

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

MAY 2021 | Volume 21, Number 5



ALL CHURCH LABOR DAY WEEKEND RETREAT AT MO-RANCH: September 3-6, 2021



After many challenging months, find renewal in faith, fellowship, and friendships at Mo-Ranch, a beautiful Presbyterian camp located in the Texas Hill Country. For our 10th anniversary Labor Day weekend retreat, we will enjoy a relaxed weekend away with members of our church family as we renew our connection to God, nature, and one another. Our retreat theme this year is re:NEW and is based on Revelation 21.5, "See, I am making all things new."

re:NEW
See, I am making all things new.
Revelation 21.5



Hotel Accommodations:

- Wynne/Flato lodging per night: \$129
- Pheasant Run lodging per night: \$119

Meals:

- Ages 0-3: Free
- Ages 4-11: \$60 for 7 meals (breakfast Saturday, Sunday, Monday; Lunch Saturday and Sunday; Dinner Saturday and Sunday)
- Ages 12 and older: \$84.90 for 7 meals (breakfast Saturday, Sunday, Monday; Lunch Saturday and Sunday; Dinner Saturday and Sunday)

Activities:

- Worship together at Chapel on the Hill Sunday morning
- Land: waterfront, hiking, labyrinth, playgrounds, star gazing, bird watching, gaga pits, courts for volleyball, tennis, basketball, etc.
- Water: swimming pool (adult and child pools), waterfront, Mo-Slide, canoes, rapids on the Guadalupe River
- Extra optional activities: high ropes course, stand up paddleboarding, rock climbing, critters class

Mo-Ranch Covid updates:

- Deposit not required upon registration. (You can cancel your registration with no penalty until August 1.)
- No church sponsored shared transportation to Mo-Ranch.
- We are working to have meals outside.
- No group housing. Individual hotel rooms available.
- Weather permitting, we will move programming outdoors.
- Mo-Ranch and FPC policy still require distancing and masks at this time
- Once you register, we will continue to provide updates as they are available.



Please register by June 1.
(Registration can be cancelled with no penalty until August 1.)
Retreat payment will be due August 1.

**To register, visit
FPCFW.ORG/MORANCH**



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

You know, sometimes, the hardest step to take...is the first step. Just getting started is so important. For a moment, think about a train. When stopped, you can put blocks of wood under the wheels to keep it from going. But think of how it starts. It's a slow-going process. Trains pick up speed very slowly at first, but once

the train is on the move, I've heard that it can actually go through several feet of steel-reinforced concrete. On a side note, I wonder if Bob Dylan was thinking of this when he entitled one of his Christian albums, *Slow Train Coming*.

I'm going to keep this letter short and sweet because I hope you will take the time to read about our newest high school (soon to be) graduates in this newsletter! In addition to this, if you wish to write a congratulatory note to our graduates, you may snail-mail them or drop them off at the church office anytime in the coming month (June 6 is the deadline)...and we will be sure to get them to our graduates. Also, it's not too late to register to join us on Saturday, May 8 at 4 p.m. in the church parking lot for our *Churchwide Senior Youth Celebration*!

If there's one message I wish to relay to the class of 2021, it's this: you have everything it takes to change the world and make a positive impact in it! It might not happen the way you planned it, and life will surely continue to throw you a lot of curveballs...but with Christ as your strength, your resiliency and your ability to get back up and start again when your plans fail will serve you well. Therefore, when you take a new first step of faith into this next chapter of your life, no matter what your plans are, I hope you will remember that you are enough. Remember that your church family is here for you and is just a phone call away if you ever need us. Remember, as Anne Lamott says, "God loves you exactly the way you are...and too much to let you stay that way." Remember, throughout all the ups and downs of life, you are never alone. After all, the good news is that through Christ, you are children of God...meaning, you have all the gifts you need to be exactly who God created you to be! And that's a message not just for our high school graduates, but for all of us in the school of life and faith. Thanks be to God.

Keep on keepin' on,

Rev. Dr. Josh Stewart, Associate Pastor for Youth

APRIL SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

At its April 18, 2021 Stated Meeting the Session:

- Was led in an opening devotion and prayer by elder Patrick Sheppard.
- Sustained the Examination and Received into Membership the 2021 Confirmation class of: Robert Carpenter, Sabrina d'Angelo, Lillie Doze, Sam Doze, Nola Gibbs, Madeline Hadley, Lowdon Hobbs, Allie Michalove, Hayden Newquist, Annie Parsons, Jack Rau, Vivian Richey, LillyMay Van Horn, and Noah Varnon.
- Approved the Consent Agenda (including minutes of the March stated meeting; minutes of special meetings to receive new members; and recording a wedding.)
- Heard reports from the Clerk and the Pastors. Brian led the Session in a joyful, fun exercise to build relationships.
- Received the Monthly Update from the Work Group on Reopening, and engaged in extensive discussion together. An item was referred to the Adult Christian Nurture committee and the Work Group for their evaluation and recommendation no later than the May Session meeting.
- Adjourned with prayer.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the JUNE issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, MAY 19**. 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 Members!



Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming **Shelley and Turner Bettis**, who joined by transfer of membership on April 20. Shelley and Turner are longtime FPC visitors. Turner is a partner at Dorado Petroleum, and Shelley is Executive Director at The Warm Place. Their son Mac was born last September and is enrolled in the FPC Early Education Center.



Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming **George and Robin Dunham**, who joined our congregation on April 6 by transfer of membership from University Christian Church in Fort Worth. Robin grew up at First Pres, and Robin and George were married in this church. George is Betty Dunham's son. George is the CEO of Epicube, Inc., a software company, and Robin loves to

volunteer and spend time with their two grandchildren. They are looking forward to reconnecting with many friends here at FPC.



Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming **Pam and Jan Jordan**, who joined on April 14 by reaffirmation of faith. Jan is the Director of Information Technology at Moroch and Pam is working on her TESOL credential at TCC. The couple have been visiting FPC through online and parking lot worship for several months. They have two adult sons



Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming **Jeanette Keim**, who joined on April 19 by transfer of membership. Jeanette and her late husband, Arthur, had been long-time visitors to FPC before the pandemic. Jeanette is a church organist, and currently plays at First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Denton.

Upcoming Opportunities for Reflection on

RACE AND PRIVILEGE

In April, we celebrated the 2 year anniversary of Circles of Christ, the covenant partnership between Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist and First Presbyterian Churches of Fort Worth, designed "to amplify our love of God and our love of neighbor (Matthew 22.34-40) through a shared partnership of worship, service, fellowship and education." We partner together both by inviting one another to share in existing ministries of our congregations, and through new engagements specifically designed to enhance and deepen our dialogue about racial injustices and shared solidarity.

CIRCLES OF CHRIST FILM DISCUSSION, TUESDAY, MAY 18 AT 6 P.M.: Together on Zoom we will watch Fort Worth's Amphibian Stage's 40 minute production of *This is My Story* followed by a facilitated discussion by one of their staff. "When have you been silenced?" We asked this question of Black men living and working in Fort Worth and received deeply personal responses. *This is My Story* presents three stories from an educator, an event planner and a Veteran Peer Service Coordinator, each of whom has learned to be silent as a means of self-preservation—but at what cost? *This is My Story* challenges us to look deeper, shed assumptions and envision what is possible when we approach one another with understanding and compassion. To register, visit fpcfww.org/race or call the church office (817.335.1231).

For more information on how you can be a part of Circles of Christ, visit fpcfww.org/circlesofchrist or contact Robyn Michalove (robynm@fpcfww.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 266).



TIP OF THE MONTH

Wellness is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity; it is a state of complete physical, mental, social wellbeing. Wellness is the act of practicing habits on a daily basis to attain better physical, and mental

outcomes, so that instead of just surviving you are thriving!

Several key lifestyle areas are considered dimensions of overall wellness, including: social connectedness, exercise, nutrition, sleep and mindfulness. Start with small changes:

- Social connectedness: Take a few minutes a day to call someone.
- Exercise: Even 20-30 minutes of daily exercise can have a positive impact on your physical health and improve your mood.
- Nutrition: choose an apple and/or raw vegetables for a snack.
- Sleep: Avoid caffeine after 12 noon, include quiet and calm activities before going to bed, wake up at the same time each day.
- Mindfulness/meditation: Consider your own mind and how you are feeling. Consider journaling these thoughts and feelings.

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES!



JOHN BAGGS

High School: Southwest Christian School

Plan for next year: I will be attending the University of Colorado at Boulder in the fall majoring in Video Production and minoring in Business.

Favorite FPC memory: My favorite youth group memory was going on the progressive dinner

and watching *Elf* on the bus.

Message to church family: I would like to thank First Presbyterian Church for supporting me throughout my spiritual and a social life throughout middle school and high school

Favorite Bible passage or meaningful story: John 15.5, "I am the vine; and you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."



GRACE CLINGMAN

High School: Benbrook Middle-High School

Plan for next year: I will be attending the University of Texas at San Antonio to study psychology.

Favorite FPC memory: One of my favorite church memories

has been going to Mo Ranch where I have made new friends, became closer to my church family, and strengthened my relationship with God.

Message to church family: I want to thank all of my church family for always being there for me and supporting me through my journey in faith. Thank you for not only teaching me, but encouraging me to question as I learn.

