

The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

Isaiah 60:1

January 2025

Pastor's Pen...

Rev. Angela Madden Scott, Pastor, Spiritual Leader, Teaching Elder



Zephaniah 3:14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

Here's a question for you: **What does joy look like?** That's right, joy. **How would you describe it? How might you paint a picture of it?** If you had to come up with a universal symbol, a kind of catch-all image for this universal experience and feeling that we call joy, **what would it be?** Maybe pure joy is the parent who holds his or her child after they awaken frightened in the middle of the night.

Joy is an interesting emotion. It's tough to explain and difficult to put into words, yet, when you see it, it's unmistakable and when you feel it, it's unforgettable. We've all seen it. We've all felt it. So again, how might you describe this thing called joy? What would you say is the *symbol* of joy? "Any parent knows that the birth of a baby is a wondrous event," observes Julia Dray, Sunday school teacher and elder in a Presbyterian church. "Our own magi come to bring gifts, angels in the form of friends and family trumpet the news to the world, shepherds rise from the care of their own flocks and join in the joyful and reverent mirth about the cradle.

"But they all go home, eventually. And we, the parents, stare down into the wide-eyed face of this newly minted infant and trample wearily into a world where 2 a.m. feedings and colicky screams make our world even more chaotic than we'd dreamed it could be.

"But we keep those Christmas feelings despite it all. The faces of our children as they sleep after a long day of driving us to distraction — they are so lovely, so wondrous that our hearts turn over and we feel ...

"Just like Christmas — the spirit of a peaceful center at the heart of the world." (Homiletics Magazine, online).

I recall fondly the memory of my dear Aunt Agatha coming to Pratt, Kansas after Major was born. She cooked meals, held the baby and comforted me in my new parenting skills. Some people would argue that coming up with an all-encompassing symbolic image of joy is a lot easier than you'd think. **Christmas Joy, as Mother Theresa said comes every single time you let God love others through you.**

Despite our broken condition—our messes—our foibles, failings, shortcomings and the unspeakable word 'sin'—we can still do what the prophet Zephaniah says 'rejoice' and share JOY. So, how do we really do that in this New Year of 2025?

One night in the desert, the story goes, a traveler sat warming himself by a charcoal brazier in his tent. Outside, his camel whimpered and whined.

"Master," the camel begged, "let me put just my nose inside your tent, for it is cold out here."

The Master was a kindly man, so he invited the camel to stick its nose under the flap and into the warmth of the tent.

Soon the camel said, "Master, my nose feels much better. But the rest of my head is still outside. May I bring it in too?"

continued

“Of course,” said the Master. “It will not take much more room.”

So the camel put its head inside. And in the same way, it manipulated the Master’s compassion to get its neck inside. Then its front legs. And its shoulders. And its hump. The Master moved over a little, each time, to make room for the camel.

Until eventually the entire camel was inside the tent.

“This is quite a small tent,” said the camel after a while. “There is not enough room for both of us. Since you are smaller than I am, perhaps it would be best if you went outside.”

The story has many variations, but the theme is constant -- little by little, the camel took over the tent.

The camel taking over the tent... ***What’s that story really about?
What are the camels in your life that are taking over Jesus’ tent?
What do you need to let go of in order to let Jesus’ joy out?***

Happiest of New Years!

Thank you for calling me to ministry with you.

Your friend and pastor,

Pastor Angela

Prayer of the Month

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

Gloria Mitchell, Coordinator



As the due date for submitting Bridge articles drew closer, I wondered what to pray about in the January issue. On December 14 God gave me the answer. I’ve been admiring our beautiful fall foliage and thought of so many reasons we are thankful for trees.



New Year's Prayers

Dear God, we thank you for the creation of trees. We love their colored leaves in the fall and the ones that bloom in the spring. They provide homes for birds we enjoy watching and feeding, they provide shade for our homes and our yards, they provide occupations (logging companies, nurseries, tree services etc. who provide jobs for employees). Some provide syrup, pecans, walnuts etc. Trees provide wood for houses, furniture and many other things. Trees are decorated at Christmas when we celebrate the birth of your son, Jesus Christ, and a tree was used to build the cross that held Jesus as He died to save us from our sins. Bless each person reading this prayer. In Jesus name, Amen



- 7 Ken and Allyce Peters
- 14 Bill and Bianca Brownfield
- 24 Scoash and Meg Moore



Thank You

Since 2007, **Jane Seley** has been an integral part of the music program at FPC, serving as pianist, organist, and interim organist well past her well-earned retirement. (Jane officially retired in 2021)

Sunday, December 29th will be Jane's last official day as organist, so that she can finally just enjoy the service beside her beloved Buzz from the first pew! We all love Jane so very much!



