



Click [HERE](#) for
the February
Calendar

**Please Note the following
dates:**

Ash Wednesday is
February 14th. Soup Super
in the Fellowship Hall at
6:00 pm. Ash Wednesday
Service to follow in the
Chapel at 6:45 pm.

Youth Sunday is February
4th

Midweek Mana starts back
February 21st at 6:00 pm

A banner for February Birthdays. It features a string of red and white tassels across the top. The text "Happy Birthday" is written in a large, black, cursive font on the left, and "February Birthdays" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font to its right. Below the text, there are two columns of names and their birth dates. In the bottom right corner, there is a small illustration of a red party hat with yellow stars and a yellow pom-pom.

2 Cade Laird	13 Diana Schnarr
4 Missy Lumpkins	17 Jay Watson
5 Jill Schleier	24 Susan Sechrist
6 Jace Mankins	25 Kathryn Covnet
7 Allen Camp	26 Connie Field
8 Mark Deerinwater	27 Kim Lightfoot
9 Carl Clower	Mike Sechrist
11 Bob Harris	Tine Zapata
12 Courtney Clinton Coplin	28 Jonathan Whisenhunt
Bill Stanley	29 Dawn Gratton

A Word from Will

Dear Church Family,

Several years ago, Pope Francis approved changes to the wording of the Lord's Prayer in Roman Catholic Liturgy, specifically the petition regarding temptation. The traditional rendering is as follows: "Lead us not into temptation." Pope Francis' update: "Do not let us fall into temptation." The reported rationale for this change was more theological than textual, meaning that the modification of the phrasing was not based on the witnesses of the most reliable Greek New Testament texts (as far as I can tell). Pope Francis told the Italian media in 2017 that the traditional translation is not good "because it speaks of a God who induces temptation." Francis continued, "I am the one who falls. It's not him pushing me into temptation to then see how I have fallen." I agree with the Pope that we are the ones who fall through our bad choices. However, He and I have different interpretations of "lead us not into temptation."

In my opinion, "lead us not into temptation" does not imply that God actively induces temptations of various sorts, as if God were testing us. It's fallacious to articulate that the negative form of the prayer (do not lead us into temptation) automatically means that God does the opposite (i.e., lead us into temptation). For example, when a parent says to a child, "Please do not touch the hot stove," it does not indicate that the child has touched or is touching the stove. Instead, it is both a request and warning that the child not touch the hot stove in the future. The same reasoning applies to the interpretation of the prayer. It's a request that God not lead us into temptation now or in the future. It cannot indicate that God has or is leading us to be tempted.

Furthermore, the first half of the petition cannot be read and understood apart from the second half, which reads, "But deliver us from evil." The accent is on God's active work of deliverance. Therefore, the prayer requests God to continue what God has already been doing: saving us from evil and the evil one. In Christ, we know for sure that God has answered our prayers. Christ's life, death, and resurrection constitute our deliverance and eternal salvation. Thanks be to God.

In Christ,
Will



Stewardship Report

Monthly Glance: December

Anticipated Tithes & Offerings	\$33,500
Actual Tithes and Offerings	\$51,599
Actual Expenses	\$55,099
Overage (deficit)	\$3,500

Yearly Glance: 2023

Anticipated Tithes & Offerings	\$402,000
Actual Tithes and Offerings	\$402,868
Actual Expenses	\$573,907
Overage (deficit)	\$171,038

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

Notes from Session

The Session held the Stated Meeting Wednesday January 17 at 5:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The meeting began with scripture and prayer.

Rob Schleier was installed as a new officer for the class of 2026.

Clerk's report:

Communion was served January 7, 2024 in the sanctuary during worship. The Congregational report for 2023 was presented showing eight new members, and three deaths. Total membership is now 164.

Pastor's report:

Will shared that his and Abby's baby is due July 15, 2024. He expressed his appreciation for the generosity and support as he continues his doctoral studies.

Administration

The 2024 Committee roster was presented.

Stewardship-Budget

- * A list of the 2023 benevolences paid totaling \$30,996.75 was presented.
- * The Pledge report shows 50 pledges of \$374,169 for 2024
- * The committee recommended pledging \$100,000 to Camp Gilmont's building campaign to be given over a three year period. This motion passed.
- * The committee shared the balance of the recent gift from the Monnye Jean Ross Estate. The Session approved sending the bulk of it to Texas Presbyterian Foundation.
- * The sale of the additional land in Mt. Enterprise should close in June.

Worship-Fellowship

- * The 2024 Communion dates were presented.
- * Elders will serve communion on Youth Sunday.

New Business

- * Lists of the church roll for the Session members to stay in contact with will be distributed in February.

The Consent Agenda was approved, which consisted of the minutes, the financial report for December, new committee rosters, and the 2024 Communion dates.

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



Your PW Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, February 5, at 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor.

The Noon Circle will meet on Tuesday, February 13 in the parlor for lunch.

The Night Circle will meet on Wednesday, February 14, at 7 pm in the Parlor for their Lesson following Ash Wednesday Service.

Please stay well and remember to check on your friends and neighbors during this Winter season.

Jackie Fout
Moderator



Thoughts and Prayers

Regina Baker
Raymond Bazinet
Gary Boyd
Joe Brown
Elizabeth Collins
Shauntell Copeland
Shane Courtney
Beverly Crawford
Jimmy Culp
Linda Curkan
Susie Pelham Davis
Marcia Dean
Kenny Ferro
John Michael Florey
John Fout
Laura Guzman
Ashley Haden
Chester Hardy
Guy Harrison
Lucy Harrison

Joan Harslett
Mark Havins
Mike Holbert
Kenzie Hyatt
Rebecca Jefferson
Zoe Kelt
Cheyenne Kirkpatrick
Rita Knox
Nikki Lafitte
Shirley G Latham
Jason Lopez
Dianne Lyle
Donna Marshall
Alee Mata
Mike McCollum
Ward McCollum
Rex McCubbin
David McElroy
Carla McKnight
Abbi Melton

Dayne Neal
Doris Newton
David Nixon
Larry Perkins
Amanda Presley
Jerry Richardson
Margaret Roberts
Ken Rucker
Vivian Sharp
Chris Spinks
Katie Wylie Stovall
Lisa Taylor
Henry Thompson
Cindy Venable
Stewart White
Larry Willis
Linda Willis



Jacob Conner
Robert Gray
Stone Smith

