

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

SEPTEMBER 2021 | Volume 21, Number 9



Sunday, September 12 kicks off a new season of ministry and mission together as fall opportunities begin for all ages. FPC offers a variety of opportunities for reading and studying the Bible, enrichment, and building relationships. Learn more about the many fall opportunities at FPC throughout this issue.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES SEPTEMBER 12

We are excited to see all our First Presbyterian Church children back in the halls soon. We offer a nurturing place where children experience the love of God for birth through 5th grade and their families. Children learn what an important part of the faith community they are by taking part in Bible study, worship, fellowship, music and art, and recreation. Beginning Sunday, September 12, children's Church School meets on Sunday mornings from 10 - 10:45 a.m. Preschool classes meet in Room 207 (age 2-3 by September 1) and Room 210 (age 4-5 by September 1). Elementary classes meet in Room 216 (Kinder and 1st grade), Room 232 (2nd and 3rd grade), and Room 233 (4th and 5th grade). Our Children's Ministry will be following all of the church COVID policies. With the guidance from the CDC, First Presbyterian Church has decided to require masks for everyone (2 years and older). We will have hand sanitizer in all the classrooms, physically distance as best we can, and have the classrooms cleaned between each session. Questions? Contact Ann Nielsen, Director of Children and Family Ministries, 817.335.1231 or anielsen@fpcfww.org.

FALL CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

Beginning Sunday, September 12, eleven adult Church School classes will meet to study and support adults in nurturing their faith and discipleship. Classes meet from 10-10:45 a.m. each week and are led by an outstanding faculty of members, staff, and friends of First Presbyterian Church. Bible study, faith formation, and contemporary issues in church and society form the curriculum. See page 3 of this issue for a complete listing of classes. Questions? Contact Michael Waschevski, 817.335.1231 or michaelw@fpcfww.org.

YOUTH GROUP KICKS OFF SEPTEMBER 12

Church School classes are offered for youth on Sundays from 10-10:45 a.m. The High School class meets in the Youth Center. The Middle School class meets in Room 109.

Sunday afternoon and evenings offer youth group gatherings for both high school and middle school students, as well as study and music opportunities. Middle School Youth meet from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Center and Gym (HS Study Hall in Atrium), followed by High School Youth from 6 - 7 p.m. While supplies last, students who come to Sunday afternoon/evening Youth Group will receive a FPC Youth "Presbygonia" t-shirt!

Starting Wednesday, September 15 Wednesday Night High School Bible Study meets from 7:30-8:30 p.m. off campus.

Questions? Contact Rev. Dr. Josh Stewart, Associate Pastor for Youth, 817.335.1231 or josh@fpcfww.org.





PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

As we enter the month of September, there is such excitement about the return of church school classes for all ages, new Bible and topical studies, increased ministry programming, and living into the newly renovated and expanded facilities at Community Crossroads. At the same

time, we continue to exercise care and caution for one another as the pandemic continues to affect our daily lives at church, school, work, and home. In our excitement and in our concern, we give thanks for God's faithfulness to us and to our church community.

Life is constantly filled with the mixture of both excitement and concern. Gratitude for what has been and faith for what lies ahead. New beginnings and endings. That is true in our lives and it is certainly true in the life of our congregation. All of it held in God's faithful love.

Two weeks ago, Marilyn Love, our long-serving, faithful, and beloved Acolyte Coordinator for the 11 a.m. worship service shared that she needed to step down from leading that ministry. Talk about a mixture of feelings.

- Deep gratitude for Marilyn's exceptional ministry with our high school students over the decades.
- Sadness for the end of an era and Marilyn's inspiring weekly presence in the hallways, narthex, and Sanctuary.
- Frustration with a pandemic that requires absence from large gatherings for those at increased risk.
- Trust in God's faithfulness that even now has provided new leadership for the Acolyte Ministry through Jack and Vickie Walker, and gratitude for them.

While Marilyn can't join us at this time in worship, please join me in giving thanks for Marilyn's remarkable ministry. We will look forward to the time when we can gather with her and thank her in person.

And join me in giving thanks for God's faithful love that holds us all.

