

MARCH 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1801 - 19TH STREET
HUNTSVILLE, TEXAS 77340

Crossroads Newsletter




A Letter from Charlie Bradbury Moderator of Administration & Personnel

2025 didn't take long to become a year of change for our Church and for each of us. Our Pastor Reverend Craig King made the difficult decision to retire and step away from our pulpit. He informed our Session of his decision in December and his retirement became effective in the last week of January. You are likely not surprised to learn that our Presbyterian "Polity" or governance has rules for how churches should deal with the separation of a loved Pastor and his family.

That Polity suggests that all parties will benefit from a complete separation so that the Church can move on and embrace the change and the transformation God has planned for us. The Separation is also a benefit to the Pastor and his family, a chance to focus on a new stage in their lives with a new purpose, free of any lingering issues that likely accompany any Pastoral/Church relationship. With that in mind our Session also made the difficult decision to separate from Cathy King in her role as our Church Secretary.

Cathy has been a blessing to our Church, and she will be missed. In the interim, while we search for a capable replacement for this important part-time position, we are blessed with a host of volunteers who are stepping up to perform the many tasks necessary to conduct the Lord's business in his house every week.

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Meanwhile the Session is focusing on where God wants to take us regarding a new Pastor. Unfortunately, that is sometimes a slow and ponderous process. The Session cannot hold a business meeting without a Moderator. The Moderator must be an ordained minister and a member of the Presbytery of the New Covenant. Our General Presbyter and Stated Clerk Lynn Hargrove and the Committee on Ministry is in the process of assigning someone to do that job but in the interim Lynn is serving as our Moderator. She has provided us with an overview of several options that are available. The Session will be studying these options and will ultimately decide whether we need to hire an Interim Pastor, appoint a Pastor Nominating Committee to actively search for a new Installed Pastor or perhaps contract with a Pastor in a Designated Pastoral role. Your thoughts and prayers are welcome as we move forward!

Meanwhile, our ministry teams are stepping up and performing the vital functions which they are charged with in our Policy and Procedures manual. We are blessed with Supply Pastors who love us and are eager to preach on Sundays and serve communion when appropriate. The Church is in good hands. Huntsville is a booming thriving community with new residents moving in and new homes under construction at record rates. God has blessed us with new opportunities to focus on our stated mission; To Know Christ and Make him known. Let's get it done!



Wednesday Nights

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

**On March 5th the last chapter of
"The Land Between" study
begins at 6:15 p.m.**

**Beginning Wednesday, March 12,
the Lenten Study entitled
"He Chose Nails" by Max Lucado
will begin at 6:15 p.m.
"There were no accidents on the days
surrounding Jesus' death."**

**Chancel Choir Practice
at 6:15 p.m.**

**April Newsletter Articles
Due
No Later Than March 18.**

Join Us for Book Club

Wednesday, March 5 @ 10 a.m.

In the parlor.

"Daisy Fay and the Miracle Man"

by Fannie Flagg

"A hilarious, endearing novel."

April Book

"Two Steps Forward..."

by Sharon Garlough Brown

A story of persevering in hope.



A Time of Lectio Divina

for the Discerning Hearts

Wednesdays at 11 a.m.

in the Parlor

Bring your journal and pen.

Lectio Divina is a slow, contemplative praying of the scriptures. Time set aside in a special way for Lectio Divina enables us to discover in our daily life an underlying spiritual rhythm. With this rhythm, we discover an increasing ability to offer more of ourselves and our relationships to the Father, and to accept the embrace that God is continuously extending to us in the person of his son, Jesus Christ.

Unknown

"Let Justice Roll Down"

A Women's Bible Study

Please join us as we continue with our study entitled "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation." Scripture reminds us that we are called to speak out to urge our society to act for just transitions with particular care for society's least powerful members who are disproportionately impacted by unjust systems.

We meet the third Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. **The lessons for March 19 will be Chapter Four, *Water Justice* and Chapter Five, *Air Quality*. This will get us caught up!**

Contact Brenda Brock, 936-581-3329, for additional information.

Hope to see you there!

Gathering Place

Please consider volunteering your time with our guest at The Gathering Place - a safe environment to share and enjoy one another while participating in activities provided by many. We meet the 1st Tuesday of each month from 9:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. You will be a blessing to others and also be blessed.

"While no one can change the outcome of dementia or Alzheimer's, with the right support we can change the journey." - Tara Reed

Church-Wide 5x5x5 Bible Reading Plan

If you haven't already begun the 5x5x5 Bible reading plan, it's not too late! By following this easy-to-use reading plan, you will be able to read all 260 chapters of the New Testament, one chapter per day. The plan began on Monday, January 6, with Mark Chapter 1 and progresses in such a way that will weave the story of Christ throughout the year. Copies of the reading plan are available on the table in the narthex and by calling or emailing the church: info.fpch@gmail.com. There is also a link on the home page of the FPCH website: firstpreshuntsvilletx.org.

