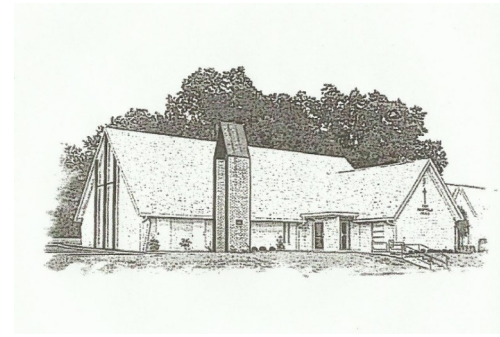




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*"Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences"*

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



Stamp

Mailing Label



August 2026 Vol. 59:08

I have one more poem from my book Summer, which I bought at Iona, Scotland four years ago:

For the Sun's Rising

For the sun's rising and its beams of precious warmth, Thanks be to you, O God. For the morning's gleaming promise... plants awakening, flowers blooming, trees dancing in soft wind, Thanks be to you, O God. For the air, warm and wet with summer's invitation to play and rest, Thanks be to you, O God. For the birds singing their returning song and the fragile nests that hold new life, Thanks be to you, O God. For the noontime heat and the refreshing lap of water on the shore, Thanks be to you, O God. For shoeless feet and toes that wriggle in sand and grass, Thanks be to you, O God. For the long evenings stretching out like a blanket of restful sleep, Thanks be to you, O God. For the brilliant blue-black of night sky, silent stars dancing in flickering magic, Thanks be to you, O God. For the arc of summer's day, and for all days, our hearts are full to overflowing with gratitude to you, Creator God.

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

August 2 (Communion) Steve Newton

August 9 Jimmy Chapman

August 16 Evan Dolive

August 23 David Reeder

August 30 Evan Dolive

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



GRACE & MERCY

God's grace and mercy are **two foundational expressions of His love**, often understood as two sides of the same coin. Simply put, **mercy is God withholding the punishment we deserve**, while **grace is God freely giving us the blessings and forgiveness we do not deserve**.

The Difference Between Grace and Mercy

While deeply interconnected, each concept serves a distinct and powerful purpose in the life of a believer:

Mercy (Compassion and Forgiveness): Mercy is rooted in God's tenderheartedness. Because humanity makes mistakes and falls short, we naturally deserve judgment. Mercy is God's compassion in action, forgiving our sins and sparing us from the spiritual consequences we rightfully owe.



Grace (Unmerited Favor): Grace is an act of extreme generosity. It goes beyond just pardoning a wrong; it bestows a gift, such as eternal life, salvation, and a personal relationship with God, none of which can be earned by human effort.

How They Work Together

These divine attributes are the core of the Christian faith, making salvation possible through Jesus Christ. Because we fall short, we require mercy to remove the penalty of our transgressions, and we need grace to transform us and adopt us as His children.

Through this combination, believers are not only forgiven but are also empowered to live a transformed life. The Apostle Paul beautifully summarized this in Ephesians 2:4-5 : *"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved."*

THE STAFF

Administrative Assistant – Nancy Harris
hendersonfirstpres@gmail.com

THE SESSION

Jimmy Chapman
903-649-0341
jimmychapman46@hotmail.com

Liz Cross
903-658-1732
eebuckner217@gmail.com

Louise Cochran
972-571-7724
louise_cochran@sbcglobal.net

Jan Pennal
903-658-0004
Janeil58@yahoo.com

Carol Scoggins
903-649-0091
cscogg@eastex.net

Kathy Porter - Clerk of Session
903-646-0162
kathyporter301@gmail.com

FINANCE AT A GLANCE



June 2026:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$ 7,372	\$14,893	\$ -7,521
May 2026:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$ 8,095	\$ 6,399	\$ 1,696
Year to Date:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$56,355	\$52,130	\$ 4,225

MEMBER CARE

Communion to our homebound members continue each month. Cindy, Bill, Carolyn and Lucy are being served well and because of Christ’s love. Keep these in your prayers.

Continue to be in prayer for our members and all those we may know or not know in the missionary fields all over the world, like Kathy’s grandson, Brother Matthias in Kenya this summer. Also, continue to pray for those you know who are battling illnesses, like Jan and Catherine in Oklahoma.

