



Guided by the Word of God, led by the Holy Spirit, and motivated by the love of Christ and all his people, United Presbyterian Church, an intergenerational community, celebrates God's glory by fostering Christian growth.

Therefore, we value fellowship, Bible-centered messages, music, and faith expressed through worship, and commitment to our community.



Change is inevitable. Even if we do nothing change happens to us, whether it is a matter of aging, or health, or finances, or interests we cannot prevent change. Sometimes we can manage change if we are intentional.

We will see changes in our church during our time together. Hopefully one of those changes will be numerical and spiritual growth as a church. Almost every church wants to grow, there are a few churches that are happy the way they are with the congregation they have and really don't want new members, but they are a small minority. There is the old line that we want to grow but we don't want to change anything, those goals are mutually exclusive and remember change is inevitable.

Throughout my ministry I have been able by God's grace and with Session's approval been able to change a number of things that need changing. I promise even though I have been here just two months some of you feel like I am moving things much too quickly and others of you think I am moving things way too slowly. I will not please everyone and even some of the changes we make together we will access and evaluate and accept that some new thing didn't work out after all. The other thing to recognize whether we manage change intentionally or change is imposed on us there are often unanticipated changes that we have to address.

There is the old story (probably not true) of a preacher who wanted to move the piano from one side of the church to the other. The poor fellow made his pitch and consequently didn't last very long. He was invited back for a church homecoming and found the piano exactly where he wanted it. He was surprised to see the change and asked the current pastor how he pulled it off, the current pastor smiled and said, "I moved it an inch each week."

There are two primary types of change in churches and organizations, one is incremental which was illustrated in the story above, and the other for lack of a better word is structural which is a major change that requires a significant or a bold change. For example, in one of my churches the size of the Session was reduced without changing the number in the by-

laws and some others needed corrections. We as a session brought forth a significantly revised bylaws proposal to the congregation. We couldn't bring change a correction every so often because we were out of compliance with our governing document.

You may have already noticed some changes since I have been here, most have been fairly small so far. One of the larger changes I see is in the area of communication. By this I mean trying to make sure that information from committees to the church office in a timely manner so the office can share that with the congregation as well as back to committees. Better fiscal transparency for both the general budget and our efforts to eliminate our debt for our addition are important especially as we begin this Fall's Stewardship Season. I am not casting dispersions, but I think relevant financial data hasn't made its way from the Session to the congregation at large in an easy-to-understand summary often enough. I will do everything to be as transparent as possible about everything in the church, short of confidential personal information or what people in the church are giving. If you have any questions about our finances, our new addition, or any other area of the life and ministry of the church please feel free to contact us to try and answer your questions or hear your thoughts and ideas.

The other thing I want to strongly emphasize is that our decisions for change should be bathed in prayer. We often make major decisions quickly without seeking the Lord's wisdom and guidance. Sometimes we need to intentionally slow down a bit, maybe consider a major item over two meetings rather than one. I have often been amazed in committees, Sessions, or boards how things that I think need a lot of consideration just sail through with no discussion and how we can get derailed on minor issues for months. Change will happen whether we like it, or want it, or anticipate it, or manage it, or even try to ignore it or not. However, we worship a Sovereign God who is fully in control, let us lean on him when we are anxious, afraid, or trying to Get ahead of God.

Grace and Peace.

Mike O'Neil

Stewardship Campaign

Hello,

For those who don't know me, my name is Debbie. I'm the Treasurer for United Presbyterian Church.

After our last Stewardship & Finance Committee meeting, I was asked to write a few thoughts about Stewardship. I was a little perplexed about what to write so I did a little research.

Four Biblical principles of Stewardship are ownership, responsibility, accountability, and reward. ¹

Ownership: In the Book of Genesis, God creates everything. He owns everything. Everything He has given us is ours to be stewards over. How we do this, is our expression of obedience to God.

Responsibility: God want us to be responsible following His desires and purposes while managing what He has given us.

Accountability: The Parable of the Talents teaches us that one day we will be held accountable for the way we took care of everything He has given us including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority.

