

# The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:16-17*

January 2026

## Pastor's Pen...

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



*Suddenly the heavens  
were opened...  
and a voice from heaven  
said,  
"This is my Son,  
the Beloved,  
with whom I am  
well pleased."  
Matthew 3: 16-17*

Dear Faith Family, whom God Loves,  
God opened the skies, sent his Spirit in the form of a dove and tenderly called Jesus his Son, the Beloved. From our upcoming January 11th celebration of Jesus' baptism (and our remembrance of ours), to our humble beginnings (the dust of our creation that we remember on Ash Wednesday February 18), to the magnificent exuberance of the resurrection of Jesus, the season of epiphany and then Lent offers us a 'window of opportunity' to explore who we are. The climate around us now is full of much clamor about 'opportunities.' From the spiritual leaders who will be ordained and installed on January 18, to political candidates who are being installed into office across America, who preach 'opportunity,' to the three American Idol judges, who promote the 'opportunity' to make it big as a famous singer, the operative buzz-word of this wintertime solstice seems to be 'opportunity.'

From the raging waters of the flood, God saved Noah and gave an 'opportunity' to creation...to humankind. Out of the parted Red Sea God provided an 'opportunity' to Moses and the Israelites. From the basic earthly elements of water, juice, and bread, God has given us an 'opportunity' to celebrate with his Son Jesus through the Holy Spirit. We have been set apart by our baptism and nourished through the sacrament of Holy Communion. We have made promises before God and before one another.

What do you plan to do with this opportunity for eternal life that you have been given? What spiritual gifts will you dedicate to God and use for kingdom building in 2026? Do you plan to shut the window of "Good News" and be tight-lipped with people that you know? Or, do you think in the days leading up to Easter you might take a risk and share your faith? Do you plan to close out the bright light of hope that Christ offers? Or do you think you could open the shades of sorrow, brokenness, and despair for another human being by inviting them to worship? Do you intend to keep your faith inside (*your heart, your home, your family*)? Or, do you feel called to open the windows of your heart in order for God's heaven to break-in to another's lost soul?

The heavens have been opened.

The window of opportunity is infinite.

What will *your* response be to God's glorious initiative?

May the love and grace of Christ be yours,

Yours in Christ's Love,  
Pastor Angela

*Rev. Angela Madden Scott*

# Outreach and Mission

*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:16-17*

Connie Darne', Elder



In December, we provided 37 hams to families in the community for Christmas. We also provided gifts for 13 families, consisting of 30 individuals, who participated in our Angel Tree for the Granbury Housing Authority. Once again our Faith Family was extremely responsive.

Since this is my last article for the Bridge, I thought I would give you a quick look back at 2025:

The entire budget of \$80,366 has been expended. An additional \$6,845.84 has been expended from the Mission Offerings account, including cash donations totaling \$3,000 as follows:

Camp Gilmont	\$1,000
Presbyterian Children's Home & Services	\$ 500
Chrysalis Clergy	\$ 500
Meals on Wheels, Hood County	\$1,000

We have provided Habitat for Humanity Volunteers with monthly meals as scheduled.

We have provided the residents of the Housing Authority hams for Easter (43); and turkeys with side dishes for Thanksgiving (44); and Christmas hams (37); Angel Tree Gifts (30) as requested by families, and Summer Fun Gift Certificates as requested.

Members donated gift cards totaling \$3,000 and a cash donation of \$500 to buy back-to school shoes for children in foster care and provided the Rainbow Room with needed items totaling \$3,500 in-kind donations.

We provided Mission Granbury with five (5) "Laundry Baskets" filled with necessities for women leaving the shelter to get a fresh start in a new location. We participated in a food drive to supply the People Helping People food pantry.

Additionally, we have responded to 96 individual requests for emergency assistance with rent, utility payments, temporary lodging, food, etc.

It has been my privilege and a blessing to serve as Elder for Outreach & Mission these past three years. You have my sincere Thank You for your support, generosity, prayers and faith in making all this possible.

Connie Darne'



**Christmas Hams and Gifts for  
Granbury Housing 2025**



**SUNDAY, JANUARY 18th,**  
**Following Worship**  
(box lunch provided)  
**AGING IN GRACE**

**TOPICS:**

- ⇒ Ways to adapt your home to keep it accessible and prevent falls.
- ⇒ Pros and cons of staying in your home independently, using care services vs moving to Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care or Rehabilitation.
- ⇒ Facilities in our area and approximate costs.
- ⇒ What Medicare, Medicaid and VA will/will not cover.
- ⇒ Services Caring Transitions provides.
- ⇒ Hospice Services: What they provide and how they support the patient and family.
- ⇒ Making your wishes known.

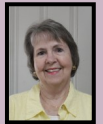
Whether you are facing this transition yourself, or helping a family member or friend, we hope you will come and use this information to plan and make better decisions for the future.

**Don't miss this educational and informational lunch meeting!**

**Prayer of the Month**

*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:16-17*

Gloria Mitchell, Coordinator



Dear God, help us remember that you are always with us and ready to give us courage when we want to try something new. While many people are making resolutions for the new year (many that they won't really keep) perhaps we can think of one thing we have been wanting to do. With your help we could accomplish more than we could ever imagine. In Jesus's name, Amen.

**Our Mission:**

It is our calling to share the good news of the Gospel through generous outreach and hospitality, nurturing worship and study, compassionate care and fellowship, striving together to faithfully discern God's will for the ministry of First Presbyterian Church in this world.

# Worship

*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:16-17*

Pat Luley, Elder



Elder In Charge

January

Julie Dean

Worship Attendance

**December 2025**

	<u>In Person</u>	<u>On Line</u>
Dec. 7	<b>91</b>	<b>40</b>
Dec. 14	<b>101</b>	<b>38</b>
Dec. 21	<b>83</b>	<b>27</b>

## January Sermon Texts and Titles

- Jan. 4** Epiphany  
*"Starlight Starbright God with us is now residing"*  
Jeremiah 31:7-14; John 1:10-18
- Jan. 11** Baptism of our Lord  
*"Ripple Effect"*  
Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:3-17
- Jan. 18** Ordination and Installation of Officers  
*"Perhaps the clearest path to unity is through the stomach" Jesus' Hospitality*  
Isaiah 49:1-7; John 1:29-42
- Jan. 25** Rev. Marcus Hayes, Guest Pastor

# Fellowship

*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:16-17*

Beverly McKusick, Elder



Here we are at the beginning of the 2026 year. It's a good time to contemplate what we want to accomplish in this new year. The Fellowship committee is working hard to plan events for the year. We have a lot of the usual events but we're working hard to come up with some new and exciting ideas. On January 18th after the church service there will be a short seminar on Aging. It will provide you with some valuable information to help you navigate through your later years. Lunch will be served that day and you will need to sign up for the seminar so we know how many lunches to buy.

The Fellowship committee is wishing you a very healthy and prosperous 2026.

## COWBOY CORN CHOWDER

In a large crockpot fill the bottom of the pot with precooked shredded chicken. I used about 2 cups.

Add 1 cup of chopped onions

1 can of whole kernel corn (drained). I actually put in 2 cans

3/4 bag of frozen southern hash brown potatoes

garlic powder, onion powder, salt, and pepper to taste

1 can of cream of chicken soup

1 container of chicken broth

Mix and cook on high for 3 to 4 hours

Before serving add a block of cream cheese cubed and 1 cup of shredded cheddar cheese. Mix until the cheese is melted.

Serve and enjoy





# Christian Education

*This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased. Matthew 3:16-17*

Julie Dean, Elder



**It's not too late! Register Online NOW for Winter Vacation Bible School. January 5, 6 and 7, 2026, 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.** The theme is "The Olympics: Winter Games 2026." The Bible verse for the curriculum is: "All who take part in the games train hard. They do it to get a crown that will not last. But we do it to get a crown that will last forever." 1 Corinthians 9:25.



**Seekers Class** meets at 9:00 Sunday mornings in the Main Room of Fellowship Hall.

**January 11- March 1, 2026-** Vanessa Faulkner will lead The Mayberry Bible Study.

Featuring classic episodes from The Andy Griffith Show with relevant scripture, this study resource uses each episode as a modern parable on the teachings of Jesus. Examples of Episodes are:

- High Noon in Mayberry - Psalm 23:4
- A Wife for Andy - Proverbs 11:13
- Barney's First Car - Proverbs 14:29
- The Great Filling Station Robbery - Philippians 1:9-10



**Growing In Faith Class** meets at 9:00 Sunday mornings in the adult Sunday School Classroom in Fellowship Hall.

**January 4 - October 2026-** Greg Gifford and Richard McCarthy continue leading the video lecture series: Jesus and the Gospels by Professor Luke Timothy Johnson, an in-depth examination of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Peter with side ventures into other ancient authors.

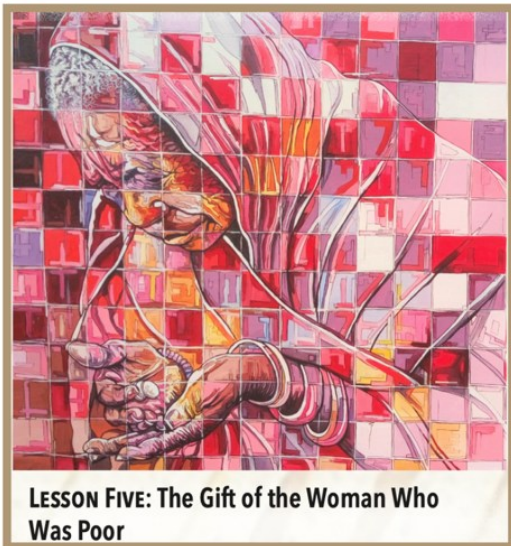


**Wednesday Theologians** meets every Wednesday at noon in the Conference Room of the Administration Building.

Tim Bennett leads the **Wednesday Theologians** as they continue with the video series, "THE LIVES OF GREAT CHRISTIANS" by William Cook, PhD. For many, Christianity is the daily effort to live one's faith in every moment. This course introduces you to those who have done so over the centuries, those Professor William Cook calls "superstars of faith."

**JANUARY 13** – 10:00 AM  
PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!  
MEMORIAL HALL

Finding Resilience, Joy and Our  
Identity in Jesus Christ



Women's Bible Study

## **LESSON 5**

The Gift of the Woman  
Who Was Poor

## **SCRIPTURE**

Mark 12:41-44

## **MAIN IDEA**

Joy in Christ is more  
than happiness; it can  
change challenging  
circumstances into faith-  
filled, even joyous times.

## **Mo Ranch Women's Conference** **June 5-7, 2026**

### **Keynote Speaker: Reverend Sarah Speed**

Space is limited and lodging is first come first served. If you plan to attend or are interested, let us know so we can possibly help to arrange lodging.

**More information at [moranch.org](http://moranch.org)**



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

# Session Highlights

## Session Elders met on Tuesday, December 16 The following is the approved Calendar for 2026

- **Communion** happens every first Sunday of the Month  
Additional Communion dates: January 11—Baptism of the Lord; February 15—Transfiguration of the Lord; February 18—Ash Wednesday with Breakfast and Imposition of Ashes; March 29— Palm Sunday; April 2— Maundy Thursday; April 5— Easter Sunday; May 24—Pentecost; May 31— Trinity Sunday; October 4— World Communion Sunday; November 22—Christ the King Sunday; December 24 —Christmas Eve
- **Session Spiritual Leadership** training—January 27th
- **Congregational Meeting Dates** will be February 22nd (receive approved budget with year end finances) and November 15th (election of officers and approve changes to salary)
- **Christian Education** committee has suggested that June, July, and August in lieu of traditional Sunday School the Committee will host intergenerational and service project events
- **Host Presbytery** at First Presbyterian Church Granbury October 8, 2026
- **Stewardship** Commitment Sunday, November 8, 2026
- **PCUSA Special Offerings** One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Worldwide Communion/Peacemaking offering, and Christmas Joy Offering
- **Mission and Outreach** Special Activities: Hams/Christmas, April Protective Services, Sack Drive, Back to School, Thanksgiving, and Summer Fun Outing.
- **Additional Worship Services** Ash Wednesday February 18, Maundy Thursday April 2, Good Friday April 3, Silent Saturday April 5, Resurrection Sunday Hewlitt Park at Sunrise, Christmas Eve Candlelight, Christmas Interactive Play tentative December 6, Music Sunday tentative December 13
- **Graduation Celebration** May 31, 2026
- **Celebrating** gifts of Women May 10, and gifts of Men June 21
- **Youth Camps and Conference** fees will be supported in 2026 with 2—3 fundraisers
- **Evangelism Emphasis Sunday** September 27
- **Rev. Angela serves** on Church World Service/Chrysalis Board for Clergy Mental Health, Member of PEO, Kiwanis, the Presbytery Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and is a board member for Schreiner University Ministerial Council
- **Presbytery Delegates;** Susan Younk, Brenda Towers, Jay Bole, Vaness Faulkner - alternate
- **Permanent Funds Moderator** Craig Lacy
- **Nominating Committee** Julie Dean, Jay Bole, Meg Moore, Craig Lacy, Ann Mitchell

## 2026 Session Leaders First Presbyterian Church

Rev. Angela Madden Scott - Moderator	Susan Younk - Congregational Care	Scoash Moore - Clerk of Session
Kevin Monaghan - Outreach & Mission	David Shelton - Long Range Planning	Jay Bole - Worship
Daren Hardin - Property Elder	Vanessa Faulkner - Stewardship	Linda Somervill - Membership
Julie Dean - Christian Education	Alison Ullom - Evangelism/Youth	Beverly McKusick—Fellowship
Brenda Towers - Administration/Personnel/Finance		



# December Highlights

## PW Christmas Party



## Interactive Christmas Pageant



## Go Tell It! A Christmas Musical

## FPC Chancel Choir







## ORDINATIONS & INSTALLATIONS

**Sunday, January 18**  
**Wear Red**

**January 27**  
*Spiritual*  
LEADERSHIP TRAINING



Join us for a **Brown Bag Lunch Bible Study** led by Rev. Angela. We'll gather to reflect on the week's sermon text, using guided questions to deepen our understanding and apply God's Word together. All are welcome - no preparation needed. Just bring your lunch! All dates are on Tuesday. Mark your calendar **January 6, 12, and 27**. All are welcome!



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**Following Worship**  
(box lunch provided)  
**AGING IN GRACE**

### TOPICS:

- ⇒ Ways to adapt your home to keep it accessible and prevent falls.
- ⇒ Pros and cons of staying in your home independently, using care services vs moving to Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care or Rehabilitation.
- ⇒ Facilities in our area and approximate costs.
- ⇒ What Medicare, Medicaid and VA will/will not cover.
- ⇒ Services Caring Transitions provides.
- ⇒ Hospice Services: What they provide and how they support the patient and family.
- ⇒ Making your wishes known.

Whether you are facing this transition yourself, or helping a family member or friend, we hope you will come and use this information to plan and make better decisions for the future.

**Don't miss this educational and informational lunch meeting!**

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
<b>28</b>	8:30am Childcare Available 9:00am - 9:45am Sunday Learning for All Ages 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>29</b>	Church Office Closed 6:00pm - 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>30</b>	Church Office Closed	<b>31</b>	Church Office Closed 12:00pm - 1:00pm Wednesday Theologians Men's Study - Admin	<b>1</b>	Happy New Year's Church Office Closed	<b>2</b>	Pastor Angela's Sabbath	<b>3</b>	10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
<b>4</b>	Communion Sunday—Epiphany Celebrated 8:30am Childcare Available 9:00am - 9:45am Sunday Learning for All Ages 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>5</b>	9:30am - 11:30am Winter VBS - The Olympics: Winter Games 2026 6:00pm - 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>6</b>	9:30am - 11:30am Winter VBS - The Olympics: Winter Games 2026 10:00am - 11:00am PW Horizons Bible Study - Memorial Hall 12:00pm - 1:00pm Brown Bag Bible Lunch Group - Admin Building	<b>7</b>	9:30am - 11:30am Winter VBS - The Olympics: Winter Games 2026 12:00pm - 1:00pm Wednesday Theologians Men's Study - Admin 3:00pm - 5:00pm Choir - MH	<b>8</b>	9:00am - 3:00pm Honor Quilting - Fellowship Hall 1:00pm - 2:00pm Fellowship Meeting - FH	<b>9</b>	Pastor Angela's Sabbath 10:00am - 1:00pm PW Meeting	<b>10</b>	10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
<b>11</b>	Baptism of the Lord - Communion 8:30am Childcare Available 9:00am - 9:45am Sunday Learning for All Ages 10:00am Baptism of the Lord, Communion Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>12</b>	1:00pm - 3:00pm Memorial Hall - Pecan Bookmarks 6:00pm - 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>13</b>	9:00am - 12:00pm Granbury Knitting Guild - FH 10:00am - 11:00am PW Bible Study - Memorial Hall 12:00pm - 1:00pm Brown Bag Bible Lunch Group - Admin Building 2:30pm - 4:00pm Membership Meeting - Admin	<b>14</b>	9:30am - 12:00pm PEO Meeting - FH 12:00pm - 1:00pm Wednesday Theologians Men's Study - Admin 1:30pm - 2:30pm CE Committee Meeting - Admin 3:00pm - 5:00pm Choir - MH 3:00pm - 4:00pm Evangelism Youth Committee	<b>15</b>		<b>16</b>	Pastor Angela's Sabbath	<b>17</b>	10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
<b>18</b>	Wear Red for Installation and Ordination 8:30am Childcare Available 9:00am - 9:45am Sunday Learning for All Ages 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook 11:30am - 1:30pm Aging in Grace - luncheon- after Worship	<b>19</b>	Office Closed - MLK Day Rev. Angela Continuing Education The Children and Youth MLK Day of Service 6:00pm - 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>20</b>	Bridge Articles Due Rev. Angela Continuing Education - Chrysalis Board Member for Clergy Mental Health	<b>21</b>	Rev. Angela Continuing Education - Chrysalis Board Member for Clergy Mental Health 10:00am Book Circle - Admin Building 12:00pm - 1:00pm Wednesday Theologians Men's Study - Admin 3:00pm - 5:00pm Choir - MH	<b>22</b>	Rev. Angela Continuing Education - Chrysalis Board Member for Clergy Mental Health	<b>23</b>	Pastor Angela's Sabbath Rev. Angela Continuing Education - Chrysalis Board Member for Clergy Mental Health	<b>24</b>	10:00am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
<b>25</b>	Guest Rev. Marcus Hayes 8:30am Childcare Available 9:00am - 9:45am Sunday Learning for All Ages 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	<b>26</b>	6:00pm - 7:00pm Al-Anon	<b>27</b>	12:00pm - 1:00pm Brown Bag Bible Lunch Group - Admin Building 4:30pm Session - Fellowship Hall 4:30pm - 7:30pm Spiritual Leaders Training	<b>28</b>	10:00am FUN Circle - Fellowship Hall 10:00am Habitat for Humanity - drop food off at Administration Building 12:00pm - 1:00pm Wednesday Theologians Men's Study - Admin 3:00pm - 5:00pm Choir - MH	<b>29</b>		<b>30</b>	Pastor Angela's Sabbath	<b>31</b>	10:00am - 12:00pm Granbury Writers Bloc - Greg Gifford - FH 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  
Heather Albrecht, Nursery Attendant  
**Office 202 West Pearl Street /817-573-2337**  
Gail Deckert, Administrative Assistant

**Elder Sharon Curry on call:**  
**Dec. 29—Jan. 4; Jan. 19-25**  
**817-736-6808 214-393-5625**

Office Hours 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.

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

Another option for  
Worship!  
Inside Fellowship Hall  
Worship is Livestreamed.

**Worship Online: [fpcgranbury.org/live/](https://fpcgranbury.org/live/)**  **YouTube**

**Join us on Facebook: [facebook.com/fpcgranbury](https://facebook.com/fpcgranbury)**



**To:**

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