



The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

January, 2022

From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgtravis@gmail.com



Another Christmas is behind us. Though Christmas is not over until Epiphany, the stores have all moved on to new displays and either stored Christmas items for next year or placed them on the clearance aisle for quick disposal. Many of my neighbors have already been out in our 80 degree weather removing the Christmas decorations they put up early this year. For most of us, Christmas is over. Some of us had our Christmas plans altered by COVID once more or by travel arrangements that fell through. In frustration over plans that didn't materialize and family gatherings that could not be, I assume some of us are glad to see Christmas in the rearview mirror. Our plans got changed but I hate to see the holiday expire. Let's not let that happen.

As I celebrated this year, there were three reminders that we should not let the season pass too quickly, should not allow the Christmas Spirit to wither when all the boxes are packed and in the attic once more. Christmas should be carried with us as we move into the New Year. In fact, I think we most appropriately should view this time as the *beginning* of Christmas, not the *ending* of Christmas.

Reminder #1 was Nancy Worcester's Children's Sermon at our service on Christmas Eve. She and Waco spoke with the children about the arrival of the Prince of Peace and the promise of Christmas to bring peace on earth and good will toward all. Her reminder was that peace in our world is not simply something we hope for – it is, rather, something in which we hold faith as we celebrate the promise of the Messiah's arrival.

But how do we get to that place of peace for all? As Nancy shared, we get there little by little, piece by piece, bit by bit. Peace happens when each individual plays their part and acts in peace toward others. It really does make a difference. It matters how we treat the store clerk, the waitress at our favorite restaurant, the neighbor with whom we share little in common. Practicing the peace of Christ is the place to start. We don't pack away our peaceful behavior now that the season is past. No, we put it into full play.

Reminder #2 came with an article announcing the death of Archbishop Desmond Tutu on December 26 at the age of 90. Tutu was a South African Anglican bishop and theologian, known for his work as an anti-apartheid and human rights activist. He was Bishop of Johannesburg and then Archbishop of Cape Town, in both cases being the first black African to hold the position. He was a tireless advocate for justice and fought hard to change the system of apartheid in South Africa. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work. He was a uniquely faithful individual in the life of the church and in this world.

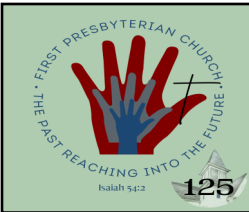
One of the many, many quotes for which Tutu is recognized is this little gem: "Do your little bit of good where you are; it's these little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world." As we put away the decorations, it's time to overwhelm the world.

Reminder #3 arrived in the words of Howard Thurman, yet another faithful believer who was instrumental in the civil rights movement of this country and who insisted on peaceful nonviolence as he and others called for change. He died in 1981 but his influence can still be felt. Thurman is known for a piece he wrote titled the *Work of Christmas*:

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Christmas Day may well be over. But the work we are called to do in the name of Christ has just begun. It's time to practice the peace of Christ and to make a little music in the heart as we do. May we each do our part as we keep Christmas alive 2022.