God's peace to you,

Michael



SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the OCTOBER issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 22**. 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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WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming the following new members, who joined First Presbyterian Church during July and August 2021.



Chuck Ross joined by reaffirmation of faith on Sunday, July 25. Chuck was a frequent visitor to FPC and is originally from Ellsworth, Maine.



Elizabeth and Pat Richardson joined by transfer of membership on Sunday, July 25. Elizabeth is retired from nursing. Pat is a veteran helicopter pilot and is retired from telecommunications.



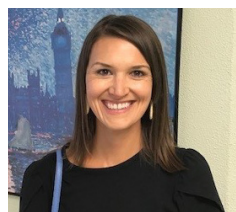
Margaret and Mark Beasley joined on Sunday, August 1, by transfer of membership. Mark is a recently retired professor and Margaret is a freelance editor. The couple were previously FPC members before moving to Abilene. They recently relocated to Aledo.



Janie and Don Edwards joined on Sunday, August 1, by transfer of membership. Janie is a teacher, and Don is retired from the petrochemical industry. The couple plans to relocate to Fort Worth from Dallas within the next year. They are the brother and sister-in-law of FPC member June Wright.



Kay Love joined on Sunday, August 8, by reaffirmation of faith. Kay comes to FPC from the Roman Catholic faith and a career as a children's educator.



Megan Coulter joined on Sunday, August 24, by transfer of membership. Megan is the wife of Rev. Dr. Brian Coulter and the mother of Annabel and Paige.



Cesar Chavez and Janet Hernandez joined on Sunday, August 24, by transfer of membership and reaffirmation of faith, respectively. Cesar and Janet were married in May. Janet is a diagnostician with HEB Independent School District, and Cesar is in sales with GPSI.



Nancy and Paul Schlirf joined on Sunday, August 24, by transfer of membership. Nancy is retired from Delta Airlines, and Paul from Anadarko Petroleum. They are the parents of FPC member Laura Lester.



FALL CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES FOR ADULTS

September 12 - November 28, 2021

ALPHA AND OMEGA (60S-70S):
Book of Confessions led by the Rev. Brendan McLean, Room 238

BIBLE IN DEPTH:
Bible Study of Daniel led by the Rev. Robyn Michalove, Room 237

BOOMERS (50S-60S) AND JOURNEYS:
Faith Conversations led by Chris Bartley, Room 241

GENEVA (SENIORS):
Bible Study led by Dr. Steve Brotherton, Room 304

GROWING FAMILIES OF FAITH:
Bible Study led by Dr. Bob Peak, Room 236

MAJ-JO/WESTMINSTER (SENIORS):
Bible Study led by John Thompson, Room 310

MARANATHA:
Bible Study led by Lisa Waldron, Room 239

PRESBYTERIAN ALL FAMILIES:
Faith Conversations led by Michael Martin, Room 230

SYS (40S-50S):
Faith Conversations led by Bill Goodwin, Room 305

YOMAC (SENIORS):
Present Word Bible Study led by Jennifer Regen, Trinity Terrace

YOUNG ADULTS:
Bible Study led by Eric Varnon, Room 234

BE INSPIRED AND ENGAGE THE WORLD...

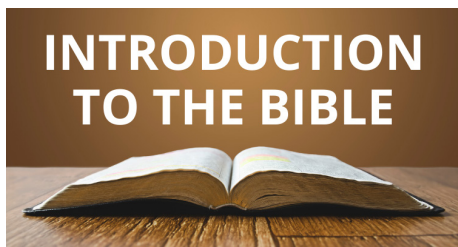
Below are some upcoming opportunities for being inspired into a life of discipleship and engaging with others through church events, education, and outreach opportunities.



READING THE BIBLE IN 9 MONTHS

Over the past several years, over 250 members and friends of First Presbyterian Church have completed the Reading the Bible in 9 Months program developed by Associate Pastor Michael Waschevski. Daily readings from September – May are arranged in such a way that the connections between the books of the Bible and the overarching themes and story cycles of scripture come together to reveal the unity of the Bible.

