

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

JULY 2021 | Volume 21, Number 7



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY STORE IS BACK!

Help us start stocking up for FPC's annual Christmas Toy Store with the Christmas in July Toy Drive! We're planning for the store to be open for our friends and neighbors from Community Crossroads on December 11. At this special "store" parents and guardians may shop for Christmas gifts for their children. Please bring donations to the tables outside worship spaces on Sundays, July 4, 11, 18, and 25 (look for the Christmas-wrapped boxes). We will also receive donations on July 18 at the Christmas in July Festival (see article below). Thank you for helping us kick off another great year of the Christmas Toy Store!

ITEMS NEEDED IN JULY (maximum amount per gift \$40):

- Scooters
- Musical Keyboards
- Books: Amelia Bedelia, Captain Underpants, Curious George, Dr. Seuss, Harry Potter, Star Wars
- Monetary Donations are welcome (please make checks out to FPC with "Christmas Store" in the memo and bring to the church office)



YOU'RE INVITED TO THE CHRISTMAS IN JULY FESTIVAL! JULY 18, 3-5 P.M.

It is never a bad time to wear red and green! You're invited to enjoy an afternoon of games and activities for all ages. We'll enjoy cookie decorating, a bounce house, cupcake walk, bingo, corn hole, Connect 4, 9 Square in the Air, and the annual youth white elephant t-shirt exchange. We will also collect toys for FPC's Christmas Toy Store (see article above for details). Get more information and register at fpcfw.info/christmasinJuly.

WORSHIP IN JULY

The month of July includes several special worship opportunities at FPC.



BRIAN COULTER TO BE INSTALLED JULY 11:

July 11 is the Installation Service for the Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter as Pastor/Head of Staff. FPC will gather in one service on this Sunday at 11 a.m. and be led in worship by a commission from Grace Presbytery. Several guests from the presbytery along with family and friends of Brian will be a part of this meaningful service. The preacher for the morning is the Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall, former President of Columbia Theological Seminary. The Chancel Choir returns this Sunday as well.

8 A.M. WORSHIP RESUMES JULY 18:

July 18 the 8 a.m. service resumes in the Chapel, taking us back to the full complement of three morning worship services. The 8 a.m. service includes the weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper.

TAIZE WORSHIP RETURNS JULY 18:

July 18 is also the return of the monthly Taize worship service. This contemplative service in the Chapel at 6.30 p.m. includes reading of scripture, prayers, and the singing of music from the Taize community in France accompanied by a small ensemble.



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

I heard someone refer to the long months of the pandemic as "Covidtide," as if it were an official season of the church year. Of course, those difficult months are quite different from the joyful times of Christmastide or Eastertide. We pivoted from life as we knew it and separated from people and places, like church

community, that provide such deep spiritual and emotional connections. We learned how to worship in online platforms and have meaningful discussions about the Bible or current events on Zoom. We all weathered the storms of Covidtide the best we could; and like Brian's recent sermon on Jesus calming the sea, we trusted that somehow God would show up with faithfulness and grace.

Although the "tide" in Covidtide doesn't refer to the sea, it reminds us that, like the ocean, the seasons of life wash over us and the storms of life can seem overwhelming. I shared with you all in a sermon a while back how in Cuba I had a narrow window of free time for 45 minutes in our schedule while we were at a Presbyterian congregation only two blocks from a beach. Some people chose to take a power nap; others went souvenir shopping; and I chose to go for a quick swim in the Atlantic. Someone asked me why I chose the hassle of a salty swim that requires changing clothes and drying off, and I surprised myself with my response. I said, "I need a moment to trust in buoyancy beyond my own abilities."

I love the sensation of floating on my back but the problem is: I don't like to have my ears underwater and I am always afraid that a big wave is going to wash an ocean full of water up my nose. And so I spent countless minutes trying to mitigate all the what-ifs. At first I kept straining my neck to see where the next wave might crest, or, wondering if I could really trust that the buoyancy would carry me. Finally, realizing the time crunch, I laid my head all the way back, ears fully submerged and trusted that the water would hold me. And buoyancy beyond my ability held me.

God's buoyancy beyond our ability held us in Covidtide, and as we now emerge from this time, we sense God's presence still carrying us, saying to us, "peace, be still." Maybe this summer you will find yourself near a body of water....if you do, imagine that through the waves and tides of life, both personally and collectively, God meets us with all grace and faithfulness and will complete the good work begun in us.

Peace be with you,

Robyn

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming **Jeff Morrison**, who joined by Transfer of Membership on Sunday, June 13. Jeff is a retired purchasing manager with two adult daughters.



Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming **Elisabeth Sinnett**, who joined by Transfer of Membership on Sunday, June 13. Her husband, Mark, (also pictured) is Presbyterian clergy.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the AUGUST issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, JULY 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

PUBLISHER INFO

The Penn Street Letter is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church, 1000 Penn Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-3496. Periodicals postage is paid at Fort Worth, TX and at additional offices.

