

# THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

MARCH 2021 | Volume 21, Number 3

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NAMES REV. DR. BRIAN COULTER AS PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF



The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) for First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth joyfully announced the Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter was elected by the congregation on February 7 to serve as the next Pastor/Head of Staff.

Brian joins our congregation from First Presbyterian Church in Aiken, South Carolina, where he has served as Pastor/Head of Staff since 2014. He also serves as a Congregational Consultant for the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and previously served as Associate Pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Fairhope, Alabama. He and his wife Megan have two daughters, Annabel and Paige.

Brian is a fifth generation pastor who states that he was "born, baptized, raised, confirmed and ordained within the PC(USA)." He received his undergraduate degree (B.A.) in sociology from Oklahoma State University, his masters (M.Div.) from Columbia Theological Seminary, and his doctorate (D.Min.) from McCormick Theological Seminary through the Association of Chicago Theological Schools program in homiletics.

The PNC said in a statement, "After a thorough and prayerful 14 month search, we are grateful to have been led to Brian and honored that he felt called to our mission of 'Inspiring Disciples and Engaging the World.' Our world class, divinely-inspired pastoral staff has guided our congregation through the challenges that our transitional time, a devastating pandemic, and the ongoing spiritual needs of a large and diverse congregation, have demanded. We are profoundly blessed by our pastors and our staff, and are thrilled that we have found a partner and a leader in Brian Coulter. We ask for your prayers for our congregation, Brian, and his family as they prepare for a move to our wonderful city."

*To learn more about Brian, meet his family, and learn about his journey of faith, visit [fpcfww.org/pnc](http://fpcfww.org/pnc).*

## LENT *at* FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Lent, the forty days leading to Easter Sunday, provide an opportunity for preparation, study, and meditation on Jesus' final days and the meaning of his ministry - then and now. You are invited to worship online ([facebook.com/firstpresfw](https://facebook.com/firstpresfw) or [youtube.com/c/firstpresbyterianchurchoffortworth](https://youtube.com/c/firstpresbyterianchurchoffortworth)) or in the Penn Street parking lot (weather permitting). Below are opportunities to observe Lent with the First Presbyterian Church community.

<b>MIDDAY PRAYERS</b>	12 noon on Wednesdays, online
<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP</b>	10 a.m., online and parking lot
<b>HOLY WEEK (March 28- April 4)</b>	
Palm Sunday	10 a.m., online and parking lot
Monday	12 noon, online
Tuesday	12 noon, online
Wednesday	12 noon, online
Maundy Thursday	12 noon, online and 6 p.m., parking lot
Good Friday Tenebrae	7 p.m., online
<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	10 a.m., online and parking lot



# PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Our theme for this Lent is *Cultivating and Letting Go*. As we journey through this month, preparing for the joy of Easter resurrection and new life, God is also at work cultivating us as a community of faith for the mid-April arrival of the Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter as our new Pastor/Head of Staff. And all of this in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, racial and political divisions, and the after effects of the devastating storm we experienced last week.

I have increasingly found the prophets' writings -especially Isaiah- profoundly meaningful. Something about the exile experience resonates with my soul. As we now begin to see on the horizon signs of hope with vaccines being distributed and the increasing anticipation of post-pandemic possibilities, I have been drawn to the chapters in Isaiah when Israel anticipates an end to their exile. Isaiah 44 begins with this verse: *But now hear, O Jacob my servant, Israel whom I have chosen!*

Two powerfully important words begin a beautiful passage of reassurance of God's faithful love. *But now...*

God spoke to Israel in the midst of exile, not after it was over – and that made all the difference. In the midst of exile, God is working to make a new creation. Now and for their future. It didn't happen overnight. And it didn't return things to the way they were. New life, new growth, new relationship with God that sustained Israel in their exile, their return, and their future as God's people.

God is speaking words of hope to us now and is working to make us new creations this Lent.

- The pandemic will not disappear in days or weeks or even months. Life will continue to be disrupted.
- Racial and political divisions will not disappear without the hard work of reconciliation and justice.
- Cleanup from the storm and the aftereffects of the anxiety it has caused so many will take time.

*But now...*

*But now* God speaks to us to assure us that we are God's people, and we can trust in God to be our rock. There is no other rock. No not one.

God's peace to you,

*Michael*



## Welcome, New Member!

Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming Charlotte Wellman, who joined First Presbyterian Church on February 23 by transfer of membership from Broadway Baptist Church. Charlotte is a longtime friend of First Pres, and has participated in a FPC pilgrimage to Scotland.

## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the APRIL issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, MARCH 24**. 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@fpcf.org](mailto:pamb@fpcf.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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# SUMMER *camps*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Dates: June 21-25

Time: VIRTUAL

Ages: All are invited to participate (curriculum will be designed for 3 years old through 5th grade)

Cost: \$15 per family (scholarships available)

VBS is going virtual. Our 2021 VBS theme, "The Green VBS", is ever more resonant this season, and we do not want our kids to miss out on hearing God's message this summer. We are going green and vowing to use recycled or repurposed materials as we focus on God's beautiful creation. The curriculum will be something that you can do at home as family. It will be flexible so you can do it during the week of VBS or save it for the weekends or another week during the summer. There will be activity bags ready for pick-up the week before our scheduled VBS week, June 21-25 that will include materials for activities, mission project and the curriculum. We will also be posting videos of music, storytelling, energizers, and provide a way to connect with assigned groups through Zoom.

*\*We do plan to have an in-person opportunity to come together as community the weekend of June 25-27, if we are able. More information to come on this, as we get closer to summer.*

## MISSION ON THE MOVE (WEEKEND EDITION)

Dates: August 6-8

Ages: All are invited to participate!

Cost: Free

This intergenerational weekend of mission and outreach will include opportunities to learn about issues of hunger in our own community and respond through service and compassion. We will learn, serve and grow together.

## MO-RANCH

Dates: July 11-17

Time: Overnight Camp

Ages: For ages 8-15 Years

Cost: See below

Our church has long history of children attending Mo-Ranch summer camps. In fact, the church pays a portion of camp costs for our members who attend. The majority of our FPC kids attend Session 6. Parents are responsible for drop-off and pick-up. Registration for camp and required paperwork is coordinated by Mo-Ranch. Parents, must sign up through Mo-Ranch at [www.moranch.org](http://www.moranch.org). Once signed up please email Jayne McFarland ([jmcfarland@fpcf.org](mailto:jmcfarland@fpcf.org)) so a check can be sent to Mo-Ranch for the church portion. Note: the church portion is based on the number of children attending; final determination will be made May 1.

## ARTS ALIVE! MUSIC & ARTS DAY CAMP

Dates: Saturday mornings: April 17; May 15; June 12

Times: 9 am - Noon

Ages: 4 years old (by 4/1/21) through current 5th graders

Cost: \$25 (per week)

Registrants will rotate between 3 classes: Art with Karen Pivral (Great Hall Porch), Drumming with David Jones (Parlor Lawn), and Chimes with Rebecca Sawyer (Memorial Garden). All classes will take place outside and registrants will need to wear a mask and following distancing guidelines throughout the events.

*Get more details and register.*

# FPCFW.ORG/SUMMERCAMPS



# BE INSPIRED...

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

## 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.

More information, as well as the complete reading plan, is available at [fpcfw.org/rb9m](http://fpcfw.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@fpcfw.org](mailto:michaelw@fpcfw.org)).

March 1: Psalm 119.105-139; 1 Sam. 20-23  
March 2: Psalm 119.140-176, 1 Sam. 24-27  
March 3: Psalms 120,121; 1 Sam. 28-31  
March 4: Psalms 122,123; 2 Samuel 1-3  
March 5: Psalms 124,125; 2 Samuel 4-7  
March 6: Psalms 126,127; 2 Samuel 8-11  
March 7: Psalms 128,129; 2 Samuel 12-15  
March 8: Psalms 130,131; 2 Samuel 16-18  
March 9: Psalm 132; 2 Samuel 19-24  
March 10: Jeremiah 1,2  
March 11: Jeremiah 3-5  
March 12: Jeremiah 6-9  
March 13: Jeremiah 10-14  
March 14: Jeremiah 15-19  
March 15: Jeremiah 20-24  
March 16: Jeremiah 25-28  
March 17: Jeremiah 29-32  
March 18: Jeremiah 33-38  
March 19: Jeremiah 39-45  
March 20: Jeremiah 46-49  
March 21: Jeremiah 50-52  
March 22: Lamentations  
March 23: 1 Kings 1-3  
March 24: 1 Kings 4-7  
March 25: 1 Kings 8-10  
March 26: 1 Kings 11-13  
March 27: 1 Kings 14-17  
March 28: 1 Kings 18-20  
March 29: 1 Kings 21,22  
March 30: 2 Kings 1-3  
March 31: 2 Kings 4-7

## Upcoming Opportunities for Reflection on **RACE AND PRIVILEGE** [fpcfw.org/race](http://fpcfw.org/race)

### **RACIAL EQUITY - FAITH AND RACIAL HEALING: APRIL 11 THROUGH JUNE 6**

This 8-week zoom course adds an additional layer to our understanding of the impact of slavery and racism on our history, our culture, and our hopes for the future. It is neither a comprehensive story nor a glorious one. By exploring the psychological aspects of slavery on all people and understanding the role of our faith communities in perpetuating racism, we will gain insight into a side of history we don't often see in history books. Through truthful telling of the collective consequences of slavery and racism, as well as our willingness to hear these truths in order to begin healing, it is hoped we will be inspired and enabled to move toward a more just and free community and society. The course runs Sunday, April 11 (begins with Virtual Opening Retreat) through June 6, 2021, 3 - 5:30 p.m. The course combines reading materials, multimedia resources, and most importantly open, confidential dialog with the understanding that we are all learning from different starting points and can learn from each other's thoughts, feelings, and experiences. Registration is necessary and class size is limited. To register, visit [fpcfw.org/race](http://fpcfw.org/race).



# ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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



## LOOKING FOR A MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY? COMMUNITY CROSSROADS HAS A PLACE FOR YOU!

Community Crossroads is First Presbyterian Church's mission outreach center in Fort Worth's near South neighborhood. Located at 1516 Hemphill (near the corner of Allen), the building houses various outreach ministries including Worship on Wednesdays, the church's food and clothing ministry, Formula and Diapers (FAD) ministry, the Salt & Light Dental Clinic, the Listening Post, and English as a Second Language.

With Covid-19 restrictions in place, Community Crossroads continues to:

- Distribute sack lunches on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Distribute groceries on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Serve a hot "to go" meal on Wednesday nights from 6 to 7 p.m.
- Serve "to go" breakfast on Mondays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Community Crossroads screens all volunteers, and all volunteers 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@fpcfww.org](mailto:dalhammami@fpcfww.org).



*During February's historic winter storm, First Presbyterian Church responded to needs within the congregation and community in many ways. On February 19, FPC donated bulk food items and water for our neighbors at the Presbyterian Night Shelter. Pictured here, Heath Brosi, FPC's Director of Hospitality and Food Service, helps a representative from the Night Shelter load the donations.*



*Community Crossroads worked with community partners and Neighborhood Police to provide and deliver groceries, formula, and diapers to several neighbors in need. Crossroads also provided 30 bags of fresh produce to an emergency mobile pantry. The WOW (Worship on Wednesdays) community cared for one another through food deliveries, emotional, and spiritual support.*



# STAYING CONNECTED

On Sunday, February 21, 50+ children, youth, and adults gathered in the FPC parking lot to Share the Love through service and fellowship. Crafts, games, and dancing were enjoyed, and 219 care bags were collected to encourage and support JPS Hospital staff who work directly with Covid patients. On that same afternoon, FPC's 1st-4th graders had their first in-person event where they played physically distanced games and chalked the parking lot with notes of love. The students meet once a quarter for events that provide fellowship and mission opportunities. If you have photos of an FPC event or gathering that you'd like to see included here, email them to Pam Burkholder, Communications Coordinator, at [pamb@fpcfw.org](mailto:pamb@fpcfw.org).





# JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as February 22, 2021. To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

## Our loving sympathy to...

**Erin and Tod Heesch** on the death of her mother, Libby Grubb, on January 28 in Greensboro, North Carolina. Other FPC family includes **Sophie and Evie Heesch**.

**Amelia Haltom** on the death of her niece, Joanna Haltom Foley on January 23 in Palm Springs, California. Other surviving FPC family is **Kerby Haltom**.

**Steve and Allyn Toth** on the death of his father, Mike Toth, on February 6. Other surviving FPC family includes grandchildren **Michael Toth, Sean Toth, Alyson Toth, and Marc Toth**.

**Mattie Mattern** on the death of her sister, Gerva Harveman on February 6 in Assen, Holland.

## Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

**Kim Yarwood, Paul Campbell, 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.

# HOW FPC PROTECTS YOUR FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS



FPC's mission statement is to *inspire disciples and engage the world*. When you contribute resources, you not only help fund the ministries and mission of First Presbyterian Church, you reach and provide for your fellow members and brothers and sisters of Christ. The act of giving — particularly when done with thought, and prayer, and joy, and sacrifice — does much more.

First Presbyterian Church takes the security of your contribution seriously, and we have several ways to safely make a financial contribution:

- **Mailing a check:** All FPC mail is delivered directly into a secure metal dropbox (pictured above) that has been installed inside the office door. Mail deposited through the slot is secured inside the dropbox until the church administrator accesses it by key.
- **Bank lockbox:** A bank lockbox is also available as a new option. This will be a direct bank mailing address. The bank will then process the checks and directly deposit them in the church's account. More details and the address will be published in a future newsletter.
- **Website, app, or in person:** Secure giving is available through the church website ([fpcfw.org/give](http://fpcfw.org/give)) or the free ShelbyNext membership app on your phone or mobile device. You may also deliver a contribution in person to the church office during business hours.

If you have any questions regarding contributions, the ShelbyNext app, or ways to give, please contact Dana Fickling, Church Administrator, at [dfickling@fpcfw.org](mailto:dfickling@fpcfw.org) or 817.335.1231, ext. 227.



## EASTER SUNDAY FLOWERING CROSS

Easter Sunday will include a cross in the plaza in front of the Sanctuary. We will celebrate the transition from Good Friday to Easter by filling in the cross with flowers you bring to the parking lot service. Members of the Liturgical Arts Subcommittee will collect your flowers and put them on the cross for you prior to the beginning of the service. Please plan to arrive by 9:45 a.m. to have your flowers included. We look forward to this time of joyful celebration and gratitude for our lives with the Living Christ!



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## KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS 2021: SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 IN THE FPC PARKING LOT