Monthly gatherings are offered for those who would like to come together to support and encourage one another in the discipline of daily reading, and to ask questions raised from the readings. The reading plan and schedule for monthly meetings for 2021-2022 are posted at fpcfw.org/rb9m. Reading plans will also be available at the Introduction to the Bible seminar on Saturday, September 11 at 9 a.m.

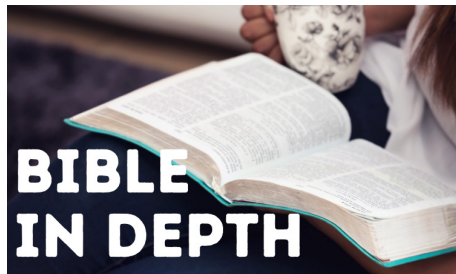


INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE SEMINAR: SEPTEMBER 11

During this seminar participants will learn the history of how the Bible came to be, come to understand its organization and unity while appreciating the uniqueness of the various books, and practice skills for interpreting scripture as Presbyterians. Whether you are brand new to studying the Bible, or have been studying for years, this seminar offers the support and encouragement needed for lifelong study and appreciation of scripture. The seminar

meets Saturday, September 11 from 9-11 a.m. Childcare is available upon request.

Register at fpcfw.info/introtobible or by contacting Celeste Falter in the church office (cfalter@fpcfw.org; 817.335.1231 ext. 261).



BIBLE IN-DEPTH BEGINS SEPTEMBER 12

FPC's popular Bible In-Depth study begins a new term in September. Meeting either Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning September 12, or Wednesdays at 10.45 a.m., beginning September 15, this popular study engages books of the Bible verse by verse. The fall study will be led by the Rev. Dr. Robyn Michalove (Sundays) and the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski (Wednesdays). The fall term will study Daniel.

Daniel is unique among the books of the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament.) In addition to the more familiar stories of Daniel in the Lion's Den and the Fiery Furnace, the first half of Daniel contains additional stories of Daniel's faithful witness as a Jewish exile relying on God's power to stand with faith and courage before the occupying emperor. The second half of Daniel contains a series of visions that are the most important example of apocalyptic literature in the Hebrew Bible. (Note: the spring 2022 Bible in Depth classes will study Revelation, the New Testament book of apocalyptic literature. Those who study Daniel will gain new insights into Revelation as well.)

Register at fpcfw.info/bibleindepthdaniel or by contacting Celeste Falter in the church office (cfalter@fpcfw.org; 817.335.1231 ext. 261).



MOMS IS TRYING SOMETHING NEW THIS FALL!

MOMS is relaunching with a small group model that fits your schedule! Join a group of fellow moms to share conversation about the joys and challenges of this season of life (or life in this moment). Each of us is busy with the day-to-day tasks, but we feel it is important for us to share life together and form relationships with one another. The small group model will help us offer more opportunities for MOMS to participate at different times of the day and locations that are convenient to you. Save the date for a MOMS Kick off Dinner on Thursday, September 16, at 6:30 p.m.

Questions? Visit fpcfw.org/moms or contact Robyn Michalove (robynm@fpcfw.org) or Ann Nielsen (anielsen@fpcfw.org).



INTRO TO HANDBELLS: SEPTEMBER 18

A rookie ringer class is taking place on Saturday, September 18. This class will introduce new ringers to bells and re-introduce rusty ringers to playing and reading handbell music.

If you are interested in learning or re-learning how to ring, please contact Becca Sawyer (rsawyer@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 253) for details.

BE INSPIRED AND ENGAGE THE WORLD...

Below are some upcoming opportunities for being inspired into a life of discipleship and engaging with others through church events, education, and outreach opportunities.



CHRISTIAN HISTORY - UNIT ONE: THE EARLY CHURCH BEGINS SEPTEMBER 23

The history of Christianity is rich and complex, inspiring and intriguing. This series, which will meet in 6-week units over the next two years, begins with The Early Church. From Palestinian Judaism through significant early church teachers and the Christian life through the 3rd century CE, this course is sure to deepen your appreciation for Christian history and the witness of those who have gone before us and shaped our own experience of the faith. The course will meet on Thursday evenings, September 23-October 28 from 7-8 p.m.

