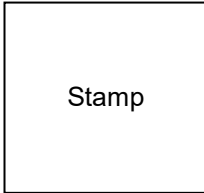


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# Connections

First Presbyterian Church  
Henderson, Texas

June 2026 Vol. 59:06

The month of June brings us the Summer Solstice, the longest day of the year and the first day of summer, on Sunday, June 21. In honor of that, and in celebration of creation, I have a poem from the liturgical book Summer which I found at Iona, Scotland four years ago.

### Summer Solstice

The fire is lit. The longest day is here once more and we are here again to celebrate with all our kin in fire and food and wine. The longest day is here once more. The fire once more alight. Six months since the shortest day inched slowly from our sight. January brought the cold, our gardens were asleep. The downs sat sullen in the snow with huddled chills of sleep. February's flood and wind tore across the land. The sea roared in and flung its waves up on the battered strand. March saw shoots begin to thrive, leaves and birds were rife and in the woods the birds' new song heralded new life. April's sun warmed up the earth, springing now with flowers, squirrels danced along the hedge oblivious to the showers. Jack has danced and Jack is dead and yet he lives once more: his seed is sown, his crops will grow to fill our summer store. Midsummer comes, the sun is high, its warmth and light abound. It fills the earth with promise as it penetrates the ground. Midsummer comes, the air is clear, the roses are in bloom, the earth shows off its riches though they are gone too soon. Another year, another fire, no reason to be glum, as we give thanks for what has been and what is yet to come. Another fire, another year, another glass to raise in thanks that we are who we are as we turn another page. The longest day is here again, the solstice fire burns bright. We revel in the warmth it brings as we share love and light.

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

**June 7 (Communion) Steve Newton**

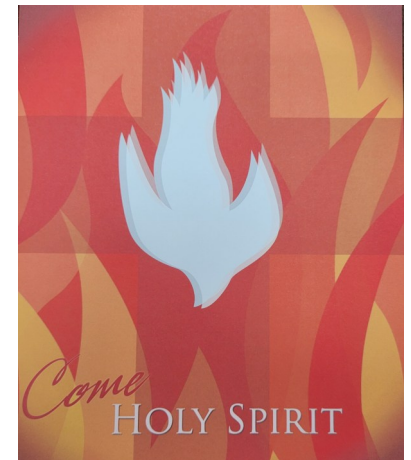
**June 14 Jimmy Chapman**

**June 21 Naveen Nischal**

**June 28 David Reeder**

Jimmy Chapman—Moderator of Worship Committee

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



## DID YOU KNOW?

A recent study from the University of Exeter in the UK found that plants improve concentration, increase productivity and boost people's wellbeing by 47% at work. Plants have previously been proven to have positive effects in hospitals, where patients said they experienced less pain, anxiety and tiredness. We probably should try this in our homes.

**C.E. GREEN TEAM**



## HAPPY TRAILS

Following the church service on May 10th, a reception was held in honor of our church secretary, Debbi Ricci, as she prepares to move to Florida to be closer to family. The Fellowship Hall was filled with laughter, warm memories, and heartfelt conversations as church members gathered to celebrate Debbi and the many ways she has blessed our congregation through the years.

Guests enjoyed light refreshments, pie, and Debbi's favorite dessert — carrot cake — while sharing stories and well wishes for this new chapter in her life.

Debbi, thank you for your kindness, dedication, and the caring spirit you brought to our church each day. While we will miss seeing your smiling face, we are so happy for you as you begin this exciting new adventure surrounded by family. May Florida bring you joy, happiness, and many wonderful memories. You will always hold a special place in our hearts!



## THE STAFF

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## FINANCE AT A GLANCE



April 2026:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$10,495	\$ 5,862	\$ 4,632
March 2026:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$15,786	\$14,647	\$ 1,139
Year to Date:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$40,886	\$30,838	\$10,048

June is here!!! We will be welcoming Summer soon. It arrives on June 21<sup>st</sup>. Do you know that June is the month with the longest daylight hours in the Northern Hemisphere? It isn't a daylight savings thing either.



