

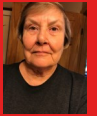
# The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

December 2023

## In The Interim...

Sherrolyn Weed, pastor  
sherrolynweed@gmail.com



**D**ear Friends in Christ,  
It is hard for me to believe that I've been worshipping with you for six months now, but that is what my calendar says. We have accomplished a great deal of work, shared our concerns for others, mourned the loss of precious friends and family, celebrated new members, blessed our animals, built a playground and treasured the fellowship of our community together.

I pray for our continued thanksgiving together.



## A Note From The Pastor Nominating Committee

### THE ROAD TO A NEW PASTOR



#### Mission Study Committee:

- Selected
- Meeting with each other
- Meeting with congregation



#### Mission Study Report:

- Completed
- Approved by Session
- Approved by Presbytery



#### Pastor Nominating Committee:

- Elected by Congregation
- Meeting with each other
- Complete Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP)



#### Pastor Nominating Committee:

- MDP Approved by Session
- MDP Approved by Presbytery
- Reviewing Applicants
- Interviewing Candidates



## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**December elder in charge - Susan Younk**

**December 1, 2, & 3 - Candlelight Tour**

**December 3rd - Communion Sunday**

**December 17 - "A British Carol Christmas", Potluck Lunch**

**December 19 - Poinsettia orders due**

**December 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent, Christmas Eve Service, - Lessons and Carols at 7:00 pm**

### Worship Attendance November

	<u>10:00 AM</u>	<u>On Line Viewers</u>
November 5	<b>117</b>	<b>26</b>
November 12	<b>103</b>	<b>43</b>
November 19	<b>97</b>	<b>32</b>
November 26	<b>87</b>	<b>45</b>



## Poinsettia Order Form

If you would like to purchase a poinsettia to be placed in our church sanctuary in honor of or in memory of loved ones during the Christmas season, please fill out the form below. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church and designate it for "Poinsettias." Please order by December 19<sup>th</sup>.

Number of Poinsettias ordered: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost Each: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$12.50

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor Of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory Of: \_\_\_\_\_

# Stewardship

Dan Crise, Elder  
dancrise13@gmail.com



**O**n behalf of the church leadership and the entire congregation, we want to express our deep appreciation to all those congregants who generously placed their estimate of giving cards in the offering plates on Consecration Sunday. In addition, we also want to thank any others in our church family who have sent their cards directly to the church office or who are still contemplating what God is asking them to give in helping to financially support our church during the coming year. Of course as always, throughout the year, there will be continuing opportunities to donate financial offerings during worship services as well as donations of members' time and talents.

Based in large part on the financial pledges that we received, the Session together with our Treasurer began the process of developing the annual budget for 2024. The budget will determine the distribution of our benevolences in funding the church's ministry and mission throughout the new year.

What does our church budget represent to us? We should not consider the budget exclusively from the viewpoint of an administrative necessity to ensure proper financial management of the church. Instead, we should feel it also represents the hopes, desires, and goals of what our various ministries want to accomplish in the year to come.

Perhaps we should also consider the budget as another opportunity as faithful stewards to invest in the reign of God and to see what we can do with the gifts He has bestowed upon us. In the end, our budget will be a statement about our faith in God and how we will utilize His abundance of our financial gifts for the good of our church as He would have us do.

In accordance with the Presbyterian Church Book of Order, annual church budgets are required to be approved and adopted by the Session. After approval and adoption by the Session, the 2024 budget for First Presbyterian Church of Granbury will be presented for general information at a congregational meeting. At that time, everyone will be able to clearly see how our anticipated offerings are intended to be disbursed and how we are making the most of the plenitude of our Lord.







As I write this newsletter, I am remembering all the other ones I have written over the last six years as the Elder in charge of Fellowship. I have come to the end of my two terms, and it has been a blessing. I can't think of any better way to get to know all of you than to join you in fellowship. Sometimes sad, most times happy, always enriching. I won't fade into the sunset. I will still be in the kitchen helping our upcoming Fellowship Elder. I am beyond excited and grateful that she said "yes" when asked by the nominating committee. I am looking forward to her new ideas and to her being the boss!

