he has quietly invested hundreds of millions in North Carolina forestland, not to develop it, but to preserve it permanently. Through conservation easements, the land is legally protected from logging or construction, ensuring its safety for generations.

To date, Sweeney has conserved more than 190,000 acres, making him one of the largest private land conservationists in the eastern United States. Inspired by his childhood adventures in North Carolina forests, he aims to protect the landscapes that shaped him. Despite the scale of his efforts, he seldom speaks publicly about them.

While other billionaires chase space travel or sports franchises, Sweeney is quietly buying forests and guaranteeing they remain untouched forever.

~Davidattenborough_fans



C.E. GREEN TEAM

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communication Committee is responsible for posting the weekly church service bulletin to the website and ensuring that all content remains current and accurate.

On a monthly basis, the committee collects newsletter submissions, carefully proofreads the draft multiple times, and provides final approval for publication and distribution.

With these ongoing responsibilities, committee members stay actively engaged, connecting frequently by phone, text, email, and in person—doing what they do best: communicating.

If you have information you would like included in the newsletter, please note that the submission deadline is the third Friday of each month. Submissions may be emailed to Liz, Louise, and Kathy.



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FINANCE AT A GLANCE



March 2026:

IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$15,786	\$14,647	\$1,139

February 2026:

IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$8,721	\$5,570	\$3,151

Year to Date:

IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$30,393	\$24,976	\$5,417

We have received acknowledgements for our donations to:

Rusk County Pets Alive

Rusk/Panola County Children's Advocacy Center

Presbyterian Children's Homes



Memorial gifts have been received in memory of:

Margaret Hillin

and

Bob Ratliff

To the Church Triumphant

Margaret Hillin

October 12, 1923—March 15, 2026

"Both in life and in death, we belong to God."

~ Romans 14:8

To the Church Triumphant

Robert Ratliff

November 25, 1937—April 12, 2026

"Both in life and in death, we belong to God."

~ Romans 14:8

To the Church Triumphant

Robbie Jo Brooks

March 27, 1927—April 24, 2026

"Both in life and in death, we belong to God."

~ Romans 14:8



FELLOWSHIP / MEMBER CARE

Bob Ratliff entered into the presence of Jesus Christ on Saturday, April 11, 2026. A celebration of life will be held on Friday, May 1 in our church sanctuary with Rev. Steve Newton officiating. Jack Brooks will play the organ. Cindy and her family will receive worshippers in the fellowship hall after the service with a visitation/reception. Bob was pleasant and cheerful and served our church as custodian for several years. He was known to say “every day is a holiday and every meal a banquet”. He most certainly is now feasting at our Lord’s banquet ! Thanks be to God for our Bob Ratliff!

Please keep Jimmy in your prayers as well as his sister, Joy and sons, with the passing of Randy Andrews, Jimmy’s brother in law. Randy’s service, in which Jimmy officiated, was held this past week.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest”. ~Matthew 11:28-30



Prayers are requested for Lynn and John as Lynn had surgery on her broken left elbow on April 21st and is recovering at home. Continue to pray for our church members, Cindy, Carolyn, Bill, Charlie, Lucy, Mariella and all those who are in our hearts. Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ for the privilege of prayer!

Our next meeting will be Sunday after worship on May 17th in the fellowship hall. Fellowship/Member Care committee members are: Kathy, Kelly, Mary and Suzanne. I am thankful for all you do for FPC !

Sincerely,
Jan

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Committee members are: Charlie, John H., Steve, Tom and Kathy. Thank you for your service to our church through seeing to the building and grounds.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, May 17 after worship and after the fellowship/member care meeting. Start time 12:45pm, or no later than 1 pm.

Welcome

It was wonderful to welcome Rev. Michele Goff back to fill the pulpit on Sunday, April 19. Her presence was a true blessing, and we are grateful for the message she shared with us.



OUTREACH

During the month of March your outreach committee met, put out the blue pinwheels for child abuse awareness month, and hustled the Commissioners Court.



Plans have been made to Adopt a Block on Saturday, May 23. We will meet at the church at 11 to fill the bags. Feel free to add this to your calendar and join us. Many hands make light work!

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The parlor Sunday School class is continuing its study of *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton. We are now in the second part of the book which is titled *Making Sense of the Bible's Challenging Passages*. There are chapters such as God's Violence in the Old Testament; Suffering, Divine Providence, and the Bible; Did Jesus Really Say That?; Women Need Not Apply; and many more. We are seeking a deeper faith as all of us read these chapters. 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.



My church family has been like real family for more years than I dare count. My fall was unexplainable, but I think my broken elbow is telling me to slow down. John and I want to thank everyone for their well wishes, prayers, calls, texts, cards, food, visits, etc. We feel very blessed to have each of you as family and friends. Can't thank you enough!

You are special!! Love, Lynn and John Tiekens

May 2026



Liturgists for May

3—Carol

10—Steve

17—Suzanne

24—Kelly

31—John H.



May Birthdays:

7—Liz

18—Mary

21—Mike

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Meals on Wheels 4:00 Celebration of Life for Bob Ratliff	2
3 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship & Communion with Steve Newton Home Communion	4 11:00 Worship Meeting	5	6	7	8 Meals on Wheels	9
10 MOTHERS' DAY 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jimmy Chapman	11 11:00 Worship Meeting	12	13	14 9:30 Chamber Mid-Morning Coffee Henderson Lions Club @ the Chamber	15 Meals on Wheels Connections Deadline	16 H.I.M. 5K Run @ Fair Park
17 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Crosby Fleming Fellowship/Member Care Meeting Building & Grounds Meeting	18 11:00 Worship Meeting	19	20	21 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition Meeting	22 Meals on Wheels	23 11:00 Adopt-a-Block
24 DAY OF PENTECOST 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jim Dees Session Meeting	25 Office Closed  MEMORIAL DAY REMEMBER AND HONOR	26 11:00 Worship Meeting	27	28	29 Meals on Wheels	30
31 TRINITY SUNDAY 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Evan Dolive						