



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.



Thank you for calling me to be your pastor. I am enjoying getting to know you and learning about United Presbyterian Church. I am expecting things to get busy quickly, but I am looking forward to the challenges and opportunities of our ministry together. One of the areas of interest in ministry for me is the development of our spiritual lives. How are we getting closer to God in our daily living? I am looking forward to reading the book on Sabbath by Paul Burns that our Presbyterian Women will be studying this fall and Pat's Adult Sunday School class concerning the Gifts of the Holy Spirit...

I think it is important to be intentional about slowing down on a regular basis. We can make ourselves so busy doing things, even doing things for God that we can lose sight of the presence of God in our lives. Essentially, we can be doing holy work and at the same time squeeze God out of mind, in some cases our own busyness can become an idol... God gave us Sabbath because we need a break from work to refresh our minds, our bodies and our souls which lines up with how we are called to love God. The other important aspect of Sabbath is a call to worship the Living God.

My hope for each of us is that we might be ful-

ly present to God and listen for the voice of Jesus in our daily lives. We use different names for this, our daily walk with the Lord, our personal relationship with Jesus, our Christian piety or holiness. No matter what terminology you use and there are others I didn't mention they all are about having a vital relationship with the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). Using the words of the Westminster Confession the meaning of life is to Glorify God and enjoy him forever. Are we finding joy in our life, joy in our relationships with God?

Brother Lawrence served in a monastery in Paris France in the 17th century whose primary responsibility was kitchen duty. He wrote a short classic Christian book called Practicing the Presence of God which is worth reading. I have a copy somewhere that is updated to more modern English. What he sought was meaning in his life as he cut vegetables and washed dishes through being aware of and in communion with the presence of God even in his very ordinary duties. My prayer is that as we go through our daily tasks and responsibilities that we remain aware of God's presence and keep God in our hearts, thoughts, and souls.

Grace and Peace,

Mike

September 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 COMMUNION Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person O/C David Williams Butterfly Garden	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 5:30 p.m. In Reach Mtg.	6 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. Hand bells	7 8:30 a.m. Bread Ministry 3-4 p.m. Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 p.m. Yoga	8 OFFICE CLOSED	9
10 Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person Youth Mtg. O/C Sharon Leonard Butterfly Garden	11 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.	12	13 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. Hand bells	14 8:30 a.m. Bread Ministry 3-4 p.m. Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 p.m. Yoga	15 OFFICE CLOSED	16
17 Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person Potluck Dessert Auction - Youth O/C Kathy Hogue Butterfly Garden	18 6:30 p.m. PW Bible Study	19	20 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. Hand bells	21 8:30 a.m. Bread Ministry 3-4 p.m. Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 p.m. Yoga	22 OFFICE CLOSED	23 UPC Regional Mtg. Preston Hollow in Dallas Commissioners: John Wasson & David Williams
24 Sunday School Worship shared on Facebook and in person O/C Marsha Fincher	25 6:00 Session Mtg.	26 6:00 p.m. Stitchery	27 5 p.m. Prayer Mtg. 5:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:15 p.m. Hand bells	28 8:30 a.m. Bread Ministry 3-4 p.m. Chair Yoga 4:30-5:30 p.m. Yoga	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30

Lasting legacies

The church I left to come to Greenville celebrated its 200th anniversary this year. It is still around to celebrate this anniversary due to the generous gifts of members from previous generations. United Church is essentially a 12-year-old church. Some of you have been here for decades as part of First Presbyterian, others of you made the move from Grace Presbyterian and many of you have come to United from elsewhere. I am encouraging you to think about the vitality of this church 50 or 100 years from now.

I agreed to write something up about promoting legacy gifts periodically in the church newsletter. Legacy gifts generally fall under 2 categories: (1) Wills and Estate gifts, and (2) Endowment gifts. I am hoping to develop an endowment policy with the stewardship/finance committee and the Session within the next 6 months or so. I am extending an invitation to consider helping the church decades from now based on your gratitude and how God has blessed you.

- (1) When you are working on your estate plans, I simply request that you consider remembering United Presbyterian Church along with other charitable organizations that have been meaningful to you. Please prayerfully consider and discuss any potential estate gift to the church with your family, your attorney, CPA, and financial advisor.
- (2) If you would like to make a significant gift to the church outside of your estate planning that will impact the church for decades, my hope is that we will soon establish a permanent endowment by the end of 2024.
- (3) I do not need you to tell me if you include the church in your will or if you are considering an endowment or other designated gift. But I would be happy to discuss your and the church's long-term plans and vision for the future.
- (4) At some point we will invite representatives from Texas Presbyterian Foundation to give a presentation on planned giving, most likely sometime in 2024. If you would like to talk to someone before then, they would welcome a call. We do have an account with them.

