



DO UNTO OTHERS

IN HIS STEPS - STEWARDSHIP BOOKLET 2024

**First Christian Church & Grace Presbyterian Chapel
San Angelo, TX**

WELCOME TO IN HIS STEPS

Dear FCC + GPC,

The year 2024 marks the beginning of a new journey—one that all of us can join! The journey is called In His Steps. Our 2024 theme is **Do Unto Others** inspired by Matthew 7:12 - Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Known as the Golden Rule, we believe this simple instruction holds power to bring people together through kindness, respect, empathy, humility, and love.

As a church, In His Steps is our plan for seeking God's direction—walking in the steps of Jesus—and utilizing the many resources and talents found at First Christian Church + Grace Presbyterian Chapel as we seek to Do Unto Others

In His Steps brings a focus to five areas of commitment to ministry:

- Worship
- Grow
- Serve
- Give
- Share

During the next several weeks each of these five areas will be highlighted through mailings, newsletters, programs, personal testimonies, and more.

Enclosed in this booklet are the details of the many ministry and service opportunities of our congregation. There are over **60 different ministries** active in the life of our church!

This booklet is a prayer guide!

Take a week or so to read, reflect and pray. Pray about the direction and future of our church. Pray about how you will decide to serve. Pray about how you will give. Write in the margins, make notes, and use this guide as you see fit to help you clarify your calling for 2024.

The week of November 5th, you will receive a **ministry card** that matches this booklet. On that card, you will be able to pledge as many ministries as you feel called to serve.

All cards should be turn into the church office by Sunday, December 3rd.

May we all walk **In His Steps**, together.

Sincerely,

Rev. T.J. Shoop-York

DO UNTO OTHERS

Jesus spoke extensively about serving others and doing good work. It's a fundamental aspect of our faith and something we should strive to embody in our lives.

In Mark 12:30-31, Jesus teaches what he calls the Greatest Commandment. He says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength... Love your neighbor as yourself." This reminds us of the importance of selfless love, treating others with kindness and compassion.

In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus tells the famous story of the Good Samaritan. He shares how a Samaritan showed compassion and care for a stranger in need, standing in contrast to religious leaders who turned a blind eye. Through this parable, Jesus teaches us to help and show mercy to others, regardless of social or religious divisions.

Jesus himself exemplified servant leadership. In Mark 10:45, he says, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Jesus sets an incredible example of humility and selflessness, calling his disciples to follow suit and serve others.

In Matthew 5-7, we find the famous Sermon on the Mount. In this sermon, Jesus encourages us to show kindness, forgiveness, and generosity. He emphasizes the importance of genuine acts of righteousness, done with a sincere heart rather than seeking recognition or praise.

At our church, we take Jesus' teachings seriously. We invite all those actively involved in the life of FCC + GPC to join us as we follow Jesus' example and commit ourselves to these five areas of focus:

1) WORSHIP:

Make a commitment to attend weekly worship and to pray regularly throughout the day.

2) GROW:

Join a small group to study and learn together and spend time reading Scripture daily.

3) SERVE:

Work alongside others to serve our community regularly, blessing at least five people every week.

4) GIVE:

Offer your talents and resources to God and give to others in need at least five times a month.

5) SHARE:

Tell others about what God has done for you and share your faith with at least five people every three months or more.

By making these commitments, we believe that not only will you be blessed, but our church and the world around us will be as well. Let's take Jesus' teachings to heart and live them out, for they are the foundation of our faith and our commitment to the golden rule.

SEVEN STEPS TO CHOOSING YOUR AREAS OF SERVICE:

1. PRAY!

Don't pray about **IF** you should serve, pray about **WHERE!** When you come to God seeking wisdom and are ready to obey, you can be confident your prayer will be heard.

2. INVESTIGATE THE OPTIONS:

Read through this brochure carefully! Feel free to call the church staff or a fellow church member to find out more about a particular ministry. Even if you have served in the same area for years, become familiar with other areas of service so you can remain open to the Holy Spirit's leading.

3. DISCOVER YOUR GIFTS:

Every Christian has spiritual gifts that are given by God. See Romans 12, I Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4. If you've never completed a spiritual gifts survey, consider doing one online at www.teamministry.com.

