

A Word from Will

Dear Church Family,

Last week, I had the privilege of attending a three-day conference in Houston, where I was captivated by a keynote speaker. This seasoned individual, with a wealth of experience and seminary training, shared a profound insight that has stayed with me. Addressing the current and aspiring pastors in the room, he said, "Don't let an A in seminary get you an F in the sanctuary." This statement, highlighting a clear distinction between theory and practice, resonated deeply with me.

We've heard that knowledge is power, which is true. Having knowledge is a good thing, indeed an important thing. Those with specialized knowledge can do much good in the world. For example, some people have survived devastating and deadly diseases because they saw a doctor who knew how to intervene and eradicate the illness. When my car had issues several weeks ago, I took it to someone who knew how to fix it. We cannot do without knowledge. Knowledge is power. Knowledge is essential. Knowledge is indispensable. However, the keynote speaker rightly pointed out that knowledge is not always enough. Knowledge must always be accompanied by wisdom.

If knowledge is information, then wisdom is the transformative power that comes from knowing how to use that information for good. The book of Proverbs, a treasure trove of wisdom, declares: The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom, and whatever else you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a fair garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown." These words inspire hope, assuring us that those who practice wisdom will not go unrewarded.

If the beginning of wisdom is getting wisdom, how does one get wisdom? One place to begin is prayer. The life of King Solomon demonstrates that wisdom comes from God. It is a divine gift that we receive by grace through faith. Sometimes, God gives this wisdom through life experience. Sometimes, God gives us wisdom by placing wise people blessed with insight and discernment in our lives. While knowledge is power, wisdom is life; therefore, we can't do without it.

In Christ,

Will



PW Officers

Moderator - Jackie Fout
Vice-Moderator - Elaine Hall
Secretary - Nancy Smith
Treasurer - Jo Little
Historian - Lsha Stanley
Faith / Family Life - Elaine Hall
Community Action - Ruth Anne Camp
Leadership / Resources - Nancy Smith
Night Circle Chairman - Jan Wylie
Noon Circle Chairmen - Libby Laird & India Stroope

Hello to all Presbyterian Women,

Our PW Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, May 6, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the Church Parlor. We will be making plans for our luncheon at the end of Summer to install the new officers for the next year.

Please make suggestions to any of our PW officers or your Circle Chairman.

Our Noon Circle will meet on Tuesday, May 7 at Noon in the Church Parlor. Our Night Circle will meet on May 1, at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Jan Wylie.

Don't forget that our Birthday Offering is coming up at the last meeting!

Thank you for participating with other Sisters in Christ in this way to support each other.

Blessings,

Jackie Fout

Moderator



For the most up to date calendar, please visit <https://www.firstpreskilgore.org/calendar>

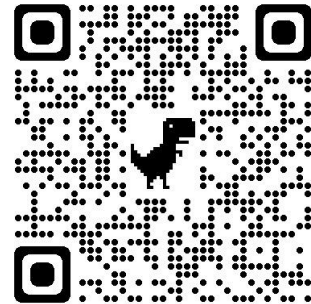
Music in May

May 5 - Handbell Concert 4p.m., sanctuary -Taco Dinner to follow in Fellowship Hall

May 8 - Grace Notes program 6 p.m., Chapel; Dinner follows in Fellowship Hall

May 10 - Bach's Lunch, 12:20 p.m., sanctuary -Gala, organ; joined by Richard Leppert, viola The Fellowship Hall will be open at 11:30 for those who would like to bring their brown bag lunch.

CONCERT FIESTA
STARTS @ 4 PM IN THE SANCTUARY
MAY 5
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HANDBELL CONCERT & TACO NIGHT
MUSIC • FOOD • FELLOWSHIP
CELEBRATING OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!



SCAN ME to volunteer with the Youth

Happy Birthday
May

1 Donna Shupe	18 Jim Griffin
2 Richard Leppert	19 Will Terrell
Phillip Mitchell	21 Ross Field
4 Holly Sartor Long	22 Francye Phillips
6 Caden Covnet	23 Hunter Dickerson
8 Jeran Griffin	26 Jenae Baggett
12 David Stanley	Taylor Schleier
13 Camelia Griffin	Robert Shupe
Jeana Walter	29 Jeff Thrower
14 Sydney Bates Langley	30 Shawn Waldo
George Strunk	

If you or someone you know is struggling with a mental health crisis please call the

National Hotline for Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention: 988

Notes from Session

The Session held the Stated Meeting Wednesday April 17, at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Sarah Garasic gave the devotional.

