



# First Presbyterian Church

## EPISTLE

**Our Mission: Connecting with God and sharing the Good News  
of Jesus Christ with the community.**

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

543 East Freeman St.  
Duncanville, TX 75116  
(972) 298-3043  
fax: (972) 298-5312  
info@fpcd.org  
www.fpcd.org

#### **CHURCH STAFF:**

**Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein,**  
Pastor

**Jennifer Johnson**  
Administrative Asst

**Ross Shipman**  
Summer Youth Intern

**Nyadia Thorpe,**  
Choir Director

**Brittany Tucker,**  
Accompanist

**Sean Russell,**  
Sound Room Technician

**Ana Ortiz & Tricia Reiman**  
Nursery

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Finances

### **Christian Unity**

**From Dub Guthrie**

In today's world there are many things that serve to divide people, including Christians. We have to be very careful in what we do or say in order to show people that being a Christian makes us different in a positive way. At every level, internationally, nationally, statewide, or locally, there seems to be the need not only to be right but to demonize any who disagree with us.

One issue is the acceptance of foreigners into our country whether these be refugees or immigrants coming across our southern border. For some this is easy, since we are told in the Bible to accept these groups. But it gets more complicated when ISIS says they will send jihadists with the refugees with the plan to kill people who disagree with them. When we see incidents such as San Bernardino and Orlando this becomes a very real threat. While most coming across the southern border are just coming for a better life, there are some who are criminals or are part of the drug cartel. There is also the question of how we pay for this when we are over \$19 trillion in debt. We have many unemployed in this country so a large increase in work force can only increase the number unemployed. There are good people on both those for unlimited acceptance and those who see the dangers. Calling the other side naïve or racist doesn't help solve the problem.

Another area is in helping the poor. All Christians believe that is our duty, but there is a big disagreement over how to do it. I have read some who call themselves the "Christian left" say that any true Christian should support and vote for those who want to increase spending for any and all programs that serve the poor. Others would ask if that is not turning over our responsibility to the government. Are people who want the government to help the poor better Christians than those who willingly work with and donate to non-government groups who help the poor? Those who are not in total support of government point out that when government does it, a large sum of money is needed for the bureaucracy to administer the programs. The larger the government program, the more opportunity for fraud and waste.

*[Continued on Page 2]*

## **Christian Unity**

*[Continued from Page 1]*

Our denomination has been divided by the acceptance of gays into church leadership positions and gay marriage. I would hope all Christians would be against mistreatment of gay people. Although there are not clear statements about gays in the Bible, Christians have to use other statements to determine our position on the issue. The Bible talks of marriage as between a man and a woman. The gay lifestyle would seem to not be consistent with the behavior described for Christians. My understanding is that as Christians we need to be welcoming to all people. But we are also supposed to encourage them to live a Christian lifestyle. Do we sometimes stress accepting everyone as they are so much that we don't expect them to move toward being more like Christ? Christ forgave sin but then said "Go and sin no more". Are we saying join us and no change necessary?

I have tried not to tell anyone which side he or she should be on. I feel each person needs to determine his or her position through reading the Bible and praying. We need to be sure that our disagreements be discussed in a respectful manner and not overshadow our agreement on the main issue that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior and His way is the true way.

One way to help demonstrate our unity, is through a joint festival titled "Community in Unity" put on by 10 churches. It our chance to present to the Duncanville community a unified voice of our Christianity. Help us as we work toward this goal.

*Dub*



## **Women's Bible Study Groups**

Hi, Ladies! It is time to make plans for the 2016-2017 women's Bible study. If you would like to attend a prayerful, educational, and friendly gathering, we would love for you to join us. Here's a little bit about this year's book:

### **"Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes." by Judy Yates Siker**

*.....Halfway through the Gospel of Mark, as Jesus and his disciples are on their way to Caesarea Philippi, Jesus turns to his disciples and asks, "So, what's the word on the street? Who do people say that I am?" It seems like a reasonable question to ask the people who travel with you and who have the opportunity to hear what folks in their towns and villages are saying about their teacher. "Well," they answer, "some say you are John the Baptist (back from the dead); others think you are one of the prophets, maybe Elijah, maybe another one." Then Jesus looks them squarely in the eyes and asks, "Yes, but who do you say that I am?" Now that's a good question! The author's prayer is that, through the course of this study, you will find your own voice, your own answer. When Jesus turns and looks you squarely in the eyes and asks, "Who do you say that I am?" what will you say?....*

There are two Bible study groups you may choose from. **The Agape Circle** meets at 1:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Fellowship Hall of our church. Their first meeting will be on Wednesday, September 14. Call Connie Steger at [972.291.0922](tel:972.291.0922) if you have any questions. **The Sarah Circle** meets at 7:00 pm at various homes of the members on the second Thursday of each month. Their first meeting will be Thursday, September 15 at the home of Joan Brown. Call Joan at [972.298.9836](tel:972.298.9836) if you have any questions.



### **Let's Do What We Do Best – Be a Support**

One part of life for families serving overseas is sending off your children across the world as you continue to do the work you're called to. The Walters recently saw Dale begin his commitment to serving as a member of the Coast Guard.

Being on your own, without support close by while you perform to demanding requirements is tough. Holidays become hard if you cannot travel half way across the world to get home. Let's step in to become a small part of Dale's family, letting him know we care, we're there if he needs us. We don't need to stuff his mail box, but we do need to be faithful for the long haul.

