



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
(972) 298-3043
fax: (972) 298-5312
info@fpcd.org
www.fpcd.org

Church Staff:

Elder On Call: **Jessica Kusler**

Nydia Thorpe
Director of Worship & Music

Christina Walker
Church Admin

Dameron Growe
Brittany Haywood
Susan Walters
Accompanists

Sean Russell
Sound Room Technician
Jaime Cordova
Sound Room Volunteer

Ana Ortiz
Kira Sewell
Nursery

Inside . . .

- 2 - Holy Week Schedule,
Elder on Call
- 3 - PW Annual Plant Sale,
Session News
- 4 - Help Wanted
- 5 - Church Calendar
- 6 - Worship Volunteer
Schedule
- 7 - April Birthdays,
Finances

From Your Session

A recent devotional I was reading had me meditate on 1st Corinthians 13, the passage known as the Love Chapter. As I prayed over it, I became uneasy about the type of thoughts I had had toward certain politicians. My thoughts had not been patient or kind, or at all loving; rather, they had been characterized by contempt, disgust, and anger. I felt that I was wrong to think that way about those people, yet I also felt that on some level, those feelings were justified, as I believed these people were acting in a way that was wicked and unjust.

As Christians, we are called to do justice and love mercy (Micah 6:8), as well as to love our enemies (Matt. 5:44). But how do we love our enemies when they engage in activities we think are evil or unjust? What does a loving response to injustice look like?

This is a huge question, but I will suggest one small response based on 1 Cor. 13:6: "Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth." When I read this verse, I began to ask myself, "What do I want for these people?" If something terrible happened to them, would I be glad? If they stopped doing what they were doing and made a public announcement that they had been wrong, would I respond with joy or with cynicism?

Perhaps the beginning of a loving response to injustice is to recognize what our desires for our "enemies" actually are. Do we truly want their good, or do we want them to suffer first? Do we simply want them to stop doing evil, or do we want them to be punished? Perhaps we want both.

Thankfully, God understands our hearts

and mixed motivations. If we do discover hatred, malice, or vindictiveness in our hearts, we can bring those things to God and pray for our own healing and freedom, even while we pray for our enemies. We can acknowledge that, even if our desires for our enemies are pure, our emotions and reactions may not be, and take that to God as well.

While 1st Corinthians 13 can show us where we fall short of expressing love, it is also a beautiful description of God's love toward us. While we might fail to love as we ought, God never does. God's posture toward us, and toward our enemies, is the kind of love described here: patient, kind, not envying, not boasting, not proud, not dishonoring others, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeping no record of wrongs, not delighting in evil but rejoicing with the truth, always protecting, always trusting, always hoping, always persevering, and never failing.

As Christians, we are called to imitate God and love those around us with this kind of love, even in the face of great injustice. In this, we have the example of Jesus, who was the victim of a tremendous injustice and yet loved even those responsible for his death. His prayer from the cross, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34) demonstrates how completely ruled by love and compassion his actions and thoughts were.

As we work for justice and seek to make Christ known, may God's love likewise rule our hearts.

With love,
Jessica



HOLY WEEK

schedule

MARCH 29 Palm Sunday Service, 10:30am

APRIL 2 Maundy Thursday Meal and Devotional, 6:00pm

APRIL 3 Good Friday Service, 6:30pm

APRIL 4 Open Sanctuary Prayer Vigil, All Day

APRIL 5 Breakfast, 8:30am and Easter Service, 10:30am

www.fpcd.org

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:

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.

For PW – Plant and Bake Sale, May 3, 2026

Mark your calendar for the first Sunday in May. PW will host its annual Plant and Bake Sale on Sunday, May 3 in the courtyard. Save some room in your gardens for colorful annuals and perennials too. Save some room in your appetite too for the extra special goodies from our bakers. And for our bakers, please plan to share some of your delicious baked goods with us. Thank you!!



From Session:

Normally, there would be a monthly meeting of Session; however, because we are a Presbyterian Church and follow the Book of Order, we need to have a moderator in order to have an official Session meeting. Grace Presbytery is working to provide one for us and we expect to have a Session meeting later in April. If you have any items or concerns you wish to bring to Session, please let me know.

Thank you
Jocelyn Bolles, Clerk of Session

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.

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never ends.

From 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a (ESV)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DUNCANVILLE
CALENDAR

April 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	3 6:30pm Good Friday Service	4 Prayer Vigil, All Day
5 8:30am Breakfast. 10:30am Easter Service	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Youth Sunday	13	14 7pm Sarah Circle at Diane's	15 Newsletter articles for May Newsletter Due!	16	17	18 9AM Men's Fellowship
19 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM Choir Reh. 10:30 AM Worship; Church Potluck after Worship	20 7PM MCT	21	22	23 3:45 PM Parking Lot Ministry (PLM)	24	25
26 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	27 Austin St. Sandwiches Due!	28	29	30		

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

April Volunteer Schedule

Apr 5	Greeter	Jocelyn Bolles
	Tellers	Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis
	End of Service Prayer	Jessica Kusler & Darlene Cowand
	Communion Service	Dub Guthrie & Nancy Bergman
	Communion Preparer	Gwenn Guthrie
	Liturgist	TBD
Apr 12	Greeter	Connie Steger
	Tellers	Darlene Cowand & Teresa Reed
	End of Service Prayer	Dub Guthrie & Lee Austin
	Liturgist	Jeff Thorpe
Apr 19	Greeter	Beau Gaskins
	Tellers	Jocelyn Bolles & Brenda Everett
	End of Service Prayer	Sharon Ingram & Brenda Everett
	Liturgist	TBD
Apr 26	Greeter	Sharon Ingram
	Tellers	Brenda Everett & Linda Simons
	End of Service Prayer	Christian Laurent & Connie Steger
	Liturgist	TBD

For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.

John 3:16 (GNT)

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
info@fpcd.org
www.fpcd.org

April 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.

Weston Russell, April 2
 Bob Harrison, April 7
 Sandy Gaskins, April 16



2026 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

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