Register at fpcfw.info/christianhistory or by contacting Celeste Falter in the church office (cfalter@fpcfw.org; 817.335.1231 ext. 261).



PRESBYTERIAN 101

PRESBYTERIAN 101: SEPTEMBER 26 - OCTOBER 17

This course is designed for both those new to the Presbyterian Church as well as those seeking to understand the tradition more fully. Over the four sessions, participants will understand the place of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) in Christian history, explore major biblical and theological affirmations of Presbyterians, and come to appreciate the polity of our denomination in relation to other forms of church polity. The course meets Sunday afternoons September 26 - October 17 from 4.30 - 5.30 p.m.

Register at fpcfw.info/presby101 or by contacting Celeste Falter in the church

office (cfalter@fpcfw.org; 817.335.1231 ext. 261).



FIRST CONNECTIONS FOR NEW(ER) MEMBERS, VISITORS

First Connections class is an opportunity to learn about First Presbyterian Church and its ministries, and ways to connect within our faith community.

This four-week course is intended primarily for newer members and visitors to First Presbyterian Church, however, all are welcome! Even if you have been at FPC for a while, please join us and get to know our new members and visitors.

Throughout our time together, we will discuss how we connect to FPC, both in terms of contemplative faith and faith in action. Classes meet on Sundays at 12:15 p.m. in the Parlor, adjacent to the Chapel, from September 26 through October 17.

- September 26: Greeting by FPC Pastoral staff. Refreshments provided.
- October 3: Open House at Community Crossroads. Carpool available.

- October 10: Presentation on FPC Ministries and Opportunities to Connect.
- October 17: Walking Tour of Penn Street Campus.

Register at fpcfw.info/firstconnections or by contacting Keri Casciari in the church office (kcasciari@fpcfw.org; 817.335.1231 ext. 221). Questions? Contact Chris Bartley, Discipleship Coordinator, at 817.335.1231 or cbartley@fpcfw.org. Please call the church office at (817) 335-1231 or email Chris Bartley, Discipleship Coordinator at cbartley@fpcfw.org with any questions.



GRIEF GROUP RETURNS THIS FALL

FPC's in-person Grief Group will return this fall. This group offers a supportive and encouraging space in which to experience God's presence, comfort, and strength. This support group is free and open to members and friends of FPC and the community. Watch for details!





LEGACY SUNDAY CELEBRATES 50+ YEAR MEMBERSHIP ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

The Congregational Care Committee will recognize all who have been members of FPC for at least 50 years during worship (8, 9, and 11 a.m.) on Sunday, September 26. Even if you are unable to attend, you will be close in our hearts and prayers as we celebrate your longevity in the church. Those who have them, be sure to wear your Legacy Member pin. Those welcomed as new Legacy Members will receive their pin during worship.



LOOKING FOR SOME NEW RECIPES?

Last December, the Wellness Committee collected a group of recipes for our neighbors at Community Crossroads. We are now able to share that compilation with you online at fpcf.org/wellness. The recipes focus on dinners with sections on pork, chicken, beef, fish, pasta and rice, vegetables and fruit, and salads. Enjoy trying some ideas.

WHAM

WORSHIP HANDBELLS ARTS MUSIC

FPC's children's music program is known as WHAM (Worship, Handbells, Arts and Music). We are ready to launch the 2021-22 WHAM year on Sunday, September 12. Children, ages 4 through 1st grade, the Younger Children's Choir is designed just for you! 2nd-5th Grades have 3 classes each week: worship arts, children's bells, and three arts classes for the fall: Orff Odyssey with Laura Collins, Woodworking with Austin Stubblefield, and Sign Language Singing with Becca Sawyer. For further details and to register, visit fpcf.org/childrensmusic.

Questions? Contact Rebecca Sawyer (rsawyer@fpcf.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 253).



