

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

NOVEMBER 2020 | Volume 20, Number 11



Drive By Event

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

BENEFITING PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER AND THANKSGIVING BASKET PROJECT

Please come to the FPC campus on Sunday November 8 from 12:30 to 2 p.m. for a drive-by event at the FPC Great Hall Porch. This is an all-church blitz to collect non-perishable items for the Presbyterian Night Shelter breakfasts and lunches and for the Thanksgiving Basket Project. Members of the Evangelism and Mission and Outreach Committees will be on hand to greet you and collect your donations while you remain in your vehicle. Here are the items that are needed:

PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER:

- Granola/protein bars
- Snack-sized fruit cups and applesauce
- Individual-sized chips
- Cheese/peanut butter crackers
- 16 oz. water bottles
- Plastic spoons

THANKSGIVING BASKETS:

- One 15 oz. can yams
- One 15 oz. can cranberry sauce
- One 15 oz. can corn
- One 15 oz. can green beans
- One 15 oz. can fruit
- One 15 oz. can chicken broth
- One package or box instant mashed potatoes (minimum 4 servings)
- One 6 oz. package flavored Jello
- One 14 oz. bag stuffing mix (or 2 boxes Stove Top type mix)
- One box cake mix
- One can cake frosting
- One container Crystal Light, Koolaid, or small box tea bags

Please note that there are two additional drop-off times for Thanksgiving Basket items: Thursday, November 5 and Thursday, November 12, from 9:30 to 10 a.m.

Please contact Chris Bartley, Discipleship Coordinator, (cbartley@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 252) with any questions. Thank you in advance for your help with these important ministries. We look forward to seeing you!



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear saints,

That's right. Saints. Literally, *holy ones*. That's you. That's me. That's us. And not just us...

The saints include all who follow Jesus Christ. The saints also include the faithful who have gone before us. We are a part of the communion (community) of saints. (Interestingly, the New Testament only includes the plural use of saints.) The communion (community) of saints experiences unity in Jesus Christ. It is a unity that transcends time and geography. What a community we share as God's holy ones. What a gift.

As we gather online for worship this Sunday, November 1, we are gathering on All Saints Day. In worship we will remember those personally dear to us, we will name aloud those members of First Presbyterian Church who died in the last year, and we will come to the Table celebrating our unity in Jesus Christ with the full communion of saints from all times and places.

Words from the hymn *For All the Saints* captures well the beauty of All Saints Day:

*O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!*
(William Walsham Howe, 1864)

I hope you will make every effort to gather online for worship this Sunday. And throughout the month of November, make time to continue giving thanks to God for all the saints.

God's peace to you,

Michael

Prayer During the Pastoral Search

The Session commends the following prayer written by the Spiritual Formation Subcommittee for our use during the pastoral search. Please pray it frequently in your own personal prayer time and in committees and virtual gatherings of the church.

Holy God,

We praise and thank you for your steadfast love of our church and humbly ask your guidance and blessing as you lead us to the pastor you are calling to this place.

Nurture and guide your servant for sharing ministry among us. Prepare our hearts to receive his or her gifts.

Give us the courage to speak truthfully and compassionately, so that we might be a building up of Your church. Teach us all the way of Jesus: to walk humbly with you, seeking justice and mercy.

Joyfully, we thank you for your Holy Spirit who enlightens and enlivens the path for each of us.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the DECEMBER issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, NOVEMBER 18**. Submissions for the weekly Penn Street Online emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue. Please send to Pam Burkholder at pamb@fpcfw.org.

FOLLOW US

Do you follow First Presbyterian on social media? If not, find us on the following sites and follow along for photos, reminders, encouragement, and more.



