

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

FEBRUARY 2021 | Volume 21, Number 2

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (VIRTUAL): SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 FOR THE PURPOSE OF HEARING THE REPORT OF THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting (via Zoom), at the request of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), to hear the report of the PNC and their nomination of the next Pastor/Head of Staff for First Presbyterian Church. Details about the candidate will be shared in the Congregational Meeting, and, upon election, the Terms of Call will also be acted upon. At the invitation of the Session Moderator, the Congregational Meeting will be moderated by the Committee on Ministry liaison who has been working with the PNC throughout their search process as we celebrate the connectional nature of our church.

Moderator of Session, the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski, consulted with the Stated Clerk of Grace Presbytery about options for holding congregational meetings when the pandemic prevents meeting in person. Both the 2004 General Assembly, through an Authoritative Interpretation of F-3.0205 in the *Book of Order*, and Robert's Rules of Order define a congregational meeting as a "deliberative assembly." In order to deliberate, members must be able to simultaneously hear each other during discussion of motions. Zoom meetings qualify as a deliberative assembly as it

is a simultaneous gathering. Members will be able to join the meeting by computer, smartphone, iPad, or a telephone call (no computer or internet access is required, therefore.) As the election of a Pastor must occur by ballot, procedures for using the polling function on Zoom as well as for those participating by phone call will be explained in the meeting.

Active members of First Presbyterian Church are entitled to vote in the calling of a pastor and active membership will be verified upon registration. In order to receive the required Zoom link or telephone access number, Contact Patty O'Brien in the church office (817.335.1231, ext. 223 or pobrien@fpcfww.org). The access link or telephone code will be sent a few days prior to the meeting. (The link will not be made public in order to keep the meeting secure.) Please make every effort to participate in this exciting and important meeting.

If you have questions about the virtual Congregational Meeting, please contact the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski at 817.335.1231 ext. 229 or michaelw@fpcfww.org.



KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

PARKING LOT SERVICE AT 10 A.M. (WEATHER PERMITTING) WITH BAGPIPES AND DRUMS!



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

I want to commend you all for your perseverance and steadfast faith in these trying times. You continue to be the church and demonstrate your trust in God who holds us all together even when it has felt that our world is coming apart. The compassion, the joy, the forgiveness you show are evidence of the Holy Spirit working in your lives. I continue to pray for our church family to "encourage one another and build up each other" (1 Thess. 5.11) as we press on in faithfulness.

It was Lent a year ago that the pandemic hit and changed the world as we know it. We begin another Lent this month with Ash Wednesday on February 17. More than ever perhaps, we recognize the fragility of our lives and the deep need for Jesus our Savior, and the weeks of Lent prepare our hearts for the fullness that the risen Christ brings. Accordingly, our Lenten theme this year is "Cultivating and Letting Go." This past year has given ample time to consider what we want to cultivate and nurture with our time and attention and what we can let go (control, for one!). If you are weary and needing some renewal in your faith, may your spiritual practices this Lent open your spirit and our church to new growth.

I am looking forward to the weeks ahead together: the preparation for a new pastor, the completion of Community Crossroads, the continuation of living into a flourishing family of faith. May it be so, with God's help!

Peace,

Robyn

January Session Highlights

At its January 17, 2021 Stated Meeting the Session:

- Was led in an opening devotion and prayer by the Moderator.
- Approved the Consent Agenda (including minutes of the December stated meeting; minutes of special meetings to receive new members; and the Child and Youth Protection Policy Annual Report.)
- Heard reports from the Clerk and the Pastors.
- Heard the Report of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) that a call has been extended to a candidate. Session called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, February 7, at 12.30 p.m. via Zoom, to act upon the nomination of the PNC (see separate article on page one of this issue) and approved the Terms of Call to be presented at the Congregational Meeting.
- Heard an update from the Mission Outreach Committee on plans to engage in the Matthew 25 Initiative of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that Session approved in 2020.
- Upon recommendation from the Finance Committee approved a Provisional 2021 Budget, with final budget to be approved at the February Stated Meeting.
- Received the Monthly Update from the Work Group on Reopening, including celebrating the creative ministry outreach of various committees and education about how to register for the vaccine. (Look for additional information in upcoming issues of the PSO and PSL.)
- Adjourned with prayer.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the MARCH issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, FEBRUARY 17**. 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



@firstpres_fw

PUBLISHER INFO

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Read the Bible in 9 Months

You are invited to join an exciting Bible reading program at First Presbyterian. Now in its tenth season, Reading the Bible in 9 Months 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 Reading the Bible in 9 Months includes the opportunity for monthly Zoom meetings from October – May. During these one hour gatherings (3 p.m. on the 1st Sunday of the month), participants 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 fpcfw.org/rb9m. If you have any questions about the program or Bible study opportunities at FPC, contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschewski (817.335.1231 ext. 229, or michaelw@fpcfw.org).

