

2023 Annual Report



First Presbyterian Church Pasadena, Texas



Our Mission

Our mission is to live and share the good news of God's love, grace, and mercy in Jesus Christ, to equip people for discipleship and service, and to work for social justice and peace.



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Dear Friends,

2023 was an eventful year at First Presbyterian Church, and on balance a good year. Though we began with a tornado the end of January, God was good to us even in that storm. Had the storm taken just a slightly different path, the damage to our building could have been catastrophic. Thanks be to God, our damages were relatively minor, the insurance settlement was fair, and most of the repairs have been completed, in no small part due to the diligence and hard work of our Stewardship Ministry.

The end of May, we celebrated 25 years in this building on Preston Road! Dan Slaven chaired the building committee a quarter of a century ago, and on our anniversary Sunday he shared wonderful stories about the providence of God during the building's construction.

In June of 2023, we had a wonderful Vacation Bible School. A large crowd of adults came three nights in a row to hear the backstory on familiar hymns and enjoy singing them together. We capped off our time together with a fabulous fish fry. Thanks to our gentlemen chefs and the Discipleship and Caring Ministries!

The fall brought a wonderful confirmation class together to learn about Reformed theology, Presbyterianism, and our church. You elected a new class of elders and deacons, who also studied together to prepare for their responsibilities as officers. Additionally, fall saw the beginning of our relationship with Ministerio Corban, a Spanish-speaking worshipping community led by a Cuban pastor that is gathering every Sunday evening in our Fellowship Hall.

The end of the year, we were able to host the youth of the Presbytery of New Covenant for an overnight retreat. They showed their appreciation by leading us in worship the next day. In December, our session met with members of St. Stephen Presbyterian Church. They hosted us for a delicious meal and we all enjoyed the opportunity to talk about our ministries and get to know one another.

The session welcomed twelve new members in 2023, the largest number in recent years.

Throughout the year, you – the saints of First Presbyterian -- did one of the things you do the best: care for one another. We cheered one another on – think about the outpouring of love on display through the Chain Stitchers – and walked with members who lost spouses, parents, and children, long-time friends and fellow believers. Nothing makes the ache of loss go away, but being accompanied through its depths is one of the greatest witnesses to our Christian faith. I know personally what it feels like to be held close in prayer, and I cannot write about 2023 without again expressing my appreciation to all of you for the love and support you showed me on the deaths of my parents. They never were able to visit First Pasadena, but they knew about you through me and they loved you as I do. Thanks to our live-stream, they worshiped with us weekly the last few years of their lives.

The year ahead holds promise because God holds us close, as a congregation and as unique beings, each of us loved by God. What a blessing! Thanks be to God.

Grace and peace,



The Rev. Dr. Fairfax F. Fair, pastor



Report from the Clerk of Session

The year began with 191 active members and ended with 195 active members.

- In May, the church received information that Celia Scheer had entered the Church Triumphant on December 3, 2022.
- Sally Carr entered The Church Triumphant on January 6, 2023.
- Lawrence “Larry” Parks entered the Church Triumphant on May 29, 2023.
- Carrie Walker, faithful visitor, entered the Church Triumphant on June 13, 2023.
- Jackie Welch entered the Church Triumphant on September 16, 2023.
- Becky Brignac entered Church Triumphant on November 24, 2023.
- The following people were received into membership: Samantha Cayton and Karen Lancer, Josephine Carter, Sally Perry, Janet Sturm, Liz and John Griswold, and John Farley.
- The following youth attended confirmation classes and were received into membership: Tyler Cooper, Nolan Covington, Olivia Covington, and Imsaal Dean.
- The Annual Congregational Meeting was on February 12, 2023. The budget was presented, members at large were elected to serve on the Congregational Nominating Committee, a change of call for the Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair was approved, and the Annual Report was distributed.
- There was a called Congregational Meeting on October 1, 2023 to elect officers for the Class of 2026 and members of the 2024 Congregational Nominating Committee.
- There was a called Congregational Meeting on December 3, 2023 to elect a deacon to fill an unexpired term in the class of 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Keith
Clerk of Session



New Members



Class of 2023

Tom Chitwood
Garland DeLoach
Frank Kucera
Lou Anne Sinor

Class of 2024

Brett Coe
Donna Gilcrest
Bonnie Keith
Tom Swan

Class of 2025

James Jackson
Roy Kreitz
Pat McPhail
Laura Phipps

FPC Trustees

Lou Anne Sinor - Class of 2023
Brett Coe - Class of 2024
Roy Kreitz – Class of 2025

Board of Deacons

The 2023 Board of Deacons, a group of 12 people, served our church, First Presbyterian of Pasadena, by reaching out and communicating with our members throughout the year to share God's love with them during good times and bad.