Administration

The Session approved the continuation of the part time employment of Cheyenne Kirkpatrick as DCE, and approved paying Will paternity leave for the month of July, as well as insurance with no lack in coverage.

C.E.-Missions

Cheyenne will continue weekly youth meetings throughout the Summer. June 23-28 is Youth Celebration at Mo-Ranch. VBS Day Camp at Gilmont is July 15-19. Monthly Missions for May will be School Supplies. Plans were made for the May 5 Taco Dinner following the handbell concert.

Property

The outdoor landscaping is pending due to availability of Landscape Company. The upstairs kitchen will be getting a new hot water heater. Will be accepting bids for new flooring in choir room. Mundt Music will be contacted regarding improvements to the sound system. Looking into repairs for some of the church pews in the sanctuary.

Visitation-Evangelism

Continues to make contact with church members. Made new visitor bags for the pews in the sanctuary.

Worship-Fellowship

Discussed the upcoming sacraments, and music performances. The ushers have begun to implement the revised security plan for Sunday mornings. Pastor Will will be out of the pulpit June 9 and 16. Reviewed Fellowship Calendar. Will host dinner for May 8 Grace Note's program. June 5 set for Church Wide Fish Fry. Formed a sub-committee at request of the Session to serve as the Interim Pastor Search Committee.

Clerk's report:

Communion was served April 14, 2024 in the sanctuary during worship. A thank you note was read from Gregg County United Way for our recent donation. The clerk reported on the recent Review of Session Minutes that was held at First Presbyterian, Longview. She shared some of the changes for reviewing church policies for next year.

Pastor's report:

Will reported on the events of Holy Week, and thanked the Session for the experience of hosting Dr. Warner Bailey along with other local ministers for dinner April 13. He included that it was good to see Bill and Roberta Ingersoll during their visit to Kilgore.

New Business

The Session approved the Officer Nominating Committee: Elder/Moderator, Ryan Griffin, Jerry Camp, Sarah Camp, Robert Lightfoot and Jennifer Hattaway. The Ex-Officio member of Session to moderator next year will be Rob Schleier. This committee is also tasked with selecting the Pastor Nominating Committee. Discussed needing elders to attend the Presbytery meeting at St. Andrew in Denton on May 4.

Old Business

Kenny Rigoulot asked for help from FPC for Camp Gilmont's building campaign. The Session agreed to send a letter to the congregation, and have inserts for the Sunday worship bulletins.

The Consent Agenda was approved, which consisted of the minutes, and the financial report for March.

Session members shared joys and concerns, and prayed together for those on the prayer list, and members of our congregation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Sarah Camp
Clerk

Thoughts and Prayers

Regina Baker	Chester Hardy	Ward McCollum	Stewart White
Jim Barker	Bob Harris	Rex McCubbin	Larry Willis
Raymond Bazinet	Guy Harrison	David McElroy	Linda Willis
Velma Beaglehole	Lucy Harrison	Carla McKnight	Carolyn Wimberley
Gary Boyd	Joan Harstlett	Abbi Melton	
Joe Brown	Mike Holbert	Dayne Neal	
Elizabeth Collins	Kenzie Hyatt	Doris Newton	
Shane Courtney	Rebecca Jefferson	Larry Perkins	
Beverly Crawford	Zoe Kelt	Amanda Presley	
Linda Curkan	Cheyenne Kirkpatrick	Jerry Richardson	
Susie Pelham Davis	Rita Knox	Margaret Roberts	
Marcia Dean	Nikki Lafitte	John Rowe	
Kenny Ferro	Shirley G Latham	Ken Rucker	
John Michael Florey	Jason Lopez	Vivian Sharp	
John Fout	Dianne Lytle	Katie Wylie Stovall	
Laura Guzman	Donna Marshall	Henry Thompson	
Ashley Haden	Mike McCollum	Cindy Venable	

In Service to
our Country

Jacob Conner
Robert Gray
Stone Smith



Stewardship Report

Monthly Glance: March

Anticipated Tithes & Offerings	\$34,083
Actual Tithes and Offerings	\$31,004
Actual Expenses	\$45,055
Overage (deficit)	\$14,051

Yearly Glance: 2024

Anticipated Tithes & Offerings	\$409,000
Actual Tithes and Offerings	\$141,138
Actual Expenses	\$151,536
Overage (deficit)	\$10,398

Thank you for your tithes and offerings! Without your faithful giving, ministry and missions would not be possible.

LAST MONTH'S PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