February 1: Joshua 1-5
February 2: Joshua 6-8
February 3: Joshua 9-14
February 4: Joshua 15-21
February 5: Joshua 22-24
February 6: Judges 1-5
February 7: Judges 6-8
February 8: Judges 9-12
February 9: Judges 13-16
February 10: Judges 17-21
February 11: Ruth
February 12: Psalm 104; Matthew 1-4
February 13: Psalm 105; Matthew 5-7
February 14: Psalm 106; Matthew 8,9
February 15: Psalm 107; Matthew 10,11
February 16: Psalm 108; Matthew 12-14
February 17: Psalm 109; Matthew 15-17
February 18: Psalm 110; Matthew 18-20
February 19: Psalm 111; Matthew 21-25
February 20: Psalm 112; Matthew 26-28
February 21: Psalm 113; James
February 22: Psalm 114; 1 and 2 Peter, Jude
February 23: Psalms 115,116; 1,2,3 John
February 24: Psalms 117,118; 1 Samuel 1,2
February 25: Psalm 119.1-28; 1 Samuel 3-7
February 26: Psalm 119.29-52; 1 Samuel 8-11
February 27: Psalm 119.53-72; 1 Samuel 12-15
February 28: Psalm 119.73-104; 1 Samuel 16-19

Welcome, New Members!

Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming these new members:



David and Catherine (Cathie) Coleman joined First Presbyterian Church on January 5 by transfer of membership from First Central Presbyterian Church in Abilene. Their son Sam is in the 2020 Confirmation class.



READY TO RETURN TO ACTIVE MINISTRY? COMMUNITY CROSSROADS HAS A PLACE FOR YOU!

Community Crossroads is First Presbyterian Church's mission outreach center in Fort Worth's near South neighborhood. Community Crossroads screens all volunteers, and all volunteers continue to wear masks and physically distance in an effort to keep everyone safe. If you are interested in learning more about this vital ministry, contact Dori Al-Hammami, Director of Community Crossroads Outreach Center, 817.921.3955 or dalhammami@fpcfw.org.

BE INSPIRED...

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



ABIDE IN THE WORD OF GOD: LENTEN COVENANT GROUP Thursdays, February 18 through March 1, 1 p.m.

FPC member Carol Toombs will lead this Lenten covenant group, beginning Thursday, February 18 and continuing through Maundy Thursday, March 1, from 1 - 2:30 p.m. on Zoom. Says Carol, "Before the pandemic hit, a spiritual friend and I met weekly to share our responses to a wonderful devotional, *Abide: Keeping Vigil with the Word of God* by Macrina Wiederkehr. Using the spiritual discipline of *lectio divina*, or devotional reading, we spent individual time each morning prayerfully reading the scripture she listed for the day. We journaled our thoughts, feelings, rememberings, and calls. Then we would read Macrina's reflection on the scripture and ruminate on the questions she provided. We journaled those, too. And we both agreed that it was a rich and powerful experience. I am inviting you to join me in taking this same journey during Lent, through this same resource and process." Attendance is limited to eight people to give time and space for the depth this devotional warrants. To register, visit fpcfw.org/spiritualformation. You may also contact the church office (817.335.1231) with questions or to register by phone.



WORSHIP HANDBELLS ARTS MUSIC

WHAM (Worship, Handbells, Arts, Music) is offering Ukulele II (February 21 - March 28): For those who attended the Fall Ukulele class, here is your opportunity to take your skills to a new level! Laura Collins will teach this class, where you will learn some more advanced chords and add many songs to your repertoire. For more information or to register, visit fpcfw.org/childrensmusic or contact Rebecca Sawyer. (rsawyer@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 253).

Watch for Art and Orff events/classes to be added to our Spring schedule soon!

Upcoming Opportunities for Reflection on **RACE AND PRIVILEGE**

FILM DISCUSSION: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AT 6 P.M.

