

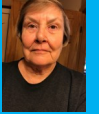
The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

January 2024

In The Interim...

Rev. Sherrolyn Weed, pastor



We have celebrated the birth of our Savior in multiple ways, and we anticipate a New Year filled with more challenges and opportunities for our congregation. The pastor search is underway and well on the way to finding the right person to lead our congregation into the future.

My prayers and love for you all are with you for Christmas and our journey together in the New Year.

Blessings, Sherrolyn



A Note From The Pastor Nominating Committee

THE ROAD TO A NEW PASTOR



Mission Study Committee: Mission Study Report:

- Selected
- Meeting with each other
- Meeting with congregation
- 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

Worship



Pat Luley, elder

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 very fortunate to have so many talented and generous members in our church!



Four of our most dedicated volunteers are Bianca Brownfield, Emily Graham, Kathy Long, and Linda Somervill. Emily sets up the necessary computer files every Sunday. Bianca, Kathy, and Linda have faithfully manned the camera to stream our worship services for the past several years. They have a regular schedule for the first three Sundays and work out between themselves who can take care of the fourth and occasional fifth Sunday.

I think those of us who attend service in church don't quite understand how important this is to our members that are unable to attend in person. If the sound system isn't working properly, or someone makes an announcement without using the mic, or the service doesn't get uploaded to YouTube – they call us about it! This is their lifeline to us; it's their way to feel connected to their church family.

We really **need one or two more volunteers** to help Bianca, Kathy, and Linda out. It's just one Sunday a month. You don't have to be tech savvy to do it. Training is provided. Please think about giving of your time this way. Call, text, or email me for more information. (paluley@gmail.com or 817-776-1481)

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.

Worship Attendance—December

	<u>10:00 AM</u>	<u>On Line Viewers</u>
December 3	103	19
December 10	108	36
December 17	108	27
December 24	111	16

Elder In Charge for January—Brad Bell

Stewardship

Dan Crise, Elder



A new year is a new beginning. It is like a new birth. With the start of a new year, it is common to feel the need to make changes in our lives, proceeding along different paths than we were on in the old year, accepting new challenges and opportunities, and saying goodbye to bad habits, problems, and difficulties. Often, we start a new year by making new plans and new resolutions

As Christians, there are many reasons for making resolutions to better serve God and our church in an upcoming year. Perhaps we should consider the New Year's resolutions we make to better serve God and our church 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 us to use these gifts wisely and for Godly purposes. We should think of stewardship as part of our daily lives 365 days a year in committing to the discipleship of Jesus Christ.

There are countless opportunities to return our God-given gifts of time, talents, and treasure in service to Him and the church. Random examples include but definitely are not limited to joining and working on a committee, helping with the garage sales, visiting home-bound members, driving members to church who are themselves unable to drive, participating in our outreach and benevolence programs, to just name a few. In addition to these examples, there are continuing opportunities throughout the year to also make financial offerings to the church. All these examples represent stewardship at work throughout the year.

As stewardship resolutions, our acts of service will not be merely using our time, talents, and treasure but also commitments of faith. In Romans **12:6-8** Paul writes: ***“We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.”***

Happy New Year!



Fellowship

Bev McKusick, elder



HAPPY NEW YEAR! It is a new year with new beginnings. As you probably know I have been elected to be the Elder in charge of Fellowship. Linda may be small but she left some very big shoes to fill.

I want to thank all of you for your vote of confidence and your words of encouragement. If you are currently on the Fellowship Committee I'm hoping that you will stay on it. If you would like to join the committee, please let me know.

I always loved that Linda shared a recipe every month, and I would like to continue that tradition. I grew up in Oklahoma, and our New Year tradition was to eat black-eyed peas on New Year's Day. Unfortunately, I'm the only one in my family that likes them. A friend of mine brought a black-eyed pea dip to our party a few years ago, and everyone loved it. I was shocked. I hope you enjoy it even if you don't like black-eyed peas.

ZANNIE'S BLACK-EYED PEA DIP

- 1 can black-eyed peas
- 1/4 whole onion chopped fine
- 1/4 c. sour cream
- 8 slices of jarred jalapenos
- 1 c. grated sharp cheddar cheese
- 3 tbsp salsa
- Hot sauce to taste
- Salt and black pepper to taste



Drain black-eyed peas and mash, leaving some of them whole.

Add all ingredients, stirring to combine.

Spread into a 1 1/2 quart baking dish, and bake at 350 degrees for 20 to 30 minutes until hot and bubbly.

Serve with tortilla chips.

