



# First Presbyterian Church **Newsletter**

Rockport, TX

## From our Pastor

Empathy is the ability to understand and share another person's feelings. Sympathy is caring for someone in hardship, even when we cannot fully know what they are experiencing. Both call us to compassion—and both can be painful.

As a pastor, I often hear people share the hardest moments of their lives. Sometimes I offer a listening ear and support; at other times, a person's experience touches something I have lived through, and my emotions show more openly. I was deeply shaken by the story of a mother and her two children who drowned while attempting to cross the Rio Grande. What affected me most was seeing people online respond with laughter and celebration. I imagined the mother's fear and desperation, and I could not hold back my tears. That response brought me to a difficult question: What happens when we stop caring about another person's suffering? Apathy—the decision not to be concerned because the pain belongs to someone else—can make it easier to overlook injustice and human tragedy.

Empathy and sympathy can be emotionally exhausting. We may grieve for families displaced by conflict, people living in dangerous or inhumane conditions, and neighbors struggling to afford health care. Caring may also lead us into disagreement. Still, I believe that compassion for people who are suffering is part of following Christ. Jesus calls us to see one another's humanity and to love our neighbors—not only when it is easy or comfortable. May we resist apathy, keep our hearts open, and respond to suffering with the compassion of Christ.

# Presbyterian Women (PW)

Presbyterian Women meet the first Tuesday of each month. All women are invited and encouraged to attend. Our next meeting is October 6, 2026, at 10 am. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be finishing the planning for the Cluster Meeting on the 10th. These meetings are where you can volunteer to help us complete our missions. Please join us!

## **Dates to remember in September:**

1. **PW Meeting** is Tuesday, October 6 at 10 in the Fellowship Hall.
2. **Presbytery Women's Bible Study via ZOOM** will be Thursday, October 1 (and every 1st Thursday of each month) at 7 p.m. presented by a member of the PW Coordinating Team. If you would like to hear the lesson, here is the link. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9638710782?omn=86826846772> Meeting ID:963 871 0782
3. **Good Sam's First Sunday Donation** is Sunday, October 4. Bring non-perishables to church.
4. **Fall PW Cluster Meeting** in our Fellowship Hall from 9-12. We are hosting and need help with Breakfast (contact Pati Vincent.)
5. **Quilters** meet on Tuesday, September 15 at 9 upstairs in the sewing room.
6. **PW Bible Study** is on Tuesday, October 20 at 1 p.m. in the Parlor. The study book for this year is entitled United Through Christ: Bound to Each Other—Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians written by Dr. Rhonda Mayhood Lee. They will be available in September.
7. **Amy Booth's Bible Study** is on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:30 at Amy Booth's house (2011 Baywood Dr.) It is a six week study of Twelve Women of the Bible by Lisa Terkeurst. The study is on Amazon or text Amy for more info: 210-287-5803.

## **September 1 PW Meeting Notes:**

1. Presentations by the Committees
2. We need a new Moderator and Treasurer beginning in January 2027.
3. We are hosting the Fall PW Cluster Meeting Oct. 10 from 9-12. Come join the fun and learning!

# Castaways

Things are going good and we'd love to see new faces!

Monday is Presbyterian Day from 9 am– 3pm. On Thursdays from 8 am –11 am, we price to stock for the following week. **Your help makes a difference!** There's a place for everyone, and we can find a task that fits your interests and abilities. Whether you have an hour or a whole day, every helping hand is appreciated and makes a meaningful impact!

Every Monday we have a delicious lunch lovingly prepared by the best cooks in Rockport.

**Best items to donate:** furniture, electronics, fishing tackle, jewelry and framed art. We are well stocked with clothing.

Barb Goodlock  
Connie Schuler  
Veronika Camehl 361 500 6675

# Worship Committee

The parking lot sure looked nice as we came together for the last service of the month on September 27th. Attendance for the month continued its steady positive trend started in August.

**Our attendance was; September 6 - 75, September 13 - 87, September 20 - 87, September 27 - 84**

The mean of this set of data was 83.25 which is up 7.6% from August and up 15.2% from July. The median was 85.5 which was up 12.5% from August and up 22.1% from July. The mode for September was 87.

If I had more room to write and were strictly a statistician, the charts would be reminiscent of what Ross Perot always had in his possession some 30 years ago. It's looking good folks. Let's keep it up!

The Elder of the Month for September was Lisa Steen.

September 6th ushers were Patsy Owens, Kenny Owens, Lisa Steen, Steve Powers, and Chief Swenty. Communion Sunday Servers were Ingid Little, Ann Robbins, Kathy Henderson, Lisa Steen, Janet Gaskamp, and Mindy Durham. Flowers were provided by Rhonda Brinkmann.

September 13th ushers were Steve Steen, Lisa Steen, Kathy Henderson, Janet Gaskamp, and Jon Gaskamp. Flowers were provided by Veronika and Ernest Camehl. The acolyte was Steve Steen. The scripture reader was Amy Booth and the sermon was presented by Jim Booth. The luncheon that followed was outstanding!