And what other lovelies come with summer? Farmer's Market comes with summer. The Rusk County Farmer's Market will be opening for the season on May 30<sup>th</sup>. They open at 7:00 am and remain until the vendors sell out. Lucky for us, the Farmer's Market is located right across the street from our church. We encourage you to buy local whenever possible and support our small farmers.

We get to witness God's glory and creative hand at work all over the place including on our church grounds. Look around and take it all in.



Religious observances of Father's Day focus on honoring earthly fathers as spiritual leaders, reflecting on the unconditional love of the Heavenly Father, and meditating on biblical principles of parenthood. It is a time to celebrate male role models while offering prayers for both present and absent fathers.

Scriptures emphasize the profound impact and responsibility of fatherhood, urging respect and teaching: **The Command to Honor:** *Exodus 20:12* explicitly commands honoring both your father and mother. The Apostle Paul calls this "the first commandment with a promise" in *Ephesians 6:1-3*. **Instruction and Discipline:** *Ephesians 6:4* reminds fathers not to exasperate their children, but to bring them up in the training of the Lord. **Compassion:** *Psalm 103:13* compares God's compassion for His people to the compassion a earthly father shows his children.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Communication Committee remains busy serving the congregation in many ways. Each week, we post the church service bulletin to the website and keep the church website updated. Monthly responsibilities include collecting newsletter submissions, carefully proofreading the newsletter draft multiple times, and giving final approval for publication and distribution.

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

We are honored to serve the congregation through this ministry of communication, and we extend a warm welcome to Nancy! We are so glad to have you with us!



## PERSONNEL

The Personnel Committee is pleased to introduce our new administrative assistant, Nancy Harris. She will be in the office from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Drop by and introduce yourself if you have some time.



Nancy is a single lady who lives in a rented tiny house. She has three grown children, eight grandchildren, two great grandsons and a great granddaughter on the way in July. Christopher, her oldest, is in the oil industry. Middle child, Aaron, is Command Sargent Major in the Army, retiring next May with 29 years of service. Daughter, Maryrose, is a Laboratory Technician at Nacogdoches Medical Center. Five of her grandchildren are local and she stays busy with the three still in school and their many activities. Nancy is the youngest girl in her family, having five sisters and two brothers. She grew up in Irving, Texas and the majority of her siblings and their families are still in the Dallas area.

Nancy is a previous employee of The Henderson (Daily) News, having worked there for more than 22 years, prior to the sale of the newspaper in 2023. Her title was Bookkeeping/Office Manager. You may also recognize her from her position at Golden Corral, where she was waitstaff and night manager, winning “Henderson’s Best” waitress two years in a row! She is looking forward to working with everyone at and in the church.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The parlor Sunday School class is almost finished with its study of “Making Sense of the Bible” by Adam Hamilton. We are in the process of choosing a new book for study in the summer and fall. When we know what that book is, we will let everyone know. 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.

## FELLOWSHIP / MEMBER CARE

I John 3:18 says, “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth”. Speaking of loving actions, many of us have crosses, or other special and useful tools that our very own MIKE DILL crafted from various kinds of wood. They are special to us for many reasons and we would like to express our sincere appreciation to Mike for sharing his gift of superb wood working with us. Mike, thank you for all you do in serving our church membership in this way! Also, on behalf of member care and our church Session, thank you for serving many Sundays as duty elder. We all take turns, but it is you who shows up to volunteer for this necessary position most often! Thank you, Mike, for all the special acts of service you provide!



Robbie Brooks, aunt of Jimmy Chapman, has entered into the presence of Jesus Christ. Her service was held on April 30 at Crawford A. Crim. Jimmy officiated the service. Robbie attended Willow Springs and First Presbyterian Church during her lifetime. Jimmy told of a story about Robbie, as a young girl, being lowered into a well by bucket to rescue a cat! When you live 99 years, things like this can happen! Thanks be to God for the life of Robbie Jo Brooks!!

As you pray, remember the families of Margaret Hillin, Bob Ratliff, Robbie Jo Brooks, Randy Andrews, Ray Brooks and other families who have lost a loved one that are in your hearts.

Prayers of comfort and peace for our members, Cindy, Bill, Carolyn, Lucy and Mariella are in order as well as healing for Charlie, Lynn and others you know.

Please mark your calendars, now, for our next church fellowship luncheon on Sunday, September 13 th . Kelly and Mary are “cooking up” plans for another scrumptious meal as we take time to listen to and share with each other about our lives.

“Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing”. First Thessalonians 5:11



With love, prayers and encouragement,  
Jan, Kathy, Kelly, Mary, Suzanne

## BUILDING AND GROUNDS

Your B &G team is at it again! On May 17, we met to discuss various building projects dealing with pests, sprinklers, AC, handbells, caulking of windows and spraying of weeds. The Session will need to hear about pests, sprinkler and weed service before reporting to the membership, but we can report to you now about AC, and handbells. The window caulking is being monitored presently and we will report on this in time.

AC--- Contracted service on the very important air conditioners for our upcoming summer months has been done. Shawnee AC/heating came on May 12th to service all eight units. Two units are older than the others but all are working currently.

Handbells--- The Session sent a thank you note to Karen Mobbs, handbell director for FUMC, for her extremely helpful and “instrumental” assistance in selling our 4-octave set of handbells. The bells were polished and marketed, under Mobb’s supervision, and a buyer was found. Jan and a friend met the buyer in Hearne, Texas in March and the transaction was completed. The money received was used to help in the pulpit supply and a donation was given to Rusk County Pets Alive! If any church member has further questions about this item of business, please contact Jan or Carol.

As always, we want to keep members informed on what is going on with the building and grounds. It is our responsibility to keep God’s House of Worship in good working order. A verse from Psalms 24:1 is a great reminder that the church grounds are a reflection of God’s creation. “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it...”

Thanks be to God!

Your BG team: Charlie, Jan, John H, Kathy, Steve, Tom



## OUTREACH

During the month of May members of the outreach team participated in several activities. On March 30 Charlie, Kathy, and Louise attended the PCHAS luncheon in Kilgore where our church was listed as a Leadership Church based on our quarterly support of PCHAS. Louise and Kathy continue to represent First Presbyterian on the HIM Board, while Charlie and John T. volunteer weekly helping to prepare boxes to be handed out. On Saturday, May 16, John H., Charlie, Louise, and Kathy helped with the HIM Color Run by adding blue to the shirts of runners.

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

Welcome to our Luncheon

*Hope Outshines Hardship*

East Texas

For their generous leadership gifts in support of our ministry, PCHAS thanks:

- Carol Sample
- Centre Presbyterian Church, Longview
- First Presbyterian Church of Athens
- First Presbyterian Church of Henderson
- First Presbyterian Church of Kilgore
- Longview United Presbyterian Church

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services™

pchas.org



# June 2026

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



### Liturgists for June

7—Kathy

14—Louise

21—Jimmy

28—Carol



### June Birthday:

30—Mariella

	1	2	3	4	5 Meals on Wheels	6
7 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship & Communion with Steve Newton <b>Home Communion</b>	8 11:00 Worship Mtg.	9	10	11 9:30 Mid-Morning Coffee Break at the Chamber Office	12 Meals on Wheels	13
14 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jimmy Chapman	15 11:00 Worship Mtg.	16	17	18 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition Meeting	19 Meals on Wheels Connections Deadline	20
21 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Naveen Nischal	22 11:00 Worship Mtg.	23	24	25	26 Meals on Wheels	27
28 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with David Reeder	29 11:00 Worship Mtg.	30				