Watch the 2020 film *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* on Netflix and join in a film discussion via Zoom on Tuesday, February 23 at 6 p.m. To register, visit fpcfw.org/race. You will receive a secure Zoom link and a few reflection questions in advance of the discussion.

LENTEN BOOK STUDY: MONDAYS, FEB. 22 - MARCH 29

Join Circles of Christ for our Lenten study, *Lent of Liberation* by Cheri L. Mills. The study will meet online via Zoom on Monday at 6 p.m. for 6 weeks beginning February 22. Obtain your own copy of the book from an online retailer (\$14), read a devotion each day beginning Ash Wednesday (February 17), and we will meet weekly to check in with our daily readings. This Lenten devotional invites readers to learn more about the brutal institution of slavery and its impact on black people in America and recognize how its evolution and legacy continue to harm their descendants in the United States today. Each of the forty devotions includes the testimony of a person who escaped slavery through the Underground Railroad, a Scripture passage, and a reflection connecting biblical and historical themes to challenge modern readers to work for liberation. Reflecting on Lenten themes of exodus, redemption, discipline, and repentance, readers, both black and white, will be empowered for the work of racial justice. To register, visit fpcfw.org/race. You will receive a secure Zoom link and a few reflection questions in advance of the discussion.

Below are a few ways we engage with others through church events and outreach opportunities.

[illegible]

For More Information Visit:
FPCFW.ORG/MISSIONEVENTSATFPC



Join us for an afternoon in the church parking lot to share the love through service and fellowship on February 14. We will share love with those who work directly with COVID patients at John Peter Smith Hospital by making goody bags to encourage and support the hospital staff.

Please fill a quart size plastic bag with the following items:

- Granola/protein/chocolate bar
- handmade card of appreciation and support
- k-cups for coffee and/or tea bags
- mints
- chapstick
- lotion

Bring your completed bags to a drop off station in the Great Hall drive through from 3:30-5 p.m. The bags will be delivered to JPS that evening. If you plan to attend the Share the Love parking lot event, bring your goody bags to drop off and stay for games, crafts, and some dancing in the parking lot. All ages are invited as we celebrate sharing the love. The church parking lot will open at 3:30 p.m. and will close at the start of the event at 4 p.m.

Visit fpcf.org/missioneventsatfpc to register.



In 2018, members of First Presbyterian Church joined with other concerned individuals and organizations in our community to form New Leaf Community Services. New Leaf works to provide permanent supportive housing, paired with case management and supportive services for persons who have been chronically homeless. Quail Trail, New Leaf's first permanent supportive housing project, is a completely self sufficient 48-unit permanent supported housing project in northwest Fort Worth for chronically homeless, disabled people. The \$4.7 million project will be debt free. Construction is being funded by forgivable loans of federal funds from the City of Fort Worth, as well as grants from First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth and five local foundations. The units are fully furnished and move-in ready, complete with appliances and even fully stocked refrigerators, thanks to generous local donors. Pictured here are some of the first units under construction. The project expects to begin housing tenants in early 2021.



FPC Membership App Now Available in the App Store!

Did you know that the FPC church directory is available as a mobile app? ShelbyNext is our secure church data base system. Your basic information is available to church members and staff only. The privacy of your records and information is important to us.

ShelbyNext app setup instructions:

1. Search for the free ShelbyNext Membership App in the Apple or Android App Store.
2. Download and open the app.
3. At the app login screen, type the following domain name: fpcfww
4. If you have previously set up a username and password through the church website/resources/membership directory, use the same username and password for the phone app.
5. If you need a username and password, type the email address associated with your church membership record in the Username field.
6. Click forgot password
7. Confirm the email address entered in Step 5 is clearly displayed, then click OK. A password will be sent to you automatically by the ShelbyNext system. (This is not always instantaneous and make take up to several hours.)
8. Check your email for your username and new password. Be sure to also check your spam folder.

Once inside the app, you will see all the member options:

- **Directory:** Scroll down to find a member or search for a particular member. You will be able to view name, address, home phone, cell phone, email address, and a picture. Tap on the address and receive driving directions to the location.
- **Calendar:** View two months of the church's upcoming calendar.
- **Give:** Donate online. Give once or set up recurring donations.
- **Personal name:** View and edit your personal details, view your giving history, and view your pledge history. To add or update your picture, click on the picture icon or your picture, and send or take a new picture.

If you do not know what email address you have on file with the church, or need to update your email address, contact Patty O'Brien (pobrien@fpcfww.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 223). If you have questions about the app or need assistance, contact Dana Fickling (dfickling@fpcfww.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 227).