Favorite Bible passage or meaningful story: Joshua 1.9, "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."



RACHEL CONNOLLY

High School: Grapevine High School

Plan for next year: I will be attending the University of Texas at Austin in the McCombs School of Business. I will be pursuing a Business Administration degree

with a concentration in marketing.

Favorite FPC memory: My favorite memory is the opportunity I had to travel to El Salvador for a mission trip through the church and Living Waters. I am forever grateful for the experience and the many relationships formed because of it.

Message to church family: I would like to say thank you to my church family for their unconditional support and their continued guidance to help me know God better.



Favorite Bible passage or meaningful story: Psalm 46.5, "God is within her, she will not fall."

WALKER GORE

High School: R.L. Paschal High School

Plan for next year: Next year I will be attending Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas. I will be studying in the Mays Business School.

Favorite FPC memory: My favorite youth group memories are from the youth group lock ins. Playing sardines in the church in the middle of the night was so much fun.

Message to church family: I would like to thank the First Presbyterian Church congregation for helping guide me and the other youth over the past years.

Favorite Bible passage or meaningful story: I would say that the road to Emmaus Bible story definitely stuck with me over the years because of how the two disciples were selflessly helpful to Jesus before they even realized it was Jesus. I think this story shows how being a good person no matter what can take you places.



ANNA CLAIRE HADDOCK

High School: Central High School in Keller

Plan for next year: I will be attending the University of Colorado- Colorado Springs next year and majoring in marketing.

Favorite FPC memory: I loved youth group and playing the fun games. Even online it has been a way to connect with my peers.

Message to church family: I would like to thank my church family for assisting my growth both spiritually and emotionally. I was baptized at FPC and so many people were integral in my faith story and I would like to thank each and every one of you.

Favorite Bible passage or meaningful story: Proverbs 3.5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your understanding. In all the ways trust in Him and He will direct your path."

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES!



JUDD JENKINS

High School: R.L. Paschal High School

Plan for next year: I plan on attending the University of Texas and majoring in Business.

Favorite FPC memory: One of my favorites was playing basketball with the Cuban Youth a couple years ago during our Mission Trip.

Message to church family: I'd

like to thank my Mom and Dad, Josh, my three sisters, and everyone at First Pres for their support.

Favorite Bible passage or meaningful story: 1 Corinthians 16.14, "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."



ELIZABETH LETBETTER

High School: All Saints Episcopal School

Plan for next year: I plan to go to college at Oklahoma State University as a Zoology major.

Favorite FPC memory: My favorite was Mo Ranch Summer Camp.

Message to church family: Thanks to the FPC community, I have made some really close friends and had lots of fun.

Favorite Bible passage or meaningful story: Proverbs 24.5, "A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might."



ELLA MUHLERT

High School: R.L. Paschal High School

Plan for next year: I am so excited to go to Texas A&M at College Station to major in Biomedical Engineering.

Favorite FPC memory: My favorite church memory has always been going to Vacation Bible School when I was little and

then being able to work Vacation Bible School once I was old enough. The marketplace in the Great Hall was my favorite part because it was so fun to see all the kids so excited about it everyday.

Message to church family: Thank you for supporting me throughout my life and high school career. I would not be where I am without the love and support I am blessed with from everyone at church.

Favorite Bible passage or meaningful story: Matthew 6.34, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."



MICHAEL PARSONS

High School: R.L. Paschal High School

Plan for next year: I plan to go to the University of Alabama.

Favorite FPC memory: My favorite youth activities are all of the Mission trips we have been on.

If I had to pick a favorite, it would be the trip to Cuba.

Message to church family: Thanks to everyone who has taught me Sunday school, been my youth sponsors, taken me on mission trips, and done so much more for me over the years. I am so thankful to have grown up in a church as amazing and supportive as this one.

Favorite Bible passage or meaningful story: Romans 8.38-39, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

You're invited to send congratulatory cards or letters to any of our graduates care of First Presbyterian Church (Senior's Name c/o First Presbyterian Church, 1000 Penn Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102). Please mail items before June 6, 2021.

Also, join us on Saturday, May 8 in the church parking lot for a special celebration for our senior youth who are graduating from high school! The parking lot will open at 3:30 p.m. for you to arrive and decorate your cars. The parking lot will close at 4 p.m. when the event officially starts. Activities will include live senior interviews, crafts, and a physically distanced parade. Families are invited to adopt a graduate by helping create a fun survival kit for the next chapter of their lives. To register, call the church office or visit <http://fpcfww.info/seniorcelebration>

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. 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).