Reward: The parable shows the faithful steward who followed the Master's will was rewarded. "Well done good and faithful servant!" Matthew 25:21

Hugh Whelchel wrote:

"As Christians in the 21st century, we need to embrace this larger Biblical view of Stewardship, which goes beyond church budgets or building projects, though important; it connects everything we do with what God is doing in the world. We need to be faithful stewards of all God has given us within the opportunities presented through His providence to glorify Him, serve the common good and further His Kingdom."¹

¹ [Reflection: 4 PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL STEWARDSHIP | Wesley Methodist Church Klang \(klangwesley.com\)](https://www.klangwesley.com/reflection/4-principles-of-biblical-stewardship)

We are beginning our 2024 Stewardship campaign. It's a time when we are asked to complete and turn in a pledge card. For me, this is an action I was shown by my parents as a child. I was taught to make 4 stacks of coins. The first one was a tenth of the total to give to God with praise for all He had given me. The second stack was for "Bills" or necessary items. The third was for "fun money" and the fourth was for savings. I have tried to live by this through the years. For me giving a tenth of my money is so important as I know He always provides for my needs; especially when I tithe.

Unfortunately, we need money to operation of the church. While the money anyone is led by God to give is important, let's not forget the importance of giving of our other talents; time, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships, and authority. We are God's children and He loves us and sees our hearts. Please pray for His guidance for your response to the 2024 Stewardship campaign.

God's Blessings,
Debbie Warren

October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person <i>O/C David Williams</i>	2	3 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 5:30-7 P.M.	4 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. Hand bells	5 8:30 a.m. Bread Ministry 3-4 p.m. Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 p.m. Yoga 5:30 PM INREACH	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 PW MTG
8 Goodland Congregational Mtg POTLUCK Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person <i>O/C John Wasson</i>	9 5:00 p.m. Worship Mtg. 6:00 p.m. Property Mtg. 6:00 p.m. CYM Mtg. 6:30 p.m. S&F Mtg.	10	11 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. Hand bells	12 8:30 a.m. Bread Ministry 3-4 p.m. Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 p.m. Yoga 6 p.m. Bras for Cause	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14 10-3 Goodland Open House
15 NOISY OFFERING Pastor Mike's installation Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person <i>O/C John Wasson</i>	16 6:30 p.m. PW Bible Study	17 Safety	18 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. Hand bells	19 8:30 a.m. Bread Ministry 3-4 p.m. Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 p.m. Yoga	20 OFFICE CLOSED Pastor out of town until 10/27/23	21
22 Stewardship Dedication Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person <i>O/C Marsha Fincher</i>	23	24 6:30 p.m. Stitchery	25 5p.m. Prayer Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. Hand bells	26 8:30 a.m. Bread Ministry 3-4 p.m. Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 p.m. Yoga	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
29 Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person <i>O/C Sharon Leonard</i>	30 6 p.m. Session	31				

WHAT GIVING MEANS TO ME
STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN – 2024

We are truly blessed with a wonderful family, now including a great grandson, great friends, and a fantastic fellowship of believers here at United Presbyterian Church.

Giving to me is simply returning to God what already belongs to Him as a way of saying thanks for all the times He has blessed me during my life. Tax considerations can play a part in the stewardship decision but through the years, Those decisions have become more about supporting UPC than considering my tax bill to Uncle Sam. We are now able to tithe in our giving but even that seems inadequate compared with Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for all of us.

I want the church to continue to grow and have a vibrant faith long after I'm gone. I am pledging to sustain the operation of the church, as well as retire our debt. Beyond my annual contribution, I plan to remember UPC in my estate so that my kids and grandkids who've been members of this church will enjoy their church home for many years to come.

I also believe in spending time at church, doing things for God's Kingdom here in Greenville. Using the talents and time God has given me brings me joy and satisfaction. Seeing the face of someone like Mike McClendon when we share communion in his home warms my heart because Mike truly enjoys our visits and wishes he could attend worship. We can do so much and to me, that's the reason I give to my church, our church, United Presbyterian Church.

Thank you for your generous support to the work ministry and mission of United Presbyterian Church. On behalf of the Stewardship Committee and the Session we are asking you to increase your giving in 2024 if you are able. Your support of the General Budget, debt reduction, and special offerings are making a difference, thought mission giving, programs, and worship. Your continued support may help us expand our Church staff.