We shared information and prayers for our church family, as well as how to communicate with them. We sent cards, made calls, and at times took flowers to some members, but did not do home communions.

We prayed together and shared the concerns that we had in our hearts as well as joys and praises that the Lord has blessed us with.

Our pastor, Dr. Fair, kept us informed of updates and new developments in the church, She also encouraged us to use the grief books to give to those members experiencing the loss of a loved one.

We had loving group of caring, generous deacons this year and a very supportive leader, Dr Fair.

Sincerely,

Claudia Krietz

Deacon Moderators 2023

Class of 2023

Mark Clemmons

Claudia Krietz

Linda Ross

Iliana Vela

Class of 2024

Donna Coe

Carol Ann McCaleb

Eloise Murray

James Taylor

Class of 2025

Imelda Carrillo

Cappy Phipps

Liz Reed

Karen Schimnowski

Caring and Fellowship Ministry

The Caring and Fellowship Ministry members provided opportunities for fellowship during the year. Members of this ministry were Cindy Berridge, Gary Berridge, Tom Chitwood (chairman), Garland DeLoach (elder), Donna Gilchrest, Glenda Kucera, Betsy Marlow, Pat McPhail, Karen Schimnowski, and Jim Tinney.

Activities and events included:

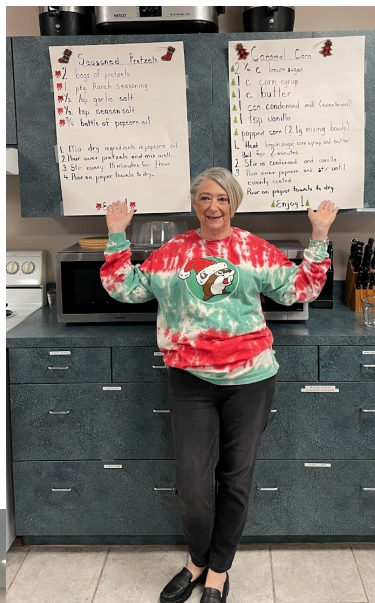
- Serving coffee before and after the service
- Organizing first Sunday lunches
- Preparing Maundy Thursday supper
- Assisting with the Fat Tuesday pancake supper and fish fry during Vacation Bible School
- Hosting and providing a Thanksgiving dinner on November 5
- Providing wassail and baked goods on the Sunday mornings of Advent
- Supporting the work and programs of Presbyterian Women, Young at Heart, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Chain Stitchers, and Cut-Ups



Caring and Fellowship cont.



Cut Ups, under the leadership of Liz Reed, meet once a month for lunch, fellowship, crafting, and cooking.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry has faithfully met weekly in person and on Zoom. Participants include both church members and friends from outside the church. With the leading of the Holy Spirit, they have developed relationships, supported and loved one another, laughed, prayed, and crocheted, crocheted, crocheted.

They have made:

- ◇ more than 120 stocking hats and scarves for seafarers,
- ◇ shawls and lap blankets for people going through illness or tough times, and
- ◇ 100 stocking hats for veterans at De George at Union Station.



Chain Stitchers



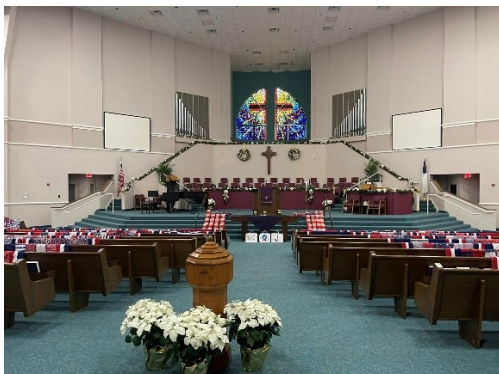
Ann Wright was the winner of the Astros quilt raffle!



