



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
Youth Director

Nyadia Thorpe,
Choir Director

Dameron Growe
Brittany Haywood
Accompanists

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

Ana Ortiz
Liliana Ortiz
Nursery

From your Session

Welcome to 2020 and a new year ahead. May it be one that brings good health and happiness and one that also brings us to a new and more meaningful relationship with the Lord. In these times when there are so many not so good things happening, isn't it wonderful that we have the Lord to walk with us, to carry us through sometimes, and to be our rock and redeemer!

As a member of Session as well as Clerk of Session, one of the items on our agenda for 2020 is to keep you, the congregation, aware of who we are and what our responsibilities are. We are, after all, elected by you to serve for you. Our active or "ruling" elders number six usually; however, just last month, one of our members, Vanessa Cordova, moved away. Since her term of office ends June 30, 2020 and with only six months remaining, we decided to wait until June when we elect new elders to bring our number back to six. Current Session members are: Marna Bayless, Paul Griffith, Sean Russell, Jeff Thorpe and me. Pastor Ginger is Moderator of Session.

Session meets monthly. First and foremost, as spiritual leaders, we begin each meeting with a devotional of some type to help guide our spiritual growth; to help discern what direction God has for us as a church. And as spiritual leaders, we spend time in prayer. The remainder of each meeting is devoted to church operations. We review financial reports, minutes of previous session and/or congregational meetings and act upon items brought to us for decision. We are responsible to you for the financial

well-being of the church, upkeep of our facilities and personnel (other than the pastor); in general, the overall operation of the church. In addition, we take turns writing this column for the newsletter and serve on the "end-of-service" ministry team where an elder and a deacon are available for prayer immediately after each worship service. We are supported by the Deacons and all other teams. We couldn't complete our responsibilities to you without this support.

In order to become an elder, you must be a member of the church. The Nominating Committee meets annually to prepare a slate of candidates for the office of elder. They review candidates who have been suggested, pray about the candidates and then meet the candidates individually. If the candidate agrees, their name is placed in nomination for election at a congregational meeting. Nominees can also be presented from the floor at such a meeting with one stipulation: that the candidate is aware beforehand and willing to have their name placed in nomination. Once elected, you are ordained as an elder. You will remain an elder for life but the term of office for an active or ruling elder is three years. According to Presbyterian policy, you may serve a maximum of two terms or six years consecutively as a ruling elder.

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And now we come to a dilemma. Last June when the Nominating Committee conducted its due diligence and met with numerous candidates, no one was available or willing to serve. In order to continue our work, we asked one of our active elders to go beyond his six years and serve another year which he graciously agreed to do. This June we will need at least two new candidates to serve on Session. Won't you consider being one of them?

If you want to be official and look at the Book of Order for the Presbyterian Church (USA), ruling elders "are chosen by the congregation to discern and measure its fidelity to the Word of God, and to strengthen and nurture its faith and life." Sounds official, doesn't it? But it isn't. It's what I've mentioned above. It's you and I serving together in a church reaching out to a community. It isn't difficult, and we have fun too. All it really requires is faith, and isn't that really what we're all about?

I'd like to close with the first verse and chorus of a favorite hymn of mine, "Here I Am, Lord".

I, the Lord of sea and sky.
I have heard My people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.
I who made the stars of night.
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear My light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if You lead me.

I will hold Your people in my heart.



Jocelyn



Thank You from Presbyterian Women (PW)

Thanks to one and all for support of our Christmas auction this year. We raised \$1,330 altogether between the live auction on December 7, the silent auction on the 8th and 15th, and generous donations from friends.

As always, we use these funds to support various missions both local and internationally, as follows:

Heifer International
Presbyterian Pan American School, Kingsville TX
Presbyterian Women National (USA) Mission Fund
Mission of Good Shepherd Children's Home, Belize, Central America
Bridges Safehouse, Cedar Hill TX



Women's Bible Study Groups

Happy New Year! The ladies of the Sarah and Agape Bible Study Circles will gather in January for a time of study, fellowship and prayer. Each will be reading **Lesson 5** from *"Love Carved in Stone... a Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments"* by Eugenia Anne Gamble.

The **Sarah Circle** will hold their meeting on **Tuesday evening, January 14th, at 7:00 pm** at the home of **Nancy Bergman**.

The **Agape Circle** will meet on **Wednesday afternoon, January 15th, at 1:00 pm** in the **Fellowship Hall of the church**.

If you'd like to join either group or have any questions, please call Joan Brown (972.742.7997) about the evening group or **Connie Steger** (972.741.7932) about the afternoon group.

Prayer Initiative

Dear Elders, Deacons, and Members,

We need your help to support prayer groups for the **Night of Prayer** at FPCD.

This is a prayer initiative to develop prayer in the Duncanville Community. This prayer service will be once a month and take place from 5 to 6 pm.

Here are the prayer topics and dates:

January 25:	Community
February 22:	God's Guidance
March 28:	Healing and Restoration
April 25:	Experiencing God's Freedom
May 23:	Maintaining Peace

For more information, contact Jeff at 254-253-0630, email j-thorpe@live.com, or Nyadia at 214-708-9245, email nyadia@live.com.

Thanks,

Jeff

IF YOU LOOK FOR ME

Wholeheartedly,

YOU WILL FIND ME.

Jeremiah 29:13

FIRST Presbyterian Church

January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<div>Dec 2019</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr><tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr><tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr><tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	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	31					<div>Feb 2020</div> <table><tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr><tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr><tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr></table>	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		<div>1</div> <div>Office Closed for New Year's Day</div>	<div>2</div> <div></div> <div>6:30 PM Think Tank Meeting</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div>
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Worship Volunteer Schedule January 2020

January 5	Greeters Ushers Tellers Nursery Volunteer End of Service Ministry	Connie Steger & Joan Brown Jack Pegues & Darrell Ingram Joan Brown & Teresa Reed Doris Metzger Jocelyn Bolles & Nancy Bergman
January 12	Greeters Ushers Tellers Nursery Volunteer End of Service Ministry Communion Servers Communion Preparer	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Eugene Jimmerson & Paul Griffith Lori Glover & Jaime Cordova Sharon Ingram Paul Griffith & Dub Guthrie Darrell Ingram, Joan Brown, Dub Guthrie, Nancy Bergman, Eugene Jimmerson Diane Pegues
January 19	Greeters Ushers Tellers Nursery Volunteer End of Service Ministry	Darlene Cowand Dub Guthrie & Bobby Reed Brenda Everett & Linda Simons Candice Morris Sean Russell & Darlene Cowand
January 26	Greeters Ushers Tellers Nursery Volunteer End of Service Ministry	Youth Youth Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis Jocelyn Bolles Brenda Everett

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE
Impact Youth
Fearless Youth Group

— 5:30 p.m.
 — 6:30 p.m.

Christian Education
Worship Service

— 9:15 a.m.
 — 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
543 EAST FREEMAN STREET
DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043 / (972) 298-5312
info@fpcd.org
www.fpcd.org

January 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.

Thank you.

Jocelyn Bolles, January 1	Nyadia Thorpe, January 12
Gwenn Guthrie, January 4	Jason Cordova, January 13
Jim Stahl, January 5	Connie Steger, January 16
Brittany Haywood, January 7	Logan Russell, January 25
Jeff Thorpe, January 10	



2019 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
Nov	\$20,849	\$20,198
Jan - Nov	\$257,796	\$244,997