@firstpresfw



@firstpres_fw



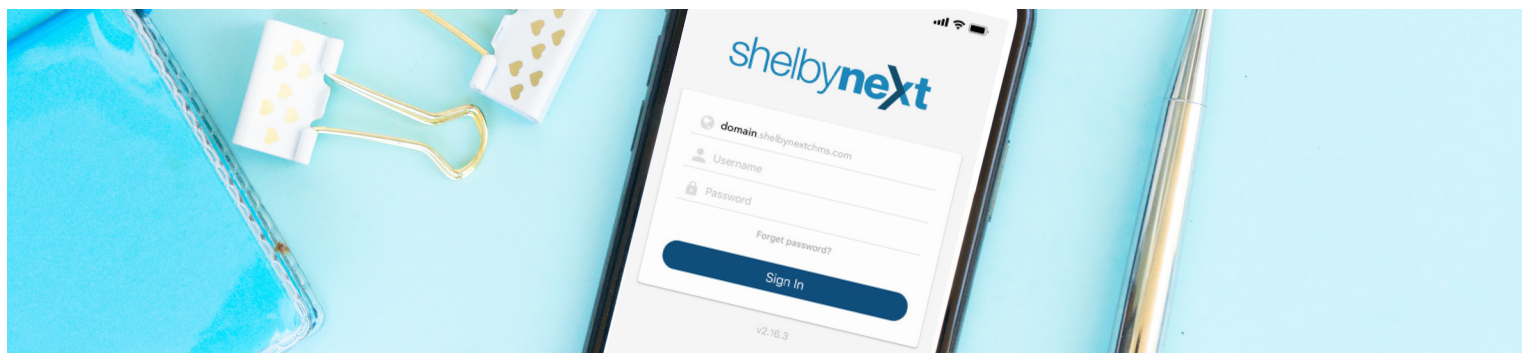
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NEW FOR 2020:

ShelbyNext Online Directory, Online and Mobile App Pledging

In June 2020, First Presbyterian Church launched the ShelbyNext online membership directory as a part of our redesigned website. This directory allows each church member to access your own contact and demographic information, pledges, giving history, and online directory. (For other church members, you are able to view their name, address, cell number, home number, and email address.) This system also allows secure online giving and pledging through the website or mobile app.

How do I get the ShelbyNext membership app?

You can download the free ShelbyNext Membership App in the app store or Google Play store.

How do I access ShelbyNext through the web?

To access the directory, visit the church website at fpcfw.org. Select Resources at the top of the page, and then select Membership Directory.

How do I set up my ShelbyNext account?

In order to pledge online or through the ShelbyNext Membership app, or access the online membership directory, you will need to set up an account through ShelbyNext. To access the directory, open the mobile app, or visit the church website and select Resources at the top of the page, and select Membership Directory. When the login screen displays on the app or online directory, click on Forgot Password, and enter your email address. (The directory is only accessible to those with a valid email address already on file with the church.) If the email you entered matches the email address on file with the church, you will receive an email (this may take several hours) with your Username and Password. Use your assigned Username and Password to login through the app or online.

What if I don't have an email address on file at the church?

What if my email address has changed, or I am not sure which one I used?

To update your email address, please contact Patty O'Brien, pobrien@fpcfw.org.

How do I make my 2021 pledge online?

1. Login to your account in the ShelbyNext Membership Directory.
2. Click on the Giving tab under your name.
3. Click + Pledge.
4. In the Campaign field, choose 2021 Budget.
5. Set Start Date to 01/01/2021 and End Date to 12/31/2021.
6. In the Frequency field, choose how often you plan to give (Weekly, Bi-Weekly, Semi-Monthly, Monthly, Bi-Monthly,

Quarterly, Semi-Annually, or Annually).

7. In the Periodic Amount field, enter the dollar amount you plan to give each week/month/quarter/year.

8. The Total Amount field will automatically calculate your 2021 Pledge based on what you entered in the Frequency and Period Amount fields.

9. Click Pledge.

10. Your 2021 Pledge for First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth is now active! Thank you for your commitment to FPCFW.

How do I make my 2021 Pledge through the ShelbyNext Membership app?

1. Tap your name at the bottom of the screen.
2. Tap the Giving tab on the right side of the screen and scroll down to the Pledges heading.
3. Tap +Create new pledge.
4. In the Campaign field, choose 2021 Budget.
5. Set Start Date to 01/01/2021 and End Date to 12/31/2021.
6. In the Frequency field, choose how often you plan to give (Weekly, Bi-Weekly, Semi-Monthly, Monthly, Bi-Monthly, Quarterly, Semi-Annually, or Annually).
7. In the Periodic Amount field, enter the dollar amount you plan to give each week/month/quarter/year.
8. The Total Amount field will automatically calculate your 2021 Pledge based on the amount what you entered in the Frequency and Periodic Amount fields.
9. Tap Create at the top right of the screen.
10. Your 2021 Pledge to First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth is now active! Thank you for your commitment to FPCFW.

Can I get a monthly contribution statement?

Contact Wes Hogue (whogue@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231 ext. 226) to receive a monthly statement via email.

What if I still have questions or need more help?

If you have questions about the app or online pledging, or need assistance, please contact Dana Fickling, Church Administrator at dfickling@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 227.

