



# 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: **Nyadia Thorpe**

**Nyadia Thorpe**  
Director of Worship & Music

**Christina Walker**  
**Katie Swofford**  
Church Admins

**Dameron Growe**  
**Brittany Haywood**  
**Susan Walters**  
Accompanists

**Sean Russell**  
Sound Room Technician

**Ana Ortiz**  
**Kira Sewell**  
Nursery

### ***From Your Session***

Hello Everyone!

I am writing to you today with a heart full of love for our church community, but also with a deep sense of urgency for our future. While we are currently without a pastor, we are not without a purpose, and we cannot afford to fall into the "same old, same old" routines. This season requires more active participation from each member, as God enables us. It is time for us to get unstuck and serious about discerning where God is leading us next.

We have so much to be grateful for, and I am continually encouraged by the faith and resilience of this congregation. However, if we want to thrive, we must be willing to engage in honest reflection and collective action.

Here is my call to action for our church family as we move forward:

**Prepare for Hard Decisions:** Moving forward will require us to look honestly at what is working and what isn't. We must be courageous enough to make difficult choices for the greater health of our church.

### **Schedule Church Family Planning**

**Meetings:** We cannot plan for the future in isolated pockets. For example, during the 3rd Sunday Potlucks, after the meal and fellowship, a discussion takes place among those present, and ends with an action to be implemented. During this meeting, we can receive updates and needs from Worship, Member Care, and the Elders. We need to come together as

a unified body, sharing ideas and working cross-functionally to build a cohesive vision. This provides the dedicated, focused time our church family requires to map out our next steps and define our long-term goals.

### **Dedicate Serious Time for Praying:**

We need to commit to prayer. We know prayer changes things. We know that God responds to honest, persistent, humble prayer. Without it, we are moving without the faith we teach about. On our own, we can only do so much and can only go so far. We need supernatural power. This can take place on Wednesday nights, or better yet, a dedicated Sunday morning monthly service or weekly moment in our Worship Plan. Altar Calls are not a foreign concept. We can create opportunities for prayer in our weekly services. My thoughts include, how desperate are we for a move of God in our situation? My answer will be, whatever it takes. Let us set aside time to come to God with all of our concerns. Not just after church, but together and for others needing to be lifted up who may not come to the after-service prayer corner.

How do we do this? I'll make a recommendation based on Mark 1:35 - 45.

**Please take the time to pray, read the text for yourself, and prepare to serve however YOU'VE been gifted.** We find Jesus in preparation to preach. We all have a ministry, a purpose under Heaven.

*(Continued on following page)*

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## *The Epistle 2*

(Continued from front page)

How do we prepare to use and share the gifts we've been given? Jesus went to a place alone to pray. For me, I go to sleep praying, wake up praying, and find myself asking the Lord for support and direction throughout my day. I'm by no means an expert in prayer or connection with the Divine, but I so desire to know God's heart, for myself. So, I seek the wisdom and presence of the Holy Spirit at any moment of my day. I implore you to do the same.

Well, what happens next? Jesus' support team came saying, "Everyone is looking for you". How interesting! Jesus, God in human form, was praying to the Father. He knows the Word. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* - *John 1:1* Yet, he prayed. He was seeking. This is an awesome example of Jesus showing us the importance of prayer. As his disciples, we should practice it with intention and expectation. He did not ask his disciples why people were looking for him. He did not dismiss or discourage them. Instead, he remained steadfast on his purpose by saying, "This is why I have come."

If you continue reading, you'll see Jesus preached, and demons fled. What stronghold is keeping us from experiencing the fullness of what is possible through Christ? How desperate are we? In verse 40, a man with a disease came begging Jesus. On his knees, he asked Jesus ever so humbly to make him clean, if he would. I can imagine how he sounded as he spoke to Jesus. He didn't want to be bother, but he could not let this moment pass without experiencing Jesus. How many times do we come to worship and completely miss the point? Jesus replies to the man that **he is indeed willing**, and he touched the man and made him clean. What joy! God is able, and through Jesus, we can be healed, made whole, restored, and find peace that overflows. The man, although told not to tell, couldn't keep the joy to himself! How many times have we left Worship eager to share what we learned from our collective time in the Word? How did the text end at verse 45? It is confirmed, they *will* come from *everywhere* **to see Him**.

Let's step into this next chapter with bold faith and a shared commitment to our future. I truly believe that if we take this time to get serious and united, we will see God move in incredible ways.

*Nyadia*



**Graduate Reception  
June 2026  
Congratulations!**



**Dale Walters, Matthew Reed,  
Rylee Reed, Tristan Russell  
Not pictured: Weston Russell**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
DUNCANVILLE  
CALENDAR

July 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4 <b>Independence Day</b>  7:30 PM July 4 Water & Ice Cream Sandwiches
5 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Reh. 10:30 AM Worship <b>Congregational Meeting</b>	6	7	8	9	10	11  9AM Men's Fellowship
12  9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Youth Sunday	13	14	15  Newsletter Articles for August Newsletter Due!	16	17	18
19 9:15 AM Sunday School 9:30 AM Choir Reh. 10:30 AM Worship; <b>Church Potluck</b> after Worship	20	21	22	23	24	25  9AM Men's Fellowship
26  9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	27  <b>Austin St. Sandwiches Due!</b>	28	29	30	31	

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

## July Volunteer Schedule

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

For everything there is a season,  
a time for every activity under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1 (NLT)

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**  
**Christian Education**  
**Worship Service**

— 9:15 a.m.  
 — 10:30 a.m.

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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## July 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.

Linda Simons, July 2	Larry Lewis, July 28
Matthew Reed, July 14	Heather Lewis, July 29
George Pounds, July 21	Jessica Kusler, July 30



### 2026 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
May	\$ 7,665	\$ 19,868
June	\$ 10,491	\$ 8,921
YTD	\$ 97,774	\$ 90,103