With help from many, Chain Stitchers made 64 quilts in the spring to be sent with the Orphan Grain Train deliveries to Ukraine.



For Christmas, Chain Stitchers made 100 patriotic quilts and distributed them to veterans living in low rent housing at the De George at Union Station



Young at Heart



Young at Heart, under the leadership of Joan Gibertini, meets the third Thursday of the month for fun, food, and fellowship.

Field trips, organized by Ruth Askine, have included trips to such places as Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, POST Houston, Old Town Spring at Christmas, and the Blue Bell Creamery in Brenham,



JOIN US FOR
FAT
TUESDAY
PANCAKE SUPPER & MUSIC

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PASADENA
 FEBRUARY 21, 2023
 6:30PM - 8:00PM

TO SAVE A SEAT - PLEASE EMAIL:
 BONNIE@FPCPASADENA.ORG

NEED A RIDE? CALL CHURCH
 OFFICE OR INCLUDE
 WITH YOUR EMAIL

281.991.8700



Presbyterian Women

Purpose of Presbyterian Women

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study, to support the mission of the church worldwide, to work for justice and peace, and to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.
<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/who-we-are/>

The study for 2022-2023 was *Celebrating Sabbath* by Carol M. Bechtel. The study for 2023-2024 is *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir.

Presbyterian Women, under the leadership of co-moderators, Lou Anne Sinor and Claudia Kreitz:

- ◆ Met together monthly for Bible study and fellowship in person and on Zoom
- ◆ Presented a Lifetime Membership to Margaret Robison at PW's Birthday luncheon in May
- ◆ Installed PW officers, adopted the budget, and were introduced to the 2023-2024 study at the August joint meeting
- ◆ Packed, wrapped, and delivered 50 seafarers Christmas boxes
- ◆ Provided receptions for funerals
- ◆ Gave love offerings to church's custodians
- ◆ Donated to Pasadena Community Ministries
- ◆ Donated to Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services
- ◆ Donated to Sarah's House
- ◆ Sold wreaths from Wreaths Across America to honor deceased veterans and received \$5.00 back from each wreath sold to help fund projects to benefit veterans
- ◆ Decorated Fellowship Hall during Advent with a new tree
- ◆ Contributed \$1000 to the quilt making for veterans project
- ◆ Prepared gift bags for the 100 veterans living in low rent housing at De George at Union Station with patriotic quilts made by the Chain Stitchers, stocking caps made by the Prayer Shawl Ministry, a greeting card and candy
- ◆ Donated money to help buy new mattresses for the veterans at De George at Union Station
- ◆ Celebrated the Advent season with a Christmas luncheon.



Discipleship Ministry

The Discipleship Ministry works in planning for the spiritual formation and Christian education of members of all ages. The members consist of Donna Gilchrest (chairperson), James Jackson (elder), Cherè Wharry, Pat McPhail, and Barry Webb.

- The Stepping Out in Faith Class completed their study of *Paul for Everyone: Galatians and Thessalonians* by N. T. Wright. The class has begun studying *Paul for Everyone: 1 Corinthians*. The class is a hybrid of in person and Zoom.
- The Men's Class studied 1, 2, 3 John and Jude and began 2nd Corinthians by John MacArthur.
- Current Christianity, under the leadership of Mark Clemmons, continues to use various books to explore contemporary Christian topics.
- The youth meet weekly for Sunday school with James Jackson and Brian Davis leading.
- The Brunch and Book Group has continued to meet in person with some people joining in on Zoom. They have lively discussion about books and enjoy delicious food.
- Chair and mat yoga classes met on Tuesday and Thursdays throughout the year.
- Brown Bag and Bible, under the leadership of Dr. Fair, usually met weekly except in July with an average attendance of about 20. Dr. Fair and the group have completed the study of Genesis. During Advent, they studied what the prophets said about the coming of the Messiah.
- As part of the Souper Bowl of Caring initiative, the youth collected \$324 for Pasadena Community Ministries.
- Vacation Bible School on June 12-14 was designed to be intergenerational with Dr. Fair giving the history of well known hymns. Two nights a light supper was provided. On the third and last night the men of the church prepared their traditional fish fry dinner and the choir led a hymn sing.
- Mornings of Mission included decorating placemats and bags for Kairos, writing letters to shut ins, and making toys and providing supplies for animals at Pasadena Animal Shelter.
- Dr. Fair led a confirmation class that concluded with Tyler Cooper, Nolan Covington, Olivia Covington, and Imsaal Dean joining the church. Tom Swan and Laura Phipps served as mentors.
- Yulissa Delgado was hired to be the Sunday morning nursery attendant. Efforts were made to get volunteers to help.
- The Early Childhood Program reports to the session through the Discipleship Ministry.