BE INSPIRED...

Below are some upcoming opportunities for being inspired into a life of discipleship through church events in the coming weeks.



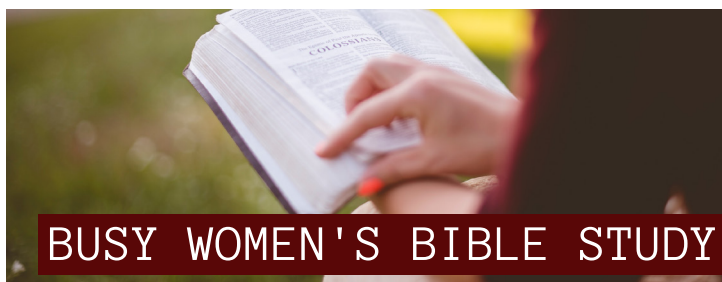
Book People Book Group are continuing to meet this fall through Zoom. The November 9 book is *A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II* by Sonia Purcell. If you are interested in being a part of this group, please contact Ellen Peck (ecrowl7672@aol.com) or Barbara Reece (reecebka@aol.com).



WORSHIP HANDBELLS ARTS MUSIC

The Younger Children's Choir are participating at home in weekly choir videos. The Older Children have completed an art class in Drawing, taught by Austin Stubblefield and are currently learning to sing hymns in a new way using American Sign Language with Rebecca Sawyer.

Beginning November 15, there is an opportunity for all children grades 2-5 to take a virtual class in how to play Ukulele with Laura Collins. The church will provide the ukulele if you sign up in time for us to deliver an instrument to you. We have 10 instruments and can order more if registrations are made in time to have them shipped. For more info or to sign up, contact Rebecca Sawyer, rsawyer@fpcfw.org.



Bring your lunch, Bible, and desire to learn and fellowship! Busy Women's Bible Study meets at 11:20 a.m. Mondays on Zoom, through November 16. We'll take a winter break, and resume in January. We will use the LifeChange Bible Study on Romans (available on Amazon). This letter to the Romans was written by Paul in 56 AD, before the Gospels. There will be some homework. For more information or to register, contact Lisa Waldron (lisawaldron58@gmail.com or 817.239.3807) or Karen Steffler (kcs249@aol.com or 817.313.5169).



FPC's Spiritual Formation Subcommittee is pleased to offer several Zoom-based educational opportunities for Fall 2020. Visit fpcfw.org/spiritualformation for more information or to register for these classes. You may also contact the church office (817.335.1231) with questions or to register by phone.

COMPANIONS ON THE JOURNEY: Sundays, November 1 through December 13, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. The spiritual journey into the heart of God has many signposts along the way and many fellow travelers who have lighted the path for those who follow. In this class we will meet six individuals who have been influential teachers throughout the centuries. By listening to the voices from this Great Cloud of Witnesses and learning something of their lives with God, we can find mentors for deepening our own relationship with the Holy and gain insight into the rich history of spiritual disciplines in the Christian tradition. A team of facilitators from the Spiritual Formation Subcommittee will lead this class.



2021 Committee Nominations Needed

Would you like to serve on an FPC Committee? Know someone who would? The Nominating Committee has begun meeting this month to update the membership of church committees for 2021. Please take a minute to nominate yourself or someone you think is interested in sharing their gifts with the church on a 2021 Committee.

The following is a list of FPC committees: Adult Christian Nurture Committee, Children's Christian Nurture Committee, Youth Christian Nurture Committee, Communications Committee, Congregational Care Committee, Evangelism Committee, Fellowship Committee, Finance Committee, Mission Outreach Committee, Nominating Committee, Personnel Committee, Property Committee, Stewardship Committee, Wellness Committee, and Worship and Music Committee.

You may submit nominations by email to Patty O'Brien (pobrien@fpcfw.org). If you have questions, please contact Nominating Committee Co-Chair, Charlie Gibbs (charlie222@yahoo.com).

ENGAGE THE WORLD...

Below are a few ways you are invited to engage with others through church events and outreach opportunities in the coming weeks.



FPC Christmas Toy Store, 2020 Style!



Every December for the past few years, the Mission Outreach Committee of FPC hosts a Christmas Toy Store. This annual outreach event provides parents and guardians the opportunity to "shop" with dignity through a donation-provided store of new children's toys, clothing, and family games for a small fee per child. The store benefits people connected to FPC ministries through Community Crossroads food and clothing, Formula and Diapers Ministry, and Worship on Wednesdays. Each year, over 300 children are served!