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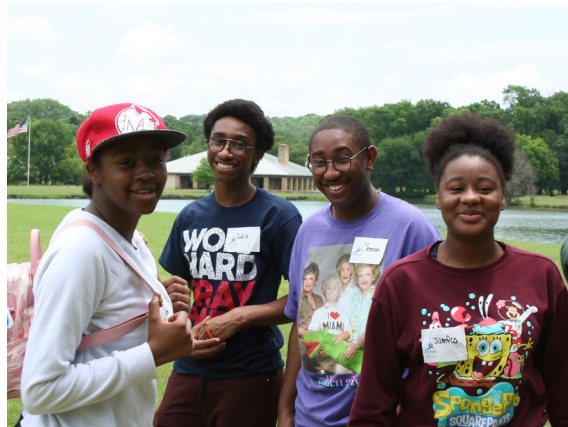
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COME TOGETHER

This year, we celebrate the 2 year anniversary of Circles of Christ, the covenant partnership between Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist and First Presbyterian Churches of Fort Worth. 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.

On Saturday, June 5, youth and adults from Mt. Moriah and First Presbyterian enjoyed a day at Camp Carter called "Come Together." We enjoyed shared fellowship, devotions, conversation and tie dying t-shirts. Stay tuned as we continue to dream together of ways we connect through our partnership in Christ.

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



BE INSPIRED...

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

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES AT FPC

CHANCEL CHOIR RESUMES

The Chancel Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday, July 7 at 7 p.m. and will sing the following four Sundays. After a short two week break, fall rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, August 18. New singers are welcome in the Chancel Choir!

After the necessary pandemic break from singing in groups, there is much joy in singing again – and a true sense of not taking such an opportunity for granted. If you have considered singing before, now is the perfect time to enter into this inspiring, fulfilling, and joyous ministry. For more information about the Chancel Choir, contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski in the church office (michaelw@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231).

PHILEMON IN-DEPTH (ABSURDLY IN-DEPTH!)

On Sunday mornings in July, Dr. Steve Brotherton will lead a Philemon In-Depth (Absurdly In-Depth!) class as part of the adult Summer Series. The class meets at 10 a.m. on Sundays July 4, 11, 18, and 25, both in-person in Room 235 and online via Zoom. To register for the Zoom information, visit fpcfw.info/philemon.

MOMS SUMMER SCHEDULE

MOMS (Mothers Offering Mothers Support) is a ministry of First Presbyterian Church for all mothers of children of all ages. This summer, MOMS will meet in person at local restaurants on the 2nd Thursdays at 6:45 p.m., and via Zoom on the 4th Thursdays at 1 p.m.:

- July 8: 6:45 p.m., Summer MOMS on the Patio (Press Café)
- July 22: Zoom at 1 p.m.
- July 29: 6:45 p.m., Jazzercise with Jacqueline
- August 12: 6:45 p.m., Summer Moms on the Patio (Tinie's) - visit fpcfw.org/moms to register for our table headcount.
- August 26: Zoom at 1 p.m.

To subscribe to weekly emails or get more information about MOMS, contact Robyn Michalove (robym@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 266) or visit fpcfw.org/moms.

MOMS is relaunching with something new coming this fall! Watch for more details.

STAINED GLASS TOUR: JULY 12

Have you ever wondered about FPC's stained glass windows, or marveled at their beauty and craftsmanship? Each window tells a story, and on Monday, July 12 at 5:30 p.m., the Rev. Brendan McLean will offer a guided tour of the stained glass. Contact the church office (817.335.1231) to register.



WELLNESS WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Greetings from your Wellness Committee! While FPC's usual wellness offerings have been unavailable for the past year, your Wellness Committee wants to know what wellness activities YOU, the congregation, would like us to provide when we're able to gather for in-person activities again. In addition to the activities the Wellness Committee typically provides, such as sponsoring races/walks and hosting fitness classes, are there any other wellness activities you would like to see offered at FPC?

Please take a few minutes to respond to the survey below to tell us what you'd like to see at FPC to aid in improving your wellness! Then, mail to or drop off at the church office: First Presbyterian Church, 1000 Penn St, Fort Worth, TX 76102-3496. If you prefer to fill out the survey online, it is available at fpcfw.org/wellness.

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

OPTIONS (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- ☐ Runs/walks
(currently 4 races annually sponsored by FPC)
- ☐ Fitness classes
(normal offerings: Yoga, Tai Chi, ReFit)
- ☐ Hikes
- ☐ Bike rides
- ☐ Cooking classes
- ☐ Nutrition classes/information
- ☐ Health Screenings
- ☐ Classes or presentations on other wellness topics

ANY OTHER ACTIVITIES, IDEAS, OR REQUESTS
(PLEASE SPECIFY - ALL IDEAS ARE WELCOME!)

ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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



NEWS AND NEEDS

COMING SOON: WELLNESS & COOKING CLASSES

Starting in August, Community Crossroads will be offering a series of Wellness-based food and cooking classes. In August, the classes will focus on cooking for diabetes. The September class will feature a "garden to table" format in conjunction with the Tarrant Area Food bank (and in time for the harvest of the green bean seeds distributed to Community Crossroads neighbors). Future classes will include a cooking demo with FPC's own Director of Hospitality and Food Service Heath Brosi. The classes will be held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m., except for August, which begins August 12 and will continue for 2-3 classes. Stay tuned for more information!

WALK THE LABYRINTH ON TUESDAYS

Community Crossroads is open each Tuesday from 9-11 a.m. for prayer and reflection. An indoor Labyrinth will be set up in the dining hall for walking, prayer, and meditation.

SCHEDULE YOUR GROUP FOR A TOUR OF COMMUNITY CROSSROADS

Would your small group be interested in a guided tour of the newly renovated Community Crossroads campus? If your group or Committee is interested in meeting at Crossroads for a tour, contact Dori Al Hammami (dalhammami@fpcfww.org or 817.333.9461) to schedule a date.

CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Drivers are needed to pick up store donations from Walmart Marketplace in Keller on Wednesday and Friday mornings before 10 a.m.
- Volunteers are needed for FAD (Formula and Diapers) and grocery distribution on Monday mornings from 9-11 a.m. (This ministry will resume when we have enough volunteers. Our target date is July 12.)
- Volunteers are needed for a choice style pantry on Monday mornings beginning July 12 from 9-11 a.m.

To sign up for any of these opportunities, contact Dori Al-Hammami (dalhammami@fpcfww.org or 817.333.9461).



PRESBYTERIAN HABITAT HOUSE DEDICATED IN JUNE

In June, Trinity Habitat for Humanity celebrated the dedication (or "board cutting") of the new home for Tameka Black and her family in the Como neighborhood of Fort Worth.

This home was the 2021 Presbyterian build involving local churches, including First Presbyterian. As sponsors, First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth and Emmanuel Presbyterian Church were present at the dedication to pray over Tameka's home and present her with a Bible. Tameka was joined by close friends and family in celebrating her new home.

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

New homeowner Tameka says, "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... 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."

STAYING CONNECTED

From a jazz concert and movie in the parking lot to a men's social gathering and in-person worship, pictured here are some of the recent ways the FPC family has been staying connected to the church and one another. 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@fpcfww.org.



JOYS & CONCERNS

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

Our loving sympathy to...

Friends and family of **Lois Menefee**, who died May 23. Surviving FPC family members are **David** and **M.L. Menefee**, **Kathryn Menefee**, **John Menefee**, and **Max Menefee**.

Devin and Helen McPherson and their children, Clara, Charlotte, and Milly on the death of Devin's father, Carl McPherson, on June 7 in Topsham, Maine.

Peggy and David Schneider on the death of her sister, Pamela Anderson Morris on June 16 in Arlington, Texas.

Peter and Melinda Van't Slot on the death of his sister, Ann Karnemaat, on June 17 in Fremont, Michigan.

Friends and family of **Bob Barham**, who died June 23.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

David Nation, **Ann Florsheim**, **Harlene Satterfield**, **Vernon Rew**, **Marjorie Gordon**, and **Mike Millar**, 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...

Penny Kreider (niece of **Bob and Jane Trask**), Jo Ross (daughter-in-law of **Pat and Bill Gordon**), James Sloan (father-in-law of **Murray Hilyard**), Victoria DeLay (niece of **Jamie Downing**), 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.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE CARES FOR YOU

As the church reopens, the Congregational Care Committee is eager to continue meeting the needs of the church by providing care to our members.

The Committee is composed of 13 ministries: Stephen Ministry, Care Team Network, Confidential Prayer Line, Housesitters, Bereavement Meals, Shuttle Service, Men's Visitation, PW Fellowship Visitation, Card Ministry, Flower Ministry, Muffin Ministry, Prayer Shawl Ministry, and Support Groups, as needed.

This month, we highlight FPC's Muffin Ministry. First Presbyterian Church makes every effort to care for and nurture its members in times of joy and sorrow. Congregational Care Committee is pleased to resume the work of the Muffin Ministry. Once a month a group meets to package muffins made by our hospitality staff. Muffins or cards are delivered to families and individuals that are in special need of a tangible gift of love.

If you would like more information on any of these ministries, or are interested in being a part of this caring committee, please contact Jennifer Pettey (jpettey@fpcfw.org. or 817.335.1231).



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1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

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WWW.FPCFW.ORG

YOUR GENEROSITY AT WORK: PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROJECT NEARS COMPLETION



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 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. PW Circles have raised money for the "Feather the Nest" campaign and to provide WiFi access to all 48 units, providing residents with technology to enrich their lives and help them live independently. The project is nearing completion and expects to begin housing tenants within the next few weeks.