And while we will miss her beautiful musical contributions, **Janet Everitt** will once more officially become our organist/ choir accompanist beginning January 5th.

Session Highlights

December 17, 2024, 4:30pm

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

Arise! Shine! For Your Light has Come!

Session approved the reallocation of the labyrinth donations received for the 125th Labyrinth project for Mission and Outreach in 2025 (the Labyrinth Project was not able to come to fruition due to a number of factors and several years of attempts)

The Advent Studies have been well received and well attended: 28, 21, 19 over the first 3 Mondays

Parents' Night Out brought out 6 kids, 1 teen, and 4 adults and was well received by parents and children

Gift Bags were delivered for Christmas

The Advent Devotional Book published in print, email and Facebook for 21 days of Advent and Christmas Day

3 new members were approved: Melia Cook, Joanne Croft and Ron Croft

The Annual Checklist 2025 was approved

7 Mission and Outreach Activities will involve the entire congregation in reaching out to the community and world in 2025

Presbytery commissioners for 2025 (3 of the 6 approved will serve at each of the meetings alongside of the 4th voting delegate Rev. Madden Scott) Connie Darne, Julie Dean, Vanessa Faulkner, Daren Hardin, Linda Somervill, and Susan Younk Kidd

At the January 12th Congregational Meeting the Session approved Budget for 2025 will be presented alongside of the Call Package for Rev. Angela Madden Scott and all outgoing Elders will be recognized and thanked

Thank you to Craig Lacy, Dan Crise, Sylvia Hickey, and Brad Bell for your dedicated and servant hearted leadership through the office of Elder Spiritual Leader!

Look for new spiritual leadership bio's in February

Christian Education

Arise Shine! For your Light has Come...

Sylvia Hickey, Spiritual Leader Elder



You are invited to Winter VBS
January 6 – 10, 2025, 9:30 – 11:30
First Presbyterian Church Granbury
Fellowship Hall located at 300 West Bridge St.

Registrations are open online
fpcgranbury.org
or call or email the church office for more information
office@fpcgranbury.com or call 817-573-2337

**Whatever obstacles we face, God is in control.
Kids will learn: "I can keep my cool because
God is in control."**

We can lose our cool when we don't know what is going to happen next. We only see the tip of the iceberg and have no idea what is going on below. Daniel didn't know what was going to happen when he was thrown into the den of lions, but he knew that God was in control, so he kept his cool.



SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE for all youth you might want to attend.



SHYC

9th to 12th grade

January 24–26

Austin College

900 N. Grand Ave.
Sherman, TX 75090

Cost \$75/person

Registration Dec 15– Jan 15



G.A.P.

6th to 8th grade

March 28–30

Gilmont Camp and
Conference Center

6075 State Highway 155N
Gilmer, TX 75644

Cost \$160/person

Registration Feb 18– Mar 18

Worship

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

Pat Luley, Spiritual Leader Elder



December Sermon Texts

- Jan. 5: Elder Maria Shupe will be filling the pulpit
Communion Sunday, Jeremiah 31: 7-14
Jan. 12: Isaiah 43:1-7, Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Jan. 19: Isaiah 62:1-5, John 2:1-11
Jan. 26: Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10, Luke 4:14-21

Brown Bag Bible Meets @ Noon Jan. 7, Jan. 14, Jan. 28 - to study these Bible texts, in the admin building. We will NOT meet on Jan. 21.

Worship Attendance December, 2024

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>On Line</u>
Dec. 15	130	48
Dec. 8	126	38
Dec. 15	120	45
Dec.22	118	41

Elder In Charge January
Connie Darne`



Special Worship Services

January 12 - Baptism of the Lord

March 5 – Ash Wednesday (coordinates with the Presbyterian Women’s White Breakfast; in the past *Imposition of Ashes* is included in this Service)

April 13 – Palm Sunday

April 17 – Maundy Thursday (this is an early afternoon service so that folks who are uncomfortable driving at night may attend)

April 18 – Good Friday (Tenebrae service no Communion)

