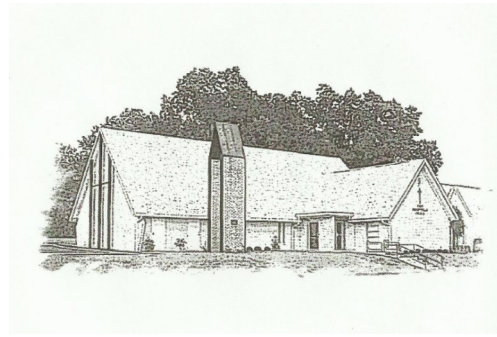




*"Serving God,
Honoring Creation,
Embracing Differences"*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P. O. BOX 773
HENDERSON, TEXAS 756530773**

Mailing Label

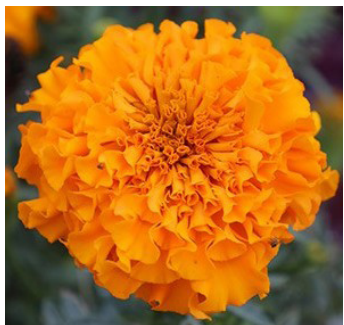


903-657-2529

www.fpchendersontx.org



Stamp



Sunday, October 4 is World Communion Sunday. On the first Sunday in October every year, congregations on six continents break the same bread as they have communion together. Some use a common loaf, some pass rice cakes, some serve grape juice in tiny glasses that their grandparents also used. Whatever the material, the table is the same table. World Communion Sunday is the one day in the church year built entirely on the claim that the table is bigger than the congregation around it. For churches that mean it—that practice an open table, that welcomes everyone who comes—it is the most natural Sunday of the year to say so out loud. World Communion Sunday began in 1936 at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where the church was looking for something to hold a fractured world together. The Federal Council of Churches—the body that preceded the National Council of Churches—adopted it in 1940, and it spread across the mainline denominations from there. The timing matters to how the day reads. It was created in the shadow of the Depression and the rise of fascism in Europe, by people who could see what was coming and wanted to say that the church was one body across the borders that were about to be fought over. So, World Communion Sunday has both a religious and a political origin. One of the useful things about World Communion Sunday is that it does not require anyone to pretend. The churches sharing this table disagree about baptism, ordination, sexuality, and who may preside at the table. The day claims that the table holds them anyway. What binds us together in Christ is greater than what keeps us apart. We are all fellow Christians in Christ. Today it is observed across the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and many Episcopal, Baptist, and independent congregations.

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

October 4 (Communion) Steve Newton

October 11 Jimmy Chapman

October 18 David Reeder

October 25 Crosby Fleming

Jimmy Chapman—Moderator of Worship Committee

Members include Mary Lowe and Kathy Porter.

THE BELL THAT HAS CALLED HENDERSON TO WORSHIP

For well over a century, a familiar bell has called generations of worshipers to church in Henderson.

Early records of the Cumberland Church, located at West Main and North Van Buren in Henderson, do not show when the bell was first rung at that location. However, early minutes of the Session indicate that the bell was cast by the Buckeye Foundry of Cincinnati, Ohio, and hung long before the turn of the twentieth century.

According to the recollections of an early church member, C. W. Rettig, the bellsmith was either German or English and carefully mixed the metals to produce the distinctive tone of this particular bell—“there being none other cast with the same tone.”

On December 6, 1892, the church building was destroyed by a windstorm. A new building was erected on the same site, and the historic bell was rehung in 1894.

In 1948, the bell made another journey, becoming part of Central Presbyterian Church U.S.A., some 46 years after the Cumberland Presbyterians had merged nationally with the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Beginning December 19, 1948, the bell was rung each Sunday to call all to worship. It continued to serve that purpose until the First Presbyterian Church U.S.A. building was demolished to make room for the present church building at the corner of Fairpark Avenue and South High Street.

When the renovated church was completed in 1968, the bell was temporarily silent. In 1976, plans were made to construct a tower to house the historic bell. On July 4, 1976, the bell rang again for the first time since the renovated church had been completed.

The decision to ring the bell again on July 4 was especially meaningful. The occasion commemorated America’s Bicentennial and the freedoms inherent in the nation’s creation in 1776. After years of silence, the familiar sound of the bell once again rang out over Henderson.

The bell has continued to mark special occasions through the years. In 2022, it rang in celebration of a wedding at the church.

Today, during America’s 250th year, that same bell—cast all those years ago at the Buckeye Foundry in Cincinnati—still rings from First Presbyterian Church U.S.A. in Henderson, calling people to worship.

Its voice has witnessed storms, new buildings, changing congregations and generations of families. Through it all, its distinctive tone has remained unchanged—a familiar sound connecting Henderson’s past with its present.

For more than a century, this historic bell has done more than simply ring. It has called people together, marked significant moments and served as a reminder of faith, tradition and community. And today, its voice continues to be heard, just as it has for generations.

THE STAFF

Administrative Assistant – Nancy Harris
hendersonfirstpres@gmail.com

THE SESSION

Jimmy Chapman jimmychapman46@hotmail.com	Liz Cross eebuckner217@gmail.com
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Louise Cochran louise_cochran@sbcglobal.net	Jan Pennal Janeil58@yahoo.com
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Carol Scoggins
cscogg@eastex.net

Kathy Porter - Clerk of Session
kathyporter301@gmail.com

FINANCE AT A GLANCE		
August 2026:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$ 8,976	\$ 4,660	\$ 4,316
July 2026:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$ 8,618	\$ 4,198	\$ 4,420
Year to Date:		
IN	OUT	BALANCE
\$73,949	\$60,988	\$12,961

MEMBER CARE

Ginny Snelgrove’s dad, Sandy Snelgrove, passed away on August 31st. His service was held on Friday, September 4th at Crawford A. Crim chapel with Jimmy Chapman officiating.