Here's his address: Cadet Dale Walters  
U. S. Coast Guard Academy  
8949 Chase Hall  
New London, CT 06320

Be caring, creative and prayerful.

**"I will make you  
fishers of men"**

**Matthew 4:19**





# Monthly Prayer Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 2016

*"Remember each other in daily prayer"*

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1 Jack & Diane Pegues  Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	2 Charles Tyer  Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant	3 Jaime & Lorraine Cordova Vanessa, Valerie, Jimmy & Jason
4 Connie Steger  Joan Brown  Pat Sparr	5 Nadine Daum Ariel, Leah, Aeris & Benjamin  Eddie & Darlene Cowand	6 Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle  Carol McKinney	7 Larry & Margaret Lewis. Heather, Zephyr, Erin & Christian	8 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R.  David Hertenstein & Evelyn	9 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee  John Alsop	10 Jeff & Nyadia Thorpe Vincent & Caden  Wanda Shipman
11 David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau & Blake	12 Miguel & Fanny Penaloza  Susan Murphy Anna Murphy	13 Doris Metzger  Tom & Lois Harmon	14 Billie Cowand  Gary & Nita Malone  Barbara Notari	15 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson  Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	16 Bob Harrison  Darrell & Sharon Ingram  Gary & Candice Morris	17 Gary & Linda Simons  Dick & Nancy Bergman
18 Paul & Claudia Griffith  Dorothy Cleary	19 Roy & Wendy Jensen  George & Mary Huttar	20 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn & Andrew	21 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie  Sam & Charlotte Fithian	22 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb & Jonathan  Paul & Helen Barton	23 Eric & Erin McGinnis Ashlee & Michael  Mickey & Betty Jespersen	24 Jim & Janet Stahl  Leo & Marlene Skinner
25 Paul & Jen Schaefer Caleb, Micah, Josiah, & Sarah	26 Irving & Peggy Kezar Angel, Brandon, Cyleigh, Devon, & Elyssa	27 Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal  Bill & Vangie Jackson	28 Jocelyn Bolles  Steve & Marna Bayless	29 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan	30 Dudley Austin  Julia McConnell  Donna To	



"I HAVE NOT STOPPED GIVING THANKS FOR YOU, REMEMBERING YOU IN MY PRAYERS."

EPHESIANS 1:16, NIV



## September 2016

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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4 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship  Children's Promotion	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6 6:30 PM Community in Unity Planning Meeting	7 5:30 PM Pre-Teen Youth Group 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 1:00 PM Agape Women's Fellowship 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship	9	10																																																																																												
11 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	12 1:00 PM "New Beginnings" Grief Support Small Group 6:30 PM Community in Unity Planning Meeting 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	13	14 5:30 PM Pre-Teen Youth Group 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16	17																																																																																												
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**Worship Volunteer Schedule**  
**September 2016**  
**10:30 A.M. Service**

**September 4**

Greeters:	Donna To & Wendy Jensen
Ushers:	Irving Kezar & Albert Teel
Nursery Overseer:	Darlene Cowand
Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis
Communion Servers:	Adelmo Ruiz, Sandy Gaskins, Jack Pegues, Jack Pegues
	Edelmira Ruiz, Connie Steger
End of Service Ministry:	Sean Russell & Edelmira Ruiz

**September 13**

Greeters:	Darlene Cowand & Anna Murphy Murphy
Ushers:	Eddie Cowand & Dub Guthrie
Nursery Overseer:	Anna Murphy
Tellers:	Darrell Ingram & Anna Murphy
End of Service Ministry:	Anna Murphy & Doris Metzger

**September 18**

Greeters:	Doris Metzger & Eddie Cowand
Ushers:	Irving Kezar & Jack Pegues
Nursery Overseer:	Jocelyn Bolles
Tellers:	Lori Glover & Brenda Everett
End of Service Ministry:	Sharon Ingram & Margaret Lewis Lewis

**September 25**

Greeters:	Vanessa & Jason Cordova
Ushers:	Dub Guthrie & Jack Pegues
Nursery Overseer:	Susan Murphy
Tellers:	Joan Brown & Teresa Reed
End of Service Ministry:	Dub Guthrie & Joan Brown

## September Birthdays

If we've missed your birthday and you would like us to include it in this "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact us at (972) 298-3043 or [info@fpcd.org](mailto:info@fpcd.org). Thank you.

Charlotte Fithian, Sept 1	Edelmira Ruiz, Sept 19
Fanny Se Penaloza, Sept 2	Caden Thorpe, Sept 21
Danielle Reed, Sept 4	Sharon Ingram, Sept 22
Cyleigh Kezar, Sept 7	Beau Gaskins, Sept 26
Gail Haynes, Sept 10	Aiden Gaskins, Sept 26
Ana Ortiz, Sept 11	Hailey Reed, Sept 26
Ginger Hertenstein, Sept 14	Marlene Skinner, Sept 26
Jack Pegues, Sept 14	Margaret Lewis, Sept 28
Miguel Penaloza, Sept 19	Gary Malone, Sept 30

— 6:00 p.m. Youth Group

### WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

— 9:15 a.m. Christian Education  
— 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

www.fpcd.org  
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DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116  
543 EAST FREEMAN STREET  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



### 2016 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
July	\$18,562	\$15,645
Jan - July 2016	\$128,024	\$134,025