Note: You can buy canned black-eyed peas with jalapenos in them so you don't have to add them.





Presbyterian Women



Sharon Curry
Regional Ministry Associate
West Region

MONTHLY MEETING 

Potluck lunch after meeting

Friday
January 12th 10:30 AM

Come hear about happenings at Grace Presbytery and Sharon's new role!



Welcome to 2024. We have lots of fun stuff scheduled this year and we are starting off with a very important project. We will be making **1st night bags for CC's carryon.**

If you're not familiar with this, they give 1st night bags for children that are taken out of their home by CPS. They generally leave their home with only the clothes on their backs. I have been in contact with Charlotte, and these are the are groups she needs help with.

We will be assembling these on January 24th at 10:30 in Fellowship with a potluck to follow. If you don't want to store your items at home, you can take them to the admin building and, as always, if you do not want to shop you can make a monetary donation, just mark it CC's of FUN circler. Thank you all for your support.

0 to 3 months and 18 months:

Pajamas, socks, rattles, pacifier, diapers, cuddle blanket/toy, interactive toy

5 to 10 years old:

Pajamas, underwear, socks, flashlight, toothbrush, stuffed animal (these must be small)

I'm hoping to also make about 50 toiletry kits. All of these items should be travel size:
shampoo and conditioner, soap, lotion, deodorant, nail clippers, nail file, hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes, lip balm, toothbrush and tooth paste, hairbrush and hair ties, wash cloth



Presbyterian women provided 50 Christmas gifts for Trinity nursing home residents


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.



Happy NEW YEAR

*You crown the year with Your goodness,
And Your paths drip with abundance.*

PSALM 65:11



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.



Sacred Encounters

Lesson 4 - January 2nd 10 AM
Fellowship Hall
Luke 10:38-42

Mary and Martha Encounter Jesus
Jesus calls us to value the role of each person
in the community of faith.

**One service on Sundays
at 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School
9:00 a.m.**

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

Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder



- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 Delores Adams | 17 Kathy Long | 7 Ken and Allyce Peters |
| 4 Riley Briese | 18 Jamie Sanders | 14 Bill and Bianca Brownfield |
| 5 Theda Deaver | 20 Matthew Kennedy | 19 Andrew and Deborah Ottaway |
| 6 Gardner Davis | Sherry Johnson | 24 Hayward and Meg Moore |
| Jim Stringer | 21 Brenda Douglas | 28 William and Kay McMillan |
| 8 Hayward Moore | 23 Tony Graham | |
| Tylor Clay | 24 Mary Gourley | |
| 9 Connie Darne' | 28 Fran Smith | |
| Louise Deems | 29 Carole Frey | |
| 12 Karen Delyea | Joyce Higginbotham | |
| Patricia Walker | Louise Murray | |
| 16 Les Ragonese | | |
| Marlin Massengale | | |



Dear FPC Family, Thank you for all the heartfelt cards that I received. Thank you for the warmth and welcoming when I moved here from New York; you made me feel at home. Thank you for sharing God's love with me while I lived in Granbury. I have relocated to 3401 Premier Drive, Plano, TX 75023. Paula Jenkins

The Christmas cards our members signed for those at home or in facilities are appreciated by all! Thank you for taking time to bring this Christmas blessing to our folks!

AT HOME RECEIVING TREATMENT: Dave & Julie Barnett, Bill Wood, Rita Hart, Theda Deaver, Carol Gadbois, and Sharon Wilemon,

RECOVERING CHURCH MEMBERS: Sallie Garland from a stroke. Mike Gulinson from a heart valve replacement. Embry Smith from spinal surgery. Sandi Ricketson, who is undergoing chemo for recurring cancer. Margie Reynolds, who is receiving rehab after a stroke.

Members with Health Issues: Gardner Davis, Claire Mitchell, Ted Gollar, Larry Walker, Donna Callahan, Reann McHaney, Ann McLaughlin, Carol Davis, Stan and Renee Metcalf.

CONCERNS FOR OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

- **A CASA** baby who is struggling to survive after surgery.
- **Jim Dean's** parents and sister as they navigate multiple health issues.
- **Gloria Mitchell's** brother as he deals with prostate cancer.
- **Gary Lewis'** sister, Judy, dealing with cancer.
- **Peggy Lewis'** brother, Gus, whose health is declining
- **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 grandson **Miles**.
- **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.
- **Richard**, friend of Priscilla and Larry Allen, who is facing surgery for cancer.

AT CARE/RETIREMENT FACILITIES

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



SPECIAL JOY: Congratulations to Darin Smith on the birth of his first grandchild. Colin Monroe Smith made the scene December 8th at 9 lbs. 3 oz, 21.25" long.

