

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

APRIL 2021 | Volume 21, Number 4



On Sunday, March 22, FPC's Session unanimously approved an Updated Approach to Reopening (the full plan is available at fpcfw.org/covid). The Session continues to balance safety for our faith community with pandemic realities. Given the current trends in Tarrant County, the Session is excited to enter Phase Two of the updated plan in April!

Indoor in-person Worship regathers April 11

In addition to continuing online worship, beginning Sunday, April 11, we will regather for indoor worship each Sunday at 9 a.m. in the Great Hall and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Worship will be modified to maintain as safe an environment as possible. Properly worn surgical/cloth masks are required, capacity will be limited to 120 in the Great Hall and 175 in the Sanctuary in order to maintain 6 feet of distance between households, services will last 40-45 minutes, and music will be offered on behalf of the congregation by soloists. Children are invited to attend worship with their household. Parking Lot Worship's last Sunday will be Easter, April 4. (Note: Church School classes will continue to meet online or outdoors through the Spring term.)

Advance registration for worship is required, and will include agreeing to the Covenant of Care. You may register online each week at fpcfw.org/worship or by calling the church office (817.335.1231). Registration opens the Monday of each week. When registering, be sure to add additional attendees at the bottom of the form. If capacity has been reached when you register, you will receive a notification.

Small Groups may meet inside church beginning April 6

Beginning April 6, in addition to meeting outside or online, small groups (under 25 people) may meet inside the church building. Available meeting spaces have been pre-selected in order to maintain 6-foot social distancing between households. Properly worn surgical/cloth masks are required for all FPC meetings. To reserve a meeting space for your group, contact the church office, 817.335.1231.

For more detailed information about regathering, see page 6 of this newsletter or visit fpcfw.org/covid. If you have further questions, please contact your pastors and church staff at 817.335.1231.

WELCOME BRIAN COULTER AND FAMILY!

The Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter was elected by the congregation to serve as the next Pastor/Head of Staff, beginning April 12. Brian's first Sunday in worship with us will be April 18. Brian and his wife Megan have two daughters, Annabel and Paige. Please take a moment to welcome Brian, Megan, Annabel, and Paige to FPC and continue to pray for them as they move to our wonderful city.





PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

The month of April is bursting with new life, new opportunities, and new beginnings in our church family. We begin this month by celebrating the miracle of the resurrection on Easter Sunday; the following Sunday we begin in person worship inside the church (see article for more details); and the third Sunday we welcome the Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter as our Pastor/Head of Staff. That same day, another class of confirmands will be examined by Session. Additionally, the renovation and expansion of Community Crossroads is now complete, and we anticipate ways for our church and neighbors to enjoy the beautiful space in the near future.

After a couple of years of a pastoral transition and a year of pandemic protocols, the excitement of this month is long-awaited and welcomed. What serendipity that it all coincides with the arrival of spring and most especially the season of Easter, a time in which we remember that God is constantly making all things new. The resurrection of Christ unleashes holy possibilities all around us, and the gift of the Holy Spirit gives us courage to embrace the newness and joy wholeheartedly.

I look forward to this month of God's many new things as together we embrace our call as resurrection people as the body of Christ.

Peace and joy be yours,

Robyn



Join a Presbyterian Women's Circle today!

FPCFW.ORG/PW

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the MAY issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, APRIL 21**. 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

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Welcome, New Member!



Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming **Margaret Miller**, who joined by Reaffirmation of Faith on March 2.



TIP OF THE MONTH

If you need a short break during your day, try watching the *Blue Zones Project 10@10*. These are short ten minute tips that can help you during the pandemic. The tips are live at 10 a.m.

on Mondays and Wednesdays, or may be viewed any time on the Blue Zones Facebook page (facebook.com/BlueZonesProjectFW).



WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANTS!

On Wednesday, March 24, on behalf of the entire congregation, the Personnel Committee expressed thanks to FPC's pastors Michael Waschevski, Robyn Michalove, Joshua Stewart, and church administrator Dana Fickling for leading us administratively and spiritually through unprecedented times in our church history. With deep appreciation from the congregation and staff, we presented each of them with gift cards to their favorite restaurants. (*The presentation from Personnel Committee chair Anne Norris is pictured above.*) We asked them to consider the cards, as they use them for physical nourishment, as a symbol of our gratitude for the spiritual and administrative support they have provided.