Your mission supports:

- Bras for the Cause
- Bread Ministry
- FISH (Hunt County Share Ministries) food, utilities, etc.
- Goodland Academy
- Greenville ISD Teacher supplies closet
- Hunt Regional Hospital Oncology
- Lake Area Shared Ministries (Quinlan)
- Little Food Pantry (in front of the church)
- Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
- WIN (Women in Need)

Your giving to the church supports:

- Children and Youth Ministries
- Congregational Care
- Fellowship (potluck meals)
- Property needs
- Worship

Thanks,

Bob Mudie

#31 ACTS OF KINDNESS THIS OCTOBER

Some of you in our church family are familiar with a campaign the Outreach Committee started in October of 2019 as a way to pay tribute to the victims of the mass shooting at the El Paso Walmart in August of that year as well as other violent shootings which happened during that summer. An 11-year-old boy from El Paso named Ruben Martinez III was the inspiration for this campaign. He was trying to come to terms with the violence that had happened in his own community and together with his mother they encouraged people to do acts of kindness as a way to honor and remember the victims of this tragedy.

We have done a variety of activities at our church over the past few years while at the same time encouraging everyone to practice their own acts of kindness throughout the month of October. This year we will be supporting a program sponsored by the United Way of Hunt County with help from Authentic Life Fellowship. In early 2023 a non-profit called Streetside Showers began bringing their portable shower truck to the parking lot of Authentic Life to serve the homeless in our community. They also bring a clothing truck, and another group provides a washer/dryer. A hot meal is available along with sandwiches to take for later in the day as well as hygiene products. This program for the homeless has grown and often 60 people are served each Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

As a way to help support this program you will have an opportunity beginning October 1 to sign up on an October calendar to donate money to this cause. Each block (date) you sign on the calendar will represent the amount of money you pledge to donate. For example, if you write your name in block 10 and 15 you are pledging \$25. You can sign in as many blocks as you want, and more than one person can sign in the same block.

Please join us as we celebrate ways to be kind to our neighbors, friends, and family this October while remembering those who have been victims of gun violence.

(If you add up all the numbers/dates on the October calendar it equals 496!)



Session Highlights



Stewardship - Discussion of proposal to move \$25,000 from Edward Jones General Account; \$15,000 to United in Faith restricted fund to bring back to a positive balance (approved); significant discussion on the second request to move \$10,000 to the Texas Regional Checking Account. Session agreed to move to \$10,000 temporarily to help with the PILP loan application to be moved back into the Edward Jones Account by the end of the year (approved)

Reminder of stewardship season in October and Stewardship Town Hall about Stewardship and Finances. Chili and Soup potluck as well.

Children and Youth Ministry - Pastor Mike agreed to lead youth program - requesting meal help and a second adult to maintain the two deep adult rule. CYM Committee continues to be responsible for children's church and looking for additional volunteers. Youth bowling on October 1st.

Outreach - Auction raised about 2,800 between Bras for the Cause and Texas Oncology. Significant discussion about National Night out Tuesday, October 3rd. Please arrive by 4:30. If you have questions about assignments, please contact Kathy Hogue.

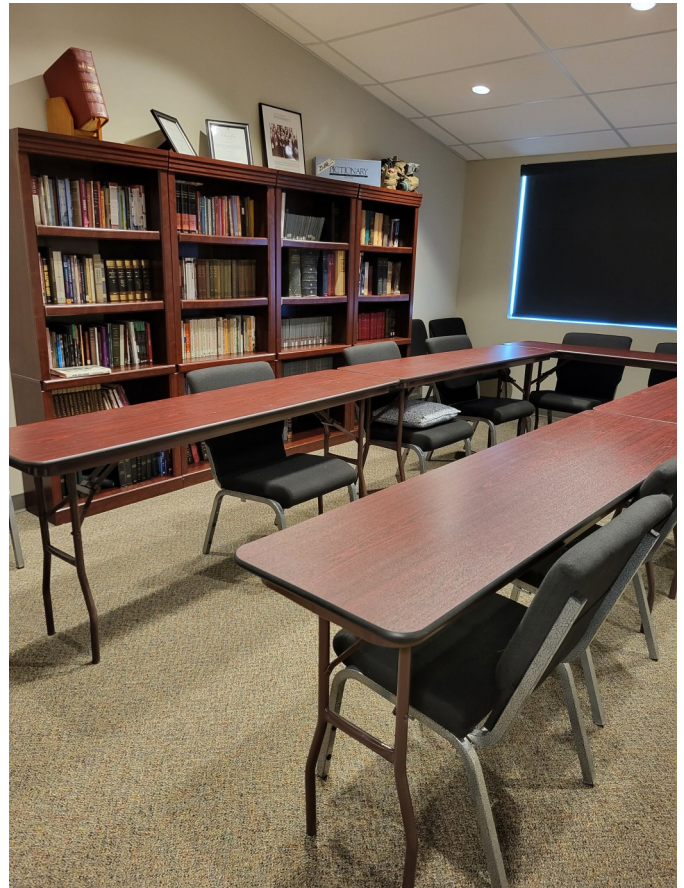
Tech Team - Some discussion about Facebook access (especially for Pastor Mike) and who can update the sign. Discussion on moving the laptop to commons and securing it there.