Our fellowship for December will be our lunch after the Christmas Choir Concert on Sunday, December 17th. I am planning a potluck soup and sandwich lunch. Everyone is asked to bring either a soup or sandwiches. I will provide dessert and it is **one of your favorites!** The recipe I am including today is a wonderful cranberry chutney that is pretty and delicious.

## CRANBERRY CHUTNEY

15 oz can Pineapple tidbits drained (don't add until the end)  
Drain the pineapple, saving juice. Add water to juice to make  
1 cup liquid  
1 bag cranberries  
2 c sugar  
1 c white raisins  
1/4 t ginger  
1/2 t cinnamon  
1/2 t allspice  
1/2 t salt



Simmer everything except the pineapple for 20-25 minutes. Then add the pineapple and 1 c chopped pecans. Chill. This is great at Thanksgiving or Christmas.





**Presbyterian Women**  
**Christmas Luncheon**

*Gifts for Trinity Nursing Home*  
As a project, we are providing gift bags  
Please bring one or more item

- Puzzle books
- Lotions
- Card games
- Soft Candy
- Coloring Books
- Markers

**Friday, December 8th**  
**10:30 AM Fellowship Hall**  
**Christmas Carol Hymn Sing**  
Look for sign-up sheet in Narthex  
Contact *Pat Luley 817.776.1481* to volunteer:  
Set up, Serve, Clean-up  
Side dishes or Salad

*Cookie Exchange (optional)*  
Bring 3 dozen cookies  
wrapped in 1/2 dozen bags



*Sacred Encounters*

Lesson 3 - December 5th 10 AM  
Fellowship Hall  
Luke 8:43-48

A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ  
Jesus calls us out of the shadows and  
claims us as his own.





I love Christmas. It's a time to get together with family and friends. There are also lots of special events going on like parades, *shopping*, Christmas programs and concerts at church and schools, *shopping*, lots of Christmas parties, decorating everything that's not moving and some things that are, and of course *shopping*. It can really get a little overwhelming, and we can easily forget the real meaning of Christmas. God loved us so much that He gave us the greatest gift imaginable. Enjoy all the festivities of Christmas but also take some time to stop, take a deep breath and thank God for gifting us with Jesus.

For our meeting this month we will be joining PW for their Christmas luncheon on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30.

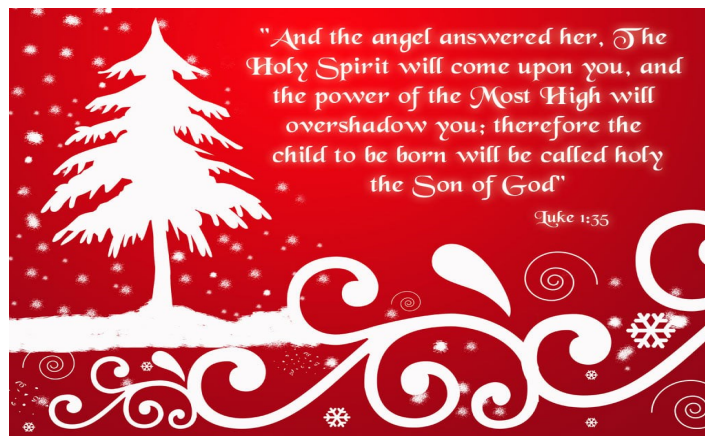
We will be extending our season of giving into January because we will be making bags again for **CC's carryon** again. If you're not familiar with this, we make 1<sup>st</sup> night bags for children that are removed from their homes by CPS and CC's distributes them. I've enclosed a list of items we need. I know this does not take place until January, but during and after the holidays you can usually find great bargains on some of these items. If you buy items and don't want to keep them in your home, there will be a basket in the admin building for you to drop them off. I'll have more information in the January Bridge, but here are a few of the items that we will need.

