

# The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

January, 2023

## From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis  
revdgtravis@gmail.com



Christmas is under our belts and a new year begins, another trip around the sun. We worshiped well on Christmas Eve. We sang carols and recalled the Word made flesh in our midst. We gathered at the table and shared the grace of this gift from God that has no parallel. On Christmas Day another gathering of worshipers spread out about the sanctuary and prayed and sang and heard again the story of this miracle of incarnation. We marked the occasion well – in this place.

When all the kids and their Christmas excitement and the hearty souls who came together on Christmas morning departed to return to their Christmas meals and celebrations, I stayed behind a while to sit in the silence and sacredness of our sanctuary. It is indeed a thin place to me. I feel God's presence – in this place.

When the world about us is quiet, we hear things we too often miss, we recall things we too often forget. I listened to the old mechanical clock as it kept beat with the movement of time. I thought of Buzz Wallace and how he climbed the steps into the choir loft to thoughtfully wind the clock each Sunday morning and how Dick Kliemann faithfully continues to care for the old clock with the same gentleness. That clock will always remind me of ministry – in this place.

I fixed my eyes on the baptismal font and thought of children and adults who have emerged from the waters of baptismal grace and how the congregation promised to tell each of them the stories of Jesus as they commit to living the life of the faith. I replayed how Sunday after Sunday we remembered our baptisms and celebrated God's forgiveness as I dipped my hands into the waters – in this place.

I smiled a bit as memories of weddings filled my thoughts and how lives were committed to one another in the presence of God in the marriage liturgy. I shed more than a few tears as thoughts of all the saints who have rested from their labors filled my mind. There are so many names. So many. We gave thanks to God for the gift of their lives and celebrated each one – in this place.

I gazed at the communion table and focused on the chalice and font. Memories bubbled from deep within of all the Sundays I invited you to the table in Christ's name. I looked you in the eye as you received the bread and cup, of heaven and of salvation. At the table of grace, we are made one in Christ. "We welcome those whom God welcomes." Indeed we have – in this place.

All the sermons and scriptures read. All the hymns and anthems sung. All the prayers of confession and intercession. All the offerings and all the announcements. All the worship. "This is a place of ministry." We have done ministry together – in this place.

I am grateful beyond words for the gracious privilege you have afforded me to share this ministry of grace with you. I am filled with thanksgiving for the life we have shared together and for the graceful way you have loved and cared for Rhonda and for me. I am moved by the trust you have placed in my leadership. I am grateful for each of you. Thank you for the opportunity to be your pastor and to be a friend among you – in this place.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Drew". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned at the bottom left of the page.

# Worship

Pat Luley, elder  
pluley@gmail.com



I wish to extend a very heartfelt thank you to all who helped prepare our church for Advent by Decking the Halls, greeting during the Candlelight Tour, and telling the Christmas story as an Advent reader. You truly made December meaningful for our church and community. We are so fortunate to have so many talented and generous members in our church!

As your new Worship Elder, I look forward to serving you in the coming years. I am grateful to our outgoing Worship Elder, Julie Dean. She did an outstanding job of organizing and keeping detailed records which will help greatly in the transition. I pray for God's guidance as I take on this new responsibility; and I would very much appreciate your prayers, also.



One of my goals is to create a group of volunteers to assist grieving families during a loved one's funeral. The Funeral Guild's responsibilities would be to prepare Memorial Hall as a meeting place for the family, work with the Pastor to ensure the Sanctuary is set up appropriately, escort the family into the sanctuary for the service, and back to Memorial Hall/Fellowship Hall afterward. If this is something that interests you, please contact me at [paluley@gmail.com](mailto:paluley@gmail.com).

## January Elder of the Month Brad Bell

**Worship  
Attendance  
December**

	<u>10:00 AM</u>	<u>On Line Viewers</u>
December 4	<b>140</b>	<b>32</b>
December 11	<b>126</b>	<b>70</b>
December 18	<b>100</b>	<b>46</b>
December 24	<b>150</b>	<b>40</b>
December 25	<b>67</b>	<b>45</b>



# Stewardship

Dan Crise, Elder  
dancrise13@gmail.com



## Stewardship Resolutions.....

The beginning of a new year is always a time for a fresh start and a renewed awakening for each of us. When we take down the old calendar and hang up the new one, we sense the new year offers opportunities for changes and improvements in our lives. At the start of each new year, we often make resolutions to carry out some of those desired changes and improvements. Our resolutions typically are goals dealing with the most important aspects of our lives and they usually focus on our needs, cares, and concerns.