4. CONSIDER YOUR STRENGTHS:

Your natural abilities can influence your choice of service. Your life experiences can also give you insight and empathy in helping others going through similar situations. Special knowledge such as medical training, technical skills, or construction expertise can open doors for unique aspects of ministry. Musical, artistic, or even athletic talents can, and should, be used to glorify God!

5. ASK YOUR FRIENDS:

Serving with others you know can be a great way to get involved and enjoy fellowship – but be careful not to limit yourself. Serving in your unique areas can also be a great way to meet new people!

6. DO SOMETHING!

Even if you aren't sure what to do, sign up for something. God will bless your willingness, and you'll gain more wisdom in the process.

7. TURN IN YOUR MINISTRY CARD:

When you receive your MINISTRY CARD in the mail, fill it out, and bring it to worship on Sunday, December 3rd, or return it to the church office on or before this date.

love your neighbor as yourself

WORSHIP

We seek to lead people in worship by creating an environment for people to experience the presence of God. As you reflect on how God is leading you to serve, prayerfully consider the following:

1. **Worship Leader** - Lead in the Call to Worship and Communion Prayer
2. **Hospitality Team** - Welcome and assist guests and members prior to the start of worship (training provided)
3. **Servers** - Serve Communion and collect offering during worship
4. **Communion Set-Up** - Prepare Communion for worship
5. **Communion Clean-Up** - Clean up Communion after worship
6. **Audio-Visual Tech Team** - Operate sound, recording, video, and computer during worship or special occasions (training provided)
7. **Decorate for Advent and Easter** - Help decorate (and un-decorate) the Sanctuary for Advent and Easter
8. **Sanctuary Flowers** - Order and set-up Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies
9. **Baptismal Helpers** - Assist baptismal candidates in prayer and by providing help to them as needed on the day of their baptism
10. **Handbells** - Learn to ring handbells (no prior music training necessary) and share the gift of music at various times in worship (Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m.)
11. **Music** - Offer instrumental solos and ensembles during worship and special occasions - Vocalist Shared and Vocal Solo
12. **Sanctuary Choir** - Sing with the Sanctuary Choir, which offers anthems regularly in the 11:00 a.m. worship and at special presentations throughout the year (Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. and no experience is required)
13. **Floral Coordinator** - Help decorate our worship space with seasonal floral arrangements
14. **Communion Bread** - Bake bread for Communion

Let's DO UNTO OTHERS kindness

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

The mission of Children's Ministry is to provide a loving atmosphere that partners with families to build a spiritual foundation to lead each child to Christ.

- 1. Children's Sunday School Teacher** - Commit to teaching children (K-2nd and 3rd-5th) during the Sunday School hour. Teachers rotate among various volunteers and are asked to teach no more than once a month
- 2. Shepherd for Children's Sunday School** - Commit to being the "constant" adult for the children in one age group (either K-2nd or 3rd-5th) for at least 6 weeks
- 3. Worship and Wonder** - Serve during the worship hour as a storyteller or greeter
- 4. Table Leader** - Sit with elementary-age children at a round table in the back of the worship space during the 9:00 a.m. worship time (once every 6 weeks)
- 5. Children's Sponsor** - Be a sponsor for Wednesday evening programming
- 6. Nursery Worker** - Fill in as a nursery worker as needed
- 7. Vacation Bible School** - Spend a week sharing the love of Jesus with children of our community
- 8. Children's Choir** - Serve as a chaperone for the children's choir during the 9 o'clock worship hour once every six weeks
- 9. Rally Sponsor** - Chaperone children on a weekend rally retreat at church camp
- 10. Camp Counselor** - Serve as a camp counselor at a week-long summer camp for children who have completed 3rd-5th grades
- 11. Cook Team** - Cook a meal for Sunday evening activities
- 12. Bus Driver** - Drive children to special activities, camp, and other events (CDL required)

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OTHERS

respect

YOUTH MINISTRIES

We seek to grow in community, spirituality, and openness, as we nurture youth toward being faithful, lifelong disciples of Jesus Christ.

- 1. Youth Sponsor** - Have direct involvement with the spiritual formation of students through our vast range of weekly programs
- 2. Sunday School Teacher** - Help lead Bible Study for youth grades 6th-12th during the Sunday School hour, or be a substitute teacher
- 3. Senior Luncheon Helpers** - Help make Senior Sunday a special day for the youth of FCC+GPC by decorating, cooking, or cleaning for the annual luncheon honoring our graduating seniors
- 4. Fundraiser** - Help raise funds for the annual youth mission trip by joining the youth fundraising team
- 5. Host Home** - Be a neighbor and open your home for youth gatherings, pool parties, lake days, and other events throughout the year
- 6. Cook Team** - Cook a meal for Sunday evening activities
- 7. Bus Driver** - Drive youth to special activities, camps, and other events (CDL required)
- 8. Rally Sponsor** - Join our Jr. High and High School students for a jam-packed weekend retreat as an adult counselor
- 9. Camp Counselor** - Serve as a summer camp counselor for a week for Jr. High and/or High School Students
- 10. Mission Trip Sponsor** - Participate in mission trips that reach beyond the walls of the Church to be the hands and feet of Christ



ADULT EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP MINISTRIES

Adult Education seeks to connect to people in groups that are building caring relationships with meaningful study.

- 1. Sunday School Class Leader** - Lead or teach a college, young adult, or adult class on Sunday morning
- 2. Sunday School Substitute** - Serve as a substitute teacher for an adult class
- 3. Sunday School Participant** - Attend a college, young adult, or adult Sunday school class
- 4. Adult Weekday Studies Teacher** - Teach a college, young adult, or adult class
- 5. Men's Prayer Breakfast** - Join the men of our church during our monthly men's breakfast. Each month we invite a community leader to come and share a devotional and about his or her sphere of influence
- 6. Christian Women's Fellowship Member** - Join other women from FCC+GPC for fellowship, outreach, and Bible study
- 7. Churchwide Hang-Out** - Join the church for our monthly church hangout. Each month we rotate between coffee, lunch, and happy hour
- 8. Game Night** - Join members and friends quarterly in gathering together to play games and other fun fellowship opportunities
- 9. Book Club** - Participate in our book club which meets once a month to discuss a book chosen the month before. Often, the chosen book is written by a secular author
- 10. Mosaic** - Volunteer for our growing College Ministry. Specific needs will be matched with you abilities and willingness to serve

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humility

MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

We seek to spread the gospel through words and deeds across our city, nation, and world.

1. **Christmas Basket Ministry** - Help celebrate the birth of Christ by adopting a child in need
 - **Serving Opportunities:** contribute money, purchase and wrap gifts, and/or deliver gifts and food boxes

(Other similar outreaches include Thanksgiving and Easter Food Baskets)

2. **Food Pantry** - Help unload trucks and stock shelves, serve on Monday to assist clients, help clients get the food to their car, restock shelves/bags as needed, work at the intake desk, and/or close up the pantry

3. **Church in Society** - Serve on our outreach team to plan and lead mission work locally and globally

4. **Downtown Trick-or-Treat** - Join others in creating a safe community Halloween event in the downtown area

5. **Breakfast with the Grinch & Friends** - Help create this community event for children and their families

- **Serving Opportunities:** Set up/take down, food prep/serving, arts and crafts, and/or participate as a character

6. **Meals for the Elderly** - Deliver hot meals to community homebound residents during the months of November and April

7. **Sunshine Project** - Help bring a ray of sunshine to our downtown neighbors with random acts of kindness during the fall.

8. **Ramp Builder** - Join our ramp team and build a ramp for a family in need

9. **Helping Hands** - Help repair a senior citizen's home in April

10. **Shoe Voucher** - Buy a \$50.00 shoe voucher for school-age kids

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love

CHURCH FAMILY CARE

Our goal is to strengthen and support our current and future members through intentional Christian community.

