



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.
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CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein,
Pastor

Jennifer Johnson
Administrative Asst

Ross Shipman
Youth Director

Nyadia Thorpe,
Choir Director

Brittany Haywood,
Accompanist

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

Ana Ortiz & Tricia Reiman
Nursery

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From your Session

What's going on in Ezra and Nehemiah?

A few months ago Pastor Ginger asked us to read a portion of the Old Testament book, Nehemiah. I felt perhaps I should read the entire book and the closely-linked book Ezra. I had an idea that I might better "get the picture" if I let my mind be saturated with this Scripture rather than just read once, casually. Over a few weeks I read the two books several times, from both *Contemporary English Version* and *The Message*. That experience is another story, very worth doing, though you might want to zip through the extensive lists of names. If you don't have a modern English version, this might be a good time to get one!

These books contain a lot of action! The scene opens with the Jews in captivity, enslaved, but God speaks to the king who is holding them captive. The king allows, even urges, the Jews to return to the homeland and rebuild the temple. They do, and eventually they also rebuild the city walls. We also read of ups and downs: renewed commitment to God, falling away, the rise of an uncaring bureaucracy, repentance and restoration of right-relations, persecution, fighting. I hope I've withheld enough detail that you'll want to read the rest of the story in these books! ☺

What did I learn?

- * I tried putting myself in their place in these books. The Jews are God's people here and throughout the Bible. As a follower of Jesus, I'm privileged to also be one of God's people. The lessons of the people in Ezra and Nehemiah should be my lessons too.

- * God remembers and cares about me (his people) even if I'm bogged down in slavery and out of touch with him.
- * God sometimes chooses to work for my benefit through a surprising individual (the king); he might bring that person to be his follower in the meantime.
- * I quickly fall out of touch with God if I neglect reading Scripture. In Nehemiah 8, the people were deeply moved when the Law of God was read to them, and they recommitted themselves to doing what God commanded.
- * Temptations to not follow God's leading are often present.
- * Prayers by leaders for God's people should become my concerns too. (Ezra 9, 10).
- * I should expect persecution. In some cases it's best to ignore it, and in others resistance is appropriate.
- * God is ready to receive and restore me to being in touch with him if I repent.
- * Repentance and return to God bring rejoicing.

Paul



Hurricane Harvey School Supplies Drive

We are collecting school supplies for Clear Springs High School which is located in the Clear Creek ISD outside Houston. Of their 45 schools, 44 received damage of some sort. From this school, 35 of the teachers and 200 of the students were displaced.

Maggie Wallace Johnson, one of the teachers at Clear Springs, is a former member of FPCD. The Wallace family were a very active part of our congregation for many years. To show our support to Maggie and give to a good cause, it was decided to collect the supplies for her school. Here is a list of supplies needed/wanted. Feel free to include any other items that might benefit either teachers or students.

We will accept donations until October 15. Supplies can be placed in tubs in the Narthex. If you wish to contribute money, make your checks payable to FPCD and note Clear Springs H/S in the memo. Thanks for your continued support of our church and other outreach needs.

Clear Springs High School

Basic school supplies	Pencils
Notebooks	Highlights
Notebook paper	Backpacks if possible
Composition books	Kleenex
Folders	Copy Paper
Binders	Dry Erase Markers
Pens	

Brookside Intermediate School

Gently used books for Library
Band Instruments

For Teachers

Gently used clothing	Shirts
Slacks	Blouses
Skirts	Dresses
Cards of encouragement for Teachers & Students	



Women's Bible Study

Sarah Circle will meet October 10 at 7 pm in the home of Joan Brown. We will be studying the Horizons Bible Study *Cloud of Witnesses, The Community of Christ in Hebrews*. We invite any woman who wants to attend an evening Bible Study to join us.

The Agape Ladies Bible Study will hold its next meeting at 1 pm at the church on Wednesday, October 11. The Lesson for that day is #2 from the Horizons publication *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*, entitled "In Community with the Living God." The Bible passages to read for preparation are Hebrews 1:1-4; Exodus 3:1-7; Exodus 19:16-25; Hebrews 12:18-24 and 8:10; and Jeremiah 31:31-34. All are welcome.



