



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

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From your Session

Capacity to Love

One thing I can pull from 2019 and push in 2020 is the capacity to love. Last year, God showed me my capacity to love certain people was small and preventing me from moving forward in ministry and my career. God was stretching my patience with people I had a hard time connecting with, and would not allow me to move forward until I forgave or dealt with them in a polite, gentle, patient way. These people were allowed in my life to stretch my heart deep and wide, so God can pour (develop in me) His thick cement slab of concrete love to support the weight of my blessings that are to come. To be blessed doesn't exactly connect with riches or materials, but connects with helping others with the gifts God gave you. If this love is not created in me, then I stand a chance of missing my promise land like Moses did in the wilderness.

When we speak of the fruits of the spirit, we are speaking of everything God's Holy Spirit contains. Paul says in Galatians 5:22, the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The fruit, the fruit, the fruit, the fruit, the fruit (light bulb!). I can see what type of

tree I'm dealing with by what the tree has hanging from its limbs. I can tell what type of God I serve, by the way He deals with His people (BOOM! MIND BLOWING). This is the reason God has earned the holy scripture John 3:16, for God so loved the world because He has the fruit and capacity to do it, and it can be seen because He gave to a world that did not deserve His giving.

In the same spirit, I am to share this same fruit with everybody I meet, even if they don't deserve it. This fact cuts judgment to dust, it demolishes the thought of me deciding who I can pick to love and choose to love, even if it hurts to love. As Jesus said in Gethsemane, (the place of pressure, the olive press, to squeeze oil from an olive or juice from fruit), "Not my will, but let your will be done". This means, I don't want to die for these hard-headed people, but because it will glorify you (sigh), I'll do it. In order for me to glorify God and honor the spirit that is inside me, it is important for me to release the fruit inside of me, so people can see (me glorify) the God I serve. The fruit, that identifies me, and I share this holy fruit God has placed in me.

(Continued on next page)

(Capacity to Love, continued from front page)

There are three things to take from this.

1. You have to be very patient with people. Even if it means dealing with people minutes after you have calmed down, so you can be sober-minded (to think clearly) in your reactions. Do not answer people out of anger or confusion! Ask God to give you clarity in your thinking and proceed to love and show fruit.
2. Resist judgment. It is important that we do not judge others, or we will end up on the wrath side of God (Romans 2). The hate you give will come back to you when you least expect it (Galatians 6). This is a major blessing blocker. God judges us by our heart and our actions come from our heart, like a farmer's market, God squeezes His fruit to test (get a feel of) what is inside the fruit.
3. Enjoy the stretching process. This process is slow and sometimes painful, but it is for your good (Romans 8:28). Allow God to develop and mature your fruit, so you can produce new wine (Matt 9:14-17). God cannot expand your territory of people or position if you do not have the capacity to love. If you desire God's blessings, learn to love from the spirit God gave you.

Jeff



THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS

love, joy, peace,
patience, kindness,
goodness, faithfulness,
gentleness, self-control.

GALATIANS 5:22-23, ESV

Think Tank

Please join us for our next Think Tank meeting February 4 at 6:30 pm in the Library. We meet for 45 minutes to an hour and discuss ways that FPCD can impact our community. We have discussed our entry into the Christmas Parade, Prayer Walks around schools, Summer Arts Camp, recreation for Byrd students, crocheting hats for the homeless, financial assistance to DOM and those in need, and worked with Jeff and Nyadia supporting their upcoming Prayer Ministry. We welcome YOUR great suggestions and support if you can make it!

Women's Bible Study Groups

The ladies of the Sarah and Agape Bible Study Circles will gather in February for a time of study, fellowship and prayer. Each will be reading **Lesson 6** 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, February 11, at 7:00 pm** at the **home of Nancy Bergman**.

The **Agape Circle** will meet on **Wednesday afternoon, February 12, 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.



Good news! A small group ministry is starting at FPCD!! Now!!!

Get in on the ground floor and get off to a great start with your group. Sign up now! Read how to do it below.

The Leadership Team for the Small Group Ministry has been meeting together since early December for the purpose of forming a small group ministry in our church. We are now prepared to form these groups. And we do hope and pray that you each will be eager to participate in one of the five groups that are forming now. It is indeed a unique and wonderful and life-giving experience.

You no doubt have some questions. Good!