- Pajamas: infants, toddlers, children's up to size 10
- Diapers: all sizes including pull-ups
- Socks: all sizes
- Underwear: all sizes
- Pacifiers
- Stuffed animals
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Hairbrushes, combs
- Flashlights
- Teethers toys
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Lip balm
- Soap
- Lotion



Thank you all for all that you do. Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Beverly McKusick



**SEWING CIRCLE:** We are **not** having scheduled meetings, but we do have a couple of projects that we will need to start working on, so keep your eyes open for a blast and Facebook notice for a sewing circle date and time.



## WINTER VBS

**3 SESSIONS**  
**WED TO FRI**  
**9AM-12**

**Dec 20-22**  
**Dec 27-29**  
**Jan 3-5**

**Ages 4-10 - call the  
office to register**  
nursery provided for volunteers  
and church employees



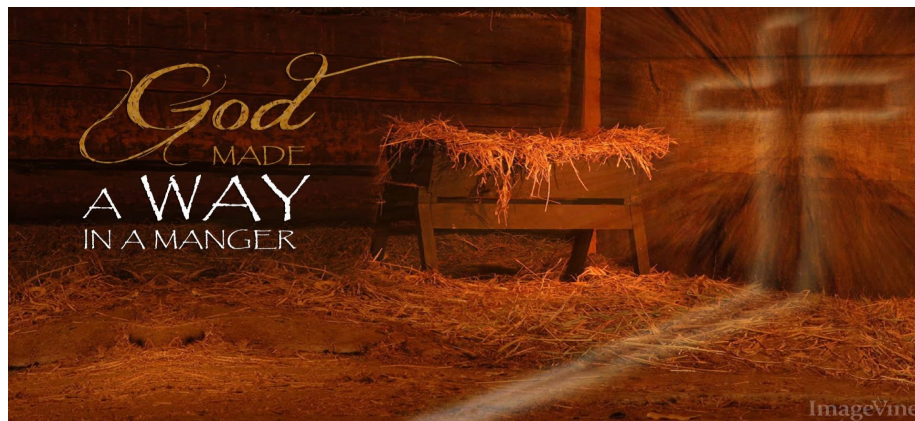
### Volunteers needed

Lesson or Art or Playtime or Music  
Help for three days or more  
email [biancabrownfield@gmail.com](mailto:biancabrownfield@gmail.com)

### Using our Sunday School Curriculum A Joyful Path

Each Day  
lesson  
station rotations

- art
- playtime
- music
- snack



**Presbyterian Book Circle—will not meet in December!**

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

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

# Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder  
susanyouнк@gmail.com



- |                                |                      |                     |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Ben and Anne Mays            | 3 Brad Bell          | 18 Junie Herron     |
| 5 David and Julia Hinterleiter | 4 David Hinterleiter | Sheila Wood-Hickman |
| 9 Tommy and Reann McHaney      | 6 Jan Massengale     | 19 Saunya Bishop    |
| 12 Lillian and Joe Ethridge    | 8 Ann Mitchell       | 20 Karen Stahlman   |
| 28 Tim and Susan Kidd          | Larry Allen          | 22 Diana Burton     |
| 29 Bernice and Ron Deeds       | 10 Renee Metcalf     | 23 Rita Hart        |
| Stand Renee Metcalf            | 11 Carol Rudsenske   | 26 Carl Dinkel      |
|                                | Gary Towers          | Keith Nolan         |
|                                | 13 Greg Schneider    | 29 Pamela Gifford   |
|                                | 16 Debbie Armstrong  | 31 Dick Kliemann    |

**AT HOME RECEIVING TREATMENT OR DEALING WITH HEALTH ISSUES:** Dave & Julie Barnett, Bill Wood, Lorraine Schmitz, Rita Hart, Theda Deaver, and Sharon Wilemon, Gardner & Carol Davis, Claire Mitchell Copeland, Ted Gollar, Larry Walker, Donna Callahan, Reann McHaney, Ann McLaughlin.

**RECOVERING CHURCH MEMBERS:** Sallie Garland has had a major stroke and is in the hospital. Please keep Sallie and Peter in your prayers.

**WE MOURN THE PASSING:** our members Virginia Conner and Deborah Sanders. Our prayers and deepest sympathy go out to these families.