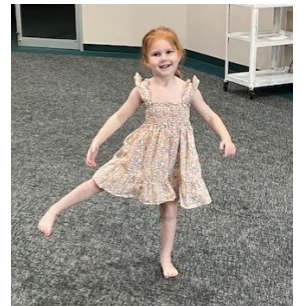
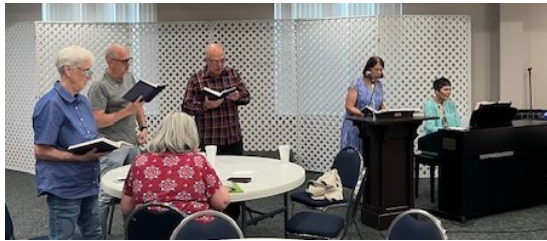
Souper Bowl of Caring



Brunch and Book Group

Discipleship Ministry

Vacation Bible School



Brown Bag and Bible



Early Childhood Program



The Early Childhood Program continues to serve our community as we begin our 66th year! It is finally feeling like routines and activities are back to normal from previous COVID changes. Our classes are all full and have a waiting list! We began the year with our meet the teacher night. It is a chance for parents, grandparents, and siblings to come and meet the teacher as well as get to know the classrooms. The church was filled with the excitement of new beginnings! We welcomed the families back in October to sing and show off the progress we have made together! The Christmas program was held in December. Our oldest children presented the nativity story, and all the children brought the joy of Christmas through song. The sanctuary was filled with joy and the pews were filled with the children's biggest fans!

We are beginning our spring semester now and looking forward to the activities of spring! Celebrating the super bowl. Western day and Easter! We will be growing caterpillars and observing all the stages of development. We will release the butterflies when they are ready!

It is a joy to welcome children and families from our community to join our school family. We have been blessed with wonderful families, parents, and staff. We would like to thank the members of the church for keeping the program open to our community. The program has changed and grown over the years but remains a loving and caring environment for children to learn and nurture their minds, bodies, and their ever-changing social skills.

Respectfully submitted by
Carrie Reed



Mission and Outreach Ministry

Mission: Making an impact by intentionally stepping beyond where you live.

Outreach: Making an impact where you live.

Members: Tom Swan (chairman), Laura Phipps (elder), Ruth Askine, Garland DeLoach, Joyce DeLoach, Mark Clemmons, Imelda Carrillo, Dolores Thacker, Cynthia Berridge, Rev. Fairfax Fair (staff)

2023 Mission and Outreach Ministry impacts were made as follows:

- Re-established Wednesday devotionals for the residents of Baywood Crossing
- Continued support of Pasadena Community Ministries, Inc. with consistent volunteer hours, monetary and clothing donations. A “pre-Easter” shoe drive benefitting PCM was also a great success.
- Supported Mark Clemmons, who was approved to join the board overseeing Westover Trace also known as the Presbyterian Service Center located at 7311 Westover, Houston, TX 77087
- Participated in the Crosses on the Corner event by making and displaying a cross to represent the M & O Ministry
- Revived and successfully held Taco and a Prayer in May
- Designated the FPC portion of the Pentecost Offering to go to the Mo-Ranch Camp in the Valley.
- Adopted Orphan Grain Train as an outreach project with committee members donating volunteer hours
- Approved adding the veterans at De George at Union Station and Project Joy and Hope to the list for Bethlehem Market, the alternative gift market
- Distributed \$5552 from the Bethlehem Market to twelve local and global missions in above budget giving
- Designated the FPC portion of Peace and Global Witness special offering to be used for needed supplies for the veterans residing at the De George at Union Station
- Continued encouragement for the Seafarers Christmas box effort - a total of 82 boxes were assembled and delivered - 50 from Presbyterian Women and 32 from members
- Approved proposed budget line item benefitting the Kairos Ministry
- Started supporting Project Joy and Hope, a local organization that provides all aspects of support to medically fragile children and their families from all over the world
- Began working on the 85th anniversary for FPC
- Hosted the annual PCM volunteer luncheon

We give thanks and praise for the many ways the congregation supported the Mission and Outreach programs this past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Swan



Mission and Outreach Ministry cont.

Taco and a Prayer



Personnel Ministry

The Personnel Ministry, consisting of members Roy Krietz (chair), Margaret Bardin, Brett Coe, Bonnie Keith, and Dale Sinor, worked with staff to address opportunities and confidential issues. Maria Morales, long time and beloved custodian, announced plans to retire at the end of 2023. Gloria Pinaud was hired to replace her.

First Presbyterian Staff



Rev. Pat Abrams
Parish Associate



Jamie Adams
Handbell
Choir Director



Barbara Davis
Office Manager



Yulissa Delgado
Nursery Attendant



Rev. Dr. Fairfax Fair
Pastor



Holly Leichty
Office Assistant



Maria Morales
Custodian



Ron Ollis
Organist



Gloria Pinaud
Custodian



Carrie Reed
Director of Early
Childhood Program



Kimberly Waggett
Financial Secretary



Barry Webb
AV Specialist



Marilyn Wilkinson
Music Director

Stewardship Ministry

The Stewardship Ministry offers the following highlights and major accomplishments for 2023. The committee consists of Brett Coe (elder, chairman), Roy Kreitz (elder), Frank Kucera (elder), Marvin Clark, Bruce Walters, Tom Hoffman, and Danny Slaven.

The ongoing, strategic work of the Stewardship Committee revolves around the efforts of maintaining budget guidelines, monthly reporting of financials, facilities operation, safety, and maintenance of the church campus. Particular attention is given to building maintenance and lawn care to facilitate visitor's first impressions of First Presbyterian. Other key highlights for 2023 are:

2024 Budget – Prepared the initial 2024 first draft of the asking budget for Session review; will coordinate the final budget for Session approval and presentation to the congregation in February 2024.

HVAC - Several key areas addressed throughout the year including low freon caused by leaking valves, and clogged drain lines. Replaced HVAC unit #5 in the Fellowship Hall. The Condenser, Blower, and Heat Kit were replaced with a 10 ton Rudd unit. Installed new Honeywell Thermostats for all HVAC units. We can view and program settings for each thermostat from a phone app.

Lighting –All fluorescent lights in the main areas, offices, and classrooms have been replaced with LED lights.

Plumbing –Discovered major issue with the backflow preventer on our fire suppression system and had it replaced. The backflow preventer was stolen from our sprinkler system line. The meter for this line has been cancelled and the line rerouted to our domestic line to feed water to our garden hose bibs. Numerous toilet and faucet repairs were performed.

Information Technology (I.T.) – Continued support provided for software and hardware requirements. Replaced the hard drives on the ECP and Financial computers. Installed Windows 11, QuickBooks, and restored files.

Fire Alarm System – Found a short in one of the smoke detectors in the women's restroom. Line errors on the system were caused by a bad cellular radio. Benco repaired the short and installed a new cellular unit.

January Tornado – Trees were snapped in half and uprooted, litter scattered across our property, downed fences, and damage to the steeple and the storage shed. Volunteers from University Baptist Church in Clear Lake (members of the Texas Baptist Men Disaster Recovery group) brought manpower and equipment to assist with cleanup. Several of our church members assisted as well.



Stock Donations – Setup an account with a company called Stock Donator. They assist non-profits with stock donations. There is a link on the church website to direct individuals to the Stock Donator website.

Misc. Repairs – Replaced worn out doorstops and installed new ones. Ice machine required repair work. Replaced stained ceiling tiles.

Lawn Care – Ongoing mowing and yard services, along with limb trimming throughout the year. Special thanks to all the Mowing Team, Roy Kreitz for his beautiful garden and Bruce Walters for his tree trimming work.

Respectively submitted by Brett Coe on behalf of the Stewardship Committee

Worship and Music Ministry

The purpose of the Worship and Music Ministry is to provide a meaningful and enriching worshipping experience for all people.

