

Sophie Leppert

SAVE THE DATE



For the Violin Recital of
Sophie Leppert

Date
Sunday, March 9, 2025, 3:00 pm

Destination
First Presbyterian Church
Upstairs Chapel
815 E. Main St
Kilgore, TX 75663

Reception to follow



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March

1 Garrett Lightfoot	8 Terry Stenbridge, Jr.	24 Garrett Schleier
2 Chris Gratton	9 Philip Waldecker	26 Josie Atchley
3 Carolyn Martin	10 Sharon Nestleroad	26 Cathy Geary
Kasey Nisbett	Jersi Walters	27 Janie Henley
5 Linda Sartor	12 Cora Thompson	28 Janie Dickerson
7 Jerry Hall	20 Sarah Camp	

March 2025

A Note from our Pastor

Are you ready for Daylight Savings Time again? Well, ready or not, it is coming on Sunday, March 9. Every year we make the switch from regular time to daylight savings time and I always complain. I hate giving up that hour that we got back last fall. I must admit that I do enjoy the longer daylight in the evenings but I hate waking up in the dark in the morning and not having daylight until long past what I had become used to. I am a morning person and wake up early whether I want to or not because my biological clock is set for 5 a.m. or so and I cannot change it regardless of what I do. So, when the time "springs forward" as it does in March, who knows whether I will also sleep an hour more or if my body will continue to wake me up in the darkness and urge me to get some coffee quickly. Coffee is the best thing about waking up. It is often the reason why I wake up more cheerful than those who are night owls.

Lent will be nearly a week old when we begin DST. Ash Wednesday is on March 5 this year and it is a tradition in the Christian tradition to receive ashes on one's forehead as a sign of repentance on that day. We begin Lent with that tradition to show that we are serious about our Lenten journey for this year. Lent lasts 40 days, not counting Sundays, and it is a time of reflection and renewal for our spirits as we become involved in the spiritual disciplines of reading scripture, prayer, church attendance, and finding ways of ministry to others who may become part of our daily experience.

Giving up a certain food is something some consider during Lent but it is not mandatory. Some do it as a sign of penitence or devotion, as a way to test themselves even as Jesus was tested in the desert before he began his ministry. I used to give up desserts for the Lenten season but I eat them so rarely now that it is not much of a sacrifice. If you don't miss that thing you are giving up, then it really has no meaning. That is the reason to give up something. If giving it up challenges you some way during Lent, then that challenge will speak to you in some way. Incidentally, since Sundays are not part of Lent, you can eat that chocolate cake on Sundays and you did not mess up.

Midweek Manna Services have been a tradition here for several years so on Wednesdays, beginning March 12 and continuing through April 9, we will gather in the Chapel at 6 pm and have a short devotional service with the serving of Holy Communion, followed by a dinner in the church fellowship hall. All are invited to be a part of these weekly events as they help us to find the fellowship in our Christian community that we need to discover meaning as we journey through Lent together.

The days will grow longer as we experience Lent and work our way toward Easter Sunday, April 20 this year. We will find the joy of the resurrection in a new and meaningful way as we give of ourselves to God through our Lenten practices. Even if you have never taken part in Lent, this year may be the year to experiment and see what may happen in your life as you open yourself up to the Spirit at work in our lives.

Jerry

Announcements

Join us for Soup in Fellowship Hall Wednesday, March 5 in Fellowship Hall. Ash Wednesday service to follow at 6:45 in the Chapel.



Midweek Manna will begin Wednesday, March 12 and continue each week through Lent. Please join us for Communion at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Dinner will follow in Fellowship Hall.

Bach's Lunch Concert
First Presbyterian Church, Kilgore
Gala Strunk, organ
and David Berryhill, piano
Friday, March 14 at 12:20 p.m.



Worship-Fellowship:

Communion dates for 2025 were presented and approved by the Session.

Gala gave a music report: Reminded the committee of Bach's Lunch to be held in the sanctuary Friday, March 14. She will play the organ and David Berryhill will play the piano.