Over the course of more than two years, they have shared the responsibilities of the role of Pastor/Head of Staff with exemplary teamwork, making it all look seamless and easy. They also coped creatively after the onset of a devastating pandemic.

What have they done? They carefully and thoughtfully put in motion plans to keep our church staff safe and employed so they could continue to support our ministries. They innovated alternate ways for us to enjoy worship and music together. They oversaw the expansion of our community outreach facilities to better serve our neighbors at Community Crossroads. They cared for us through times of joy and sadness as we experienced life milestones: births, baptisms, birthdays, confirmations, graduations, retirements, weddings, illnesses, hospitalizations, loss of our family members, memorial services, and other hardships and celebrations. Faithfully teaching, inspiring, and praying for us, they helped to keep us connected. They also facilitated ways for us to do these things for one another, despite a need for protective physical separation.

We look forward to continuing to partner with these leaders of our church ministry in coming weeks, months, and years. With heartfelt thanks, we say, well done, good and faithful servants.

The Personnel Committee, on behalf of the FPC Congregation

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 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).

April 1: 2 Kings 8-10
April 2: 2 Kings 11-14
April 3: 2 Kings 15-17
April 4: 2 Kings 18-20
April 5: 2 Kings 21-25
April 6: 1 Chronicles 1-6
April 7: Psalm 133; 1 Chronicles 7-10
April 8: Psalm 134; 1 Chronicles 11-15
April 9: Psalm 135; 1 Chronicles 16-19
April 10: Psalm 136; 1 Chronicles 20-23
April 11: Psalm 137; 1 Chronicles 24-29
April 12: Psalm 138; 2 Chronicles 1-7
April 13: Psalm 139; 2 Chronicles 8-12
April 14: Psalm 140; 2 Chronicles 13-17
April 15: Psalm 141; 2 Chronicles 18-23
April 16: Psalm 142; 2 Chronicles 24-29
April 17: Psalm 143; 2 Chronicles 30-36
April 18: Psalm 144; Ezra
April 19: Nehemiah
April 20: Esther
April 21: Job 1-7
April 22: Job 8-14
April 23: Job 15-19
April 24: Job 20-26
April 25: Job 27-31
April 26: Job 32-37
April 27: Job 38-42
April 28: Ezekiel 1-9
April 29: Ezekiel 10-18
April 30: Ezekiel 19-28



REGISTER TODAY!

It's time to register for FPC summer camps! We are busy planning fun, energetic, and creative camp opportunities for children. So, be sure to join in the fun and make it a summer to remember!

ARTS ALIVE! MUSIC & ARTS DAY CAMP:
April 17; May 15; June 12

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 21-25

MO-RANCH: July 11-17

MISSION ON THE MOVE: August 6-8

Get more details and register.

FPCFW.ORG/SUMMERCAMPS



ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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

THE PRESBYTERIAN HABITAT BUILD IS BACK!



Tameka Black

Join Trinity Habitat for Humanity and other Presbyterians as we help build a home for Tameka Black and her family! Tameka says, "I currently live in a small efficiency with neighbors who are inconsiderate of one another. The parking is limited, often times leaving me to park across the complex which makes me feel unsafe when walking

back to my apartment.

Habitat was the best way for me to purchase a home because not only is it affordable but it provides you with the opportunity to take part in building the home you will own and soon live in. I will no longer have to get a hotel for my daughter and her family when they come to visit and my grandson will have plenty of space to play when he stays with me.

My daughter grew up in Como and my father still lives there. I am looking forward to moving back and being part of a community where everyone can come together and help each other during times of need. I am very thankful to Habitat for partnering with me to help make this possible."

- Location: Como neighborhood of Fort Worth
- 8 build days, 11 volunteers on site at a time, masks required.
- Bring your own work gloves, closed toed shoes, and (if you have them) safety glasses
- No shared food on site
- Build days are: May 7, 8, and June 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12

Reserve your build date today!
<http://vhub.at/presbyterians>

2021 year marks the 32nd anniversary of Trinity Habitat for Humanity (Trinity Habitat). First Presbyterian Church (FPC) has been a partner with Trinity Habitat from the beginning. FPC built our 25th and 50th houses on our parking lot and we even built a few houses at Mayfest. In May 2019, FPC celebrated the 90th house that we have partnered with Habitat to build.

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

fpcfww.org/race

**CIRCLES OF CHRIST FILM DISCUSSION:
APRIL 20, 6 P.M. VIA ZOOM**

Same Kind of Different as Me is a 2017 film based on a book of the same name. The story covers the actual experience of people in Fort Worth: a man who was homeless and an art dealer and his wife and the relationship between them. Watch the movie on your own preferred platform or streaming service (Netflix, Amazon Prime) and register to attend the discussion. To register, visit fpcfww.org/race, or call the church office (817.335.1231).



FPC *Regathering* INDOORS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

Where and when can I worship in person?

Beginning Sunday, April 11, we will regather for worship at 9 a.m. in the Great Hall and 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

What if I'm not comfortable returning to in-person worship yet?

We completely understand! You are invited to worship online each Sunday at 10 a.m. (visit fpcfw.org/worship for links). The online worship service is also available during the week on YouTube or fpcfw.org.

Do I need to register for worship in advance?

Yes, advance registration is required. You may register online each week at fpcfw.org/worship or by calling the church office (817.335.1231). Registration will open the Monday of each week for the following Sunday. When registering, be sure to add all members of your household or other attendees onto the bottom of the form, so the church has an accurate attendance count.

What if I forgot to register? Can I just show up?

If there are seats available on Sunday morning, you may register in person with an usher prior to worship and sign the Covenant of Care. Seats may not be available on Sunday morning, so advance registration is strongly recommended.

What if I registered, but won't be able to attend?

Please call the church office (817.335.1231) to cancel your reservation and make your seat(s) available for another guest.

Do I have to wear a mask?

FPC is committed to the safety of our faith community and our neighbors. Properly worn surgical or cloth face masks are required for all church events and meetings, including worship. If you forget your mask on Sunday morning, please check with an usher who will be happy to provide one for you.

Will childcare be available?

Children are invited to worship with their families. Childcare will not be available during worship. Childcare is not currently available for small group gatherings or meetings.

How will worship be different?

Worship will be modified to maintain as safe an environment as possible. Capacity will be limited (120 in the Great Hall, 175 in the Sanctuary) to maintain social distancing between households, and services will last 40-45 minutes.

Will we sing hymns and songs?

Music will be offered on behalf of the congregation by soloists and musicians. To minimize risk, congregational and choral singing is currently suspended. (You can always hum along, though!)

Will we pass the offering plate?

In order to maintain as safe an environment as possible, offering plates will not be passed. You are invited to give online (fpcfw.org/give), through the free ShelbyNext membership app, or drop your offering in the baskets available by worship entrances on Sunday mornings.

Can I bring my lunch or cup of coffee?

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and mask-wearing requirements, there is no food or drink at any gatherings, on or off campus, including worship. For small group meetings, individually packaged food for takeaway is available through the FPC kitchen.

Will restrooms be available during worship or for my meeting?

Yes, restrooms will be available near the worship spaces. For an event scheduled at the Penn Street campus, restrooms will be available near your meeting space.

Can I bring a friend, family member, or visitor to worship?

Yes! All visitors must register in advance and sign the Covenant of Care.

So what's the deal on small groups?

Beginning April 6, small groups (under 25 people) may meet inside the church building. Outdoor small group gatherings (under 25 people) or online gatherings are also available.

Where can my small group gather?

Several indoor meeting spaces have been pre-selected in order to maintain 6-foot social distancing between households: Gym, Great Hall, 235, 237, Youth Suite, and the West Concourse. There are five outdoor locations available on the Penn Street campus: in front of sanctuary entrance doors facing Penn Street, the Memorial Garden, the Great Hall covered drive, the north porch in front of the Bride's Room, and the parking lot across from the Parlor door on Penn Street. You may also schedule outdoor events off campus, such as at a local park or a church member's yard, or online.

How do I schedule my group?

Please call the church office (817.335.1231).

Does everyone in my group have to register in advance?

