



First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

**Our Mission: Connecting with God and sharing the Good News
of Jesus Christ with the community.**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Nyadia Thorpe

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From Your Session

As winter slowly loosens its grip and the first hints of spring begin to emerge, we find ourselves once again living in between seasons. The cold, windy chill has tested us, and even in these past few weeks we have felt the back-and-forth of temperatures that seem unsure whether to settle into winter, spring, or even summer. Yet perhaps this is a fitting image for the life of faith.

As believers, we too journey through changing seasons. There are times of warmth and clarity, and there are stretches of uncertainty that feel brisk and unsteady. And still, through it all, we are growing. Roots deepen in winter. Faith is strengthened in waiting. Gratitude is cultivated when we recognize that every season — comfortable or not—rests safely in God’s hands.

The Lenten season invites us to pay attention to this sacred rhythm. Lent is not merely a countdown to Easter; it is a pilgrimage of the heart. It calls us to slow down, to reflect, to repent, and to remember. We remember who we are, and more importantly, whose we are. We remember that even in barren landscapes and silent Saturdays, God is at work bringing resurrection life.

Scripture reminds us of this steady hope. In Book of Lamentations 3:19–26, the writer speaks honestly of affliction and hardship—yet does not stop there. In the midst of sorrow comes this bold declaration: “Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” What a gift that our hope is

not rooted in circumstances, but in the unchanging character of God.

God is still on the throne. He is still faithful. And He is still deeply concerned about us.

Lent also reminds us that God desires nearness. In Christ, we see a Savior who does not remain distant from human struggle but enters fully into it. Through Jesus, we witness a love that walks dusty roads, weeps at gravesides, and ultimately carries a cross. This is not a detached love. It is personal, sacrificial, and present.

Take a moment—right where you are—and thank God for His nearness even when we do not recognize it, even when we cannot sense His presence. Even when prayers feel quiet. The truth remains: we are not forgotten. We are not abandoned. We are not unseen.

Over and over again, in ways both subtle and profound, God speaks a tender word over His people: *You are Beloved. You Belong. You are Delightful.* These are not empty affirmations; they are covenant promises sealed in Christ’s love. When it comes to the love of God, there is no outsider. At the foot of the cross, everyone belongs.

As spring approaches and the earth prepares to bloom again, may our hearts also open to renewal. May this Lenten season deepen our trust, steady our hope, and draw us closer to the One whose mercies are new every morning. Great is His faithfulness.

Nyadia



2026 Lenten Study

Please join us each Wednesday for our 2026 Lenten Study. We actually studied this in 2019, but I believe it is so relevant that we should study it each year. We will read Adam Hamilton's *24 Hours That Changed the World* one chapter at a time and study the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. Each chapter will help us experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death. We will meet in Fellowship Hall for the 7-week study which will continue through March, with our last meeting on Wednesday, April 1. We will serve dinner at 6:00 pm followed by our study from 6:30-7:30 pm. Please join us so that we can better worship our Lord and Savior during this Lenten season.

There is a sign in sheet in the Narthex to let us know if you will attend so that we know how much food to prepare.

Darrell and Sharon will take turns leading the remaining chapters for March and April.

Books are available for \$9.20 with checks payable to Sharon or Darrell Ingram.

Elder of the Month

Since we no longer have a pastor available, Session has in place an "Elder-on-call" program in the event a situation arises where a call to a pastor is needed. It could be a prayer request or a health or family concern, use of church facilities, other specific information, etc. If the need or concern requires an ordained pastor or additional assistance beyond the scope of what we can provide, we will have additional resources available for referral. In the past we used this program as "elder-of-the-week" when a pastor was on vacation, for instance, but then we were dealing with a much shorter time span. It is more appropriate now to have an "elder-of-the-month".

Elders who have volunteered for the next three months are:

March	Nyadia Thorpe
April	Jessica Kusler
May	Jocelyn Bolles

If needed, please call or email the elder-of-the-month, recognizing the fact that some folks will be at work or otherwise occupied and may not be immediately available.

Thank you.

HELP WANTED

We are in need of a few volunteers for chores that need to be handled. They don't require a lot of time or effort and would just help the work flow.

Teller team – we need another teller team to add to the three teams currently in place. With four teams, it makes the schedule much easier and for the most part would require your service just once a month. Allow a half hour after Sunday's worship with one person on the team entering data online into the church's stewardship program. Policy requires two unrelated individuals when funds are involved.

Trash to curb – We only need bagged trash taken to the curb on Thursdays (late afternoon or evening) for Friday morning pickup. The trash is already bundled in bags in the trash bin behind the courtyard wall. The cleaning crew takes care of trash removal inside and then places the bags into the bin; then we need to put them out for pickup. We don't generate much trash so there are only a few bags each week.

If you are willing to volunteer for one of these opportunities to serve our church, please email the church office at info@fpcd.org or contact Jocelyn Bolles.

Thank you.

It is absolutely clear that *God* has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about *God's Word* is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom.

From Galatians 5:13-15 (The Message)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DUNCANVILLE
CALENDAR

March 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Choir Reh. 10:30 AM Worship Service, Communion	2	3	4 6 PM Lenten Bible Study Fellowship Hall	5	6	7 9AM Men's Fellowship
8 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Youth Sunday	9	10 7:00 PM Sarah Circle	11 6 PM Lenten Bible Study Fellowship Hall	12	13	14
15 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Choir Reh. 10:30 AM Worship; Church Potluck after Worship	16 7:00 PM MCT Newsletter articles for April due!	17	18 6 PM Lenten Bible Study Fellowship Hall	19	20	21 9AM Men's Fellowship
22 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	23 Austin St. Sandwiches Due!	24	25 6 PM Lenten Bible Study Fellowship Hall	26 3:45 PM Parking Lot Ministry (PLM)	27	28
29 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	30	31				

**As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace.**

March Volunteer Schedule

Mar 1	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer Communion Service Communion Preparer Liturgist	Sharon Ingram Brenda Everett & Linda Simons Jessica Kusler & Darlene Cowand Jeff Thorpe & Brenda Everett Teresa Reed (for Nancy Bergman) TBD
Mar 8	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer Liturgist	Jocelyn Bolles Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis Dub Guthrie & Lee Austin Jeff Thorpe
Mar 15	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer Liturgist	Connie Steger Darlene Cowand & Teresa Reed Sharon Ingram & Brenda Everett TBD
Mar 22	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer Liturgist	Beau Gaskins Jocelyn Bolles & Brenda Everett Christian Laurent & Connie Steger TBD
Mar 29	Greeter Tellers End of Service Prayer Liturgist	Sharon Ingram Brenda Everett & Linda Simons Nyadia Thorpe & Nancy Bergman TBD

Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23 (NIV)

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Christian Education
Worship Service

— 9:15 a.m.
 — 10:30 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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	Nancy Bergman, March 9
Dennis Walters, March 3	Blake Gaskins, March 9
Jimmy Cordova, March 4	Vangie Jackson, March 12
Waheed Akram, March 4	Dudley Austin, March 17
David Gaskins, March 5	



2026 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
February	\$ 13,126.54	\$ 12,677.16
YTD	\$ 34,758.62	\$ 35,860.75