



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:

Rev. Rachael McConnell
Pastor and Head of Staff

Nyadia Thorpe
Director of Worship & Music

Jennifer McWilliams
Admin & Media Specialist

Katherine Hurlin
Admin Assistant

Dameron Growe
Brittany Haywood
Susan Walters
Accompanists

Sean Russell
Sound Room Technician

Ana Ortiz
Kira Sewell
Nursery

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From Our Pastor

The New Year here at FPC Duncanville truly has new beginnings as you and I begin a journey of ministry and faithfulness together. I am excited to be a part of the story that God has been weaving together here.

My mother is an artist in many different mediums. I am confident she could master any art with her hands. During my life, she has sewn clothing, made beaded jewelry, created soaps and lotions, painted large-scale art projects, drawn exact examples for textbooks, and taken up quilting. She is amazing. I did not inherit that specific gift of the hands and mind artistry, where the product is beautiful to see and use. My sketches look the same as they did in kindergarten, and I can sew together a tear in a pinch with a needle and a thread or a button if needed, but I can weave together words and use my voice so that a thousand words can create a picture. That is how God made me. Families and communities thrive and come alive when different gifts are brought together. They look so different on the outside but come together beautifully.

In our first few Sundays together, we will be looking at our church, our community, and all of our stories and lives as a quilt being sewn together. Every person, every year, and every season adds unique beauty, length, and purpose as they tie together in God's design.

The church, the local community in Christ as a quilt, which both comforts and tells a story. This is what God has placed on my heart for this season. So, I eagerly await how, as we come together, God will use us here in Duncanville to share the Gospel of Christ as we serve in his ways and in his name.

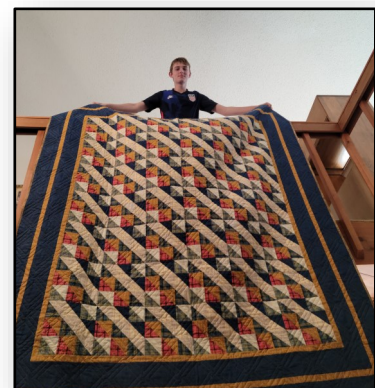
Wisdom to Wonder:

Aba Lot went to see Abba Joseph and said to him "Abba, as far as I can I say my little office, I fast a little, I pray and meditate, I live in peace as far as I can, I purify my thoughts. What else can I do? Then the old man stood up and stretched his hands towards heaven. His fingers became like ten lamps of fire and he said to him, "If you will, you can become all flame." - *From Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

Christ's Grace and Peace Be With You,

Rev. Rachael McConnell

Pastor and Head of Staff



(Quilt by Cherie Nicholson for Isaac McConnell)

THANK YOU from PW:

Thanks to one and all who helped make our on-line Christmas auction a big success. Whether you made it, baked it, donated it or bought it, you are a part of our overall success. Thanks also to those who set it up, kept it running and put it away. We couldn't do it without you. We raised over \$2,000 this year which in turn is donated to the following charities:

- Heifer International
- Presbyterian Pan American School, Kingsville TX
- Presbyterian Women National Mission Fund
- Mission of Good Shepherd Children's Home, Belize
- Bridges Safehouse, Cedar Hill TX
- Duncanville Outreach Mission, Duncanville TX

Prayers Needed:

Please continue to pray for the children at the Mission of Good Shepherd Children's Home in Belize. Although Belize is a tourist destination with luxurious hotels and restaurants, behind the scenes are people living in poverty, with children suffering the most. Homelessness and hunger prevail. Please pray for these children for a better world in which to live.



FIRST Presbyterian Church

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
	<div>1</div> <div></div> <div>Happy New Year's Day! (Office closed)</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div></div> <div>1:00 PM Worship Planning Meeting</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div></div> <div>Men's Fellowship 9 AM</div>																																																																																												
<div>7</div> <div>9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service</div>	<div>8</div> <div></div> <div>7:00 PM Member Care Meeting</div>	<div>9</div> <div>7 PM Women's Fellowship</div>	<div>10</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div>																																																																																												
<div>14</div> <div>9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service Youth Sunday</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Newsletter Articles Due!</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>7 PM Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>18</div> <div>4:00 PM Parking Lot Ministry</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div></div> <div>Men's Fellowship 9 AM</div>																																																																																												
<div>21</div> <div>9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service 3rd Sunday Potluck</div>	<div>22</div> <div><div>The Sandwich Project</div><div>Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless</div></div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>7 PM Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>25</div> <div></div> <div>6:30 PM Session Meeting</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>																																																																																												
<div>28</div> <div>9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div> <div>7 PM Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div><div>Dec 2023</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>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><tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></div> <div><div>Feb 2024</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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr><tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr><tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table></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	31							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		
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January Volunteer Schedule

January 7

Greeter

Dudley Austin

Tellers

Lori Glover & Jaime Cordova

End of Service Prayer

Nyadia Thorpe & Nancy Bergman

Communion Service

Dennis Walters & Diane Pegues

Communion Preparer

Diane Pegues

January 14

Greeter

Jocelyn Bolles

Tellers

Brenda Everett & Linda Simons

End of Service Prayer

Dub Guthrie & Darlene Cowand

January 21

Greeter

Connie Steger

Tellers

Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis

End of Service Prayer

Lori Glover & Brenda Everett

January 28

Greeter

Sharon Ingram

Tellers

Darlene Cowand & Teresa Reed

End of Service Prayer

Brittany Haywood & Dudley Aus-

IF I RISE
ON THE WINGS
OF THE DAWN
IF I SETTLE ON THE FAR
SIDE OF THE SEA,
EVEN THERE
YOUR HAND WILL GUIDE ME.


PSALM 139:9-10, NIV

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
Gwenn Guthrie, January 4
Jim Stahl, January 5
Brittany Haywood, January 7
Jeff Thorpe, January 10

Nyadia Thorpe, January 12
Jason Cordova, January 13
Rachael McConnell, January 13
Nesrine Nzoundja, January 14
Connie Steger, January 16

		
2023 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE		
	Receipts	Expenditures
Nov	\$ 22,803	\$ 13,960
Jan - Nov	\$239,399	\$ 245,876

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education
Worship Service

— 9:15 a.m.
— 10:30 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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