See you Sunday,
Drew



Associate Pastor

Rev. Brenda Church
 rev.brenda.church@gmail.com



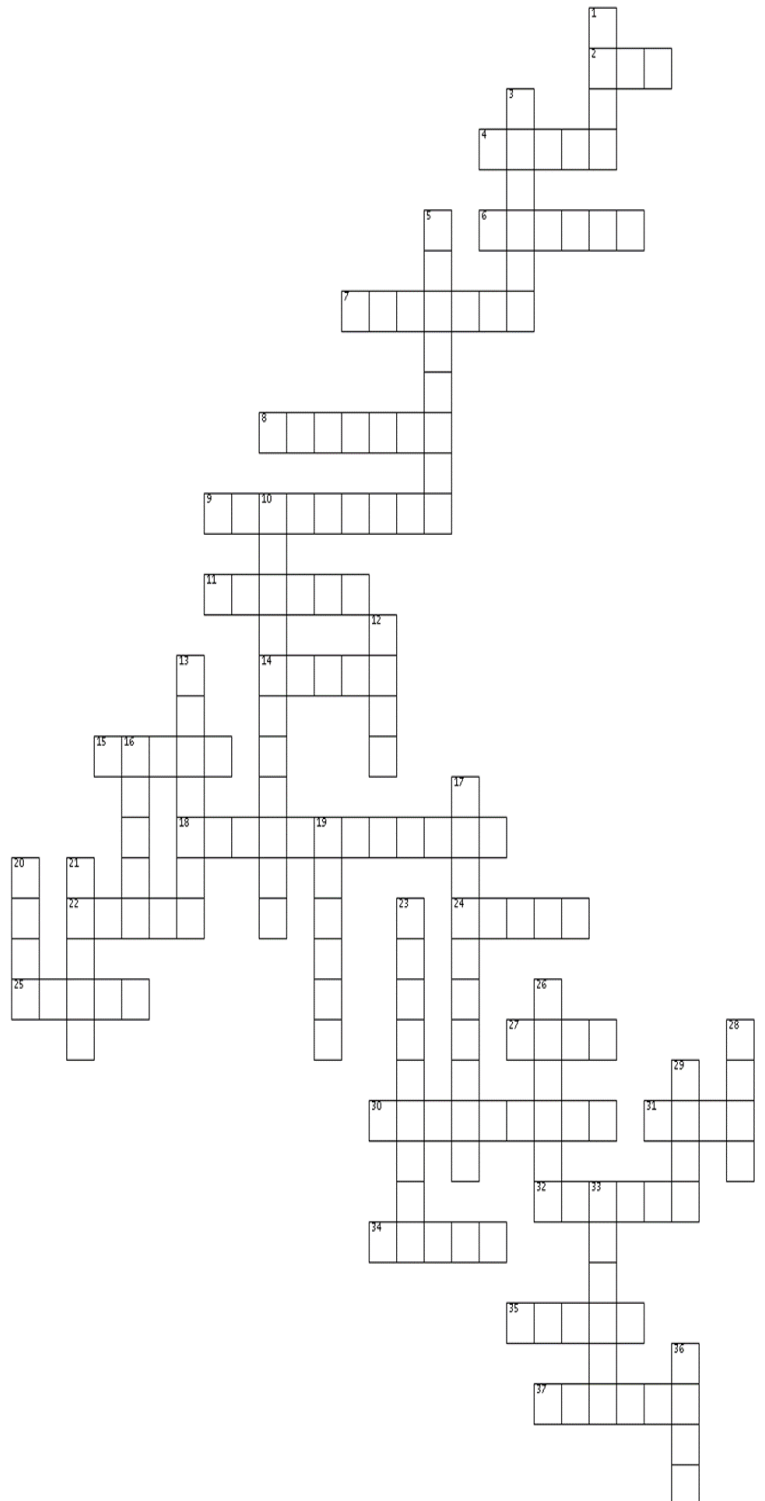
The 125th Committee has been hard at work for most of 2021 finding creative ways to celebrate 125 years at 303 Bridge Street. It's been a lot of fun working with this committee on some big and some smaller projects. Since winter is coming on, with it's darker, colder days, we thought an at home activity would be fun. Here is a crossword puzzle for your enjoyment. If you get it completed, let us know! We'd love to find out who our true historians are! Happy Puzzling!

ACROSS

2. First courthouse (1867) was a ___ room log cabin
4. _____ Pres preachers, the Austins, were circuit riding preachers.
6. Politician who spoke on the church's 100th anniversary
7. Charter member of FPC
8. HCN was the successor to "Granbury _____"
9. FPC's first full time pastor
11. River that merges with the Brazos River east of Glen Rose.
14. Lees-Bryan House owner's daughter
15. Oldest community in Hood County
18. A widow with 3 children, migrated to area in 1871
22. Acquired Holderness-Aiken House in 1926
24. Social Media – ah the love of bits and bites
25. Made hand-made stole in Fellowship Hall
27. Where was General Granbury a lawyer
30. FNB-Granbury is made of
31. A famed Indian Battle was name after a creek
32. The Hardware and Tin Shop was once a
34. Puppeteer's alter ego Waco
35. Elizabeth Crockett's husband's name
37. Never was afraid of spreadsheets

DOWN

1. "The Fighting General" and West Point grad
3. "If God does not want a Presbyterian Church in Granbury, He will let it die with us."
5. Convicted of a murder in 1874 and hanged 1 year later
10. Ashes to ashes
12. The Opera House was once know as _____ Opera House
13. Folk legend: Jesse _____ James, is buried here
16. Headed college at Thorp Spring, which became TCU
17. Birthplace of Carl Severin Schultz, village blacksmith
19. Owner of large business on the Square
20. Donor of 40 acres--original Granbury town site
21. Samuel Hancock Smith collected this in 1883
23. Ivory of a different kind
26. Prior owner of Church of the Good Shepherd
28. 14 and counting
29. ___ St. Helen was in fact John Wilkes Booth
33. Cry me a river and she comes running
36. Makes office work look like a ministry