The handbell choir will host its second annual concert May 4 at 4:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

A catered dinner will follow.

Sophie Leppert will perform a violin recital in the chapel March 9 at 3:00 p.m..

Gala brought forth discussion involving a special church service for the 175 th church anniversary.

The committee will explore ideas.

Kenny Kirkpatrick for Special Services, will prepare soup for Ash Wednesday.

Midweek Manna plans were made. The committee will meet in April to plan future fellowship opportunities.

Old Business:

Mike Sechrist shared and reviewed the TPF financial investment statement with the Session members.

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

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

Notes from Session

The Session held the Stated Meeting Wednesday February 19 at 5:30 p.m. in the church parlor. Ryan Griffin read scripture and gave a devotional.

Clerk's report:

Communion was served February 2, 2025 in the sanctuary during worship. The Statistical Report was presented and approved. Thank you notes were read from Austin College, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Evergreen Ministries, Camp Gilmont, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, and Schreiner University for the end of year benevolence they received.

Pastor's report:

Jerry Carpenter reported on the pastoral visits and counseling for the month. He is preparing for the Lenten Season, and enjoying being our pastor.

C.E.-Missions:

Grace Notes choir will sing in worship on Palm Sunday, April 13.

VBS will be at our church June 16 - 20.

The Easter Egg Hunt will be Wednesday, April 16.

Mo-Ranch and Camp Gilmont opportunities have been given to parents of children and youth.

The Monthly Mission for March will be Rahab's Retreat.

Property:

Regular and usual maintenance continues during Winter weather.

Risk Control Consultant of Guide One Insurance conducted a survey to identify insurance risk areas.

Upgrade/Repair recommendations were made regarding some electrical cords, fuse boxes, playground equipment and exit sign identification. All areas mentioned will be addressed.

Two areas in the gated garden need fill dirt attention. That will be addressed as well.

The office transitioned to Sparklight Internet this month.

Approved purchasing new head set microphones.

LAST MONTH'S PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



The Noon Circle will meet Tuesday, **March 11**, at 12:00 p.m. in the parlor for lunch.

The Night Circle will meet in the Parlor at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, **March 12** following Midweek Manna.

\$ Stewardship Report

Monthly Glance: January	
Anticipated Tithes & Offerings	\$34,083
Actual Tithes and Offerings	\$83,072
Actual Expenses	\$54,853
Overage (deficit)	(\$28,219)

Yearly Glance: 2025	
Anticipated Tithes & Offerings	\$409,000
Actual Tithes and Offerings	\$83,072
Actual Expenses	\$54,853
Overage (deficit)	(\$28,219)

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

Thoughts and Prayers

Regina Baker
Becky Barker
Raymond Bazinet
Velma Beaglehole
Mac Blackstone
Gary Boyd
Randy Brogoitti
Jody Brown
Joe Brown
Allen Camp
Calan Castles
K Castles
Tara Castles
Elizabeth Collins
Linda Curkan
Susie Pelham Davis

Marcia Dean
Jack Florence
John Michael Florey
John Fout
Elise Smith
Laura Guzman
Ashley Haden
Chester Hardy
Kenzie Hyatt
Kathy Johnson
Zoe Kelt
Rita Knox
Shirley G Latham
Michelle Lemming
John Lewis
Dianne Lyle

Donna Marshall
Ward McCollum
David McElroy
Carla McKnight
Abbi Melton
Rick Murphy
Dayne Neal
Lujean Nichols
Larry Perkins
Amanda Presley
Margaret Roberts
Mike McCollum
Stacye McCollum
Jon Rowe
Ken Rucker
Vivian Sharp

Katie Wylie Stovall
Carol Camp Terwilliger
David Theriot
Henry Thompson
Jimmy Thrower
Stewart White
Julie Whitt
Larry Willis

In Service to our Country
Jacob Conner
Robert Gray
Stone Smith