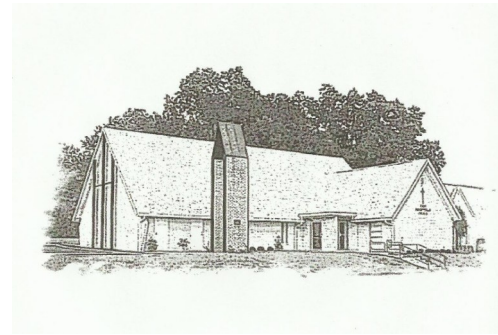




*“Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences”*

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



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Stamp



What are the essentials of Christian worship? According to Gordon Lathrop, the essentials of Christian worship are an open and participating community gathered on the Lord's Day in song and prayer around the scriptures read and preached, around the baptismal washing, enacted or remembered, around the holy supper, and around the sending to a needy world. The central things of Christian worship, our action, our sacrifice, even our seeking, are not the heart of Christian worship. God's presence, God's gift, the very fruit of the tree of life, is. The word worship can be misleading. The word can sound as if the praise we give to God is the heart of the matter, as if we call this event a service because we are giving service to God. Rather, the service is first of all a service God renders to any and all who come. In astonishing mercy, God uses our assembly, our words, our actions with water, bread, and wine, our place and our time, as the means of the presence of these leaves and this fruit. Worship is not just about my own individual self. It is about the intercession of the needs of the world, about God and the Lamb, the water and the tree of life, word and sacrament at the center of the meeting. At the Sunday assembly itself the scripture is read in fullness, at the very heart of the meeting that is at the very heart of the Christian identity. The readings are from the Old and New Testaments. Why from both? Because Israel's story set next to the stories from the earliest church make it possible for us to know the truth about the world's need and God's grace in Jesus Christ. Because Jesus is the living embodiment of all of God's scriptural promises. The scripture should be read with great dignity, as if the reader were reading to us from the Book of Life itself. The Sunday reading of the Bible in Christian assembly is best made up of more than one reading. One passage, set next to another, set next to yet another, helps us to see both the fullness of God's gift and the sense that it is not so much before the readings themselves as before the one whom they serve that we are gathered. Preaching that belongs to the essentials of Christian worship is a freely composed address, juxtaposed to the appointed readings, that opens up the appointed readings to the congregation in such a way that their Christian intention is clear. The "word" of the Christian assembly takes at least two forms: the written texts of scripture read aloud and the living voice of the preacher. These two forms are juxtaposed, even in a certain tension with each other. The texts always say more than the sermon can say. To make clear that this assembly around scripture and preaching is an assembly before God, the gathering is marked by prayer and the singing of hymns. Songs, mutual greeting, and prayer are remarkable gifts. Whatever is done must serve to gather us before God and give centrality to the reading of scripture. The reading and preaching together lead us to prayer, to intercession for all the needs of the church and the world, and they invite us to the holy supper. Intercessions should tell the truth—they should name real needs in expectation and hope before God. These intercessions should invite the entire assembly to be involved in prayer on behalf of the whole needy world.

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

September 6 (Communion) Steve Newton
September 20 Naveen Nischal

September 13 Crosby Fleming
September 27 Jim Dees

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



THE GROUND ZERO CROSS

The **World Trade Center cross**, also known as the **Ground Zero cross**, is a formation of steel beams found among the debris of the World Trade Center site in Lower Manhattan, New York City, following the September 11 attacks in 2001. This set of beams is named for its resemblance to the proportions of a Christian cross. Since 2014, the beams have been part of an exhibit at the September 11 Museum.

Religious symbolism

Many saw the crossed metal as a Christian cross and felt its survival was symbolic. Fr. Jordan spoke over it and declared it to be a "symbol of hope... [a] symbol of faith... [a] symbol of healing". One minister at the site says that when a family of a man who died in the attacks came to the cross shrine and left personal effects there, "It was as if the cross took in the grief and loss. I never felt Jesus more."

In 2013, "U.S. District Judge Deborah Batts concluded...that the 17-foot-high cross, which became a spiritual symbol for workers at ground zero, does not amount to an endorsement of Christianity." Joseph Daniels, the president and CEO of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, welcomed the court decision to continue the display of the cross, stating it "is in fact a crucial part of the 9/11 Memorial Museum's mission." Furthermore, Mark Alcott, the lawyer of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, which fought the court case against the American Atheists, stated that "The museum is gratified by the decision."