Prayers are so important. They are important for: 1) those who pray, 2) those prayed for, and most of all, 3) to communicate with God...the same God who parted the Red Sea for the Israelites, the same God who used Esther through Mordecai to save the Jewish people, and 3) the same God who came to live, walk and teach among us as a human born of a virgin, to name three. Thanks be to God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit and he wants to hear from us!

Peace,
Jan



National Dog Day is celebrated annually on August 26. It was founded in 2004 by pet lifestyle expert Colleen Paige to celebrate all dogs and raise awareness about animal welfare, shelter adoption, and responsible pet ownership.

The holiday encourages people to honor family dogs, working service animals, and the countless pets looking for loving homes in shelters.

PRAYERS FOR STUDENTS & TEACHERS

by Julia Gho

The start of a new school year brings a whirlwind of emotions for students; some are anxious because they are preparing to go to a totally new school, some are sad that summer break is coming to an end, others are excited because they will get to see their friends at school, and still others are filled with dread as they relive past experiences. Students will meet many other individuals and learn a plethora of new concepts. They will be challenged and stretched and will see, feel, and experience so many things.

The beginning of the school year is a stressful time for both students and teachers alike. How can we support the educators and students in our lives and community? Prayer is an effective way to lift them up during their times of need.

Praying, or interceding, for teachers and students is a powerful gift of love and faith. Pray for teachers in your life to have the courage to daily yield anxieties, stresses, and worries to God. In addition, pray that teachers are filled with peace. And pray that students will grow into individuals who care for God, creation, and one another.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” - Philippians 4:6

DID YOU KNOW???

You Are Eating Plastic. Every Single Day.

Microplastics have entered the human body. The science is catching up.

Where It Comes From



Bottled Water



Food Packaging



Synthetic Clothing



Tire Dust / Environment

10-40 million metric tons released annually

How It Enters Your Body



~1 credit card of plastic per week

Where It Ends Up



Brain
Heart / Arteries
Lungs
Liver

Nanoplastics accumulate in tissues.

What the Science is Finding

- Inflammation
- DNA Damage
- Hormone Disruption
- Immune Effects
- Cardiovascular Risk

2024 NEJM: Microplastics in Arterial Plaque

Higher risk of Heart Attack, Stroke, Death

Reduce Exposure

- ☒ Use Glass or Stainless Steel
- ☒ Don't Heat Food in Plastic
- ☒ Filter Your Water
- ☒ Eat Whole Foods
- ☒ Choose Natural Fibers

The question is no longer whether microplastics are in us.

The question is **what we do about it.**

Sources: Stanford Medicine (2025) - New England Journal of Medicine (2024) - Peer-Reviewed Literature

C.E. GREEN TEAM



COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Committee met on July 21 and continues to work behind the scenes to strengthen communication and keep our church family informed, engaged, and connected.

One of the topics discussed was the committee's budget. Funding for the Communications Committee was previously approved by the Session, and committee members will work with the Session to ensure those funds are properly established as we prepare for the upcoming budget year.

The committee also reviewed the church website and identified several areas that need updating. Members will be working with Nancy in the coming weeks to make these revisions so the website remains current, informative, and welcoming to both members and visitors.

The church directory was also discussed briefly. Because this is an important project, additional time has been set aside for a more in-depth discussion at the committee's next meeting.

Our newsletter distribution was reviewed as well. Currently, 71 individuals receive the newsletter by email, while 25 households receive a printed copy by mail, for a total monthly distribution of 96 newsletters. After reviewing our mailing and email lists, the committee is recommending that every church member or household receive a printed copy of the newsletter each month, while friends of the church who are on our email distribution list continue to receive it electronically.

We believe that placing the newsletter directly into members' mailboxes will encourage more people to read about the many ministries, activities, and opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service within our church family. It also provides another meaningful way to stay connected with members and reach those who may not be able to attend regularly.

The committee also agreed that our recently revised church brochure should be reviewed annually to ensure the information remains current and continues to provide an accurate and welcoming introduction to our church for visitors and prospective members.

As always, the Communications Committee sincerely appreciates everyone who submits articles, announcements, and photos for the monthly newsletter. Your contributions help tell the story of God's work through our congregation and keep our church family informed, inspired, and encouraged.

If you have an item you would like included in the newsletter, please remember that the submission deadline is the **third Friday of each month**. Articles and announcements may be emailed to **Liz or Louise**.