Grace and Peace,

Mike



SESSION REPORT FOR AUGUST 2023

The session had a Q & A with Tom Melzoni of Horizons about possible help with a stewardship and capital campaign.

Request committee chairs return budget requests no later than October 1st in order to prepare the 2024 budget.

Actions from Stewardship committee

(1) apply \$100,000 from Edward Jones Investment account toward the principle of our building loan which will be a significant reduction of our interest expense which is a good strategic move for the church. There are still significant assets in the Edward Jones account.

(2) apply for a loan through the Presbyterian Investment Loan Program which would give us a better interest rate on our building debt if we are approved.

Discussion of the current budget, investments and expressed that there will be a significant increase in the 2024 budget partially due to transitioning from a part time to a full-time pastor.

Children and Youth Ministry - expressed desire for us to hire a new staff person to strengthen our children and youth ministry programs.

Property Committee - has several repairs on their plan: safety rail, dry wall, projection screen repair. We are waiting on parts for the outdoor sign. It will be repaired as soon as possible.

Safety Team - would like to enlarge the committee and discuss the possibility of first aid, CPR and training on the AED machines through the fire department.

Pastor report - approved some requests for time off, discussed installation service, presbytery meeting September 23rd @ Preston Hollow in Dallas, discussed building relationship with members, and people who have decreased their attendance in recent years. Recommended deferring the capital campaign until pastor has been here longer.



Celebrate

the work of our hands

Labor Day

Grace Presbyterian Women

2023
FALL



GATHERING

Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an

Have a safe Labor Day



© Can Stock Photo

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

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Noisy Offering

The 3rd quarter Noisy Offering will be used to support Bras for the Cause and local cancer patients. You may drop your coins or “quiet money” in the metal bowls the second Sunday of each month. For September, that will be the 10th.

September:

***honorarys for loved ones who have battled cancer

Donations will be accepted September 3, 10 and 17 for a colored butterfly with your loved one's name on it, which will be placed on the wall in the Commons Area, or you may bring a picture to be placed on a nearby table. This is an either/or situation. Proceeds benefit Bras for the Cause.

***very competitive dessert auction September 17

Feel free to provide a dessert, a coupon for a future dessert, or a handmade craft item, or bid generously on any of these items. Proceeds benefit Bras for the Cause and local cancer patients. There will be a combination of a very lively auction and silent auction following the pot luck lunch. **If you are able to donate a baked good or a silent auction item, please contact Kathy Hogue or Jane Goulding.**

October:

UPC will be hosting our annual National Night Out October 3 from 5:30 - 7:00. Please join us as we invite our neighbors to gather for a Fall Festival themed evening of carnival type games. We will serve hot dogs, chips, water and popcorn. Stay tuned for more info.

Ongoing:

*****Blessing Box Food Pantry**

We are continuing to need food items for our food pantry. It is highly utilized and gets emptied almost as quickly as we can fill it. The most popular items appear to be pop top cans of ready to eat, nonperishable foods such as

What is Labor Day?

Labor Day is a federal holiday in the U.S. that recognizes and celebrates the achievements of American workers. It is observed on the first Monday in September. The roots of Labor Day date back to the decades following the Civil War when workers took part in strikes and rallies to demand shorter workdays and better working conditions.

When did Labor Day Become a Federal Holiday?

Labor Day was declared a national holiday in 1894. By the time it became a federal holiday, Labor Day was already an official holiday in 24 states.

The Bottom line

Labor Day marks the day in 1894 that Congress declared the first Monday in September a national holiday to honor the nation's workers and their contributions to the well-being of the country.

Labor Day's roots date back to the 1886 Haymarket Riot in Chicago.

The parades and festivities celebrating workers have remained a significant part of the federal holiday.



Children and Youth Corner

The youth really enjoyed helping Hunt County Shared Ministries on August 20th after the potluck lunch. They filled grocery bags with lots of non-perishable food items. Rosie Rosales from FISH met us and showed the youth how to pack the bags with food items for families. She told us they are providing food for 50 families a day. The need is so great. The youth did a great job and enjoyed the process. They want to do this service project again and invite church members to join them.