Retired Currency

A well-worn \$1 bill and a similarly distressed \$20 bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation.

The \$20 bill reminisced about its travels all over the country.

"I've had a pretty good life," the \$20 bill proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow!" said the \$1 bill. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So tell me," says the \$20 bill, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The \$1 bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church

The twenty dollar bill interrupts, "What's a church?"

Pastor's parking...

A pastor parked in a no-parking zone as he was hurried and couldn't find a space with a meter. He left a note on his windshield: "I've circled the block ten times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he saw a ticket from the officer that read "I've circled this block for ten years. If I don't ticket you, I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."



FIRST Presbyterian Church

October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	2 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	3	4 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group 6:30 PM Worship Planning Mtg 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	5 7:00 PM Community Conversations at Ben Franklin	6	7
8 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	9	10 7:00 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship	11 1:00 PM Agape Women's Fellowship 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	12 8:30 AM Community Prayer Gathering at Ben Franklin 7:00 PM Community Conversations at Ben Franklin	13	14 Heart of Duncanville 5K - 8:00 AM & 8:30 AM
15 <div>Newsletter Articles Due!</div> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Church Potluck	16 1:00 PM "New Beginnings" Grief Support Small Group	17	18 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	19 7:00 PM Community Conversations at Ben Franklin	20	21
Pastor Ginger out of town						
22 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Roy Watson Preaching	23 <div>The Sandwich Project</div> <div>Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless</div> Pastor Ginger returns	24 6:30 PM Session Meeting	25 5:30 PM Impact Youth Group 6:30 PM The Closet Youth Group 7:30 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal	26 8:30 AM Community Prayer Gathering at Ben Franklin 7:00 PM Community Conversations at Ben Franklin	27	28
Pastor Ginger out of town						
29 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Youth Led Worship!	30	31	<div> Sep 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 </div> <div> Nov 2017 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 </div>			

FPCD *monthly* PRAYER CALENDAR

OCTOBER 2017

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	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 Jennifer Johnson	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 Betty Jespersen Brittany Tucker	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	31 PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH and our COMMUNITY				

**Worship Volunteer Schedule
October 2017**

October 1

**Greeters
Ushers
Tellers
End of Service Ministry
Communion Servers**

**Leo Skinner & Billie Cowand
Dub Guthrie & Eddie Cowand
Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis
Sean Russell & Edelmira Ruiz
Jack Pegues, Diane Pegues, Leo
Skinner, Nancy Bergman & Darrell
Ingram**

October 8

**Greeters
Ushers
Tellers
End of Service Ministry**

**Armellia & Eugene Jimmerson
Eugene Jimmerson & Irving Kezar
Darrell Ingram & Anna Murphy
Anna Murphy & Doris Metzger**

October 15

**Greeters
Ushers
Tellers
End of Service Ministry**

**Donna To & Wendy Jensen
Jack Pegues & Albert Teel
Lori Glover & Brenda Everett
Sharon Ingram & Connie Steger**

October 22

**Greeters
Ushers
Tellers
End of Service Ministry**

**Youth
Youth
Teresa Reed & Joan Brown
Dub Guthrie & Joan Brown**

October 29

**Greeters
Tellers
Ushers
End of Service Ministry**

**Darlene Cowand & Anna Murphy
Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis
Jaime Cordova & Larry Lewis
Dick & Nancy Bergman**

Be **ENCOURAGED**

October 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.

Wanda Shipman, October 1	Taylor Glover, October 21
Diane Pegues, October 3	Andres Benitez, October 22
Grant Everett, October 9	Brandon Cowand, October 24
Sean Russell, October 14	Mikaela Harkins, October 24
Jonathan Liddle, October 18	Mackenzie Harkins, October 24
Barbara Notari, October 19	Lorraine Cordova, October 30



2017 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
August	\$20,825*	\$19,434
Jan - Aug	\$163,648**	\$138,210

*\$8,850 for roof fund, \$11,975 for budget

**\$30,550 for roof fund, \$133,098 for budget

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Youth Group — 6:00 p.m.