“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.” John 11:25-26

Prayers for Ginny and Tela and their family.....

Other members in need of prayer are Cindy, Bill and Carolyn, Mariella and Lucy plus all those friends and family in our hearts including Catherine McDaniel and family with the passing of her husband.

Blessings,
Jan.



Pictured (counter clockwise) are Michael Dill, recently ringing the bell on Sunday, September 19, 2026; Mary Lowe, ringing it for Sunday service; and Grayson Cross, pealing the bell following his aunt and uncle’s wedding in 2022.

DID YOU KNOW???

The future of clean energy might look like art! This visual concept highlights the emerging world of vertical-axis micro wind turbines (like France’s iconic Wind Tree and Aeroleaf technology). Instead of giant traditional windmills, these compact systems are designed to:

- Run silently without noisy gears or belts
- Capture gentle, urban winds from any direction (360 °)
- Blend seamlessly into residential spaces, rooftops, and smart cities
- Protect wildlife with safer, lower profile designs

Might this new innovative wind turbine find its way to our backyard someday?

C.E. Green Team



France may have pioneered a new sustainable power solution with clean wind technology that eliminates rotating blades, all moving parts, and generates zero noise.

OUTREACH



October is the month that HIM collects food for Thanksgiving boxes. During the month of November, clients receive boxes of food with extra items to create a Thanksgiving feast. Since clients only receive one box per month, HIM begins giving out Thanksgiving boxes November 1. In addition to the regular clients, HIM collects names from school counselors of students and families that could use a little extra help for Thanksgiving. As supporters of HIM, here is a list of items we can donate on the first Sunday in October and November. Money is also needed to purchase the chickens added to each box. You can donate other times during the month by taking food to businesses such as Fairway Ford or Wallace and Sons Wrecker Service. October’s Mid-morning Coffee will be on Thursday the 8th at Arnold Abstract, 115 N Jackson St., 9:30 AM. Both HIM and our church are Chamber members. Everyone is invited to come and meet and greet other Chamber members. HIM and First Presbyterian will be represented at National Night Out on October 6 starting at 5:30. We hope you will grab your First Presbyterian t-shirt and hang out at one or both tables.

Louise, Lynn, John H, Kathy, and Sylvia

OCTOBER
WORDSEARCH

B A E V N F L E O G M S C S K
J W U R A L Q C M I Z I Y C S
N R O T U Y B A S U D U A E D
H C K F U Q D N Y E T A Y N L
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acorn
autumn
cider
costume
full moon
harvest
jacket
pumpkin
scarecrow
trails

apples
candy
cornstalks
fields
gourds
hayride
leaves
rake
scenic
wagon

FINANCE

We have been working for many hours to prepare the budget for 2027 so it can be presented to the Session at its September meeting. If the Session approves it, we will present it to the congregation as an informational document. We think it is a realistic budget for the year and it will allow us to continue to serve God's kingdom in our little corner of the world.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Surprisingly, even though the weather is still hot as blazes, Advent is not too far off. It will begin on Sunday, November 29. At that time, the Sunday School class will begin its annual four-week Advent study. We will soon select the book that will be studied and will let all know what that study will be as soon as we ourselves 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 Tieken, Kathy Porter, Sylvia Conlee, John Hillin, Steve Lowe.

FELLOWSHIP	
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COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Team is happy to have the opportunity to help keep our church family informed, connected, and engaged through our church newsletter!

Do you have church news, announcements, upcoming events, photos, or special stories to share? We would love to hear from you! Your news and contributions help make our newsletter a wonderful reflection of our church family and all that is happening among us.

Newsletter submissions are due by the third Friday of each month.

Please email your submissions to Liz and Louise.

[illegible]

Together, we can keep our church family connected!

WHY GO TO CHURCH

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

“I’ve gone for 30 years now,” he wrote, “and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can’t remember a single one! of them. So, I think I’m wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all.”

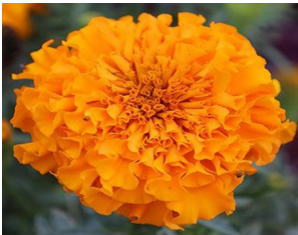
This started a real controversy in the “Letters to the Editor” column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing....God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

OCTOBER

2026



Liturgists for October

- 4 Liz Cross
- 11 Lynn Tieken
- 18 Kelly Weaver
- 25 Steve Lowe



October Birthdays:

- Sylvia Conlee 20
- Jim Stroud 21

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 Meals on Wheels	3
4 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Communion with Steve Newton Home Communion	5	6 National Night Out 5:30 @ Fair Park	7	8 9:30 Mid-Morning Coffee Break @ Arnold Abstract	9 Meals on Wheels	10
11 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jimmy Chapman	12	13	14	15 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition Meeting	16 Meals on Wheels Connections Deadline	17
18 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with David Reeder	19	20	21	22	23 Meals on Wheels	24
25 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Crosby Fleming	26	27	28	29	30 Meals on Wheels	31