The potential use of the cross in the National September 11 Memorial & Museum has been controversial. Many groups such as families of certain Christian victims want the cross to be included. Other organizations disagree, notably the American Atheists, who filed the lawsuit pertaining to this issue. The Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish NGO, issued a statement that it "fully supports the inclusion in the National September 11 Memorial & Museum of the metal beams in the shape of a cross found in the rubble at Ground Zero in the aftermath of the tragic attacks on 9/11." In the court decision in March 2013, Judge Deborah Batts opined that "the First Amendment separates church from state, but not religion from public life" and that "American Atheists advocates an 'absolute separation of church and state,' which would appear to call for a society in which public spaces are entirely religion-free zones. But 'separation' taken this far is no friend of religious liberty." In late July 2014, in dismissing a lawsuit filed by the dissenting atheists who did not want the cross displayed at the memorial, the 2nd U.S. Circuit ruled that, being "a symbol of hope" and "historical in nature", the steel beams "did not intentionally discriminate" against the atheists.



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FINANCE AT A GLANCE



July 2026:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$ 8,618	\$ 4,198	\$ 4,420
June 2026:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$ 7,372	\$14,893	\$ -7,521
Year to Date:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$64,973	\$56,328	\$ 8,645

MEMBER CARE

The church is asked to keep all of our members in your prayers. Our homebound members include Cindy, Carolyn, Bill, Mariella and Lucy. Our newest member is Ginny Snelgrove. Ginny, we are happy to have you! We welcome you and your family!

Let’s keep Catherine McDaniel and family in our prayers with the passing of Jan McDaniel, beloved by all who knew him. Jan was our choir director and musician in the 1990’s.

Joshua 22:5... ..“But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul”.

Peace,
Jan

LABOR DAY

Labor Day is on the first Monday of September every year and is a national holiday in the US. It has its origins in the labor movement and is a day to celebrate American workers.

People celebrate Labor Day with picnics, sports events, and street parades. The American football season begins on—or around—Labor Day.

Labor Day has become the unofficial end of summer—after Labor Day Weekend, kids are back to school. For many, it is the last chance to take a break before school starts again for the fall session, and people take advantage of the long weekend to take a last summer trip. As a result, there may be extra traffic on highways and at airports.

Labor Day has deep roots in the 130 years of the labor movement and its efforts to improve working conditions in America. It is also known as International Workers’ Day or May Day and is celebrated on May 1 internationally.

With the growth of the Industrial Revolution came the demand for labor and trade unions. Around the 1850s, eight-hour movements across the world aimed to reduce the work-ing day from ten to eight hours. At its first congress in 1886, the American Federation of Labour called for a general strike in Chicago on May 1 to demand an eight-hour day, which culminated in what is known today as the Haymarket affair.

The first Labor Day celebration was the Labor Day parade in New York City on September 5, 1882. Its origins stem from the Central Labor Union’s and other labor organizations’ desire to create a holiday for workers. Oregon was the first state to pass it as a legal holiday in 1887, and by the end of the same year, Colorado, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York had passed laws creating a Labor Day holiday. President Grover Cleveland made it a federal holiday in 1894.

According to the US Department of Labor, it is not completely clear who first suggested the Labor Day holiday. Some sources say that Matthew Maguire proposed the holiday in 1882 while serving as secretary of the Central Labor Union in New York. Others argue that Peter J. Mcguire, co-founder of the American Federation of Labor, suggested a holiday for the ‘laboring classes’ in 1882.

The holiday was set on the first Monday in September because this was considered a more politically neutral date than May 1. Another reason was to add a holiday to bridge the long gap between Independence Day in July and Thanksgiving in November.



DID YOU KNOW???



JP MORGAN CHASE INSTALLED SOLAR CANOPIES AT ITS CENTER IN OHIO. 40,000 PANELS COVER 165,000 SQUARE FEET OF PARKING — AND PROVIDE 75% OF THE BUILDING’S ELECTRICITY NEEDS

C.E. GREEN TEAM

COMMUNICATIONS

The **Communications Team** remains resolute, excited, devoted, and honored to serve our congregation. We are grateful for the opportunity to help keep everyone informed, connected, and engaged through our church communications.