**THOSE WHO ARE MOURNING THE DEATHS OF FAMILY MEMBERS:** Brittany Clifton, Juanita Morgan, Linda and Keith Nolan, Janice and Les Ragonese, Kelton Conner, and the families of Madge Liscomb and Deborah Sanders.

## CONCERNS FOR OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

- **Adrian Barrios**, 6- year-old family member of Jim and Julie Dean and Judy Butler, who has been diagnosed with Leukemia.
- **CJ Cluck**, grandson of Beverly McKusick, on his continued cancer recovery.
- **Jim Dean's** parents and sister as they navigate multiple health issues.
- **Gloria Mitchell's** brother as he deals with prostate cancer.
- **The Ukrainian family** that has been part of Marla Caraway's daughter's life.
- **Joan Smethers**, sister of Max Jewell, as she seeks treatment for lung cancer and **Miles**, grandson of the Jewells.
- **Connie and Andrea**, friends of Judy Butler, experiencing health issues.
- **Dave Kennison**, friend of the Gulinsons, as he recovers from a series of strokes.
- **Terry Martin** (Sylvia Hickey) as he deals with health issues.
- **Mother** of Louise Deems, who is on hospice.
- **Sister** of Jerry Long, who has breast cancer and will be undergoing more diagnostic procedures.
- **Gary Lewis** sister as she deals with cancer.



## AT CARE/RETIREMENT FACILITIES

**Waterview at Lake Granbury:** Ted Dolan; **AVIVA Granbury:** Dolores Groom, Lorraine Schmitz, **Town Village Crossing, Arlington:** Linda Bowlin; **Lewisville Estates, Lewisville:** Fran Smith  
**Bridgewater Memory Care, Granbury:** Bill Lowe

**SPECIAL JOY:** Don and Beverly Williams 2-year-old great grandson's infection was finally diagnosed by Mayo and his health is improving with the specific treatment of antibiotics.

**SPECIAL BLESSINGS:** 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. Amen.

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 the church office by calling 817.573.2337 or emailing [office@fpcgranbury.com](mailto:office@fpcgranbury.com).

If you need transportation to a doctor's appointment, etc. please contact the church office, Tim Bennett, Dan Crise, or Susan Young.  
We are pleased to help!

## Prayer of the Month

Gloria Mitchell, coordinator  
[glomitch5300@gmail.com](mailto:glomitch5300@gmail.com)



*An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,<sup>[a]</sup> because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"<sup>[a]</sup> (which means "God with us").*

*Matthew 1:20, 21,22,23*

Dear Lord, help us remember that the real reason for Christmas is to celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Some families will travel to visit loved ones. Please watch over them as they head toward their destination and later as they travel home. And give comfort to those who might be alone at Christmas, and to those missing loved ones, who are in Heaven.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen.

**Church Library/Meeting Room is available to both adults and children. It is located in the Administration Building.**

# Outreach and Mission

Connie Darne, elder  
conniedarne@gmail.com



## MISSION SPOTLIGHT: JOY OFFERING

The Christmas Joy Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the 21st century, bringing together the diverts of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based actions on shared concerns. The Special Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and they profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

The Christmas Joy Offering provides assistance to current and retired church workers and their families in their time of need and develops our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Envelopes for giving will be provided for your use in making donations. You may place the envelope in the offering plate and the church will make one donation on behalf of us all. If you write a check, please specify in the memo space JOY OFFERING.

**Outreach & Mission at Work:** Thank you all for your very generous support of our mission work with the Granbury Housing Authority and the food drive of People Helping People. We provided turkey and sides to 39 families. People Helping People assisted us with providing the side dishes and desserts for these families. Thank you for all the desserts and donations you provided.

During the month of December, we will be accepting donations for the Housing Authority Christmas Gift Bags. There will be a basket in Narthex available for collection of your donations. Suggested items are:

\*Kitchen Dish Towels, Dish Cloths & Potholders

\*10-15 oz. cans of Mixed Nuts

\*Hot Chocolate Mix (packets work best)

\*Popcorn Tins


\*Monetary donations are also welcomed & we will do the shopping. Please note on your check or envelope "Christmas Gift Bags"

Donations will be accepted through December 10. We will be assembling the gift bags on December 13th at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us for this fun activity. We are also purchasing hams for Christmas dinner. Delivery of the hams and gift bags will be December 19.