Adrian Barrios, 6 year-old great grandson of Jim and Julie Dean, is in remission from leukemia.

Our prayers and sympathy go out to Neita Doughtrey on the loss of her son from a heart attack. Jane and Doyle Seley on the death of Jane's nephew, Leland Dutcher, who had a bicycle accident. The family of Lorraine Schmitz, our member who passed away December 22nd.



Keeping those who are mourning the deaths of family members in our prayers: Kelton Conner and family, Brittany Clifton, Claudia Southern, Juanita Morgan, Linda and Keith Nolan, and Janice and Les Ragonese.

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 or contact the church office by calling 817-573-2337 or emailing office@fpcgranbury.com.

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

Prayer of the Month

Gloria Mitchell, coordinator



As we begin 2024 we know we will all experience good days and bad days. God has told us we will have some problems, but he 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. And help us to listen for your answers. In Jesus name, Amen.

Outreach and Mission



Connie Darne, elder

SPOTLIGHT ON MISSION: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity (HFH) of Hood County was established in 1996. This HFH affiliate is managed by multi-denominational volunteers. There are no paid staff. Building takes place on Wednesdays and Saturdays, September - May. Houses are approximately 900 - 1300 square feet, with 2, 3, or 4 bedrooms and 1 or 2 bathrooms, depending on the floor plan. Homes are completed with central heat/air, grass, fenced backyard, small storage building, stove and refrigerator. The finished homes are sold to low income families with a no-interest, 20-year mortgage.

Families with completed applications are chosen based on need, willingness to partner in building their home, and the ability to make monthly payments and a \$700 down payment. Prospective home owners also contribute sweat equity, where they participate in the building of the house. Application for Housing Program information is available online at www.habitatofhoodcounty.org or call 817-573-2812.

Financial donations are accepted in order to make a difference in more families' lives. Donations are received online through a secure site at habitatofhoodcounty.org, or can be mailed to Habitat for Humanity of Hood County, P. O. Box 1866, Granbury, TX 76048. Matching funds are made available through sponsor donors from November 15 - January 31, 2024. These donors match all donations received during this time.

I am sure you are aware that our church provides the HFH volunteers with lunch on the third Wednesday of each month, September - May. Your contributions of cooked casseroles, salads, and/or desserts are very much appreciated.

Outreach & Mission Update:

Christmas gift bags and hams & soup in a jar were delivered to the residents of the Granbury Housing Authority on December 19th. We delivered 75 individual gift bags, 25 family gift bags, and 49 hams with soup in a jar mix. Thank you very much for your generous donations of money, gift items, time, and talent to the preparation of these bags.

Hope you all have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. Looking forward to 2024!!



The next Habitat for Humanity lunch is
Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 10:00am - 11:00am New Years' Eve - Worship - Live stream and Facebook	1 Church office closed today! 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	2 10:00am - 11:00am PW Bible Study - FH	3 10:00am - 12:00pm Elder Training - Admin 10:00am Mission and Outreach - F H 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin 1:30pm - 2:30pm Staff Meeting	4 12:00pm - 2:30pm PNC - FH 1:00pm - 3:00pm Meeting in the Library	5 1:00pm - 3:00pm Set up for Deaver Birthday	6 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH 1:30pm - 5:30pm Deaver Birthday Celebration - FH
7 Ordination and Installation of Ruling Elders 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	8	9 9:00am - 12:00pm Granbury Knitting Guild - FH	10 9:30am - 12:30pm PEO Meeting - FH 10:00am - 11:00am CE Meeting - Admin 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - M H 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	11 12:00pm - 2:30pm PNC - FH	12 10:30am - 11:30am Presbyterian Women's Meeting - Fellowship Hall	13 Possible Session Retreat 9:00am - 5:00pm Session Retreat - All Day - F H 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
14 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	15	16	17 10:00am Book Circle - The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni - Admin 10:00am - 11:00am Habitat for Humanity - Admin 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - MH 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	18 12:00pm - 2:30pm PNC - FH	19	20 Bridge Articles Due 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
21 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	22	23	24 10:30am - 12:00pm FUN Circle - CC Carry On/ Potluck 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - MH 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	25 12:00pm - 2:30pm PNC - FH	26	27 10:00am - 12:00pm Granbury Writers Bloc - Greg Gifford - FH 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
28 Congregational Meeting & Receiving New Members and Baptism 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	29	30	31 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - MH 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	1 12:00pm - 2:30pm PNC - FH	2	3 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