As Christians, there are plenty of opportunities for resolutions. For 2023, try something different. This year consider the goals you want to achieve as stewardship resolutions. After all, Christian stewardship begins with the biblical foundation that our time, talent, and treasure are entrusted to us by God who loves us and wants to us to use these gifts wisely and for Godly purposes.

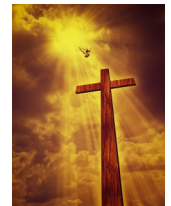
As stewardship resolutions, our goals will not be merely tests of our individual willpower, but also acts of faith. They will take on a deeper meaning because we would be making resolutions as part of our discipleship to Christ. With prayer, God will help us sustain and achieve our resolutions.

Some suggested stewardship resolutions might include:



**Time:** We never seem to have enough time. Somehow every moment appears to be consumed by the nonstop urgencies of the moment or by frivolous non-productive use of our time. Resolve to steward your time for more efficiency by planning, setting, and maintaining priorities for self-fulfilling and enriching activities, such as volunteer and church-related work, engagement in meaningful and enriching hobbies, and participation in body and mind endeavors that are healthy and beneficial.

**Spirituality:** Resolve to increase the investment of ourselves in the discipleship of faith through worship, prayer, reading of scripture, nurturing spiritual relationships, serving others, and return of some of the gifts to which we have been entrusted by God.



Friends and Family

**Family and Friends:** God has provided us family and community that enable us to enjoy the feeling of happiness in our interpersonal relationships. This year resolve to strengthen the bond within those relationships.

This year focus on stewardship of your time, talent, and treasure and see how your own life will be positively impacted. Make it a part of your permanent personal discipleship.



# Christian Education

Sylvia Hickey, elder  
sylvia.hickey1969@gmail.com



**T**he Christian Education Committee has some great Sunday Schools classes which will be meeting each Sunday at 9:00 – all in the Fellowship Hall. The regular **Adult** Sunday School being taught in by Richard McCarthy, continues with videos and active class participation.

Our **Children's** Sunday School class, with Nancy Worcester and Nancy Bennett, is guiding the children through lessons which will teach them the parts of our Worship Service in which they can participate, like the Doxology and Gloria Patri. Also, for 2023, a cabinet has been added in the front of the Sanctuary where the kids can find booklets of info and for writing and drawing, during services and then return their work to the cabinet for use on following Sundays.

Our **newest Adult Class** will start January 8, 2023, led by retired Presbyterian Minister Jimmie Johnson. This discussion class is open to all adults interested in the basics of Presbyterianism 101. New members, longtime members or those interested in joining are all welcome to attend.

The **Library Committee** is still working on the remodel and update the Library and the Pastor's meeting area outside his office. Elder Terry Worcester is following past Property Committee Elder, Derek Faulkner, in completing this project and a March 2023 finish is our goal.

I can also share some great news about the two nursery attendant positions we have been working to fill. The Lead Attendant has been hired!!! Our new Lead Attendant has come to us through her friendships with several of our members and her daughter, Bunny, who has been worshipping with us. Please welcome Madison Huse to the Nursery. Madison, who fits our criteria, and has passed all the work and personal reference calls, is working with the children beautifully.

My continued thanks and praise go to our interview committee and our members who have been certified in child safely and had background checks done. Without them, we cannot supply the care that we are required to have for our children. We are still trying to fill the Assistant Nursery Attendant position and need you to please continue to pray that we can get this second position filled. Until then, if you are certified or would become certified (it's not hard) and could give a couple of hours every 4 months, we could have a nursery that is well supervised. Also, help us seek applicants. If you have a relative, neighbor or friend who loves children, can lift 25 lbs, has some extra time and could use some extra money, please give us their names to call. What can every member do to help? PRAY! We are seeing personally through Madison that Prayer Works! So, thank you, in advance, for your prayers! And thank you Jesus for Madison.