May 1: Ezekiel 29-37
May 2: Ezekiel 38-48
May 3: John 1-3
May 4: John 4,5
May 5: John 6-8
May 6: John 9,10
May 7: John 11,12
May 8: John 13-16
May 9: John 17-21
May 10: Psalm 145; Revelation 1-3
May 11: Psalm 146; Revelation 4-7
May 12: Psalm 147; Revelation 8-11
May 13: Psalm 148; Revelation 12-15
May 14: Psalm 149; Revelation 16-18
May 15: Psalm 150; Revelation 19-22



Spots are filling up, so register today!

ARTS ALIVE! MUSIC & ARTS DAY CAMP:
May 15, June 12

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 21-25

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CELEBRATION: June 26

MO-RANCH: July 11-17

MISSION ON THE MOVE: August 6-8

Get more details and register.

FPCFW.ORG/SUMMERCAMPS

THE PRESBYTERIAN HABITAT BUILD IS BACK!

Join Trinity Habitat for Humanity and other Presbyterians as we help build a home for Tameka Black and her family!

- 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>

PLANNED GIVING: WHAT IS YOUR LEGACY?

PLANNING YOUR LAST WILL & TESTAMENT



Creating a will gives your family peace of mind knowing your wishes, and leaves these last important decisions about your estate up to you and not the courts.

Creating a will is easy. Start with these five easy steps:

1. Determine the needs of your family.
2. List the ministries you would like to support.
3. Finalize recipients to be named in your will.
4. Contact an attorney.
5. Enjoy life to its fullest knowing your legacy of faith will live on!

Your will can be a faith statement -- not only a legal and financial statement. Once you have provided for your loved ones, you can choose to give to ministries that are meaningful to you. This decision of planned gifts is one message of your faith and an exercise of stewardship. A planned gift can be best accomplished when creating, reviewing, or rewriting your will.

If you have questions about setting up your will and/or including planned giving to First Presbyterian Church, please contact Dana Fickling, FPC's Church Administrator, at 817.335.1231 or dfickling@fpcfw.org today.



During April, Community Crossroads partnered with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Tarrant County to feed and vaccinate our neighbors in the community, and with DeZavala Elementary to provide uniforms to students.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as April 22, 2021. 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 **Kathy Baxley**, who died March 24. Surviving FPC family are her granddaughters, **Alex, Nola**, and **Annika Gibbs** and **Maren and Charlie Gibbs**.

Cathie and David Coleman and their son, **Sam Coleman**, on the death of Cathie's mother, **Christie Smith Galbraith**, on March 25 in Abilene.

Family and friends of **Diane Satterlee**, who died April 4.

Katie and Weston Eidson and their children, **Charles**, **Caroline**, and **Henry** on the death of Katie's father, **Dana Frank**, on April 7 in Ashland, Oregon.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Rush Hart, **Harlene Satterfield**, **Vernon Rew**, **Kim Yarwood**, **Paul Campbell**, **Marjorie Gordon**, **Mike Millar**, and **Julie Carter**, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Margo Dean, **Sarah Graham**, **Jimmy Burnett**, **Jim Goble**, **Karl Kuipers**, **Jerry Brownlee**, **Eliot Kerlin**, **Joyce Brower**, **Janelle Eklund**, **Frank Stewart**, **Karl Travis**, **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.



FPC ENCOURAGES YOU TO REGISTER FOR THE COVID-19 VACCINE

The State of Texas is distributing the Covid-19 vaccine, and all adults (16 and up) are eligible for vaccination. 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 a confirmation that you are on the waiting list, and 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

Need help registering? Contact the church office (817.335.1231 or pobrien@fpcfw.org) and provide your name and contact information. A member of the Wellness Committee will be in touch to help you register. There will also be an in-person registration event at Community Crossroads (1516 Hemphill Street, Fort Worth) on Saturday, May 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No appointment is required.

If you are a Veteran, the VA North Texas Healthcare System is now offering vaccinations to all Veterans, caregivers, spouses and CHAMPVA beneficiaries. To schedule a vaccine appointment, call the VA Dallas Covid-19 vaccination appointment line at 214.857.4791. 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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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 at First Pres

Online Sundays:

FPCFW.ORG/WORSHIP

**WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS ON LIVESTREAMING
SERVICES FROM PENN STREET!**

Sundays on Penn Street:

9 A.M. IN THE GREAT HALL

11 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED.

VISIT FPCFW.ORG/WORSHIP TO SAVE YOUR SEAT!

Wednesdays at Community Crossroads:

**5:30 P.M. IN THE PARKING LOT, 1516 HEMPHILL STREET
(WEATHER PERMITTING) BRIEF DEVOTION AND SINGING
FOLLOWED BY A HOT TO-GO MEAL FROM 6-7 P.M.**