Thank you for helping us share the many ways God is working through the ministries and people of First Presbyterian Church. Together, we continue to strengthen the connections that make our church family such a special place.



BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The sprinkler system, AC units, church cleaning and yard maintenance are all on go for the summer. Pest control for any termites and general pest that might decide to show up has been performed, as Mele pest control has been on the grounds. As always, your B&G team is being proactive to ensure all systems run efficiently and smoothly. If you see, smell or hear anything out of the ordinary in and around our building/grounds, please contact either Jan, Kathy, John B, Charlie, Tom or Steve. Thank you !

Peace,
Jan

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The parlor Sunday School class continues its new study of the book Basic Judaism by Rabbi Milton Steinberg. Please join us as you like if you are interested in learning more about one of our fellow Abrahamic faiths. 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.

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

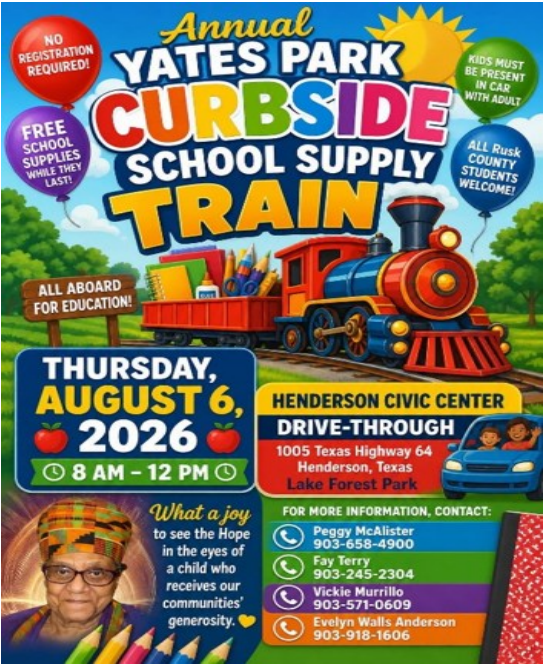
Our next fellowship luncheon will be September 13. Kelly and Mary will work together in planning our second luncheon of the year. Put it on your calendar !

Peace,
Jan



OUTREACH

Thank you for supporting the school supply program. We raised \$230.00 through your donations. 660 backpacks will be filled on Wednesday, August 5 at the Civic Center. John, Lynn, Charlie, and Louise have helped for several years and encourage you to mark your calendars to join us this year.



Outreach Committee will meet on Monday, August 10, at 1:00 in the parlor. Among the items on the agenda will be finalizing the August adopt-a-block when we share watermelon with our neighbors. We invite all to join us on Saturday, August 29 at 11:00 as we pass out the watermelons and then enjoy the extras!

August Mid-Morning Coffee is scheduled for Thursday, August 13 at 9:30. Everyone is welcome to attend at the Henderson Police Department.

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

FINANCE

On behalf of the Finance Committee I would like to thank all of you for your continued participation in all the programs our congregation supports. Stewardship season is approaching and we anticipate some increased expenses for the 2027 calendar year. We should have more details on these issues in the next few weeks. Consequently, we are encouraging all of you to be in church on August 23 when the Finance Committee will present an update on these issues during the morning service.

Carol
Finance Chair

August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship & Communion with Steve Newton Home Communion	3 11:00 Worship Mtg.	4	5 Backpack Fill at the Civic Center	6	7 Meals on Wheels	8
9 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jimmy Chapman	10 11:00 Worship Mtg. 1:00 Outreach Mtg.	11	12	13 9:30 Mid-Morning Coffee Break @ Henderson Police Dept.	14 Meals on Wheels	15
16 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Evan Dolive	17 11:00 Worship Mtg.	18	19	20 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition Meeting	21 Meals on Wheels Connections Deadline	22
23 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with David Reeder	24 11:00 Worship Mtg.	25	26	27	28 Meals on Wheels	29 11:00 Adopt a Block
30 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Evan Dolive	31 11:00 Worship Mtg.					



Liturgists for August

2—Lynn T.

9—Suzanne C.

16—Carol S.

23—Steve L.

30—Kelly W.



August Birthdays:

Nancy Harris	12
Assane	18
Tom Laney	19
Weldon Gray	22
Charlie Cochran	27
Tammy Hillin	28