Even in these strange Covid-19 times, we will have a modified version of the Toy Store, and we need your help in two ways:

This year, we are asking for monetary donations instead of toys.



Instead of the traditional store style setup, this year's event will be a drive-thru on December 12. Our neighbors will select types of toys from a list at registration. We will buy most of the toys online and bag them, and neighbors will drive through Community Crossroads and pick them up. In order to purchase all of the toys and books, we are asking for monetary donations. *Please do not purchase toys or books.* If you are able and would like to help, you may send a check or cash to FPC with "Toy Store" in the memo line.

We still need volunteers!

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Mary Kay Roberto (marykay.roberto@sbcglobal.net or 817-946-1125) or Donna Laminack (dlyn22@hotmail.com or 817-988-2809). There are three ways to volunteer:

- Registration. Contactless registration will be done at Community Crossroads Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 am to 1:30 p.m. in October, as well as during FAD on October 19 from 9 to 11 a.m. Neighbors will be in their cars and volunteers will fill out registration cards and toy selections while remaining socially distanced.
- Sort and bag. At yet to be determined times, sort and bag toys and books. Most of this will be done late November and early December.
- Distribute toys. On December 12 at Community Crossroads, move bags from storage to the pick-up area during various shifts from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Read the Bible in 9 Months

You are invited to join an exciting Bible reading program at First Presbyterian. Now in its tenth season, the Reading the Bible in 9 Months program – which has involved over 250 members and friends – is a daily reading program that weaves together both testaments in an enlightening and enriching experience of our history as God's people.

A feature of the Reading the Bible in 9 Months program includes the opportunity for monthly Zoom check-in meetings from October – May. During these one hour Sunday afternoon gatherings (3 p.m. on the 1st Sunday of the month), participants in the program are invited to come together for support, encouragement, and to engage questions that the readings have raised. Engaging in the reading program does not require attendance at the monthly meetings; they are simply available if you would find them helpful.

The complete reading plan is available at fpcf.org/rb9m. If you have any questions about the program or Bible study opportunities at FPC, contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski (817.335.1231 ext. 229, or michaelw@fpcf.org).

November 1: Psalm 88; Numbers 18-21
November 2: Psalm 89; Numbers 22-24
November 3: Psalm 90; Numbers 25-27
November 4: Psalm 91; Numbers 28-30
November 5: Psalm 92; Numbers 31-33
November 6: Psalm 93; Numbers 34-36
November 7: Proverbs 11-14
November 8: Proverbs 15-18
November 9: Proverbs 19-21
November 10: Proverbs 22-26
November 11: Proverbs 27-31
November 12: Ecclesiastes 1-6
November 13: Ecclesiastes 7-12
November 14: Song of Solomon
November 15: Isaiah 1-3
November 16: Isaiah 4,5
November 17: Isaiah 6-8
November 18: Isaiah 9-11
November 19: Isaiah 12-14
November 20: Isaiah 15-19
November 21: Isaiah 20-23
November 22: Isaiah 24-26
November 23: Isaiah 27-29
November 24: Isaiah 30-32
November 25: Isaiah 33-35
November 26: Isaiah 36-38
November 27: Isaiah 39-41
November 28: Isaiah 42-44
November 29: Isaiah 45-48
November 30: Isaiah 49-51



Welcome, New Members!

Ali and Scott Haney joined First Presbyterian Church by reaffirmation of faith on Tuesday, October 6. The couple's daughter, Hazel, will be in the FPC Early Education Center beginning in November.



Fall Youth Activities: Sunday Youth Group and Wednesday Small Groups

During this virtual season we are in, all youth are invited to participate in Zoom youth activities! Currently on Sundays, Zoom Middle School Youth Group meets at 4 p.m., and Zoom High School Youth Group meets at 5 p.m. On Wednesday evenings, our small groups are currently meeting outside in members' backyards (with masks and physical distancing). While we continue onwards in this unprecedented time, we are working to meet the spiritual needs of our young people as best we can. Please encourage your youth to give it a try! Our Youth Group theme this Fall is "Now. Here. This.," which is all about learning to live in the present moment with God.

For the Zoom info or to join any of these groups, contact Josh (josh@fpcf.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 251).

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as October 22, 2020. To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

Our loving sympathy to...

Family and friends of **Jeannie Wolfe**, who died September 24. She is survived by her husband, **Dennis Wolfe**.