If you have news, announcements, upcoming events, photos, or other information you would like to include in the newsletter, please remember that the **submission deadline is the third Friday of each month.**

Please send all newsletter submissions by e-mail to **Liz and Louise.**

Our Communications Team members are **Liz, Louise, and Kathy (Suzanne, proofreader).** We appreciate the support and contributions of our congregation and look forward to sharing your news and stories each month.

Thank you for helping us keep our congregation connected!

WORD SEARCH

Presbyterianism

L B P N U E X S S W O C B M H
H A I U O P L K T L A U T C E
D L N B M I O D J I R D R L R
R O I M L D T T E N Z U N E P
I N N I Y E S A I R H E T O G
O I Y Y U H M N M C S S I E T
H V R T S E G A T R N F N U S
C L E S X O N K R I O E X S E
C A T E C H I S M S R F O F S
Q C Y H S U B T C A E R E H S
Y L B M E S S A L S C V A R I
N J S C H E F L A M E C O B O
D Y E E W Z N A R T H E X D N
R U R C O N G R E G A T I O N
K U P A I H P L E D A L I H P

ASSEMBLY
BUSH
CHOIR
DOVE
GENERAL
NARTHEX
SESSION
BIBLE
CALVIN
CHURCH
ELDERS

HYMNAL
PRESBYTERY
SYNOD
BURNING
CATECHISMS
CROSS
FLAME
KNOX
REFORMATION
WESTMINSTER
CONGREGATION
PHILIDELPHIA

Find the word in the puzzle.
Words can go in any direction. Words can share letters.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

The fellowship hall is cooling once again with the newly installed air conditioning units. Thanks to God for technologies that keep us cool and to Shawnee AC and Heating and to Blu Electrical services, who quickly responded.

Our goal as a committee is to best oversee our building and grounds with the abilities and funding that we have. A lot of extra funding is being put into our building due to it being outdated in some areas, namely our electrical workings. We will continue with repair and upkeep as long as possible.

In the letter to the Philippians, Paul writes to thank the church at Philippi for a gift they had sent him and to strengthen these believers by showing them that true joy comes from Jesus Christ alone. In 4:8, Paul writes these familiar words, ***“Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely and whatever things are of good rapport, if there is any virtue, and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things”.***

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

Kelly and Mary are putting their heads together to bring our next luncheon to fruition on September 13 th . Put this date on your calendars if you have not already and join us for lunch immediately following worship.

Peace,
Jan



OUTREACH

Charlie, Lynn, and Louise helped pack backpacks for the annual Backpack distribution. Over 600 backpacks were stuffed with school supplies, including earphones for every student to use during computer classes.

Outreach committee met on August 10 to finalize plans for 2027.

HIM continues to need our monthly food support. The new HIM building will participate in a Chamber Ribbon Cutting on Wednesday, September 2 at 10 AM followed by tours of the building for those interested. All church members are invited to attend.

August Mid-Morning Coffee is scheduled for Thursday, September 10 at 9:30. Everyone is welcome to attend at Parkway Wealth Management at 121 S. Main Street.

Louise, Kathy, Lynn, John H, and Sylvia



FINANCE

The A/C units in the Fellowship Hall which have served us faithfully for about three decades have ceased working. They have been replaced with new units and an updated electrical system. This was a large expense and was covered by using some of our savings. On August 31 a letter with your pledge card will be mailed. Please prayerfully consider your monetary gift to our church. If you have not pledged before, please consider doing so. If you pledge regularly, please consider increasing your pledge. These gifts will help the Session to plan for the 2027 budget.

Thank you.
Your Finance Committee.

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Ribbon Cutting 10 am @ Henderson Interchurch Ministry followed by tours of building	3	4 Meals on Wheels	5
6 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship & Communion with Steve Newton Home Communion	7 11:00 Worship Mtg.	8	9	10 9:30 Mid-Morning Coffee Break @ Parkway Wealth Mgmt. 121 S. Main Street	11 Meals on Wheels	12
13 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Crosby Fleming Fellowship Luncheon	14 11:00 Worship Mtg.	15	16	17 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition Meeting	18 Meals on Wheels Connections Deadline	19
20 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Naveen Nischal	21 11:00 Worship Mtg.	22	23	24	25 Meals on Wheels	26
27 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jim Dees	28 11:00 Worship Mtg.	29	30			



Liturgists for September:

John Hillin	9/06
Kathy Porter	9/13
Louise Cochran	9/20
Jimmy Chapman	9/27



September Birthdays:

Cindy Ratliff	1
Lynn Tieken	24
Louise Cochran	29