



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.
Duncanville, TX 75116
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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

Inside . . .

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"During Lent, we ask God to show us the world as it is." This is how theologian Kate Bowler introduces Lent to a reading audience who perhaps is not familiar with the concept of Lent. She continues "Suddenly, all of us are on the losing team. And we look at each other with the well-earned wonder, horror, and awe. We begin to tell each other the truth again: life is so beautiful and life is so hard. For everyone."

I agree with Kate, Lent is also my favorite part of the church calendar. Each Lenten season we are invited to consider what Jesus did for us, truly did for us. Not just on the cross, but throughout his whole ministry. Not just bite sized pieces that we snack on in a devotional that covers a Gospel or an Epistle, a letter from one of the apostles, but we step back, then journey forward with Christ alongside his ministry, alongside his actions that he completed all while knowing where he was headed. Where he was headed. And his healing, his teaching, his dying he did for our sake. And for the sake of those who followed him before us and for the sake of those who will continue building the body of Christ after we are long gone. Lent is big picture time. I love it. It has all the feelings: confusion, awe, excitement, intrigue,

love, devotion, politics, pain, betrayal, and did I mention, love?

Lent is important, it is important because it reminds us of who we were both before we were followers of Christ and then those who were resurrected in Him. A lot of talk of denying yourself will come up when Lent comes up. Lent is forty days, yes, symbolic of the time Jesus spent with the Devil in the desert, but it is also forty days of meditating upon his whole ministry. Living with Jesus does involve of us shedding habits, desires, and perceived needs in order to be free to be agile enough to follow his will and guidance. But, as we continue to learn about Jesus from the eyes of Peter in our Lenten sermon series, we also see that we will fail at letting go, we will give into being afraid, we will want to be comfortable more than anything in the world. Which is why we need Lent, which is why we do need to see the world as it is, not always as we want it to be.

(Continued on next page)

The Epistle 2

Continued from first page

Church and faith are not escapism from the real world, but a place, a reality where the world and the divine collide and embrace. God saves us and we stand in awe of that love. So, if we do anything this Lent, let us carve out space and time, give space and time to love God and others. Because the truth is, Christ's ministry here on earth reflected the truth of life here on earth that it is so beautiful and so hard, for everyone. Thanks be to God for the one who wants to make his burdens light. Thanks be to God for the one who knows what it is like to live and die and shows us how to do so well...well, better than well, perfectly.

Christ's Grace and Peace be with you,

Rev. Rachael McConnell



*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's special possession, that you
may declare the praises of him who called you
out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

1 PETER 2:9, NIV

FIRST Presbyterian Church

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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3 9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service	4  10:30 AM Worship Planning Meeting	5	6 6 PM Lent Bible Study 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	7	8	Men's Fellowship 9 AM 																																																																																				
10 9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service youth Sunday	11  7:00 PM Member Care Meeting	12 7 PM Women's Fellowship	13 6 PM Lent Bible Study 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due!	16 Men's Fellowship 9 AM 																																																																																				
17 9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service 3rd Sunday Potluck	18	19	20 4:00 PM Parking Lot Ministry 6 PM Lent Bible Study 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	21  6:30 PM Session Meeting	22	23																																																																																				
24 9:15 AM Sunday School (All Ages) 10:30 AM Worship Service 3 PM Spring Hymn Sing	25 The Sandwich Project Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless	26	27 6 PM Lent Bible Study 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	28 7 PM Maundy Thursday Services in homes	29 7 PM Good Friday Service	30 All Day Prayer Vigil																																																																																				
31 7 AM Family Sunrise Service, Breakfast, & Egg Hunt 10:30 AM Worship Service																																																																																										

PROPERTY – CAN YOU HELP?

As you know from the annual property report, there are two upcoming projects scheduled that will be completed by contractors: repair of the damaged area in the Sanctuary and replacement of the outside door from the CE classroom to the nursery. Additionally, there are other projects that we could do ourselves, such as:

- Replacement of stained or damaged ceiling tiles in the Narthex, sound room and Sacristy from earlier roof problems now resolved. Perhaps 8 to 10 tiles in all. We'll provide the tiles.
- Repainting of the lettering on the E. Freeman Street sign. We'll provide the paint.
- Repair of the door handle on the door from the CE Hallway to the courtyard.
- Clean out the storage area in the back of the CE wing where the riding mower is housed.
- Take the two boxes (heavy) of used electronic plates (they were replaced by new ones) from our electronic sign to Duncanville Hazardous Waste collection on Saturday, March 23.

In addition to tasks noted above, it would be nice to ...

- Have some volunteers to move the trash from the outside receptacles to the street once a week;
- Have some volunteers to walk around the property perhaps weekly or every other week to pick up trash;
- Have some volunteers to check inside to change a lightbulb (as needed and if accessible) and/or to report an issue;
- Have some volunteers who can be called upon when an emergency occurs.

If there's something you can do, please let us know. We'll call a plumber or an electrician or a contractor when needed, but sometimes **WE JUST NEED YOU!**

Thank you!

March Volunteer Schedule

March 3	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer Communion Service Communion Preparer	Dudley Austin Brenda Everett & Linda Simons Lori Glover & Dudley Austin Jeff Thorpe & Lori Glover Diane Pegues
March 10	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer	Jocelyn Bolles Lori Glover & Jaime Cordova Brittany Haywood & Diane Pegues
March 17	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer	Connie Steger Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis Lori Glover & Nancy Bergman
March 24	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer	Sharon Ingram Darlene Cowand & Teresa Reed Nyadia Thorpe & Brenda Everett
March 31	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer	Dudley Austin Lori Glover & Jaime Cordova Jimmy Cordova & Darlene Cowand

He is Risen
He is Risen Indeed

March 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.

Bobby Reed, March 2
Dennis Walters, March 3
Jimmy Cordova, March 4
Waheed Akram, March 4
David Gaskins, March 5
Irving Kezar, March 5
Nancy Bergman, March 9

Blake Gaskins, March 9
Vincent Thorpe, March 9
Jennifer McWilliams, March 11
Vangie Jackson, March 12
Dudley Austin, March 17
Evelyn Hertenstein, March 24
Carol Orwig, March 31

2024 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE		
	Receipts	Expenditures
Jan	\$ 8,929.50	\$ 14,322.68

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
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