September 20th ushers were Steve Steen, Lisa Steen, Trae Roby and Amy Roby. Flowers were provided by the Friebele family in honor of Kinsey's 18th birthday. The acolyte was Braxton Yarnall, and the scripture reader was Jenna Schuler.

September 27th ushers were Mindy Durham, Janet Gaskamp, Sally Reynolds, Chief Swenty, and Vanessa Shrauner. The flowers were provided by the Stewardship Committee. The acolyte was Thomas Jaggard and the scripture reader was Jon Gaskamp.

As we end September, please consider signing up to be an usher in October if you are able, or perhaps to sponsor the flowers that really brighten up the sanctuary every Sunday. There are still a few open spots on both that need filled.

May peace find its way into your heart today!

In Christ,

FPC Worship Committee



**Bell Choir** rehearsals will begin on October 14 at 6:00 pm.  
We are still short 2 ringers. Please consider joining this great group.

# Christian Education

What is one of the main actions of churches as we know them today? What helps us grow our faith, provides a place to grow relationships and share time with others building the memories which warm our hearts day to day? I hope you answered Christian Education as we have it at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian church.

Weekly worship is, of course, our main function and cornerstone, but the bricks around it are weekly and monthly bible study, Sunday School and Sunday bible study , and your daily devotions. As Fall schedules get pput in place, and traditional church holidays approach, we urge you to join one or even two to these activities to give you a chance to meet the warm, loving members of our congregation. These sessions give you so much more opportunity to get acquainted than the quick “Hello” offered before and after worship. In this process, we hope the Holy Spirit will come nearer so that even as cool weather takes over our world, we hope you’ll find a warmth from new friends and ways to strengthen your faith in several different ways. Here are some suggestions to start you on your journey.

Sunday Bible Study – Weekly – 9:00 a.m.

Worship – Weekly – 10:30 a.m.

Women’s Bible Study – Monthly – 1:00 p.m. (1st Corinthians)

Women’s Bible Study – weekly – 6:30 p.m. (12 women of the Bible)

Check your weekly church bulletin, weekly e-blast email, or monthly Newsletter for more information or email me with your questions.

Yours in Christ,

Adelaide Marlatt

Adelem456@gmail.com

## **A quick message from your Stewardship Team ...**

### **“Time, Talent and Treasure”**

**Time:** Prioritize prayer and time with the Lord, worship, serve others (Personal Growth)

**Talent:** Each of us have received a gift, minister it to one another as good stewards of God.

**Treasure:** Where your treasure is, there your heart will also be. Give joyfully with gladness.

## Thank You for Supporting Our Parking Lot Project!

**Our parking lot looks great!** We are SO THANKFUL for everyone who helped make this project possible. The resealing and striping are complete, but we are still about \$3,000 short of our funding goal.

Our **Silent Auction is still live**, and we would love your continued support!

### Beautiful Handmade Quilt

Made and generously donated by Mimi Braniff

The quilt and bid sheet are located in the narthex, entrance of the sanctuary.



### We Need Your Help!

We have two important volunteer opportunities for our church family!

#### ***Love to Cook? Join our Meal Train!***

Some of our members are going through a difficult time and may not be able to easily prepare a meal. Your help with a meal can make a big difference! Choo Choo!

#### ***Like to Drive? Join our Transportation Train!***

Some of our members need a ride to doctor's appointments, lab work, day surgery, and other appointments. It's a simple way to help someone while also getting to know and connect with others. Choo Choo!

If you're interested, please email Gloria at [fpc.churchlady@yahoo.com](mailto:fpc.churchlady@yahoo.com) or Call 361-729-6251

Don't worry, this is not a full-time commitment! We are simply putting together a list of volunteers we can contact when a need comes up and you are available to help.

Thank you in advance for helping care for our church family!

—The Deacons



**Thank you for your donations of items and money for the boxes.**

**The list below has been updated .**

**Shipping is \$10 per box.**

Items needed:

- Playdough
- Dolls
- Small Vehicles
- Small stuffed animals
- Socks
- Baggies
- Rulers
- pencil erasers
- Handheld pencil sharpeners
- combs & brushes.

Dear Fellow Lion Supporter,

### **It's never too early to share the holiday spirit!**

Our club is launching our annual Toys for Kids project. For 53 wonderful years, we have brought Christmas joy to children in need.

### **A Tradition Born on Christmas Eve**

This beautiful event started decades ago on a snowy Christmas Eve. A local citizen arrived at the Sheriff's Office with a carload of toys for families in need. Sheriff Bob Hewes accepted the gifts, and his deputies distributed them throughout the community.

The very next Christmas, the **Rockport Lions Club** proudly took over the mission.

### **Bringing Joy to Aransas County**

Today, we partner with local school staff to identify families in the **Head Start** program. Every single child in these households receives gifts for Christmas.

- **Our Partner:** The local Walmart Super Center graciously hosts us.
- **Our Method:** Parents and guardians participate in "Shopping with a Lion" to pick out perfect gifts.
- **Our Impact:** Last year alone, we served nearly **200 local children**.