Previous Scripture Readings: Week 1 (1/6-11) - Mark 1-5; Week 2 (1/13-18) - Mark 6-10; Week 3 (1/20-25) - Mark 11-15; Week 4 (1/27-2/1) - Mark 16, Acts 1-4

Reading Schedule for February:

Week 5 (2/3-8) - Acts 5-9; Week 6 (2/10-15) - Acts 10-14; Week 7 (2/17-22) - Acts 15-19; Week 8 (2/24-3/1) - Acts 20-24

Sunday Morning Class Opportunities 9:15 a.m.

Parlor Class:

This group is following the Navigator's 5x5x5 Bible Reading Plan. (See above article.) You are invited to join in a discussion of the previous week's readings. Bring your questions, "aha's" and insights!

Conference Room Class (Previously met in the Chapel):

Milton Brock leads this study of the Old Testament. The class is studying 2 Kings.

Godly Play:

Meredith is leading the children in a Bible discovery adventure. They are learning the Books of the Old and New Testament, along with the Lord's Prayer and the Apostle's Creed. The class meets in the Godly Play Room.

Middle School:

Meets in the room outside the pastor's office.

High School:

Meets upstairs.



Ash Wednesday, Lent and Holy Week

Ash Wednesday:	March 5 @ 5:30 p.m. Ashes, Communion and a Light Meal
1st Sunday of Lent	March 9
2nd Sunday of Lent	March 16
3rd Sunday of Lent	March 23
4th Sunday of Lent	March 30 5th Sunday Service and Pot-luck Luncheon
5th Sunday of Lent	April 6
Palm Sunday	April 13
Maundy Thursday	Service on April 17 @ 5:30 p.m. Communion and a Light Meal
Good Friday	Service on April 18 @ 5:30 p.m.
Easter Sunday	April 20 @ 10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion

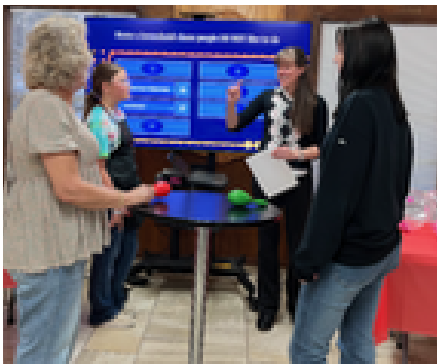
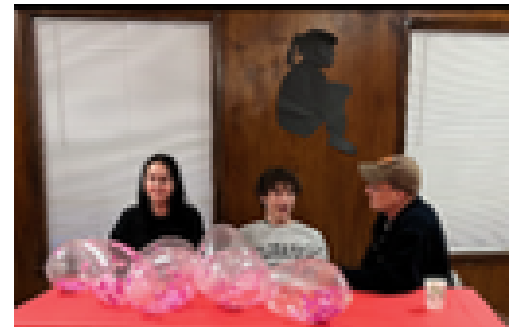
Ecumenical Taize Services

Taizé worship is a form of Christian worship that originated in Taizé, a small village in France. Taizé worship is characterized by liturgy, meditative silence, and simple song melodies. It aims to create a contemplative and reflective atmosphere where participants can connect with God on a deeper level.

Lenten Taize services will be held every Friday during Lent at 7 p.m.

- March 7 1st Christian Church
- March 14 1st Presbyterian Church
- March 21 St. Stephen's Episcopal
- March 28 1st United Methodist
- April 4 1st Presbyterian
- April 11 St. Stephen's Episcopal

Pictures from Youth Game Night



Did you know that our Jr. and Sr. High youth and their advisors meet weekly for Bible study and activities and once a month the Sr. High meet with Presbyterian Youth Council at the presbytery center for planning and implementing youth activities, service projects and retreats for youth throughout our Presbytery?



Great Give-a-Way

Please bring your donated items to the church or if you need help give Beckie a call.

The Give-a-Way is on Saturday, March 1st beginning at 9 a.m. All monetary donations will be used to purchase buckets for disaster relief bucket ministry.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

The Outreach Ministry Team will be sharing Minute for Missions with you on how and where these offerings are used. Please prayerfully give generously to help those in need throughout our country and our world.

PARENT'S DAY OUT NEEDS...

PDO is in need of **empty** and **clean**, plastic containers specifically from **antibacterial wipes** and **cake frosting**, like the [images below](#). You may leave them in the plastic bin beneath the wall calendar outside the secretary's office.