Outreach and Mission

Bianca Brownfield, elder
biancabrownfield@gmail.com



*We packaged and delivered 89
Christmas gifts to our neighbors.*

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO
DONATED AND HELPED.**



Christmas Joy Offering

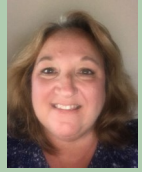
total to date \$2065.00



Worship

Julie Dean, elder

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In December there were a few things that greatly enhanced our Worship that seem to have “just appeared!” Even though we’ve already rung in the new year I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the talented people who generously gave the gift of their time and talents.

If you were in Fellowship Hall you surely noticed the three delightful new Christmas banners. It took a while before I was able to solve the mystery but eventually I discovered they were hand crafted by our own “Banner Bandit,” Nancy Worcester. She made them on the reverse side of banners made years ago by Annabel Teems. The angel on one banner is made from a wedding dress. All three banners are lovely.

The Christmas tree in the sanctuary was especially magnificent this year thanks to The Fun Circle who made 27 beautiful new Chrismons that adorned the tree. The Chrismons are stunning and elegant. It will be wonderful to be able to enjoy these gifts for many years, even decades, to come.

We also had Advent Readers, Candlelight Tour greeters, and so many members who contributed to making December special for our church and community.

Thanks also to Curt Farley for the handmade manger and to Jan Massengale for the beautiful crocheted drape fro the cross.

Thank you one and all and Happy New Year!



Our sincere apologies to those that were left off the Poinsettia Christmas Eve Bulletin Insert. Here are the other names;

In Memory of Donald Walker

In Memory of James Butler

In Memory of Doyle and Ruth Ann Collins

In Memory of Dale Sloan and Lowell Faulkner

In Memory of Deborah Douglas Sykes

Maureen & Donald Walker

Judy Butler

The Briese Family

Derek & Vanessa Faulkner

Tom Sykes



Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder
susanyoung@gmail.com



- 5 Kelly and Susan Harding
- 7 Ken and Allyce Peters
- 14 Bill and Bianca Brownfield
- 24 Hayward and Meg Moore

AT HOME AND/OR RECEIVING TREATMENT

Diann McHaney, Edith George, Ed Smith, Bill Lowe, JD Finlay, Dave Barnett, Barbara Buffalow, Renee Metcalf, Lorraine Schmitz, Sheila Higgins, Jim and Theda Deaver, Karen Stahlman, Rita Hart, and Bill Wood



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Dolores Adams | 16 Marlin Massengale |
| 4 Riley Briese | 17 Kathy Long |
| Sheila Higgins | 18 Jamie Sanders |
| 5 Greg Wilemon | 20 Matthew Kennedy |
| Theda Deaver | Sherry Johnson |
| 6 Gardner Davis | 21 Brenda Douglas |
| Hanna McCray | 24 Mary Gourley |
| Jim Stringer | 25 Madge Liscomb |
| 8 Hayward Moore | 28 Charles Baskett |
| Taylor Clay | Fran Smith |
| 9 Connie Darne' | 29 Carole Frey |
| Louise Deems | Joyce Higginbotham |
| 11 Carol Boyd | Louise Murray |
| 12 Karen Delyea | 31 Marina Kuyl |
| 15 Dorothy Frances | |
| McCree | |
| 16 Les Ragonese | |

CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Susan Higginbotham as she recovers from an automobile accident requiring multiple surgeries. We are so pleased to report that Susan is in Encompass Rehab in Fort Worth, and is walking short distances.
- Renee Metcalf as she recovers from spinal surgery.
- Barbara Buffalow as she recovers from hip surgery.
- Lorraine Schmitz as she recovers from surgery and a bout of pneumonia.
- Dave Barnett as he deals with multiple health issues.
- Rita Hart as she deals with the effects of a brain tumor.
- Maureen Walker as she recovers from a broken hip.
- Betty Dean and family, Betty's sister Kay Fregeau, passed away.

CONCERNS FOR OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

- CJ Cluck, grandson of Beverly McKusick, on his continued treatments for cancer.
- Michelle Dean, sister of Jim Dean, as she is hospitalized for multiple health issues and Jim's mother, who is going through cancer treatments.
- Louise Murray's brother-in-law who is battling a serious COVID infection.
- Grandfather of Bill Brownfield as he battles a COVID infection.
- Mary Lee McCarthy's sister who is battling breast cancer for the 2nd time.

AT CARE/RETIREMENT FACILITIES

Courtyards at Lake Granbury: Mary Skinner
Waterview at Lake Granbury: Ted Dolan, Nita Collinsworth
The Cove at Waterview: Jean Haight
Quail Park: Dolores Groom, John Cheney
The Oaks: CH Tubbs, Betty Werbung
Prestonwood Court, Plano: Linda Reed
Town Village Crossing, Arlington: Linda Bowlin
Rosemont, Humble TX: Betty Dean
Weatherford: Dee Holt
Encompass Rehab, Ft. Worth: Susan Higginbotham
Granbury Care Center: Ed Smith
Harbor Lakes Rehab: JD Finlay
Bridgewater Memory Care: Bill Lowe

We Mourn the Passing of our Member

Barbara Sloan
Our prayers are with her family and friends.

SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Dick Kliemann and Peggy Losher on celebrating their 90th birthdays.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Judy Butler and Kay McMillan for their labors of love. Judy sends birthday and anniversary cards out to our congregants. Kay sends out monthly home-made cards to our folks who are housebound or living in a facility. We so appreciate their labor of love.



Heavenly Father, we ask your blessing and your comfort to our loved ones that are hurting and in pain. We also ask your blessing for the caretakers, struggling to help their loved ones with patience and perseverance. Give them strength for the days ahead and help them to feel your love and grace. In Christ we pray.



F.U.N. Circle

Gloria Mitchell, F.U.N. circle coordinator
gwmitch@sbcglobal.net



Please join us on Monday, January 7, at 10:00, to take down the Christmas decorations. And then be sure to join us on Wednesday, January 26 for a potluck lunch, and to help FUN Circle pack bags for CeCe's Carryon's. These will be first-night bags for children who need to be removed from abusive homes.



Christian Education

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Have you added “Read the Bible more” on your resolution list for the new year? Maybe that seems like a daunting task or maybe you do this every year and want something a little different? Here is a list of ideas gleaned from *Christianity Today* and a few I’ve picked up over the years.

Add a new translation to your bookshelf.

Our church library has a number of translations available that you can borrow.

Read Scripture aloud.

Hearing the Word can lead to new understanding of both familiar and unfamiliar passages. And don’t worry about those difficult words, just do your best!

Listen while driving, cooking, or walking.

If you have a tradition of listening to podcasts when you walk, try downloading a spoken word Bible – Audible has a number of translations available.

Take a year to read the Bible chronologically

This method allows you to experience the stories of the Bible as scholars have determined when they occurred. Reading the accounts of the kings and the prophets; comparing the gospel accounts and reading the Book of Acts along with the letters to the churches can all open the Bible to you in new ways.

Read a whole book in one setting.

Since the Bible is really a collection of 66 books, choose one and read it as you would a novel. Try using a Readers Bible which removes the chapter and verse notes.

Reflect on a Psalm or passage for an entire week.

Reading the same passage daily can open your eyes and heart to new meanings.

Use a passage to help you pray.

One prayer technique that can be used is called *Lectio Divina*. This technique has five parts: (a) *Silencio* (be still and let go for a few minutes); (b) *Lectio* (read your passage, silently or aloud; select a word or phrase to ponder; re-read your passage and focus on the word or phrase); (c) *Meditatio* (ponder on your word or phrase and let yourself interact with it); (d) *Oratio* (as you enter in prayer, let your heart be in dialogue with God); (e) *Comtemplatio* (rest silently in the presence of God)

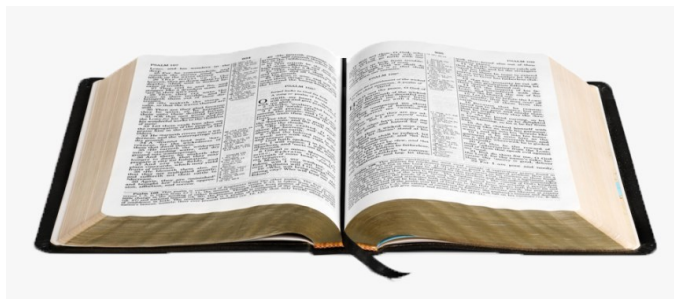
Find a Scripture reading buddy.

Like any new habit, sharing the reading of the Bible with a friend can help you stay true to your promise. Choose how you want to read the Bible and then take the time to discuss how you felt or what you may have learned.

Journaling

Take some time after your daily reading to journal your thoughts after completing the daily passage. Be free to write how it *really* made you feel – honestly some parts of the Bible are just like all books – not every word will excite you!

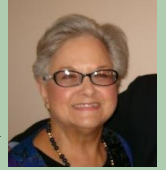
I hope these ideas give you some new ways to have the Bible speak to you!





Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder
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By the time you read this newsletter, it will be 2022. As always, we don't know what the new year will bring. As Elder in charge of Fellowship, I don't know what our fellowship together will look like. We were blessed to get to have our Christmas luncheon and we had a little over 100 attend. I would love to start planning Small Group Dinners and put the sign-up sheets out. However, at the last session meeting, we decided to pause for a few weeks to see if that is the safe things to do. In the meantime, please be patient and know that as soon as possible, more fellowship events will happen!

Meantime, here is the recipe for a soup that is perfect for the new year. The recipe makes a roaster full, so if you're not cooking for a crowd, decrease the ingredients. Instead of 4 cups of all the vegetables, just use 1 cup, etc.

BLACKEYED PEAS AND SAUSAGE

1 lb bacon
3 rings German sausage (cut into bite size pieces)
4 c chopped celery
4 c chopped green pepper
4 c chopped onions
4 (14.5 oz) cans peeled tomatoes
4 bags frozen black-eyed peas
Salt and pepper
2 t sugar
4 jalapenos (chopped and remove seeds)
Garlic

Fry bacon, sauté vegetables, add tomatoes, sausage, peas, and seasonings. Add water to cover peas. Cook as per instructions for frozen peas. You can make this ahead and freeze.

Handbells
101

**NO PRESSURE OR
COMMITMENT**

**SEE IF THEY'RE A FIT
FOR YOU**

January 12, 19, 26 from 5:30 – 6:30 in Fellowship Hall
Come to any or all



125th Anniversary



If you were not able to attend the memorial service on December 3rd and The Path of Remembrance, we hope you will view pictures on Facebook. Five hundred luminaries were lit for our loved ones who have joined the church triumphant, and placed along the path leading to the Memorial Garden. Robert Silvestri played the bagpipes as folks entered the church and as they walked the Path at the conclusion of the service. It was a special and touching event. Unfortunately, rain destroyed the luminaries during the night, but the lights were reset and are still shining leading out to the garden. If you have an opportunity, take the Path honoring our dearly beloved souls who are no longer with us.

Coming up:

During February, the 125 will host a Hymn Sing with a meal to follow. More details to come!



Before time passes, I want to thank our 125 Team for all the hours and hours of work they have put in on this committee. The team includes Jan and Marlin Massengale, Jim and Joanne Wallis, Mary Gourley, Marla Caraway and Pastors Brenda Church and Drew Travis. Not to be forgotten is our delightful administrative assistant, Gail Deckert, who is always assisting us with our communications and tasks. Linda Allen has also helped us with multiple items. Thank you, friends!



Blessings and Peace to all!

Susan Younk Kidd and the 125 Committee

PS We are missing Mary Hayden's 125th T-shirt. If you happen to have picked it up for her, could you please let Mary or the office know. Thank you!

Dear Friends,

The words "thank you" are very inadequate when I try to show my appreciation to all of you, for the courtesies shown to me over the last few weeks. Your cards, hugs, emails and verbal expressions (and CAKE) have truly warmed my heart. The cross is so beautiful and already has a place of honor hanging above my piano. Mostly, I am grateful for your love and support during the last 8 years and I look forward to sitting in the pew and worshipping with you in 2022.

Love and Peace to all,
Jane



Prayer of the Month

Pat Collins, Prayer chain coordinator
pat.collins37@yahoo.com



January! 2022! I hope your New Years was safe and happy. Do you make resolutions? Have you taken time yet to ponder what you would like to achieve this year? Surviving comes to my mind, but maybe you set your sights a little higher than that. I don't make a list of resolutions anymore. I bet you don't either. We're older and wiser than that. But that isn't saying we aren't all aware of areas we could improve. Or, that we don't pray for God's help with changing habits that don't serve us well anymore. See what I did there? We acquired negative habits by repetition and intensity. We always knew they weren't the best thing we could be doing with our bodies or our minds and we did them anyway. But I just distanced us all from that by the cool phrase "don't serve us well anymore," totally abdicating shame or guilt at making those choices because we are all so psychologically suave. You know part of why that happened, don't you? Turns out shame and guilt aren't good motivators for change. Not any more, if they ever were. And don't believe that old saw about making new habits and creating lasting change if you repeat a behavior for 21 days. That is so not true!

