



The Light of Belonging: God's Gracious Embrace at Work Among Us

Across Grace Presbytery, new seeds are being planted — and in some places, the first tender shoots are beginning to rise.

This fall, First Presbyterian Church, Waco joins the inaugural cohort of Renewed Grace, an initiative by Grace Presbytery funded by a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. **FPC Waco and the other churches in the cohort** will be working to include neurodivergent children in their worship practices. **Renewed Grace** is an endeavor being guided with wisdom and care by Ruth Román-Meza, Renewed Grace Program Coordinator, and Rev. Dr. Jen Bluestein, Renewed Grace Project Director and Grace Presbytery Coordinator of Generational Leadership Development. Their commitment reflects something larger than a single congregation's programmatic step. It marks a moment of spiritual listening — the Church attending to the parts of the Body of Christ that have long been overlooked, misunderstood, undernourished.

It is holy work — both tender and transformative — and I want to celebrate it. But more than celebration, I want to extend an invitation. In this first cohort's brave beginning, I sense the Spirit's gentle nudge for all of us — across our South Region — to pause and wonder:

Where are we being called to listen more deeply to the children, families, and members among us who experience and communicate differently?

How might we, in our own congregations, become more aware of God's shimmering light of belonging — shining into corners we are only beginning to see?

The Church has always been a living body, and the health of one part brings life to all. As First Waco begins this journey, may we hold them in prayer, celebrating the courage to begin!

My hope is that this will be the first of many seeds taking root across our presbytery and region — that, together, we will cultivate more fertile soil for communities of inclusion, empathy, and grace.

May God's luminous Spirit continue to midwife renewal through us all — breathing love into every effort, radiating belonging in every place, and remembering the Body of Christ, piece by tender piece.

In gratitude and hope,
Judith

Come to a Regional Lunch this Fall!



Wed 10/29th 11:30-12:30 All church leaders are invited. Looking forward to hearing about ministry in the Belton area--including the new Celtic Spirituality worshipping community. **The Gin at Nolan Creek: 219 S. East St. Belton.**



Wed 11/19th 11:30-12:30 All church leaders are invited. Hoping to hear all about ministry happening in the Rockdale/Cameron "south of the south" region!
Julio's Mexican Restaurant 1533 W. Cameron Ave. Rockdale

Join Presbytery Colleagues on Zoom 11/3 at 7pm



for fellowship, prayer, and a presentation from Rev. Christopher Lee on stewardship and generosity in Grace Presbytery. We'll celebrate God's provision, look ahead to 2026, and discuss the importance of supporting our shared ministry. Please email sharon@gracepresbytery.org for the Zoom link. We hope to get to visit with you next Monday, November 3rd, starting at 7:00 PM.

Southern Region Church Happenings!

First Presbyterian Church, Rockdale, recently hosted an Ice Cream Social. Lovely toe-tapping, mood-setting music was provided by the Communities in Concert Band.



Please, Share Your Church Story!

Shining light on your own fellowship, ministry, or mission might spark new ideas for another congregation! Click to share photos, ministry updates, joys and more! **[Regional Spotlight Submissions Here!](#)**

Visit gracepresbytery.org for more info on presbytery programs.

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