- 1. Special Meal Cooking** - prepare, serve, or deliver a meal (meals are often provided for funerals or memorial services, for those who are homebound, returning home after a stay in the hospital, or for those who are ill.)
- 2. Fellowship Dinners** - Help with church lunches and fellowship meals
 - **Serving Opportunities:** decorate tables, bring food, set up/clean up
- 3. Flowers to Homebound** - Deliver flowers that remain after a wedding, funeral, or special service to the ill or homebound
- 4. Saint Shuttle Driver & Rider** - Help us offer a "pick up" service to those who might need assistance in coming to church
- 5. Wedding Coordinator** - Serve as a representative of FCC+GPC as you assist wedding parties before and during the ceremony
- 6. Note Writer** - Join a team to write handwritten notes to members of FCC+GPC
- 7. Lenten Devotional** - Write a devotional for the 2024 Lenten season
- 8. Special Events Coordinator** - Serve as a representative of FCC + GPC when groups use church facilities for baby showers, concerts, or other events
- 9. Care Connections** - Join members of FCC+GPC once a quarter as we reach out and visit members in our congregation who are no longer able to be actively involved in church due to medical challenges or age. We divide into groups to visit one or two members and offer communion (training provided)

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Compassion

PROPERTY MINISTRIES

Property Ministries strive to create a safe, comfortable, and friendly environment that makes it easy for people to focus on Christ.

1. **Work Day Team** - Help with light maintenance and repairs to the church grounds and facilities, including painting, minor carpentry work, or miscellaneous small repairs
2. **Vehicle Care and Maintenance** - Assist with routine maintenance and if needed, deliver and/or pick up the vehicles to be professionally serviced

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship works to provide opportunities for members to share in Christ's work by using their time, talents, and finances.

1. **Ministry Moment** - Share your experience of service through your personal encounter with Prayer, Service, Gifts and Presence

DIDN'T SEE YOUR MINISTRY?

1. **Wherever I Am Needed** - Be available to help in a variety of ways
2. **My New Ministry** - You tell us where you want to serve! What new passion and dreams are welling up inside of you?

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patience

GIVING

In addition to selecting one or more areas of volunteer service, **In His Steps** is also your opportunity as a family to make a commitment to give financially to the church in the year ahead. Giving is one of the fundamental ways that we demonstrate our love and gratitude to God; provide for the poor, the widows and the orphans; and support the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ in our city and around the world.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT GIVING:

1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF A GIVING PLEDGE ON THE COMMITMENT CARD?

Making a commitment to give is an act of worship and an expression of gratitude to God. On a practical level, your commitments allow us to better budget and plan our ministries.

2. WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A TITHE AND AN OFFERING?

A tithe is the first tenth of your income. An offering is any gift above and beyond that amount.

3. WHAT IF I WANT TO MAKE A PLEDGE, BUT I'M NOT SURE WHAT MY INCOME WILL BE?

Your pledge is ultimately between you and God. Make your best estimate of what you feel led to give by faith, and then trust God to provide for your needs. If your income changes unexpectedly, God will certainly know and understand what you are able to give.

4. IN WHAT WAYS CAN I GIVE?

You may place cash or checks in the collection basket during worship services or mail, drop off your gift during the week to the church office, or give online! Gifts of stocks, endowments, and other assets may also be set up through our Endowment Fund.

5. WILL I RECEIVE A CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT?

Yes, provided you do not give anonymously, statements will be mailed to you quarterly or can be sent to your e-mail account upon request.

2024 BUDGET NARRATIVE

This has been an amazing year for FCC + GPC! We've started new ministries, added new members, and are continuing to reach out to our community. Welcoming all and spreading the love of Christ is what we're all about! On the next page, you will see our 2024 "proposed" budget. Just like in budgeting for our household expenses, we know that costs tend to go up each year. Our programs are growing and with that growth comes increased expense. Please prayerfully consider your pledge. Most of all, thank you for all you do to make FCC + GPC such a wonderful place to worship, gather as a church family and serve others.