- 1) *What is a small group?* It is a group of 8 to 12 people who want to share life together: i.e., to know each other better, to eat and socialize together, to pray together, to study together, to have fun together. In other words, deep friendships can form out of these groups.
- 2) *How often does a group get together?* We are planning on starting out with 5 different groups. At this point, two of the groups will meet weekly and one bi-weekly. The other two groups will be deciding this for themselves.
- 3) *What will each group study together?* (This is a very important part of being a small group.) This will be decided by the groups when they actually begin meeting. It can be a wide range of material: a Bible study, a book study, a video series, etc.
- 4) *If I sign up, am I committed?* Yes, as a matter of fact, small groups work best when the group is committed to each other. In other words, if you are in town and your group is meeting, you are expected to be there. The group is your first priority!
- 5) *Will the groups change (i.e., the people) yearly?* No! It is the intention of the Leadership Team that these will be “life time groups” whose members are strongly bonded together in friendship and fellowship. Please understand, though, that if you are really unhappy in your group or with the time it meets you could change.

If you have further questions about Small Groups, please feel free to contact anyone on the Leadership Team:

Claudia Griffith	972-708-7102
Dennis Walters	682-246-3332
Darrell Ingram	214-638-7922
Sharon Ingram	469-774-7997
Joan Brown	972-742-7997
Doris Metzger	972-291-7770
Jennifer Johnson	626-755-8013

“Great,” you say! I am eager and ready for this deeper experience in faith and fellowship. How do I join up? You can sign up in the narthex after church for at least the next couple of Sundays, Feb. 2 and Feb. 9. There is a sign-up sheet for each of the five groups. You just sign the one that suits you best. It is preferred that couples stay together, but that is not necessary. If one of a couple wants to participate and the other does not, so be it. Or . . . call Claudia Griffith at 972-708-7102.

The five groups that we are going to begin with are as follows:

- A weekly Sunday evening group.
- A young adult group (ages 18 to 40).
- An evening group that meets weekly, likely on Tuesday evenings.
- An evening group that meets bi-weekly.
- A group that meets in the daytime hours.
-

It is our hope and our prayer that everyone in the church will enjoy this opportunity to grow in faith and fellowship and love with the Body of Christ that meets at First Presbyterian Church of Duncanville. Small Groups is an experience like nothing else!!

FIRST Presbyterian Church

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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9 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	10	11  7 PM Sarah Circle	12 1 PM Agape Circle 6-8 PM Youth Group 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	13	14	15  Newsletter Articles Due!																																																																																				
16 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 3rd Sunday Potluck	17	18	19 10 AM Finance 6-8 PM Youth Group 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22 5-6 PM PRAYER NIGHT																																																																																				
23 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	24 <div>The Sandwich Project Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless</div>	25	26 6-8 PM Youth Group 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	27  6:30 PM Session Meeting	28	29																																																																																				

Thank you

Thank you to everyone for the prayers and cards! I really appreciate everyone's support during this difficult time with my leg. Unfortunately it hasn't been progressing like the doctor would have hoped for it to. On Wednesday, January 22, I'll be going in for my third procedure on this leg to help with my range of motion. After that the doctor would like for me to be out of work for a while so it can have the time to heal properly. Please pray for a successful procedure next Wednesday and that my insurance will approve my short term disability. Thank you!

Rochelle Vance



Worship Volunteer Schedule February 2020

February 2

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

Communion Preparer

Doris Metzger & Jocelyn Bolles
Eugene Jimmerson & Dub Guthrie
Brenda Everett & Linda Simons
Doris Metzger
Marna Bayless & Connie Steger
Jaime Cordova, Connie Steger,
Paul Griffith, Sandy Gaskins,
Dick Bergman
Teresa Reed

February 9

**Greeters
Ushers
Tellers
Nursery Volunteer
End of Service Ministry**

Jason Cordova
Eugene Jimmerson & Bobby Reed
Lori Glover & Jaime Cordova
Sharon Ingram
Jeff Thorpe & Joan Brown

February 16

**Greeters
Ushers
Tellers
Nursery Volunteer
End of Service Ministry**

Leo Skinner & Billie Cowand
Dub Guthrie & Paul Griffith
Brenda Everett & Linda Simons
Jocelyn Bolles
Jocelyn Bolles & Nancy Bergman

February 23

**Greeters
Ushers
Tellers
Nursery Volunteer
End of Service Ministry**

Candice & Gary Morris
Darrell Ingram & Bobby Reed
Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis
Doris Metzger
Paul Griffith & Dub Guthrie

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE
Impact Youth
Fearless Youth Group

— 5:30 p.m.
— 6:30 p.m.

Christian Education
— 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

February 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.

Glenn Favors, February 2	Leo Skinner, February 15
Candice Morris, February 2	Claudia Griffith, February 16
Carol McKinney, February 4	Susan Walters, February 22
Christy Favors, February 6	Nadine Daum, February 23
Triston Russell, February 8	Gary Simons, February 26
Billie Cowand, February 10	Gary Morris, February 28
Paul Griffith, February 12	



2019 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
Dec	\$38,233	\$19,297
Jan - Dec	\$296,029	\$264,294