June 8 – Pentecost

June 15 – Trinity Sunday

November 23 – Christ the King Sunday

December 24 – Christmas Eve

Session Approved Communion 2025 First Sunday of each Month

January 5
February 2
March 2
April 6
May 4
June 1
July 6
August 3
September 7
October 5
November 2
December 7

Another option for Worship!
The service is Livestreamed inside
Fellowship Hall. You may grab a coffee and
enjoy relaxed worship.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made our Advent/Christmas season so special. We had a large group volunteers stay after church to Deck the Halls on November 24th. The Faulkner's and Tom Sykes received the poinsettias delivery and arranged them in sanctuary on December 4th (just in time for the Granbury Candlelight Tour); and Terri Moss tended the poinsettias during Advent. Thank you to all the folks who volunteered to host in our sanctuary during the Granbury Candlelight Tour. A huge thank you Jay Bole for coming an hour early and staying until after the performances were finished on both Friday night and Saturday all day to monitor the sound system.

Thanks to Jay Bole, the sanctuary has an upgraded sound system with a digital mixer. The new mixer has many fewer knobs; but, many more features. It provides stored settings that are recalled at each worship service, more control over sound quality, and requires less user intervention during services. It can also be remotely monitored and adjusted in real time from within the sanctuary using an iPad.

Un-decking the Halls is scheduled for January 5th after church. A lunch will be provided for all volunteers.

Outreach and Mission

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

Connie Darne, Spiritual Leader Elder



Happy New Year Everyone!!

It's time to take a breather from all the holiday activities. We were certainly busy in December. I use the word "we" to be all inclusive. If it weren't for our Faith Family, Outreach & Mission would not be able to provide for the number of friends and neighbors that we do.

For Christmas we provided 47 families with hams & soup-in-a-jar; 25 families with Christmas Gift bags; 12 families with Angel Tree gift bags; and 100 families and individuals with cake and cake-in-a-cup gifts with the message "We Whisk you a Merry Christmas." Each package contained all ingredients, baking pan, and a whisk. We are hopeful that the recipients enjoy them as much as we did putting them together. Thank You to FUN Circle for working on the cake gifts. The Christmas gift bags included the towel sets the congregation so generously donated.

As we get into the New Year, we will begin planning our activities for 2025. If anyone has ideas they would like us to consider, please let us know. As Linda Somervill said in a Minute for Mission, "we are one BIG committee", and working together there is nothing that we can't do.

Our next Habitat for Humanity lunch will be Wednesday, January 22, 2025. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex on Sunday, January 12 and 19. We need 4 casseroles; 3 salads; 3 desserts; and bread. We have 25-30 people to serve. Everything needs to be prepared and ready-to-serve. Please bring the dishes to the church office by 10:00 a.m. on January 22. If you bring a dish that needs to be returned to you, I will leave it in the church office around 1:00 p.m. on the 22nd. Please try to have your name on the dish. Your participation in this is very much appreciated not only by me, but the Habitat volunteers who come in after working on houses all morning. They are always very Thankful and ask that I pass their Thanks on to you.



Fellowship

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

Bev McKusick, Spiritual Leader Elder



HAPPY NEW YEAR! I've spent some time over the last few days looking back at all the things that happened in 2024, not only in my personal life but in our church life. Wow, it was a very busy year. As a church family we welcomed Pastor Angela and her wonderful family. We added a lot of new family members and mourned the loss of some of our family. As we begin 2025, we should look forward to all the possibilities that the new year brings.

The Fellowship committee is already planning church family gatherings for 2025.

I want to thank all of the wonderful people on the Fellowship committee for their hard work this last year. We accomplished a lot this last year and none of it would have happened without your tireless efforts.

The recipe this month is one that the Mission and Outreach committee has provided for the families at the Housing Authority for the last 2 years. It is also one that my family traditions that we start the new year with.

Bean Soup Mix

🍴 4 servings ⌚ 2 Hours

INGREDIENTS

1/4 cup each

- red lentils, white eyed peas, black beans, green lentils, red beans, pinto beans, green split peas
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 Tbsp dried parsley
- 1 Tbsp dried onion flakes
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 2 Tbsp beef or vegetable bouillon
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 can (14oz) diced tomatoes

DIRECTIONS

1. Remove spice pack.
2. Rinse remainder of ingredients well, then drain.
3. Place bean mix in pot and add 6 cups water and bring to boil. Boil for 10 minutes to remove any toxins from beans.
4. Remove from heat and let stand for 1 hour. Drain, rinse, drain.
5. Return to pot, add 7 cups water, 1 can (14oz) diced tomatoes, spice mix and bay leaf
6. Bring to boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 1 to 1 1/2 hours.
7. Adjust seasoning to taste, remove bay leaf and garnish with fresh parsley.
8. Makes 9 cups.



Join us, January 22nd

@ 10:00 a.m.

As only they can do, members Kay McMillan and Gloria Mitchell will lead us in making beautiful Valentines. Make a Valentine for a special person in your life and make Valentines for Trinity Mission. Lunch at Mi Familia afterwards!



- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Delores Adams | 18 Jamie Sanders |
| 4 Riley Briese | 19 Matthew Kennedy |
| 5 Kevin Monaghan | Sherry Johnson |
| 6 Gardner Davis | 21 Brenda Douglas |
| Jim Stringer | 24 Mary Gourley |
| 8 Scoash Moore | 28 Fran Smith |
| Taylor Clay | 29 Carole Frey |
| 9 Connie Darne` | Joyce Higginbotham |
| Louise Deems | Louise Murry |
| 12 Karen Delyea | |
| Patricia Walker | |
| 15 Sue Soden | |
| 16 Marlin Massengale | |
| 17 Kathy Long | |



January 12, 2025

Congregational Meeting to receive approved budget and to approve Pastor's Compensation.

Presbyterian Women

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

Nancy Bennett
Moderator



**Let Justice Roll Down:
GOD'S CALLING TO CARE FOR
NEIGHBORS AND ALL CREATION**



Join us for Lesson 5 - Air Quality

Main Idea: The wind itself often signals a holy moment, and is related to both our breath and God's, both our spirit and God's.

January 14
10:00 AM
Memorial Hall

Please Note the
Date change!



Presbyterian Women

general Monthly Meeting

JANUARY 17TH

Come learn about water resources in our community.

10:30 PM. FELLOWSHIP HALL
POTLUCK LUNCH TO FOLLOW

**CHANGE OF DATE
MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**

Christmas Party 2024!



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

Congregational Care

Arise, shine; for your light has come!

Susan Younk Kidd, Spiritual Leader Elder



CARE/RETIREMENT FACILITIES

WATERVIEW at Lake Granbury:
Ted Dolan, Bill Wood, Anna Stubbs

AVIVA, Granbury:
Dolores Groom, John Cheney, Rita Hart

TOWN VILLAGE CROSSING, Arlington:
Linda Bowlin.

BRIDGEWATER MEMORY CARE, Granbury
Bill Lowe

LEWISVILLE ESTATES, Lewisville:
Fran Smith.

GOOD SAMARITAN, Denton
Juanita Morgan

THE COURTYARDS
Margie and Jimmy Randles

GLEN ROSE,
Dolores Goodall

MEMBERS DEALING WITH ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES:

Dave B.	Rita H.	Claire M.	Ted G.	Reann M.
Ann Mc.	Carol G.	Donna C.	Margie & Jimmy R.	Jo Beth R.
Barbara S.	Charles S.	Jack S.	Dolores G.	Larry W.
Bill W.	Marla C.	Barbara B.	Peter G.	Brad B.

SPECIAL CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FRIENDS/FAMILY/ MEMBERS

Allyce Peters, whose mother passed away.
Prayer for Carl Dingler and family as Doris passed away.
Ruth G. as she recovers from health issues.
Daughter of Dolores G., who is navigating health issues.
Felicia P. as she navigates the effects of her cancer and chemotherapy.
Marlin M. as he is treated for lymphoma.
Sandi R. as she is experiencing recurring cancer and receiving chemotherapy.
Max and Ruth Ann ask prayers for his sister Joan and grandson Miles.
Terry M. (Sylvia H) as he deals with health issues.
Addie W., 17, who has leukemia.
Brother of Tom S., who has cancer.
Priscilla, who is recovering from surgery.
Rita H. who is in need of our prayers.

SPECIAL BLESSINGS

Ruth G is back in church!
Felicia Peters cancer has abated enough that they'll be able to do surgery in January.

For those hurting and in pain, we ask your blessing and your healing. We also ask your blessing for the care-takers, 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.

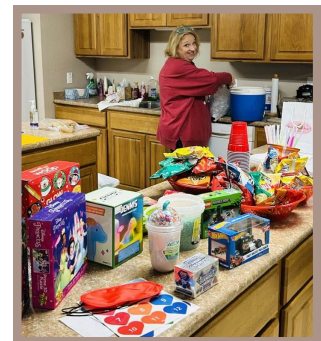
If you know of anyone who needs to be contacted for a care or concern, or if you would like to us to bring you home communion, please email me at susanyoung@gmail.com) or contact Gail at the church office.

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.

December Highlights!



Christmas Pageant, Choir,
PW Christmas Party, Parent's Night Out,
Advent Study



January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away NO Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	30 Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away 6:00pm - 7:00pm Al-Anon	31 Church office closed at Noon today Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away	1 Church Office Closed Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away	2 Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away	3 Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away Pastor Angela's Sabbath	4 Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out-MH
5 Communion Sunday Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away Worship lead by Elder Maria Shupe 8:30am Childcare Available 9:00am - 9:45am Sunday Learning 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	6 9:30am - 11:30am CHILL - Winter VBS 6:00pm - 7:00pm Al-Anon	7 9:30am - 11:30am CHILL - Winter VBS 12:00pm - 1:00pm Brown Bag Bible Lunch Group	8 9:30am - 11:30am CHILL - Winter VBS 10:00am - 11:00am CE Committee Meeting - Admin Building 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 4:00pm - 5:30pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall	9 9:30am - 11:30am CHILL - Winter VBS 1:00pm - 2:00pm Fellowship Meeting - Fellowship Hall	10 Pastor Angela's Sabbath 9:30am - 11:30am CHILL - Winter VBS	11 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out-MH
12 Baptism of the Lord Congregational Meeting - Approve Pastor's Commission 8:30am Childcare Available 9:00am - 9:45am Sunday Learning 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	13 1:00pm - 3:00pm Memorial Hall - Pecan Bookmarks 6:00pm - 7:00pm Al-Anon	14 9:00am - 12:00pm Granbury Knitting Guild - FH 10:00am - 11:00am PW Bible Study - FH 12:00pm - 1:00pm Brown Bag Bible Lunch Group 2:30pm - 4:00pm Membership Meeting - Admin Building	15 10:00am Book Circle - Admin Building 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 4:00pm - 5:30pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall	16 1:00pm - 2:00pm Finance Committee - Admin Building 4:30pm - 5:30pm Session - Admin Building	17 Pastor Angela's Sabbath 10:30am - 1:00pm PW Meeting and Potluck	18 8:30am - 1:00pm Team Development Training 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out-MH
19 Installation and Ordination Elders 7:00am - 8:00am Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away 8:30am Childcare Available 9:00am - 9:45am Sunday Learning 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook 12:00pm Rev. Angela Continuing Education Church World Service	20 Bridge Articles Due 7:00am - 8:00am Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away 12:00pm Rev. Angela Continuing Education Church World Service 6:00pm - 7:00pm Al-Anon	21 7:00am - 8:00am Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away 12:00pm Rev. Angela Continuing Education Church World Service	22 Habitat for Humanity - Admin Building 7:00am - 8:00am Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away 10:30am - 11:30am FUN Circle - Valentines with lunch out! 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 12:00pm Rev. Angela Continuing Education Church World Service 4:00pm - 5:30pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall	23 7:00am - 8:00am Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away 12:00pm Rev. Angela Continuing Education Church World Service	24 Pastor Angela's Sabbath 7:00am - 8:00am Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away 12:00pm Rev. Angela Continuing Education Church World Service	25 7:00am - 8:00am Elder Sharon Curry on Call while Pastor is away 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out-MH 12:00pm Rev. Angela Continuing Education Church World Service
26 8:30am Childcare Available 9:00am - 9:45am Sunday Learning 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	27 6:00pm - 7:00pm Al-Anon	28 12:00pm - 1:00pm Brown Bag Bible Lunch Group 4:30pm - 7:30pm Session - Fellowship Hall	29 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 4:00pm - 5:30pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall	30	31 Pastor Angela's Sabbath	1 10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out-MH

Rev. Angela Madden Scott

Music

Priscilla Allen, Music Director
Janet Everitt, Accompanist/Organist

Nursery

Jessica Roberson, Lead Nursery Attendant
Nancy Bennett - Nursery Attendant Volunteer

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

7:30—4:30

Elder Sharon Curry on call:

817-736-6808 CELL 214-393-5625 OFFICE

202 West Pearl Street

817-573-2337



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.

Have you considered the Church in your Will or Legacy plans?



Worship Online: fpcgranbury.org/live/  YouTube

Join us on Facebook: facebook.com/fpcgranbury



To:

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