

First Presbyterian Church
300 Burleson
Smithville, TX 78957



Sunday Schedule

9:45 – Coffee/Social Hour Sunday school for all ages 3 to adults - 10 am
Yoga 2nd and 4th Sunday – 10 am
Worship Service - 11 am

Communion and Covered Dish Luncheon on 1st Sunday each Month (See calendar for exceptions)

Church Leadership

Pastor - Kristin Brown- 512.608.4293

Clerk of Session - vacant

Pastoral Assistant - Susan Guedry 512.304.8082

Piano/Organ/Harp - Monica Miller

Session Members - Susan Guedry, Lisa Altmeyer, Nancy Evans, Kathy Ford, Leah Saunders, Jane Istre

Worship - Elder Susan Guedry

Mission Outreach - Elders Leah Saunders, Kathy Ford

Church Administration - Elder Jane Istre

Christian Formation - Elder Lisa Altmeyer

Fellowship & Nurture - Elder Nancy Evans

Custodian - Anna Hernandez 512.237.3880

Web Page, Facebook Page, Newsletter - Elder Kathy Ford - 512.217.5706

From Pastor Kris:

What are you waiting for? We ask this when the moment is at hand, when it seems past time to jump into the pool on a hot summer day, when the ice cream is running down the side of the chocolate fudge cake on our plate, when that sweet baby smiles and giggles and reaches her hands out to be picked up. "What are you waiting for?" Someone laughs this question. And we realize that we have been in a sort of a freeze frame, taking in all that is before us, excited, almost there, but needing a minute or two to gather ourselves together.

This kind of waiting, of being on the edge of something wonderful but not quite ready to plunge in, makes the room we need for the spurt of self-reflection which will help us better appreciate the joy that is coming. How wonderful it will be to jump into the water. How delicious that cake will taste. How precious it will be to hold the child. Joy, peace, love, indeed, all the virtues you can name, become deeper and deeper experiences the more we have a chance to pause, if only for a short time, and get ready for them. Even when we are surprised by good opening up right before us, taking a slow breath so that we might see as much as we can of what is there, a breath of thanks helps us create the space we need to make the most of the gift.

We know about the gift that is coming December 25th. The gift of Advent, the gift of the season of waiting which begins right now, provides for us a way to lengthen, deepen, widen what Christmas brings. Take the time you need to wait and get ready for Christmas. We have an idea about what we are waiting for. May Advent let us flesh out that idea so we are capable of receiving all the joy, peace and love that we can.

Church Attendance
Prepared by Dorothy Dillon



November 2019

	Members	Guests	New Guests	Total
11/3	18	5	5	28
11/10	15	8	0	23
11/17	22	1	0	23
11/24	20	2	0	22

NEW ADDRESS

Leah and Scott Saunders
1413 NE Whitehead ST
Smithville, TX 78957

Congratulations on your new home!



The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will meet on **Monday, December 16th** at noon in the FPC Fellowship Hall in the basement of our building. Our 2019-2020 study is "Love Carved in Stone": A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments by Eugenia Anne Gambler.

We meet monthly on the 2nd Monday from September through May unless we have BAE that week. In that event, we will meet the 3rd Monday, as we do this week.

All are invited to join us for study, fellowship and food.

Call Gwen if you have any questions - 512-308-7791.

Smithville Food Pantry
Prepared by Mary Ellen Keathey



November 2019

Date	Client	Family Members	New Client	New Members
11/6	117	278	1	4
11/13	100	240	0	0
11/20	122	291	3	12
11/26	145	344	1	3
TOTAL	484	1,153	5	19

Please bring your donations for the Food Pantry on First Sunday and place them in the basket at the covered dish luncheon. There will also be envelopes available if you prefer to give money. The Food Pantry can purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank much more economically than you can purchase it at the store, so please consider giving by check/cash. If you have questions, please contact Dorothy Dillon.

December Birthdays/Anniversaries



- 12/01 Penelope Jane Saunders
- 12/10 Henry Brown
- 12/11 Jake Gosselink, Jr.
- 12/15 Alan Ford
- 12/18 Lacy Ceder
- 12/19 Jordan Bell
- 12/31 Kathryn Ford
- 12/31 Kristi Koch



- 12/13/58 John & Dianna Saunders
- 12/21/67 Dan & Jan Rinehart
- 12/30/ Monica & Mark Miller

Communion Schedule December - 2019



December - Jane Istre, Leah Saunders, Lisa Altmeyer - Liturgist - Kathy Ford

First person listed will bring the bread, prepare the communion table, pick up the glasses at the end of the service, wash and put away the service trays.

If you cannot be at church when it is your turn to be in charge of the preparation for communion, please call the Elder listed after you to prepare the communion in your place and to serve in your place. Remember- those who serve communion are the Ushers for the month to collect the offering.

Notice- those who are listed as **Liturgist** have agreed to help with this extra duty this year and to greet guests as they arrive and depart. If you are unable to attend Church any Sunday during your scheduled month please ask one of the other volunteers to fill in for you. Thanks to all of you for helping with the Worship Service.

Upcoming Events/News from Susan:

Advent begins December 1. We will be doing a reverse Advent calendar. Boxes will be in the Narthex on December 1. Each day of Advent, place a food item in the box. Bring your full box to the Christmas Eve Service or the next Sunday. The food items will be donated to the Smithville Food Pantry.

The Adult Sunday School Class will begin a 5 week Advent study, "While We Wait". Class starts at 10:15 in the upstairs music room on Sunday.

We will decorate the church for Advent and Christmas on Friday, December 6 at 10:00am. Everyone is invited to help.

The Session has planned a movie trip to Bastrop on Sunday, December 8 to see "It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood." The show starts at 1:00. Carpool or meet at the theater.

We are scheduled to work at the Born Again Emporium December 9-14. Monday through Thursday, we work 10-2 and Friday and Saturday, we work 9-2. Any time you can give will be greatly appreciated.

The Christmas Pageant will be December 15 during Worship Services.

Women's Bible Study will meet Monday, December 16 at noon to continue the study of the 10 Commandments. This is one week later because of BAE.

The Joy Offering will be collected on Sunday, Dec. 22nd. We plan for caroling at the Towers Nursing home and to our shut-ins on Sunday December 22. A time will be announced later.

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be Tuesday, December 24 at 6:00 pm.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>1st Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Choir Practice 10 am Sunday School 11am Service Communion, Congregational Mtg and Covered Dish Lunch</p> <p><i>World Aids Day Presbyterian HIV/AIDS Awareness</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10 am - All Are Invited to Help Decorate the Church</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>2nd Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Choir Practice 10 am Sunday School 11am Service</p> <p>Bastrop Lost Pines 8 1:00 to see Mr. Rogers Neighborhood</p>	<p>9</p> <p>BAE 10-3</p>	<p>10</p> <p>BAE 10-3</p> <p><i>Human Rights Day</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p>BAE 10-3</p>	<p>12</p> <p>BAE 10-3</p> <p><i>National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath Weekend begins (Decemer 12-15)</i></p>	<p>13</p> <p>BAE 9-4</p>	<p>14</p> <p>BAE 9-4</p>
<p>15</p> <p>3rd Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Choir Practice 10 am Sunday School 11am Service</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Noon - WBS</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 am Choir Practice 10 am Sunday School 11am Service <i>Caroling - Time TBD Christmas Joy Offering</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Christmas Eve - 6:00 pm Candle light Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>1st Sunday of Christmas 10 am Sunday School 11am Service</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				