We will let everyone know when this service project will happen again and hopefully you can join us.



In the picture from L to R:

Sabrina Geer, Autumn McHenry, Marcie Penland, Silas Hill, Camo Pitts, Melanie Marsh, Sharon Leonard

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**



Word Search

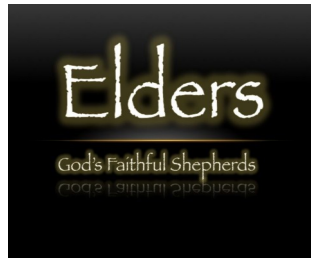
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L	Y	P	P	H	R	O	C	T	L	A	B	O	R	P

See how many of these newspaper related words you can find in the puzzle.
The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

Created by Sue Lindlauf
Grand Forks Herald 2012

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. LABOR | 5. WORK | 9. SUMMER | 13. AMERICAN |
| 2. DAY | 6. LONG | 10. NATIONAL | 14. MONDAY |
| 3. HOLIDAY | 7. WEEKEND | 11. USA | 15. DAY |
| 4. SEPTEMBER | 8. ENDING | 12. TRAVEL | 16. OFF |

ELDER ON CALL
SEPTEMBER
PAT PENLAND



SEPTEMBER **BIRTHDAYS**

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



05 Carolyn Pitts
09 Stephanie Geer
11 Kathy Hogue
14 Dorothea Rajala
16 Cynthia Pitts
18 John Holl
19 Tannie Brooks
22 Carole Peorson
24 Sue Mudie
28 Allsion Sanders



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 SEPTEMBER**

Sept. 3:	Jane Goulding
Sept. 10:	Amy Morgan
Sept 17:	Marcie Hardaway
Sept. 24:	Marcie Penland

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 July, August, and September 2023 will go to Bras for the Cause. You can drop your coins in the bowls every 2nd Sunday of the month.



ATTENTION!

**THIRD QUARTER
2023
NOISY OFFERING**



The noisy offering for July, August, and September, 2023 will go to Bras for the Cause. 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**

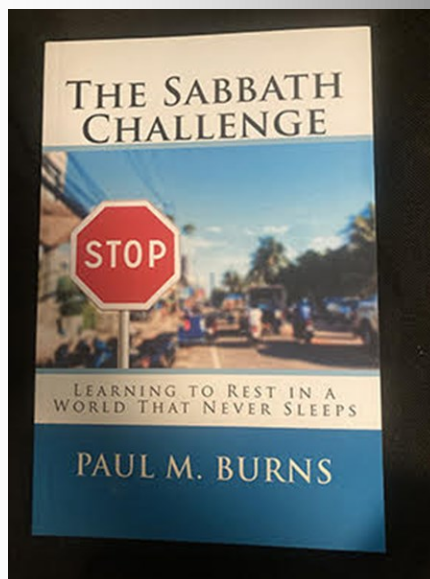
Upper Room Devotional Books

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 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 Life of Service

Sometimes we assume that being a servant requires us to be meek and mild, submissive and subservient, willing to take orders and do whatever anyone around us wants us to do. However, regarding biblical servanthood, nothing could be further from the truth!

It takes considerable strength, dedication, and humility to serve someone. You must be committed to obeying their wishes without questioning their judgment. You must trust them implicitly and want only what is best for them.

With these kinds of qualifications, it's easy to see why there's nothing passive or weak about serving God. He wants us to serve him as living sacrifices, as obedient sons and daughters who've been bought with a price and redeemed.

Serving is easy when we fully realize what we've been given.

[Jesus said,] "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serve me."

John 12:26



YOUTH

The youth will meet again on September 10th after church (instead of September 3rd because of the Labor Day Weekend). Bettina Zvanat will present the lesson and activity assisted by Serena McHenry. Sharlene and Serena McHenry will provide lunch for the group.

On the following Sunday, September 17th the youth will be asked to assist with the dessert auction that will follow the pot luck lunch. This is always a fun event for the church and the youth can help Bob Mudie present the delectable desserts offered for the auction. The auction proceeds will go toward Bras for the Cause and helping local cancer patients.

Please encourage your youth to attend these meetings and perhaps invite friends to come join them.

SEPTEMBER OPENINGS AND CLOSING



September 3 David Williams

September 10 Sharon Leonard

September 17 Kathy Hogue

September 24 Marsha Fincher

United Presbyterian Church
5905 Stonewall Street
Greenville, TX 75402

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER