

# February First Focus

EDITION 2 | 2024 | FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## A NOTE FROM KELLI OWENS

Good news! During February, we can expect daylight hours to increase by about 60 minutes! What a huge impact this slight cosmic shift has on our mental and emotional well-being. We feel it in our mood, energy level, and appetite. Such fascinating, interconnected, and holistic creatures we are! And in case no one else did, let me remind you that this is true for our students and children, too. As we've centered mental wellness in Youth Group during January, we've reflected on how taking care of our health isn't just about an hour at the gym and going to the doctor when you sneeze. It's also about being self-aware and practicing mindfulness. One of our mantras has been, "Live from the inside-out, not from the outside-in." This is a simple way to remind us that "to be yourself in a world constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment" (Emerson). One of the most effective things we can do to boost not only our moods, but also our connections with others is to serve. In that vein, Kids of the Kingdom is putting some grit into their faith formation by engaging in a service project with Midwest Food Bank. Since our Sunday School theme this month focuses on the kindness of Jesus and how we can show others they are valuable, it feels perfect to offer an opportunity to do so TOGETHER.

**Greetings from Texas!** As many of you know, I am currently fulfilling my annual military obligations to the Air Force. After seven years of being attached to Scott Air Force Base, I decided it was time to broaden my experience. Now, I am attached to a medical unit at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX. For this tour, instead of working with patients at our outpatient clinic Willford Hall, I am serving in a school for enlisted airmen right out of basic training who desire to work in medical fields. Upon graduation, these airmen will work as lab techs, nurse assistants, or other medical positions. My role is to provide spiritual support as these students, most being recent high school graduates, are dealing with stress from taking tests and adjusting to military life. Thank you to my church family for being supportive of my military ministry! - Pastor Chris Schilling

## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & POTLUCK

Church members are encouraged to attend the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 4. We will have one service at 10am and the meeting will follow. After the meeting, join us for an all-church-potluck in the Great Hall. Please sign up on the website and let us know what you're bringing. Copies of the annual report are available at the Welcome Center and on the church website.



## BLESSINGS WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Please join us on Monday nights, February 5, 12, and 19, from 6:15-7:15pm in the Lounge for our next video study entitled "SHIFT". We will learn that when we "SHIFT" our expectations of who Jesus is, we will move from ritual to relationship and from death to life. Please join us and sign up on our church website. Additionally - save the date for our April 20th Spring Gathering, "Women With No Name," more details are coming soon!



## BIG GAME PARTY

Everyone is invited to watch the Super Bowl on Sunday, February 11. We will be in the Great Hall with both big screens playing the game. The party will start at 5:15pm, with kick-off scheduled for 5:30pm. The church will provide pizza and drinks, and we are asking everyone to bring their favorite appetizer to share. And you are encouraged to wear your favorite sports team gear! We will also have activities for kids up to 5th grade in the lower level up until halftime. If you plan to come, please RSVP on the website so we can plan for food!

## Theology in Romans Adult Discipleship Lenten Class



On Sunday mornings during Lent starting February 18, Pastor Matt will lead an Adult Discipleship Class at 9:45am on some of the theological themes addressed in Paul's letter to the Romans. Topics include sin, justification, righteousness, life in the Spirit, God's sovereignty, election, predestination, personal holiness, and being a neighbor. If you are interested in attending, please sign up on our website by Thursday, February 15 so we can have adequate seating prepared!



## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE & SUPPER

Join us as we enter into the season of Lent. We'll have supper in the Great Hall at 5:15pm followed by our Ash Wednesday service at 6pm, including the imposition of ashes. Please RSVP for supper so Worship Committee can prepare for the meal.



## RESCHEDULED - UFO SATURDAY SOCIAL

Sometimes we start a project but we don't finish them. You know those UnFinished Objects that sit around reminding us to complete them? The Knit-Crochet Ministry invites you on Saturday, March 16, (9am-noon) to a UFO social where you can work on any craft project you want! We'll provide drinks and snacks - you provide the project of your choice.

## FIRST FOCUS VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

The congregation has enjoyed the ability to receive paper newsletters for many years. This is only possible if we have 2-3 volunteers each month to assemble. If you would like to volunteer one time or on a recurring basis, please sign up online.



### CAN YOU HELP? FEBRUARY CARE & SHARE DONATIONS

For Home Sweet  
Home Ministries



## URGENT NEEDS \*\*

## FOR HOME SWEET

## HOME MINISTRIES

Ketchup  
Paper Towels  
BOTTLED WATER\*\*  
Napkins  
COFFEE\*\*  
Coffee Filters  
Gallon Ziploc Bags

Bath towels (Full sized & new)  
Body wash (Men's/Women's/Kids)  
Deodorant (Men's/Women's)  
Laundry Pods/Powdered Detergent  
Razors (Men's/Women's)  
Toothpaste  
Hand warmers

OTC Cold and Flu Medicines  
(Adults/Kids)  
Boxes of Kleenex/Individual packs  
of Kleenex  
Pillows (Standard Size, New)

Donations can be brought to the church on Sunday mornings or during the week, M-F, during office hours and placed in the shopping carts at our entrances.



## FINANCIAL UPDATE

The table below displays our actual income and expenses compared to budgeted income and expenses for the year ended December 31, 2023:

	BUDGET	ACTUAL
General Contributions	\$ 795,000	\$ 811,903
Expense Recoveries and Miscellaneous	10,545	10,121
<b>TOTAL CASH INCOME</b>	<b>805,545</b>	<b>822,024</b>
General Budget Expenses	817,545	737,958
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF RECEIPTS OVER (UNDER) EXPENSES</b>	<b>(12,000)</b>	<b>84,066</b>
Investment Market Gain	-	31,980
<b>NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN OPERATING RESERVE</b>	<b>\$ (12,000)</b>	<b>\$ 116,046</b>

General contributions to the operating budget came in well ahead of budget for the year and ahead of the prior year's actual receipts. Investment gains were excluded from the budget due to unpredictability; market returns were positive for the year.

General expenses were below budget across all categories, with about 60% of the savings due to salaries and benefits on positions that were unfilled for part of the year.

The unrestricted operating reserve (net assets) stands at \$457,134 as of December 31, 2023. That represents more than six and one-half months of 2024 general budget expenses and is an increase of \$116,000 from the beginning of the year.

See the church's annual report for a more comprehensive review of our financial status.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

FIRST	LAST	BDAY	FIRST	LAST	BDAY	FIRST	LAST	BDAY
Carson	Schilling	Feb 1	Teresa	Herbert	Feb 7	Ann	Lamkey	Feb 17
Anderson	Schilling	Feb 1	Christy	Bartel	Feb 8	Mary Jo	Hillyer	Feb 19
Corey	Brown	Feb 2	August	Barbour	Feb 9	Jill	Timbers	Feb 20
Ladaricus	Coleman	Feb 2	Nora	Box	Feb 9	Jon	Thetard	Feb 21
Maia	Doss	Feb 3	John	Burrill	Feb 10	Claire	Herbert	Feb 21
Shirley	Redd	Feb 4	Jeff	Bartel	Feb 10	Eldon	Brewer	Feb 22
Sally	Rodriguez	Feb 5	Dana	Anderson	Feb 13	Noah	Kirby	Feb 23
Quinn	Martin	Feb 5	Carolyn	Grigsby	Feb 13	Carol	Baker	Feb 24
John	Wolter	Feb 5	Anne	HeeJin	Feb 14	Joan	Frazier	Feb 24
Berit	Rice	Feb 6	Suzie	Thetard	Feb 16	Sheila	Allen	Feb 24
Daniel	Sutton	Feb 7	Ellie	Box	Feb 16	Parker	Beal	Feb 26
Connor	Herbert	Feb 7	Nicole	Satchwell	Feb 17			

If you would like to be added or removed from this list,  
please contact the church office at  
(309) 452-4459 or [alunt@firstpresnormal.org](mailto:alunt@firstpresnormal.org).