Yes. The church office will set up a registration form and provide you with the link for your group members to register and sign the Covenant of Care. Anyone without internet access may register by calling the church office.

I just returned from a trip and spent time with several other families. Is it ok for me to attend worship or a gathering?

As we exercise care for one another, please be mindful of your level of exposure to other households prior to attending any FPC gatherings, as that increases risk for others. We also ask that if you are awaiting a Covid test result, you promise to stay home.

What steps has the church taken to maintain a safe environment?

FPC is committed to the health and safety of our faith community. Enhanced cleaning and sanitation protocols have been in effect on our campus since 2020. All worship and meeting spaces are cleaned and sanitized before and after gatherings. Masks and social distancing are required, and hand sanitizers are available near all entrances. Advance registration for all gatherings provides an accurate headcount, as well as contact tracing (should that become necessary). We also encourage everyone to register for the Covid-19 vaccine through Tarrant County (tarrantcounty.com/covidshot).

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as March 24, 2021. To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

Our loving sympathy to...

Laura Collins on the death of her grandfather, Herbert Allen Shaffer, who died February 22 in Lawrenceville, Georgia.

Family and friends of **Molly Hutchinson**, who died February 28. Surviving FPC family members are **Karen and Jim Gordon, Claudia Hutchinson, Mark Gordon, Sarah Gordon, and Claire Gordon.**

Carol Stripling on the death of her niece, Katie McLeod, who died March 3 in Victoria, Texas. Other surviving FPC family members are **Elizabeth Stripling, Kristen and Michael Ariola, Lucy Ariola, and Louis Ariola.**

Peter and Melinda Van't Slot on the death of his sister, Jean Lyzenga, March 9 in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Harlene Satterfield, Vernon Rew, 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 **Lt. Rolf Tilley**, who is serving in the US Air Force, deployed in Japan. Rolf is the son of **Katie and Jaret Tilley** and the grandson of **Janelle Eklund**. 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**. 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 Nathan Gunter (nephew of **Russell and Vivian Norment**), stationed in Korea, and 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...

Christopher and Keely Nezworski on the birth of Forte George on August 27, 2020. Forte joins big brother Bowie. Proud grandfather is **Tom Nezworski**.

William and Jessica Biggs on the birth of Maxwell Reynolds on March 5. Maxwell joins big sister Merrill and big brother William. Proud FPC grandparents are **Bill and Ann Biggs**.

Cody and Devyn Woodruff on the birth of James Conroe on March 9.



FPC ENCOURAGES YOU TO REGISTER FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE

The State of Texas is distributing the Covid-19 vaccine. All adults (16 and up) are now eligible for vaccination, and anyone in Tarrant County may register for the vaccine and be placed on a waitlist. In order to protect ourselves and our community, First Presbyterian Church's Wellness Committee is encouraging everyone to register. Once you have registered, you will receive confirmation that you are on the waiting list. You will be notified when your initial vaccination date has been scheduled. Registration is also available by calling 817-248-6299 (option 7). You are also encouraged to check with your local pharmacy or medical provider for additional registration options. To register, visit:

TARRANTCOUNTY.COM/COVIDSHOT

If you are a Veteran registered in the North Texas VA system, you may call the VA Dallas Covid-19 vaccination appointment line at 214.857.4791, or visit one of the information desks at the Dallas VA campus. The Fort Worth VA Outpatient Clinic is offering a drive thru vaccine clinic for veterans in the North Texas VA system, by appointment only. To register, call 817.730.0000.



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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

EASTER

at First Presbyterian Church

You are invited to worship online
(facebook.com/firstpresfw or
youtube.com/c/firstpresbyterianchurchoffortworth)
or in the Penn Street parking lot (weather
permitting). Limited plaza seating is available for all
parking lot worship services with advance
registration. Visit fpcfw.org/easter or
fpcfw.org/worship, or call the church office
(817.335.1231) to reserve your seat.

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

Sunrise Worship, 7 a.m., online and parking lot
10 a.m., online and parking lot

Sunday morning donuts are back! The Fellowship Committee is excited to bring back donut holes packaged and delivered to your car during Easter morning Parking Lot Worship.

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!

FPCFW.ORG/EASTER