



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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Church Staff:

Elder On Call: **Jocelyn Bolles**

Nydia Thorpe

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Christina Walker

Church Admin

Dameron Growe

Brittany Haywood

Susan Walters

Accompanists

Sean Russell

Sound Room Technician

Ana Ortiz

Kira Sewell

Nursery

From Your Session

We recently had a Session meeting after a lapse of several months. The reason for the delay (we last met in January) is that we are required by the Book of Order to have a Moderator (an ordained Presbyterian minister) to preside at Session meetings. Grace Presbytery has now assigned the Rev Jim Witherow to FPCD as our Moderator. Jim will preside at Session meetings and, as you also know, is often with us on Sunday mornings. Jim was also the moderator during 2023 when we were between pastors, so we know one another well and we are pleased to welcome him back.

There were numerous items acted upon at the April 22 meeting and I would like to share some of them with you to keep you informed. First and foremost, we are delighted that two of our members are moving forward in their faith journeys. As their home church, we are asked to recommend and endorse them as they step forward in these endeavors. Our prayers go with them as well.

- Jeff Thorpe is returning to the Commissioned Pastor Program at Grace Presbytery. His application was received and reviewed by Session, and Session officially recommends and endorses Jeff for this program.
- Jessica Kusler has been accepted into the ministry program at Columbia Theological Seminary and will enter the Inquiry Phase to become an Ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament with PC-USA. Session officially recommends and endorses Jessica to

be under the care of this congregation during this process.

Under the umbrella of "technology", the new microphone was purchased, is in use, and has made a major improvement in the sound delivered in the sanctuary. Thanks to all who contributed toward this device. We are awaiting receipt of a back-ordered piece of equipment that will enable us to re-establish the ethernet wireless connection to the sign from the office. Currently in order to update the information on the sign, it is necessary to walk out to the sign and insert a flash drive with the updated information. While the walk to the sign is pleasant at the moment, it won't be in July and August!

As you know, the "keyless" entry to Fellowship Hall has become inoperable. Despite numerous battery changes, it became obvious that it needed to be replaced. We primarily changed to the keyless entry system because the after-school food program needed access when the office wasn't open. Since that program is no longer in business, it was decided to return to a key entry for this door. This may have already been completed by the time you read this article. For the present, the keyless entry will remain on the sanctuary door.

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(From Your Session - Continued from front page)

Several bids were received for tree and shrub trimming around the buildings and property and a bid from Richard Gonzelez Landscaping was accepted. In addition to trimming some of the trees and shrubs, removal of a tree and two shrubs intertwined on the east side of the sanctuary adjacent to the A/C door access is required. The tree is a live oak growing together with a crepe myrtle and other shrub at the base of the sanctuary wall. It is unfortunate that we need to remove but necessary because of location. This work should be completed within the next week.

For the sanctuary, it was decided to remove about 50 or 60 chairs and store them in the unused east classroom of the CE Wing. This work will require the assistance of some able-bodied persons (not me!) and most likely will be scheduled when a volunteer crew is located. At the moment, I do not know just when.

Session also received and accepted with regret the resignation from Session of Alvarez Nzoundja-Nouthio due to work and family commitments. We are thankful and greatly appreciate the two years of service that Alvarez gave to Session.

On the subject of serving on Session, the terms of three current elders expire at the end of June. Our current church by-laws call for six members actively serving on Session. So, potentially, we will need four new elders. Hopefully and prayerfully, some of those currently serving will consider serving again. Elder terms are two years now instead of three. Please consider serving. Your service is needed spiritually and prayerfully for guidance and direction. We won't ask you to be an electrician (though perhaps to change a light bulb) or a plumber or a contractor. We generally meet monthly, and Session elders are now asked to write a newsletter article twice a year and serve as "elder-on-call" twice a year, doing both in the same month for the most part. Please give it some thought and prayer and let us know of your willingness to serve.

At our Session meetings we also remember in prayer those in our church family (and others as well) who are in need, whatever their needs may be. Our Member Care Team does a wonderful job of keeping us informed of prayer requests and needs so I don't need to elaborate any further here other than to close by asking you all to remember the church in your prayers as well.

Jocelyn



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!



HELP WANTED

We are in need of someone to **deliver sandwiches to the Austin Street Shelter** once a month. The church provides sandwiches (perhaps 15 to 20 dozen) on the 4th Monday of each month and the sandwiches are taken to the downtown Dallas shelter that evening (at 7 p.m.) or the following morning (sandwiches are in the church refrigerators). The next date for sandwich delivery is Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day) if delivered that evening, or Tuesday, May 26. Dennis Walters has been providing this service for the past several years. Dennis and Susan are getting ready to leave on their next assignment in Asia and although they don't leave until August, **we need to find a replacement beginning this month.**

Here is a big "THANK YOU, DENNIS" for providing this service.

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

Thank you.

For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.'

"Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink? Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing? When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?'

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'

Matthew 25:35-40 (NLT)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
DUNCANVILLE
CALENDAR

May 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
3 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Reh. 10:30 AM Worship PW Plant & Bake Sale!	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Mothers Day 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Youth Sunday	11	12 7pm Sarah Circle at Diane's	13	14	15 Newsletter Articles for June Newsletter Due!	16 9AM Men's Fellowship
17 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Reh. 10:30 AM Worship; Church Potluck after Worship	18 7PM MCT	19	20	21 3:45 PM Parking Lot Ministry (PLM)	22	23
24 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	25 Memorial Day Austin St. Sandwiches Due!	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship						

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

May Volunteer Schedule

May 3	Greeter	TBD
	Tellers	Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis
	End of Service Prayer	Nyadia Thorpe & Nancy Bergman
	Communion Service	Jessica Kusler & Christian Laurent
	Communion Preparer	Teresa Reed
	Liturgist	Dennis Walters
May 10	Greeter	Jocelyn Bolles
	Tellers	Darlene Cowand & Teresa Reed
	End of Service Prayer	Jessica Kusler & Darlene Cowand
	Liturgist	TBD
May 17	Greeter	Connie Steger
	Tellers	Connie Steger & Ingram
	End of Service Prayer	Dub Guthrie & Lee Austin
	Liturgist	TBD
May 24	Greeter	Beau Gaskins
	Tellers	Brenda Everett & Linda Simons
	End of Service Prayer	Sharon Ingram & Brenda Everett
	Liturgist	TBD
May 31	Greeter	Sharon Ingram
	Tellers	Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis
	End of Service Prayer	Christian Laurent & Connie Steger
	Liturgist	TBD

SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Christian Education
Worship Service

— 9:15 a.m.
 — 10:30 a.m.


RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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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.

Steve Bayless, May 7	George Hara, May 17
Stella Barton, May 7	Marna Bayless, May 22
Michael Nzoundja, May 12	Alexander Gaskins, May 31
Eli Epperson, May 16	



2026 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
March	\$ 31,577.66	\$ 14,374.09
YTD	\$ 66,336.28	\$ 50,254.84