Phyllis Tolles on the death of her sister, Pat Apperson, on October 3 in Boise, Idaho.

Family and friends of **Lloyd Day**, who died on October 6. He is survived by his wife **Barbara Day**.

Family and friends of **Lometa Jenkins**, who died on October 9.

David and Andrea Frankenfield on the death of his brother-in-law, Mark Danahy, on October 12 in Round Rock.

Family and friends of Kathryn Breitbarth, who died on October 16.

Family and friends of **Joanne Sarsgard**, who died on October 17.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Susie Kuipers, **Sarah Graham**, **Julie Carter**, and **Mary Jane Witt**, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Jimmy Burnett, **Claire Midkiff**, **Jim Goble**, **Barbara Reece**, **Karl Kuipers**, **Dorothy Kinser**, **Floyd Kinser**, **Jerry Brownlee**, **Eliot Kerlin**, **Joyce Brower**, **Janelle Eklund**, **Frank Stewart**, **Karl Travis**, **Rush Hart**, **Marilyn Wilson**, **Phyllis Propes**, **Emma Coley**, and **Frances Blake**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Cora McCoy (mother-in-law of **Lesley McCoy**), Paula Perkins (sister of **Susie Kuipers**), Audrey Hart (great-granddaughter of **Bob and Jane Trask**), Ann Welch (sister of **Andrea Frankenfield**), Mike Bryan (son-in-law of **Mary Alice Dobesh**), Nancy Hatfield (mother of **Sarah Haddock**), Patrick Denton (nephew of **Bill and Pat Gordon**), Lynn Prater (daughter of **Harlene Satterfield**); Bill Neil (brother of **Marilyn Love**), Janet Laminack (cousin of **Julie Sphar** and **Vance Laminack**), John DeMore (son-in-law of **June Sprott**), Lisa Koenig (niece of **Wanda Williams**), Kathy Kline (**Maxine Kruse's** daughter), and Susan Chenault (**Frances Chenault's** daughter).

Prayers for peace in our world, for the safety of Nathan Gunter (**Russell and Vivian Norment's** nephew) who is stationed in Korea. Also for the safety of **Diego A. Saldivar**, who is serving in the US Navy; Diego is the son of Becky and Rene Saldivar. And for the safety of **Thomas Shelby**, who is serving in the US Navy, deployed in Japan. Thomas is the son of **Ellen Buck** and the grandson of **Vance and Donna Laminack**.

Prayers for those affected by the coronavirus pandemic including medical professionals and healthcare providers.

Prayers for Cindy Corell, our mission co-worker in Haiti. Prayers for peace and resolution for the people of Haiti.

Our congratulations and best wishes to...

Miki Dudzinski and **John Dunn** on their wedding on September 10.

Mary Amelia and **Peyton Moss**, who were married October 10. Mary Amelia is the daughter of **Amy and Donovan Williamson**.



OCTOBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its October 18 Stated Meeting the Session:

- Was led in an opening devotion and prayer by elder Dottie Schroeder.
- Approved the Consent Agenda (included minutes of the August Stated meeting and October 3 special meeting; as well as a \$5,000 grant to Ferncliff Camp (Arkansas))
- Heard reports from the Clerk and the Pastors.
- Received the Monthly Update from the Work Group on Reopening, including an update on the successful small group gatherings to date.

DON'T FORGET TO SIGN IN DURING WORSHIP

Please remember to register your presence in worship each Sunday using the "Online Worshipers, Click Here" button on fpcfw.org/worship. Think of this as the same as entering your information in a blue Ritual of Friendship pad during in-person worship. It is important to the ministries of FPC to know who is worshipping with us, especially during the time when we cannot be together in person.



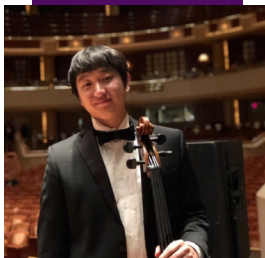
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First Presbyterian Church
1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

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Fort Worth, TX 76102

Church Office
Ph: 817.335.1231
Fax: 817.335.5663

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PENNStArts presents

A VIRTUAL ORGAN CONCERT

Saturday, November 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Ahreum Han Congdon, First Presbyterian Church's Director of Music and organist will present works by J.S. Bach, Widor, and Rheinberger's Suite for Organ Trio and Strings, with Hana Kim, violin, and Hamin Kim, cello.

FPCFW.ORG/PENNSTREETARTS