Personnel - Approved revised job description for Administrative Assistant. Approved recommendation 3% increase for Pat and Ethan pending final approval of 2024 Budget.

Pastor Report - Discussion of PILP loan application, various amortization schedules and Timeline since merger especially as relates to building expansion and pastor transitions. FYI offerings for the last two Sundays in September have been significantly below average.

Grace and Peace

Rev. Mike O'Neil
(979) 799-8130



Grace Presbyterian Women

2023 FALL GATHERING



Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an
ever-flowing stream. Amos 5:24

Grace First Presbyterian Church

606 Mockingbird Lane

Weatherford, TX 76056

October 21, 2023

9:30-2:00

Business meeting, Installation of Officers, Offering Collection,

Keynote Speaker: Kristen Campbell, Communion Service,

Mission Tables (checks and cash accepted for supporting missions through
purchases).

Lunch will be served, \$10 payable by check made payable and mailed to:
Grace First Presbyterian Church

Here's our well attended ladies circle meeting. We're studying The Sabbath Challenge by Paul Burns.



Galaxy S20 FE 5G



© Can Stock Photo

For the safety of our children, **ALL people** who work with our children are put through a background check!

Outreach Opportunities

National Night Out is hosted at our church October 3 from 5:30 - 7:00. Our neighbors are invited to join us for an evening of Fall Festival activities, food, fun and fellowship. Please attend and help us meet and greet our neighbors.

31 Acts of Kindness will take place in October. An October calendar will be in the Commons. Everyone will have a chance to sign up for a date (or dates) and donate the corresponding amount which will be given for the Streetside Showers ministry.

Socksgiving will begin November 5 and run the entire month. Please bring new socks of various sizes and genders. These are given out at Spirit of Giving,

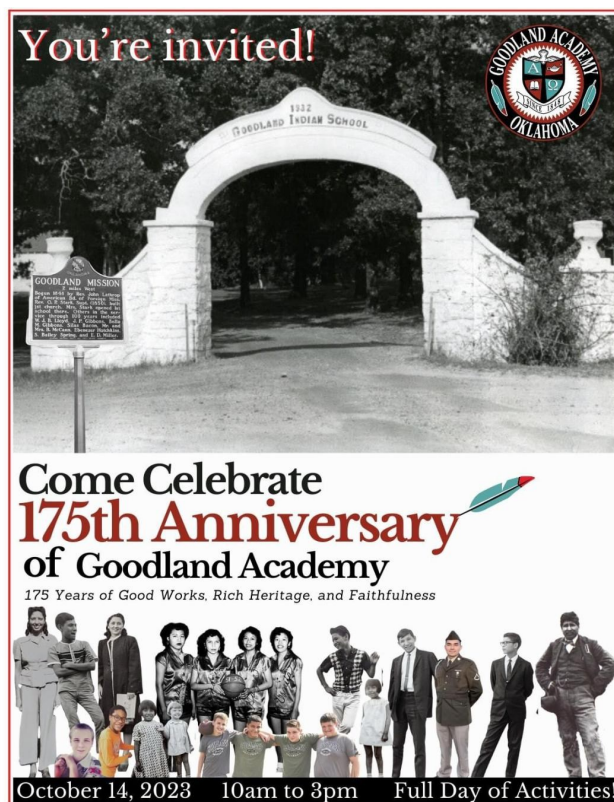
The Spirit of Giving event is Dec 9. Everyone is invited to attend and help distribute the socks and other items.

Warmth Drive for senior citizens collection will take place during the month of December. Money will be collected to help provide a care package to senior citizens. Each box will include a sweatsuit, fall resistant house shoes, socks, blanket, battery-operated flashlight, a night light, and a pair of gloves.

