



# First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

**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:**

**Dr. Ginger Hertenstein Conley**  
Pastor

**Jennifer McWilliams**  
Administrative Asst

**Nyadia Thorpe**  
Choir Director

**Dameron Growe**  
**Brittany Haywood**  
**Susan Walters**  
Accompanists

**Sean Russell**  
Sound Room Technician

**Ana Ortiz**  
**Liliana Ortiz**  
Nursery

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- 5 - May Birthdays,  
Finances

### ***From our Session***

#### **Paul on Prayer**

I enjoy reading the Bible in different ways. Recently, over a period of a few months, I read the New Testament letters. I was intrigued by how Paul's letters (the Apostle, not me!) have a lot of references to prayer. After reading his letters, I'd say prayer was a substantial part of his life. Perhaps you will be similarly impressed. Here are a few observations. (Scripture references are to the New Living Translation.)

#### **What does Paul pray?**

Paul often begins a letter by wishing his readers grace and peace. Although this is a wish, it is also a prayer since grace and peace come to people from God. This frequent wish or prayer reminds us that, although God gives us these gifts of grace and peace, He wants us to ask for them.

Paul thanks God for the people who are receiving his letter. He thanks God for their growth in the Christian life. He is grateful to God that they are choosing to express their faith in deeds of love and kindness. He also gives praise to God for His greatness and goodness. In Colossians 1:9 he prays that his readers will have knowledge of God's will and spiritual wisdom and understanding.

Have you had a thought that you need to pray for someone or something but didn't know what to ask God for in this particular situation? Paul teaches us in Romans 8:26 that the Holy Spirit prays for us – edits our prayers to make them in accordance with God's will. So, we can pray something not very specific, or even just pray without any detail words. It is a great relief to me to know this fact because I'm aware that I often don't know God's will for the situation but feel a need to pray.

#### **How much does Paul pray?**

When I set out to write this article, I had in mind that he prayed always – continuously. Indeed, in Colossians 1 Paul tells us this. Thus, I was surprised to read in another place that he prayed briefly (Galatians 1:3); he

apparently wanted to get on with his complaint to the readers. Elsewhere (Philippians 1:3,4) he prays when the people "come to mind". Personally, I'm comforted to know that I'm not alone in praying with different amounts of enthusiasm in different situations!

Perhaps we can say that prayer was Paul's first thought in any situation and that he showed us by example that he had the habit of praying as his first action when dealing with people. "Lord, help me to learn from Paul's example".

#### **Prayers answered 'no' or 'wait'**

Even though Paul was an apostle, he had to accept God's responses to his prayers that were not what he wanted. There was the "thorn in the flesh" which Paul prayed more than once to be removed. There were travel plans to which God said 'no'. Paul doesn't say much about these. He does go on living and moving in the direction to which God has called him. He accepted his hardships, including imprisonment, and found joy in whatever God said. I conclude from reading about his difficulties and their outcomes that he exercised faith that God would continue to hear him when he prayed.

#### **What might these thoughts mean to us?**

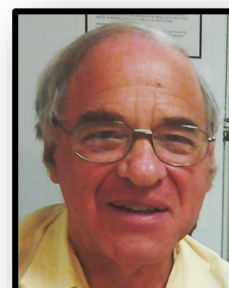
Prayer should fit into our lives as a driving force.

Everyone needs prayer, even if only for the basics of grace and peace.

We can pray with confidence that the Holy Spirit will pray on our behalf and in our best interest.


We can trust God to show us His path for us be it pleasant or not.

### *Paul*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
<b>1</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service <b>PW Plant &amp; Bake Sale</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>  6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>																																																																																				
<b>8</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>9</b>  7:00 PM Member Care Meeting	<b>10</b>  7 PM Sarah Circle	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>																																																																																				
<b>15</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service <b>3rd Sunday Potluck</b> Newsletter Articles Due!	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 4:00 PM Parking Lot Prayer Ministry 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>																																																																																				
<b>22</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>23</b> <div>           The Sandwich Project            Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless         </div>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>  7:00 PM Session Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>																																																																																				
<b>29</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>30</b> Memorial Day - Office Closed	<b>31</b>	<div> <div> <b>Apr 2022</b> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table> </div> <div> <b>Jun 2022</b> <table> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table> </div> </div>				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	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
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A woman with long brown hair, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, black shorts, and a black backpack with blue accents, is hiking away from the camera on a dirt trail. The trail is surrounded by tall evergreen trees and lush green grass. The background is misty and foggy, creating a serene atmosphere.

God is in the midst of her;  
**SHE SHALL NOT BE MOVED;**  
God will help her  
when morning dawns.

*Psalm 46:5, ESV*



## **Worship Volunteer Schedule May 2022**

<b>May 1</b>	<b>Greeters Tellers End of Service Ministry Sound Room</b>	<b>Dudley Austin Lori Glover &amp; Jaime Cordova Sean Russell &amp; Brenda Everett Jimmy Cordova</b>
<b>May 8</b>	<b>Greeters Tellers End of Service Ministry Sound Room Rotation COMMUNION Servers</b>	<b>Jocelyn Bolles Brenda Everett &amp; Linda Simons Brittany Haywood &amp; Dub Guthrie Logan Russell Dub Guthrie &amp; Lori Glover</b>
<b>May 15</b>	<b>Greeters Tellers End of Service Ministry Sound Room Rotation</b>	<b>Connie Steger &amp; Joan Brown Jocelyn Bolles &amp; Margaret Lewis Darrell Ingram &amp; Joan Brown Jennifer McWilliams</b>
<b>May 22</b>	<b>Greeters Tellers End of Service Ministry Sound Room Rotation</b>	<b>Sharon Ingram Joan Brown &amp; Teresa Reed Paul Griffith &amp; Diane Pegues Allen Conley</b>
<b>May 29</b>	<b>Greeters Tellers End of Service Ministry Sound Room Rotation</b>	<b>Dudley Austin Lori Glover &amp; Jaime Cordova Dennis Walters &amp; Nancy Bergman Logan Russell</b>



**WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**  
**Impact Youth**  
**Fearless Youth Group**

— 5:30 p.m.  
 — 6:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**  
**Christian Education**  
**Worship Service**

— 9:15 a.m.  
 — 10:30 a.m.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**543 EAST FREEMAN STREET**  
**DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116**  
**(972) 298-3043 / (972) 298-5312**  
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## May 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.

Clint Benford, May 5  
 Steve Bayless, May 7  
 Marna Bayless, May 22

Gary Walters, May 22  
 Alexander Gaskins, May 31



### 2022 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
March	\$39,373	\$24,562
Jan - Mar	\$82,557	\$65,890