Over MLK weekend, children and youth from FPC and Mt. Moriah participated in a "Serve and Learn" weekend. They learned about Martin Luther King Jr., and collected and organized around 380 "stoplight bags." The bags, containing toiletries, snacks, socks, gloves, and other necessities, benefit neighbors at Community Crossroads. Pictured here are FPC youth collecting the bags on Sunday, January 17.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as January 21, 2021. To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

Our loving sympathy to...

Betty Acola on the death of her husband, Sam Acola, on December 13.

Friends and family of **Joel Salazar**, who died December 26. Surviving FPC family includes **Mary Salazar, Michael and Leti Salazar, Alejandro Salazar, Santiago Salazar, and Idalia Salazar.**

Eric and Leslie Varnon on the death of his grandfather, Richard Gaines on January 2 and the death of his grandmother, Betty Gaines on January 9 in Spearman, Texas. Other FPC family includes Noah Varnon, Cooper Varnon, Ian Varnon, and Max Varnon.

Family and friends of **Frances Chenault**, who died January 3. FPC family includes **Jim Ewing.**

Family and friends of **Andy Thompson**, who died on January 5. He is survived by wife **Nancy Thompson.**

Family and friends of **Mary Logan**, who died January 6.

Barbara Ratliff on the death of her daughter, Jeanne Dremel, on January 11 in California.

Family and friends of the Rev. John Conley, a former Interim Associate Pastor at FPC Fort Worth, who died January 13 in Dallas.

Family and friends of **Dorothy Kinser**, who died January 19. Surviving FPC family includes **Glen Kinser, Judith and Kevin Kinser, Shea Kinser** and Austin Powell, and **Owen Kinser.**

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Marjorie Gordon, Mike Millar, Sarah Graham, and Julie Carter, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Margo Dean, Jimmy Burnett, Jim Goble, Karl Kuipers, Diane Satterlee, 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...

Victoria DeLay (niece of **Jamie Downing**), Sharie Kenny (sister of **Taleesa Van Tassel**), Rosalyn Blackmon (niece of **Taleesa Van Tassel**), 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**), 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**), 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**. Also 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**. Also for the safety of Cullen Cline (grandson of **Bill and Glinda King**), who is serving in the US Navy.

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...

Ben and Christian Davis on the birth of William Thomas on December 25. William joins big brothers Luke and Nolan. Proud FPC grandparents are **Rob and Pam Davis.**

Herd and Claire Midkiff on the birth of Laurel Ann on December 30. Laurel joins big sister Caroline. Proud FPC grandparents are **Charles and Ann Florsheim.**

GRIEF GROUP BEGINS FEBRUARY 21

First Presbyterian Church is offering a six-week Grief Support Group beginning Sunday, February 21 via Zoom, 4-5:30 p.m., led by the Rev. Dr. Dawn Hood-Patterson. This group offers a supportive and encouraging space in which to experience God's presence, comfort, and strength.

Dawn is a former Chaplain at Cook Children's Medical Center. She earned her PhD in Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care from Brite Divinity School, TCU. Dawn has led both in person and virtual grief groups at FPC. Following our most recent group Dawn said, "I was pleased with the outcomes of our Zoom-based grief groups. I was able to modify or re-imagine the activities for the group. The conversations remained compassionate, intentional, and honest, even in our virtual setting. I, along with other participants, lamented the missed hugs, but I was pleased with the connections we formed during our six weeks together."

This group is free and open to members and friends of FPC and the community. For more information and to register, visit fpcfw.org/careandsupport or contact Celeste (817.335.1231, ext. 261 or cfallter@fpcfw.org) in the church office. Before the first class meeting, you will be sent the Zoom link and class materials. If you do not have access to a computer or tablet for connecting via Zoom with video, you can register and participate by phone, and class materials can be mailed.



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First Presbyterian Church
1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

PERIODICALS
POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
The Penn Street Letter,
1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Church Office
Ph: 817.335.1231
Fax: 817.335.5663

WWW.FPCFW.ORG

Worship with us!

SUNDAYS AT 10 A.M.

ON PENN STREET:
PARKING LOT WORSHIP ON 99.9 FM (WEATHER PERMITTING)

ONLINE:
YOUTUBE.COM/C/FIRSTPRESBYTERIANCHURCHOFFORTWORTH
FACEBOOK.COM/FIRSTPRESFW