### **How You Can Be a Holiday Hero**

We need your help to keep putting smiles on children's faces. Please consider making a financial contribution to support this legacy:

- **Make checks payable to:** Rockport Lions Club
- **Mail to:** P. O. Box 403, Rockport, TX 78358
- **Impact:** Every donation, no matter the size, directly buys gifts for local children.

Thank you for your warm consideration, your generosity, and your holiday support!

Yours truly,

Aida Guillory, President Rockport Lions Club



# Upcoming Events/Announcements

- **Chancel Choir Rehearsal** – Wednesdays—7:00PM
- **Bell Choir** – Resume October 14- 6:00 PM
- **Presbyterian Men's Breakfast** – October 21- 7:00 AM

## ☀️ Our New Website Is Live! ☀️

We'd love for you to take a look and let us know what you think!

[www.rockporttxpresbyterian.org](http://www.rockporttxpresbyterian.org)



If there has been any change to your personal information please contact Gloria so that she may update the directory. Also, if you would like any recipe, shout out, pictures, etc. in our monthly newsletters please feel free to email them to [fpc.churchlady@yahoo.com](mailto:fpc.churchlady@yahoo.com).

## Ladies Bible Study

Come join us on TUESDAY nights for study and fellowship at Amy Booth's house (2011 Baywood Dr.) at 6:30 pm. We will start with a 6-week study of "12 Women of the Bible" by Lysa Terkeurst. The study is on Amazon. Text Amy for more information, (210-287-5803).

## NEED A LITTLE EXTRA SUPPORT? ❤️

Our church is here to help!

We have several **MOBILITY & CARE ITEMS** available to **BORROW** at no cost for anyone in need. ❤️

- Shower Chair
- Mobility Handrail
- Quad Cane
- Raised Toilet Seat

These items can be helpful during recovery, illness, or whenever extra support is needed.



If you or a loved one could benefit from any of these items, please contact the **CHURCH OFFICE**. We're happy to lend them out and support our community! ❤️

**COMMUNITY TABLE**  
Every 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 4:30 - 6:00PM

IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS AT HOME THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE FOR THIS CAUSE, PLEASE BRING THEM TO THE



# October



| SUN                                                                                                                                       | MON                                                                         | TUE                                                                                                                             | WED                                                                                       | THU                                                                                                    | FRI                                          | SAT                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                           |                                                                             |                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                           | 1                                                                                                      | 2                                            | 3                                    |
| 4<br>• 9 am Bible Study<br>• 9 am Youth Sunday School<br>• 10 am Coffee Fellowship<br>• 10:30 am Worship Svc.                             | 5<br>• 9 am FPC @ Castaways<br>• 6 PM Cub Scouts Mtg                        | 6<br>• 10:00 AM PW mtg<br>• 4:30 PM Community Table-Realtors Assn.                                                              | 7<br>• 7 PM Chancel Choir                                                                 | 8<br>• 8 AM FPC @ Castaways<br>• 1 pm Thursday Mahjong                                                 | 9                                            | 10<br>• 9:00 AM CC PW Fall Gathering |
| 11<br>• 9 am Bible Study<br>• 9 am Youth Sunday School<br>• 10 am Coffee Fellowship<br>• 10:30 am Worship Svc.<br>• 12 pm Sunday Luncheon | 12<br>• 9 am FPC @ Castaways<br>• 5 pm Deacons Mtg<br>• 6 pm Cub Scouts Mtg | 13<br>• 9 am Basket Weaving Class<br>• 5:30 pm Community Table Mtg                                                              | 14<br>• 6 pm Handbell Choir<br>• 7 PM Chancel Choir                                       | 15<br>• 8 AM FPC @ Castaways<br>• 1 pm Thursday Mahjong<br>• 5 pm Operations Mtg<br>• 6 pm Session Mtg | 16<br>17<br>Presbytery Meeting @ San Antonio |                                      |
| 18<br>• 9 am Bible Study<br>• 9 am Youth Sunday School<br>• 10 am Coffee Fellowship<br>• 10:30 am Worship Svc.                            | 19<br>• 9 am FPC @ Castaways<br>• 6 PM Cub Scouts Mtg                       | 20<br>• 9 am Prayer Quilt Ladies<br>• 1 PM Presbyterian Women's Bible Study in Parlor<br>• 4:30 pm Community Table-Ladies Lions | 21<br>• 7 am Presbyterian Men's Breakfast<br>• 6 pm Handbell Choir<br>• 7pm Chancel Choir | 22<br>• 8 AM FPC @ Castaways<br>• 1 pm Thursday Mahjong                                                | 23                                           | 24                                   |
| 25<br>• 9 am Bible Study<br>• 9 am Youth Sunday School<br>• 10 am Coffee Fellowship<br>• 10:30 am Worship Service                         | 26<br>• 9 am FPC @ Castaways<br>• 6 PM Cub Scouts Mtg                       | 27<br>• 9 AM Basket Weaving Class                                                                                               | 28<br>• 6 pm Handbell Choir<br>• 7 pm Chancel Choir                                       | 29<br>• 8 AM FPC @ Castaways<br>• 1 pm Thursday Mahjong                                                | 30                                           | 31                                   |