Food pantry items continue to be needed. There is a critical need for the food we provide to a sector of our community. Keep in mind that many of the people taking advantage of the items are homeless and without the means to open a can that is not a pop top, or the ability to heat the items. Foods that can be eaten cold and contain protein are the most important, specifically canned meats such as tuna, chicken and spam, ravioli, peanut butter, granola bars and Vienna sausages are great choices. Your continued support of this outreach is greatly appreciated.

Goodland Academy Update

Many of you have known Goodland Academy over the years as a residential Boys' Home. Since the passing of long-time director David Dearing in 2021, and the challenges faced following the pandemic, Goodland has made many changes. It no longer houses young men and is instead offering an after school program 5 days a week for 1st through 6th graders for a small charge. There are also other programs that are being developed, along with much needed renovations to various buildings on campus. UPC will continue to support Goodland through our once a month offering as they undergo this transition. Also, Goodland Academy will be celebrating their 175th anniversary on October 14. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Kathy Hogue. For more information on the transition efforts, as well as the anniversary celebration, please visit goodland.org.



Children and Youth Corner

Upcoming youth activities:

The youth will have a fun outing on October 1 after lunch served by the Penlands. Pastor Mike will accompany the youth and their parent(s) to bowl. The church will pay for the youth's bowling and shoes. Hope everyone can attend!

Oct. 3rd is National Night Out and our church is hosting an event for the neighborhood around our church from 5:30-7:00. We will have lots of "Fall Festival" activities and hope the youth can be there to help. We need help with face painting for all the kids who attend.



The Children and Youth Ministry is looking for more volunteers to help with Children's Church. Children's Church meets each Sunday right after the pastor's Children's sermon except for Communion Sunday.

Even if you aren't called to teach a lesson we need a volunteer to be in the classroom with the teacher each Sunday. If you can help us with this very important ministry please contact one of our committee.

We would think you were an angel.

Sharon Leonard

Marcie Penland

Melanie Marsh

Bettina Zvanut



Just for **KIDS**
KIDS



Fall

Word Search

R	A	C	O	R	N	X	S	N
N	E	F	A	E	L	Q	C	I
D	U	T	Q	X	U	V	A	K
H	U	T	A	I	C	H	R	P
A	C	C	R	E	S	U	E	M
P	D	R	K	A	W	R	C	U
P	E	N	U	S	A	S	R	P
L	C	Q	I	K	U	W	O	E
E	S	N	E	W	J	A	W	A
K	C	A	T	S	Y	A	H	R

ACORN
APPLE
DUCKS
HAYSTACK
LEAF
NUT
PEAR

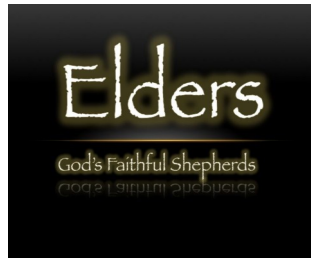
PUMPKIN
RAKE
SCARECROW
SQUASH
SQUIRREL
SWEATER
WIND

Try to find all of the hidden autumn related words in the puzzle above.
Remember, words can be diagonal, vertical, horizontal, forward or backwards.

ELDER ON CALL

OCTOBER

SHARON LEONARD



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

If we missed your birthday I very sorry. Please let the office know the date so I can add it to my list.



2 George Warren

3 Robin Frazier

5 Vicky Stauff

6 Barbara McClendon,

Elaine Spray

12 Jenny Jarvis

14 Jody Jones

14 Georgia Morgan

15 John Riley, Silas Hill

16 Joshua Petty

18 David Williams

19 Norma Mitchell

20 Quinn Geer

22 Nancy Manning

23 Leslie Castillo

25 Beau Blanchard,

Joe Leonard

28 John Campbell

30 Madelyn Jones

31 Norma Kusewitt



Children's Church

Children's Church is being held for children from the ages of 4 through 5th grade. Following the Children's Sermon children will go with the leader to the children's area for worship.

Parents are asked to pick their children up after the worship service is over.

GREETERS FOR OCTOBER

**October 1 Sharon Leonard
October 8 Marcie Hardaway
October 15 Kathy Hogue
October 22 Amy Morgan
October 29 Melanie Marsh**

Safety Team Members

John Wasson - Leader

John Hill
Silas Hill
Jon Geer
Anthony Morgan
Bob Mudie
Vicky Stauff
David Williams



Medically Trained Congregation Members

Tannie Brooks
Joe Rutherford

Safety Team Member Responsibilities

Two Safety Team members will be designated to perform certain duties in the sanctuary, commons area and church perimeter. These members will be listed in the bulletin insert and will wear safety team badges.

Sanctuary Team Member – This team member knows the locations of fire extinguishers, fire alarm pull boxes, first aid kits and the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). They are knowledgeable of escape routes and sheltering procedures in case evacuation is necessary. If a medical emergency occurs, they will assist medically trained personnel as directed and call 911 if necessary.

Commons/Perimeter Team Member – This team member will ensure the nursery is safe and will lock doors not used as primary entrances. All locked doors can still be opened from the inside. The safety checks include other areas such as the kitchen, classrooms and open closets. This member will remain in the commons area during the service and occasionally check the parking lot.

NOISY/QUIET OFFERING

The Noisy Offering for October, November, and December 2023 will go to Socksgiving, Spirit of Giving, and Senior Citizens Warmth Drive. You can drop your coins in the bowls every 2nd Sunday of the month.



ATTENTION!

**FOURTH QUARTER
2023
NOISY OFFERING**



The noisy offering for October, November, and December, 2023 will go to Socksgiving, Spirit of Giving, and Senior Citizens Warmth Drive. You can drop your coins in the bowls every 2nd Sunday of the month).



Don't forget to like the church's Facebook page! Search United Presbyterian Church - Greenville follow and like. Then invite all your Facebook friends!



**Find us on
Facebook**

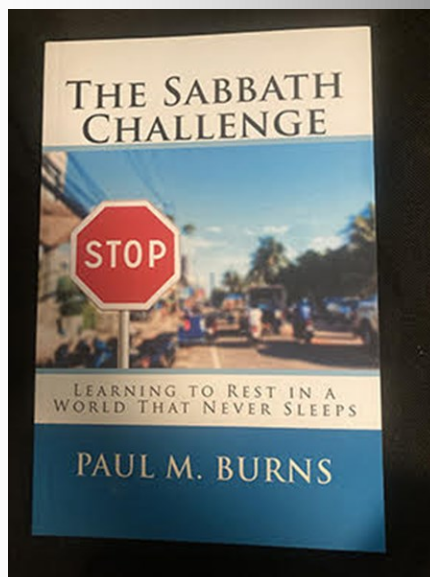
Upper Room Devotional Books

The Upper Room daily devotional is available for free at www.upperroom.org. Perhaps church members who use their computers daily would rather use an electronic device to read the upper room.

**Don't forget. . .
The third Sunday of
the month to support
Goodland Academy**



The Presbyterian Women Bible Study will begin in September. They meet on the third Monday at 6:30 pm in the Commons Area. This year we are studying The Sabbath Challenge by Paul Burns. If you would like a book, it is \$10.00 and can be purchased from either Marcie Pendland or Bettina Zvanut.



OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 am to 12 pm 1pm to 5pm

Wednesday 9 am to 2:30 pm

Friday office is closed

"A Word for the Wise"

We often think of wisdom as being synonymous with age and maturity. However, many people grow older and become even more foolish. Having more years under your belt doesn't automatically guarantee that you've learned from your mistakes and grown in wisdom.

The people who grow in wisdom are the ones who trust in the Lord. Young people often mature quickly because they're willing to step out in faith and trust God with their futures. They learn from their mistakes, listen to the wisdom passed down from those ahead of them, and study the truth of God's Word.

When we look to God as our source for wisdom, and not human-made sources, we can know that we will remain humble and grounded. With God as our source, we will not take credit for what we've learned but will point others back to him. He is the wellspring of all wisdom.

*"The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom,
and humility comes before honor."*

Proverbs 15:33



**Fear
Not,
For I
Have
Redeemed
You**

I have called you
by name,
you are mine.
When you pass
through the waters
I will be with you;
...when you walk
through fire
you shall not
be burned, ...
For I am the
LORD
your God...
and I love you.

ISAIAH 43: 1-4



OCTOBER OPENINGS

AND CLOSING

October 1 David Williams

October 8 John Wasson

October 15 John Wasson

October 22 Marsha Fincher

October 29 Sharon Leonard

United Presbyterian Church
5905 Stonewall Street
Greenville, TX 75402

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER