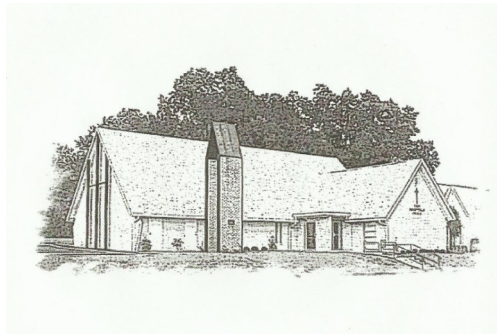




**First
Presbyterian
Church**
Henderson, Texas



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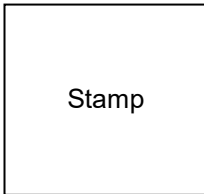
www.fpchendersontx.org



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



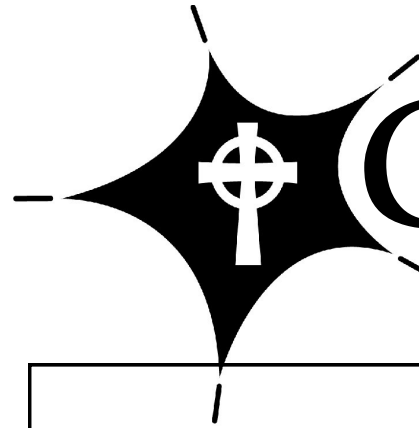
**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P. O. BOX 773
HENDERSON, TEXAS 75653-0773**



Stamp



Mailing Label



Connections

First Presbyterian Church

Henderson, Texas

February 2025 Vol. 58:02

February is a month of love and a great time of reflection of God's love for us. God showed what love is and Jesus showed us how we should love each other. With everything going on in the world today, let us remember what Jesus taught us. Be kind, compassionate, respectful and loving.

This month our pulpit supply is:

- Feb. 2 - Steve Newton
- Feb 9 - Jimmy Chapman
- Feb 16 - Crosby Fleming
- Feb 23 - David Reeder

We hope you have a blessed month!

The Worship Committee



Love One Another

by Donna Hendrix

Red and yellow, black and white
They are precious in His sight
A little song we use to sing as children
But such a powerful message for every Christian

Christ is in everyone; He loves us all
We are to break down barriers, not build walls
No man on earth outshines another
We're all part of our Father; sisters and brothers

So remember the words to this precious song
Jesus loves us all for to Him we belong
He made us all in His image to love one another
To show kindness and mercy towards each other

There's no place for prejudice upon the earth
We're all God's children through rebirth
He loves us all equally and expects us to do the same
That is to love everybody in our Father's name!

John 15:12 ~ This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

How to Help

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) deploys disaster spiritual care providers to support the operations of the American Red Cross. They award emergency initial assistance grants to assist Presbyteries as they support the impacted communities. These grants are typically used in partnership with congregations serving the impacted communities. PDA is in touch with the Emergency Network of Los Angeles (ENLA), working to create a sense of community and focus, and providing necessary resources to those in need.

This will be an ongoing recovery and rebuilding process - entire communities are gone. The scale is devastating and inconceivable.

Photo shared from @pcusafoundation from threads.net

GIVE:

Gifts can be made online at <https://www.pcusa.org/donate/dro00165-us-wildfires>

by phone at
800-728-7228, ext. 5885,

or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) with "PDA-CF25-BI" written on the memo line and mailed to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700



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FINANCE AT A GLANCE



December 2024:			
IN	OUT	BALANCE	
\$9,667	\$11,255	-\$1,588	
November 2024:			
IN	OUT	BALANCE	
\$6,214	\$5,073	\$1,141	
Year to Date:			
IN	OUT	BALANCE	
\$96,229	\$105,574	-\$9,345	

Did You Know?

**Climate will keep changing
if we don't.**

POPE.ART

C.E. GREEN TEAM

“Star Words Rítual for 2025”

“The magi followed the star to find baby Jesus, bringing their gifts. We are also seeking Jesus, trusting God can and does use many signs (or stars) to guide us closer to the Divine presence. Come forward and take a star. Trust the star that you receive has something to offer you. Reflect on that word for the coming year. Ponder what significance this word might have in your life, and how God might be speaking to you through this simple message. Place the star where you will see it: on the refrigerator, where you keep your keys, with your daily devotionals – someplace where you will be reminded of it often. We will share our star stories with one another through the year.”



Greetings from the **Building and Grounds** committee!

Outside of February being the month of Valentines wishes it is normally our coldest month of winter. We all remember the snow, ice and bitterly cold temps from a few years past. With that in mind please keep aware of safety measures to live by.

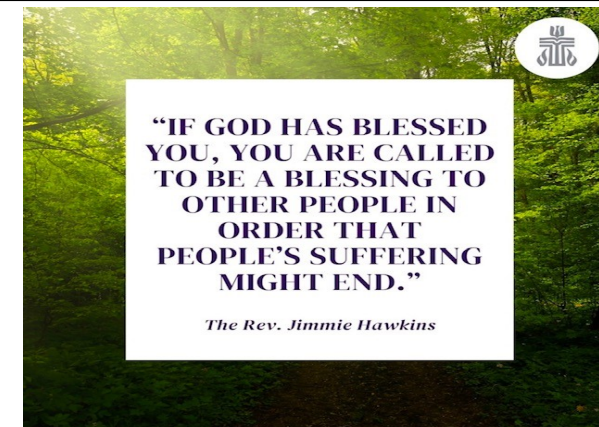
Keep all space heaters free of debris and clutter.

If you haven't already, please change your heating system filters.

Open cabinet doors where your water sinks are when temps drop below 32.

We've practiced these same procedures at the church.

Stay warm and know spring will arrive next month!



Communications



Weekly your Communication Committee posts the church service bulletin to the website and keeps the church website updated.

Monthly we collect newsletter submissions, conduct multiple proofreads of the newsletter draft, and sign off on the newsletter for publication and distribution.

With many responsibilities, our committee members keep busy and meet multiple times per month by telephone, text, face-to-face, and e-mail doing what they do best - "communicating."

If you have something to include in the newsletter, the submission deadline is the third Friday of each month. Please e-mail submissions to Liz and Kathy.

Please bring food donations
to church this Sunday
and we will deliver them to
H.I.M. for you.

HENDERSON INTERCHURCH MINISTRY
needs help keeping our
shelves stocked!



CANNED MEAT
RICE SPAGHETTI O'S
CANNED VEGGIES
INSTANT POTATOES
MAC N CHEESE
DRY BEANS CHILI

Drop off at H.I.M
769 SH 64 W

What? The Souper Bowl of Caring is an annual national event that has a local impact. Through the Tackle Hunger organization, thousands of groups and communities utilize the Souper Bowl of Caring each year, using the energy surrounding football's biggest event of the year to generate support and donations for local food charities.

Why? The State of Texas has one of the highest food insecurity rates in America, with 16.4% of Texans suffering from some degree of food insecurity. Put simply, "Food insecurity is when people can't access the food they need to live their fullest lives." (Feeding America). To put this into context, Rusk County alone (numbers as of 2022) has around 8,000 food insecure individuals. An even starker number is that about 24% of children in Rusk County are a part of that, without access to adequate, nutritious food. Food charities are constantly working to bridge that gap, giving both nonperishable food as well as produce to families in need.

How? The Souper Bowl of Caring (SBoC) is unique in that it takes place *following* the Christmas season. Thanksgiving and Christmas are often food charities' busiest times of the year, so the SBoC helps them be better able to restock and continue serving families throughout the winter. As a church partnering with Rusk County 4-H, we ask that you let us know how much food (in pounds) or money you end up donating to the food charity you already give to at other times so that it can be added to the national Tackle Hunger total. (<https://map.tacklehunger.org/>)

When? Where? Who?

Collecting from **January 26th** until **February 9th**, a display will be set up in the narthex for easy donation of items.

Our hope is that through this drive we will be able to help food charities help those in need. Imagine the impact we could have if everyone donated just \$1 or 1 can of food?



Rusk Co.²⁰²⁵
**Souper Bowl
of Caring**

What if
EVERYONE
**donated \$1 or 1 can
of food?**

The Souper Bowl of Caring is an annual national event that has a local impact.

We're inviting *First Presbyterian Church* to join us in helping the families and people of our area who need food assistance.

From January 26 until February 9, we will gather non-perishable food items for those in need. The food given will then be used to stock H.I.M. to feed your friends in need.

1/26 - 2/9

 In Partnership with Rusk County 4-H

Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School class which meets in the church parlor, is currently studying the book *Faith Unraveled* by Rachel Held Evans. The book is very interesting and quite easy to read and understand.

Rachel grew up in the South, spending time as a child in Birmingham, Alabama, the daughter of a college professor who earned his graduate degree from Dallas Theological Seminary, a very conservative school. Eventually, when Rachel was thirteen, the family moved to Dayton, Tennessee, where her father took a position at Bryan College, named in honor of William Jennings Bryan, famed defender of creationism. Dayton, Tennessee had been the location for the famous Scopes Monkey Trial of 1925. John Scopes was a science teacher who got in trouble for teaching evolution. He was defended by Clarence Darrow, an agnostic lawyer, while Bryan was a lawyer for the prosecution.

So, Rachel lived in two very religiously conservative places. Her church background was fundamentalist. Rachel was a very good girl who tried very hard to be religious and to convert others to Christianity. As a high school student, she organized Bible studies and prayer walks. She wrote columns in the high school newspaper in an attempt to inspire other students to follow Christ. She was aggressive in advertising her Christian worldview. As Rachel writes, she chatted up just about anyone who would listen, from sulky cheerleaders who didn't know her name, to the Goths hiding behind layers of makeup, to the good ol' boys whose camouflage jackets smelled of dry leaves and cigarettes. As Rachel also writes, it's a testament to the power of teenage hormones that anyone wanted to date her at all.

The book discusses how Rachel herself moved away from fundamentalism. The problem was that she asked too many questions for which there were no good fundamentalist answers. The subtitle of the book sums it up: *How a Girl Who Knew All the Answers Learned to Ask Questions*. As Rachel says in the book, the problem with fundamentalism is that it cannot deal with change. That always makes it uncomfortable.

Rachel herself evolved in her Christian views. She never left the church, but did leave fundamentalism, eventually becoming a member of the Episcopal Church. She has written many books about her faith and has influenced quite a few other Christians who have dealt with similar issues. Tragically, Rachel, who was married and had two children, died at the age of 37 in 2019.

The Sunday School class is enjoying her book and invites any who are interested to join up.

January Worship News



Jimmy ordained Elders to serve on the Session.

Louise, Jan, and Carol



Elders Lynn and Kathy served Communion

Guest preacher Crosby Fleming

February 2025



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1 10:00 Session Retreat
2 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship/ Communion with Rev. Steve Newton Home Communion	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Jimmy Chapman	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day 	15
16 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Crosby Fleming	17 Presidents' Day	18	19	20 2:30 L.E.A.N. Coalition Meeting	21	22
23 9:45 Sunday School 11:00 Worship with Rev. David Reeder	24	25	26	27	28	

Liturgists for February:

2—Louise

9—Steve

16—Suzanne

23—Kathy



February Birthdays:

12—Bill

22—Briar