The members of this ministry were Margaret Bardin, Barbara Davis, Bonnie Keith (elder), Pat McPhail, Lou Anne Sinor (chairperson), Karen Taylor, and Dr. Fairfax Fair

Thanks go to all who prepared, helped, and led in worship:

- Dr. Fairfax Fair for enlightening and challenging sermons;
- the choir under Marilyn Wilkins' direction, the handbell choir under Jamie Adams' direction, Ron Ollis on the organ and piano, and special musicians, including Margaret Bardin, Laura and Cappy Phipps, Steve Haskins, Noah Adams, Nolan Covington, Olivia Covington, Patricia Grell, and others for music that inspires and uplifts;
- Barry Webb, Sarah Brown, and Lavinia Brown for running the sound system and live-streaming;
- Holly Liechty and Barbara Davis for preparing the bulletins and PowerPoint presentations;
- Maria Morales and Gloria Pinaud for changing paraments and preparing the sanctuary for worship;
- Lou Anne and Dale Sinor for preparing communion; and
- liturgists, acolytes, ushers, greeters, and the volunteers who helped with Hanging of the Greens and other seasonal events.

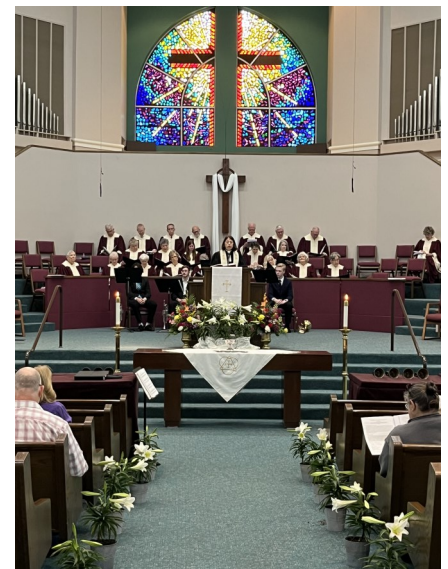
In May we celebrated jazz communion with the Marvin Gaspard Trio and Dr. Fair.

In November, the choir, bell choir, and musicians of FPCP presented a wonderful Thanksgiving concert.

The following PCUSA offerings were collected: One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter, April 9, 2023; Pentecost Offering on May 28, 2023; Peace & Global Witness on World Communion Day, October 1, 2023; and Christmas Joy Gift on December 24, 2021.

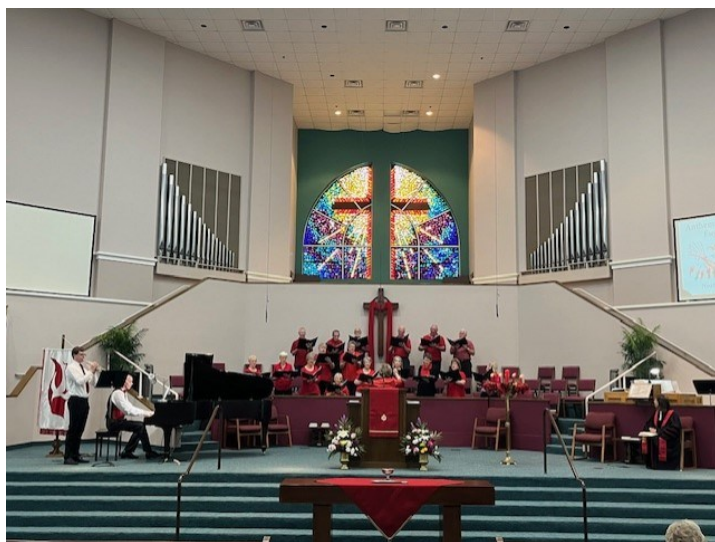
In Dr. Fair's absence, guest preachers included Rev. Steve Thorney, Rev. Gregory Han, Rev. Dr. Jim Gill, and Rev. Kevin Keaton.

Respectfully submitted,
Lou Anne Sinor and
Bonnie Keith





Worship and Music Ministry cont.



Jazz communion with the Marvin Gaspard Trio

Pentecost Sunday



Guest preachers Rev. Steve Thorney, Rev. Gregory Han, Rev. Dr. Jim Gill, and Rev. Kevin Keaton

Worship and Music Ministry cont.



Thanksgiving Concert presented by the talented musicians of FPCP



Hanging of the Greens



Family and Friends





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fpcpasadena.org