Well, where does that leave us if we want to improve our service to God. That's what it is really about, isn't it? I've numbered these because I've lapsed into a little OCD (see, psychologically suave — it isn't "anal retentive" anymore, now it's OCD) but there is no magical sequence. First, I think we must report for duty every day. Take a minute to dedicate your day to God. You can repeat that as often as you like during the day. Second, ask to be open to guidance about what you should be doing. Third, if you are given a situation where you recognize someone has a need: physical, mental, or spiritual; ask God how you can act as his agent, and do your best to follow through. Fourth: take a short, daily inventory: what you were comfortable with, what you could improve, and be sure you give thanks for the opportunity to try. Of course, also give thanks for the many blessings in your life. Let's add Six: pray continually. Pray for those who are ill, those affected by disasters, those with mental illness, the grieving, our church, our country. You will never run out of things that need prayer, but don't forget the joyful things, either. Birth, healing, recovery from addiction, rescue when all seemed lost — all are causes for joy.

Well, good luck to all of us in 2022. I know. We don't need luck if we have God, but I've been watching that HGTV show "My Million Dollar Lottery Dream House" and I'm feeling the itch for a scratch off.

Prayer: Thank you for the gift of the Christ child. It hasn't just made our day, it's made our whole life. Help us to understand more and more about what this means to us and to the world. Teach us how to be a servant when we'd rather be the chief Indian. Strengthen us for your service. Remove fear from us. There is so much beyond our control, it makes us feel weak. Remind us that you are the power, the only true power and that although we may face changes, we will not face them alone. You will always be with us. Please heal the sick among us, comfort those who mourn, keep the children safe and healthy, and protect and guide our church leaders. We pray all in the name of Christ. Amen.

Pat Collins

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book	3 Drew - Out of the office 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bridges Circle - FH	4 Trinity Mission Party 10:00 AM PW Bible Study - FH	5 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 4:00 PM Choir Practice - MH	6 F.U.N. Circle - FH	7 10:00 AM F.U.N. Circle Undeck the Halls	8
9 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM New Elder Installation 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book	10 Pastor Brenda - Class in Austin 9:00 AM Monthly Property Meeting - Square Cafe	11 Pastor Brenda - Class in Austin 10:00 AM PW - Overcoming Dyslexia and Dysgraphia - FH 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH	12 Pastor Brenda - Class in Austin 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM PEO Meeting - FH 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 4:00 PM Choir Practice - MH 5:30 PM Handbells 101 Rehearsal - FH	13 Pastor Brenda - Class in Austin	14 Pastor Brenda - Class in Austin 10:00 AM PW - Mia-Best-Ruiz, Oak Trails Ruth's Place Ministry - FH	15 Pastor Brenda - Class in Austin
16 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book	17	18	19 10:00 AM Book Circle - The Mayflower Bride by Kimberley Woodhouse 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 4:00 PM Choir Practice - MH 5:30 PM Handbells 101 Rehearsal - FH	20 Bridge Articles Due	21	22 Session Retreat - All Day
23 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book	24	25 11:30 AM Clergy Group - FH	26 10:00 AM FUN Circle 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 4:00 PM Choir Practice - MH 5:30 PM Handbells 101 Rehearsal - FH	27	28	29
30 8:45 AM Worship 10:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and Face Book	31	1	2 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 4:00 PM Choir Practice - MH	3	4	5

Watch this space for changes to our calendar. View current calendar on website <http://fpcgranbury.org/> Click on calendar at the top of the page.



To celebrate your birthday (or that of a family member or friend), and in thanksgiving for God's gift of grace, please consider making a gift of your own, in the amount of \$1 for each year of your (or your honoree's) life, to sustain the permanent endowment funds of the church.

Please notify the church office when you make your gift that it is a birthday offering. If honoring someone else, please so note. If giving online, please provide this information in the "Notes."

Annual Congregational Meeting, Sunday,
January 30, 10:00 AM

To:

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury
202 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048