December 20 is the next Habitat for Humanity lunch. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Narthex. Habitat for Humanity announced at the November 15 lunch that they will receiving matching funds for all donations made from November 15 - January 31, 2024. (See below)

The next Habitat for Humanity lunch is  
Wednesday, December 20, 2023.





**MATCHING GIFT**

Team up with private donors and Habitat for Humanity of Hood County to provide a hand up, not a hand out, to area families in need of decent affordable housing. The Matching Gift applies to your donation when you donate to Habitat for Humanity of Hood County between November 15th - January 31.

Send your gift to:  
Habitat for Humanity of Hood County  
PO Box 1866  
Granbury, TX 76048

For more information or to volunteer, please call 817.573.2812  
or go to  
[www.habitatofhoodcounty.org](http://www.habitatofhoodcounty.org)



**The Mission and Outreach Committee delivered Thanksgiving Meals and gifts to 39 families at the Granbury Housing Authority!**

# December 2023

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> Christ The King Sunday - Communion Deck the Halls 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>27</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin 1:00pm - 3:00pm Memorial Service - Deborah Sanders 4:00pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - MH 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	<b>30</b> 10:00am - 12:00pm Melody Belles - MH 12:00pm - 2:30pm PNC - FH	<b>1</b> Candlelight Tour of Homes - Hosted by Historic Granbury Merchants Association 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out - MH	<b>2</b> Candlelight Tour of Homes - Hosted by Historic Granbury Merchants Association 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out - MH	
<b>3</b> Candlelight Tour of Homes - Hosted by Historic Granbury Merchants Association (HGMA) 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>4</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	<b>5</b> 10:00am - 11:00am PW Bible Study - FH	<b>6</b> 10:00am Mission and Outreach - FH 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin 1:30pm - 2:30pm Staff Meeting 4:00pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - MH 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	<b>7</b> 10:00am - 12:00pm Melody Belles - MH 12:00pm - 2:30pm PNC - FH	<b>8</b> PW Christmas Luncheon and Cookie Exchange 10:30am - 11:30am FH	<b>9</b> 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out - MH	
<b>10</b> Handbells 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>11</b> 1:00pm - 3:00pm Memorial Hall - Pecan Bookmarks 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	<b>12</b> 9:00am - 12:00pm Granbury Knitting Guild 4:00pm - 5:00pm Session - Admin Building	<b>13</b> 10:00am - 11:00am CE Committee Meeting - Admin Building 10:00am - 11:00am Mission and Outreach - FH - Christmas Bags 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin 4:00pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - MH	<b>14</b> 10:00am - 12:00pm Melody Belles - MH 12:00pm - 2:30pm PNC - FH	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out - MH	
<b>17</b> Christmas Music Sunday - Potluck Following the Service 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>18</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	<b>19</b> Deliver Christmas Bags Poinsettia orders are due	<b>20</b> Bridge Articles Due 10:00am - 11:00am Habitat for Humanity - Admin Building 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin	<b>21</b> Church office closed today! 10:00am - 12:00pm Melody Belles - MH 12:00pm - 2:30pm PNC - FH	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out - MH	
<b>24</b> Lessons and Carols - One Service today 7:00pm - 8:00pm Christmas Eve Worship - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>25</b> Church office closed today! 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00am FUN Circle - Fellowship Hall 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin	<b>28</b> 10:00am - 12:00pm Melody Belles - MH 12:00pm - 2:30pm PNC - FH	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out - MH	
<b>31</b> 10:00 am New Years' e Worship - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>1</b> Church office closed today! 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	<b>2</b> 10:00am - 11:00am PW Bible Study - FH	<b>3</b> 10:00am Mission and Outreach - FH 1:30pm - 2:30pm Staff Meeting 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	<b>4</b> 10:00am - 12:00pm Melody Belles - MH 12:00pm - 2:30pm PNC - FH	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:00am - 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.

**To:**

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