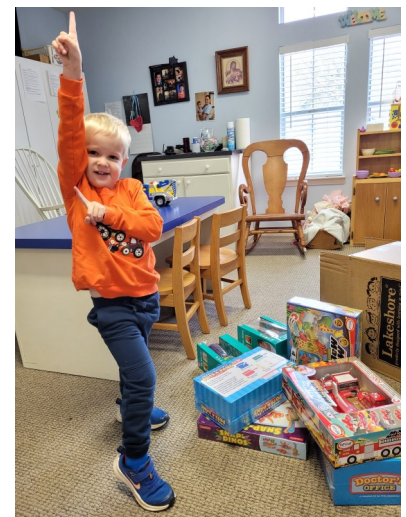
Happy New Year, Sylvia



*Welcome Madison!*



Thank you for supporting the Nursery Shower! We purchased new chairs, toys, and a vacuum cleaner!



## Prayer of the Month

Gloria Mitchell, coordinator  
glomitch5300@gmail.com



I hope you had a blessed Christmas and I hope the new year will be a good one for you. Parts of our road of life will be smooth but we'll all hit some bumps and curves along the way, and possibly even some lengthy detours. God never promised any of us a trouble free life, but God is always there to help us through the trying times.



Don't be afraid, for I am with you.  
Don't be discouraged, for I am your God.  
I will strengthen you and help you.  
I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.  
Isaiah 41:10

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.  
Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done.  
Philippians 4:6

**Dear God, please help us remember to thank you for our many blessings and help us remember that you are always there for us to lean on during troubling times.  
In Jesus name, Amen.**

## Presbyterian Women

Nancy Burks Worcester, moderator  
nancybw@gmail.com



**T**hank you to the handbell choir, Priscilla Allen and Waco (with Nancy) for the entertainment at our PW Christmas luncheon. And thanks to all who cooked, served, cleaned up and ATE!  
*Regular PW meetings will resume in January.*



THANK YOU



*We do Church Together!*

The next Habitat for Humanity lunch is Wednesday,  
January 18, 2023.



It's the beginning of a new year. It's a time of putting the old year to rest. We've all been so busy with the holidays that January is a good time to rest, reflect and catch up with ourselves. It's also a good time to ponder what we would like to change in our lives. I'm not talking about the typical "New Year's resolution" that we all forget about by the end of January but something that you can truly achieve. My goal this year is to do an act of kindness every day. It doesn't have to be hard. Sometimes just opening a door for someone or saying hello or smiling at someone who looks like they are having a bad day. Our

church family is a wonderful inspiration in achieving this. We are a family helping family, friends helping friends, neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers. We all have a fresh beginning in this new 2023.

## SEWING CIRCLE

The sewing circle will be meeting on January 17<sup>th</sup> at noon in the fellowship hall. We are going to be working on the toiletry bags for CC's Carryon's. It's a fun project and we have all sorts of things for people to do other sewing. Bring a sack lunch and join in the fun.



## FUN CIRCLE

We have a big event this month. We are meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am in the fellowship hall to assemble the 1<sup>st</sup> night bags for CC's Carryon's. When a child is removed from a home by CPS this organization provides them with a bag that will give them the items they need that first night away from home. Usually they leave their home with only the clothing on their backs. We have a list of items needed below and on the table in the Narthex. If you are not a shopper but would like to donate we will be glad to accept your donation and we will do the shopping for you. Let's keep the season of giving going.

### **C C'S CARRYON'S Supplies**

***Items we will need for 0 to 12 months:*** Diapers, Pajamas, Socks, Pacifier, Small soft toy/taggy blankets, Interactive toy, and Teether toy.

***For 2T to 3T:*** The list is basically the same as above with the exception of pull ups instead of diapers. When purchasing stuffed animals and toys please remember all of this must fit in a gallon size storage bag so think small.

***The next group I would like for us to help with again is the 10-15 year old group:*** T shirts, Soft shorts, Underwear, Socks, and Stuffed animals.

***Toiletry bags:*** Deodorant, Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, Lotion, Lip balm, Flashlight, Comb/hairbrush, Shower sponge, Nail clippers, and Emery board.

All of these supplies should be small. This is a good time to get rid of all the hotel bottles that you brought home from a trip and never used. Everything should be travel size.

# Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder  
susanyoung@gmail.com



- |   |  |                               |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| 2 Dolores Adams                                 | 17 Kathy Long  | 7 Ken and Allyce Peters       |
| 4 Riley Briese<br>Sheila Higgins                | 18 Jamie Sanders                                       | 14 Bill and Bianca Brownfield |
| 5 Greg Wilemon<br>Theda Deaver                  | 20 Matthew Kennedy<br>Sherry Johnson                   | 24 Hayward and Meg Moore      |
| 6 Gardner Davis<br>Hanna McCray<br>Jim Stringer | 21 Brenda Douglas<br>22 Tony Graham<br>24 Mary Gourley | 28 William and Kay McMillan   |
| 8 Hayward Moore<br>Taylor Clay                  | 25 Madge Liscomb<br>28 Charles Baskett<br>Fran Smith   |                               |
| 11 Carol Boyd                                   | 29 Carole Frey<br>Joyce Higginbotham                   |                               |
| 12 Karen Delyea<br>Patricia Walker              | Louise Murrah  |                               |
| 16 Les Ragonese<br>Marlin Massengale            | 31 Marina Kuyl   |                               |

If you know of anyone who needs to be contacted for a care or concern, please email me at [susanyoung@gmail.com](mailto:susanyoung@gmail.com) or contact Gail at the church office.

## CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Marina Kuyl** as she receives treatment from a stroke.
- Gardner Davis** as he battles multiple health issues from long-term COVID.
- Dave Barnett** as he deals with multiple health issues.
- Rita Hart** as she deals with the effects of a brain tumor.
- Carol Gadbois** as she deals with multiple health issues. Carol and Bob's great-grandson, 9months old, also needs your prayers as he deals with a very serious health condition.
- Claire Mitchell Copeland** who has multiple health issues.
- Lorraine Schmitz** as she receives Hospice care at home.
- Marla Caraway** as she deals with health issues.
- Richard McCarthy** as he seeks treatment for eye care.
- Ted Gollar** as he deals with the effects of a brain tumor.
- Donna Callahan** as she deals with multiple health issues.
- Larry Walker** as he deals with health issues.
- Sherry Johnson** who fractured her pelvis after a fall.
- Theda Deaver** as she navigates declining health.
- David Hinterleiter** recovering from knee surgery.
- Sandi Ricketson** as she navigates health issues.
- Sheila Higgins** as she recovers from health issues.
- Peter and Sallie Garland** as they recover from COVID.



**AT CARE/RETIREMENT FACILITIES**

**Courtyards at Lake Granbury**

Maureen Walker, Sheila Higgins

**Waterview at Lake Granbury**

Ted Dolan, Nita Collinsworth

**AVIVA, Granbury**

Dolores Groom, John Cheney

**The Oaks, Granbury**

Betty Werbung

**Prestonwood Court, Plano**

Linda Reed

**Town Village Crossing, Arlington**

Linda Bowlin

**Rosemont, Humble TX**

Betty Dean

**Martin Crest, Assisted Living**

**Weatherford**

Dee Holt

**Bridgewater Memory Care, Granbury**

Bill Lowe

**Lewisville Estates, Lewisville**

Fran Smith

**Harbor Lakes**

Marina Kuyl

**CONCERNS FOR OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY**

- **Janis Thronton**, daughter of Juanita Morgan, as she seeks cancer treatment.
- **CJ Cluck**, grandson of Beverly McKusick, on his continued cancer recovery.
- **Jim Dean's** parents and sister as they navigate multiple health issues.
- **Earnestine Sutherland**, who is receiving cancer treatments.
- **The Ukrainian family** that has been part of Marla Caraway's daughter's life, as they shelter from the siege.
- **Joan Smethers**, sister of Max Jewell as she seeks treatment for lung cancer.
- **Miles**, grandson of the Jewells as he tries to get medicine approved for the severe pain from gastroparesis.
- **Bonnie**, friend of Judy Butler, experiencing health issues.
- **Milton Vaughn**, husband of a close friend of Judy Butler, who is receiving hospice at home.
- **Dave Kennison**, friend of the Gulinson's, as he recovers from a series of strokes.

**AT HOME AND/OR RECEIVING TREATMENT**

Edith George, Dave Barnett, Rita Hart, Rene Metcalf,  
Theda Deaver, Bill Wood, Sharon Wilemon,  
Lorraine Schmitz, Carol Gadbois,



We mourn the passing of our beloved member David Southern. We pray for Claudia, Allison, Jack and the Southern Family as they grieve the loss of David.