BUDGET CATEGORIES

Pastoral/Other Staff - All salaries and costs associated with the ministers of our church and non-ministerial staff

Administrative - All costs related to publication, printing, postage, and office technology

Worship - All costs of music and supplies for our worship services and special programs

Property - All costs related to day-to-day maintenance and upkeep of the church's physical assets and utilities

Nurture - All costs for luncheons and fellowship events

Children/Youth/College Ministries - All costs related to Children/Youth/College ministries, events, and activities

Education - All costs related to adult education for Sunday school and weeknight programming

Church Growth - All costs related to the promotion of the church and its programs

Outreach/Mission (Internal) - All costs related to funding outreach, plus all costs for the weekly food pantry and other church outreach events

Pledged Mission (External)- The pledged support from FCC + GPC to Disciples Mission Fund, House of Faith, Lake Brownwood, Presbyterian Children's Home, Southwest Good Samaritans Ministry, Tres Rios Presbytery, and others.

BUDGET & PROPOSAL

DRAFT BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2024

Pending approval from the congregation

EXPENSE

*Pastoral Staff \$300,450

Other Staff \$175, 635

Administration \$21,600

Worship \$12,580

Property \$145,700

Nurture \$5,600

Children/Youth/College \$30,800

Education \$4,700

Church Growth \$5,300

Outreach/Mission (Internal) \$20,000

Pledged Mission (External) \$20,000

TOTAL \$742,365

REVENUE

Congregational Giving \$558,665

FCC Carson/Shaddix Fund \$30,800

(Annual funding for youth/families)

FCC Carson/Shaddix Fund \$95,400

(Funding for Youth Minister position)

FCC Russell Building Fund \$25,000

(Designated for building insurance)

FCC Endowment Reserve Fund \$20,000

FCC Memorial Fund \$7,500

(\$2500 designated for Choir scholarships)

Grace Presbyterian Foundation \$5,000

TOTAL \$742,365

Note: *The Pastoral Staff includes \$95,400 for a full-time associate minister

MISSIONS & OUTREACH GIVING

MISSIONS \$96,797

Breakfast with the Grinch: \$1,474
Camps: \$4,645
Christian Church in the Southwest: \$2,000
Christmas Baskets: \$1,176
Christmas Offering: \$918
Compassion International (child sponsorship): \$471
Disciples Mission Fund: \$2,000
Easter Baskets: \$73
Family Shelter: \$261
God's Storehouse (Food Pantry): \$43,660
Helping Hands Blitz Worship: \$110
House of Faith: \$2,204
Homeless Coalition: \$576
Individual in Community: \$80
Joy Offering: \$50
Lake Brownwood Retreat: \$12,000
Mosaic: \$100
One Great Hour of Sharing: \$813
Project Dignidad- Shoes for School: \$10,559
Presbyterian Children's Home: \$2,204
Special Offering: \$1,200
Sunshine Project: \$1,240
SW Good Samaritan Ministries: \$2,543
Tres Rios Border Foundation: \$543
Tres Rios Presbytery: \$2,204
United Campus Ministries: \$1,500
Vacation Bible School: \$1,130
Week of Compassion: \$813
Zeteo Missions: \$250

MISSION AND
OUTREACH GIVEN
BY FCC + GPC
OVER THE LAST
12 MONTHS!

GIFTS-IN-KIND (\$10,000)

Approximate value and items collected for various mission projects including: Easter Baskets, Christmas Baskets, Food for the Pantry, and use of the facilities by outside organizations.

TOTAL ESTIMATED MISSION/OUTREACH: \$106,797

WHAT TO DO NOW?:

Pray and ponder how God is calling you to serve in 2024.

Please complete a MINISTRY CARD and indicate your commitment of time, talent, and treasure.

(MINISTRY CARDS will be mailed in early November)

HELPFUL INFORMATION:

Every youth (grades 6-12) and adult completes their own separate card for ministries, but you can pledge finances jointly.

All information is confidential. The card separates so that the different portions of the card (ministry and financial) are handled by only the appropriate people.

Please bring your completed MINISTRY CARD to worship on December 3.

If you are unable to be present, you may bring them the next week or mail them to the church office.

Lets DO UNTO
OTHERS

kindness

respect

empathy

humility

love

compassion

patience

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH & GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHAPEL
RELIES ON THE MINISTRY OF LAY PEOPLE!