We mourn the passing of a previous church member, Barry McKenzie. Our prayers are with Barbara his wife, and his family.

**SPECIAL BLESSINGS:**

**Larry Cremeens**, friend of Emily Graham, had a successful quadruple bypass . He is doing well with his recovery.

**For those hurting and in pain, we ask your blessing and your healing. 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.**



Happy  
New Year

**F**ellowship is considering something different from *Small Group Dinners* for this Spring. We know that church members love to gather around food and visit. It is a great way to get to know each other on a more personal level. We have enjoyed our *Small Group Dinners* for years, but lately it has become more difficult to organize. Not everyone is able to host dinners in their home, so what if we took that responsibility out of the equation? What if we have a monthly pot-luck dinner at Fellowship Hall in the evening? We could choose a different food theme each month. No one would have to “host”. It would be very casual, and everyone could pitch in to clean up. The group could be large or small.

We could even bring games to play after dinner. As you can tell, this is still in the planning stage and suggestions / ideas are welcome! Let me know what you think.

As for this month’s recipe, here is the recipe for the soup I brought to the Christmas Cantata lunch. It is great for New Year! I made 4 times the amounts listed in the recipe, but I cut it down for home use. If you have a large group to feed, just multiply everything by 4.

## Black-Eye Pea and Sausage Soup

8 slices bacon  
1 ring German or Eckridge sausage (cut in bite size pieces) (I’ve used turkey sausage and couldn’t tell the difference)  
1 c chopped celery  
1 c chopped green pepper  
1 c chopped onion  
1 can (14.5 oz) petite dices tomatoes  
1 bag frozen black-eyed peas  
1 t sugar  
1 jalapeño (chopped and remove seeds)  
Garlic, salt, and pepper



Fry bacon and sauté vegetables in bacon grease. Add vegetables, can tomatoes, sausage, peas, and seasonings. Add water to cover peas. Cook as per instructions for peas. I usually cook it about an hour, which is longer than the package of peas says. You can make this ahead and freeze it.

**One service on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

**The Session will continue to monitor our attendance and assess the need for a second service and we will continue to listen to the needs and opinions of the congregation on this matter.**

**IMPORTANT  
REMINDER**

**Please** remember to **lock all doors**, if you are the last person to leave any of the FPC buildings. For all our safety!

# January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Communion Sunday Drew - Vacation No Sunday School today 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>2</b> Church office Closed - New Year's Day Drew - Vacation 6:30pm - 7:30pm At-Anon	<b>3</b> Drew - Vacation	<b>4</b> 1:00pm - 2:00pm Men's Study - Spring Creek 1:00pm - 2:00pm Staff Meeting	<b>5</b> 10:00am CE Committee Meeting - Admin Building	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH 10:00am - 11:00am Undeck the Halls
<b>8</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook 11:00am - 12:00pm Congregational Meeting - Fellowship Hall	<b>9</b> 9:00am Monthly Property Meeting - Square Cafe 1:00pm - 3:00pm Memorial Hall - Pecan Bookmarks	<b>10</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Granbury Knitting Guild - FH 10:00am - 11:00am Membership Meeting - Admin Building 5:00pm Interim Committee - Admin	<b>11</b> 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	<b>12</b> 11:00am Outreach and Mission	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
<b>15</b> Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 12:00pm - 3:00pm Sewing Circle - FH - Bring Lunch	<b>18</b> 10:00am Book Circle - Admin Building - Refined by Fire 10:00am—Habitat for Humanity lunch 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Bridge Articles Due	<b>21</b> 7:00am - 5:00pm Session Retreat - All Day - Lawson and Linda Allen Residence 9:30am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
<b>22</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:00am FUN Circle - Fellowship Hall 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
<b>29</b> 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 1:00pm - 2:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	<b>2</b> 10:00am CE Committee Meeting - Admin Building	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 9:30am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH

Watch for changes to the current calendar on our website [FPCGranbury.com](https://fpcgranbury.org) and Click on Calendar at the top of the page. Or click on the link below <https://fpcgranbury.org>

The church office is open Monday—Thursday, 7:30—4:30.



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.



**Annual congregational Meeting to elect at-Large members to the Church Office Nominating Committee, act on proposed changes to the pastor's terms of call, and to review the budget for 2023.**  
**Sunday, January 8, 11:00 in the Fellowship Hall.**

**To:**

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