Youth Choir, Middle School & High School Bell Choirs will kick off on Sunday, September 12. Register at fpcf.org/youthmusic

Our first joint Youth Music Event is a weekend of music-making with youth musicians at Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church on October 10-11. We'll meet on Saturday morning at Mount Moriah for food, fellowship, and to learn some new music together. Our "Youth Together" group will serve as the worship choir for 9 a.m. service on October 10 and then leave to sing again for 10:30 worship at Mount Moriah. 9 a.m. worshippers on October 10 are invited to come early to visit with parents and chaperones from Mount Moriah while the Youth rehearse.

Questions? Contact Rebecca Sawyer (rsawyer@fpcf.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 253).



SAVE THE DATE: Boomers Fall Fiesta October 7

FPC Boomers Fellowship is hosting a Fall Fiesta at Joe T Garcia's. A family style enchilada dinner is provided and there will be a cash bar. Space is limited to 25, so register early at fpcf.info/boomersfiesta21.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of August 26, 2021. To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

Our loving sympathy to...

Mary Salazar on the death of her brother-in-law, Israel Jimenez, on August 1. Other surviving FPC family are **Michael and Leti Salazar, Alejandro Salazar, Santiago Salazar, and Dalia Salazar.**

Family and friends of **Doris Wurtz**, who died August 9. Surviving FPC family is niece, **Linda Barrett.**

Family and friends of **Louise Underwood**, who died August 18.

Bob and Jane Trask, on the death of their niece, Penny Kreider, on August 18 in Ringwood, New Jersey.

Dawn Shepard, on the death of her cousin, Rodney Cummings, on August 21 in New York City.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Glen Kinser, Jere Robertson, Larry Kinard, Paula Robertson, Janet Ragsdale, Bill Gordon, Dick Dinsdale, Ann Florsheim, and Mike Millar, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Bettye Kinard, Catherine Elkins, Scot Latta, Glynda Coffey, Sarah Graham, Jim Goble, Karl Kuipers, Jerry Brownlee, Janelle Eklund, Frank Stewart, Karl Travis, Marilyn Wilson, Emma Coley, and Frances Blake, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Sue Quinn (mother of **Jaci Travis**), Tahji Hoffman (great niece of **Rachele Williams**), Ross Gordon (son 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**), John DeMore (son-in-law of **June Sprott**), Kathy Kline (**Maxine Kruse's** daughter), and Susan Chenault.

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 **Pape Russell**, who is serving in the US Navy. Pape is the grandson of **Barbara Russell**. 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. We pray also for those affected by disasters and political turmoil.

Our congratulations and best wishes to...

Anne Phillips Ponsonby and **Ryan Ponsonby** on the birth of Paxton Blake on July 30. Paxton joins big brother Cooper. Proud FPC grandparents are **Tina and Bart Phillips.**



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Below are some highlights of special events happening in September. For a complete calendar, visit fpcfww.org.

SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

- 8 a.m. Worship in Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in Great Hall
- 10 a.m. Church School for All Ages (begins Sept. 12)
- 11 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary and Livestream
- 2 p.m. WHAM Worship Arts Classes (begins Sept. 12)
- 2:45 p.m. Children's Choir (begins Sept. 12)
- 3:30 p.m. Children's Bell Choir (begins Sept. 12)
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (begins Sept. 12)
- 6 p.m. High School Youth Group (begins Sept. 12)

WEDNESDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

- 10:45 a.m. Bible In-Depth: Daniel (begins Sept. 15)
- 5:30 p.m. WOW! Worship and To-Go Meal at Community Crossroads
- 7:30 p.m. High School Bible Study (begins Sept. 15)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- All Day Mo Ranch Labor Day Retreat

LABOR DAY: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

- All Day Church Office, Early Education Center, Community Crossroads closed

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

- 6 p.m. Young Adult Service Opportunity @ Opal's Farm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 9-11 a.m. Introduction to the Bible Seminar

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- 9 a.m. PW Circles Begin
- 7 p.m. Young Adult Study & Discussion

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

- 6:30 p.m. MOMS Kickoff Dinner

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- All Day Peanut Butter Sunday (donations collected)
- 9 a.m. Jazz Sunday in Great Hall (livestream at 11 a.m.)
- 6:30 p.m. Taize Worship in Chapel

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

- 10:30 a.m. PW Tuesday Together with Brian Coulter
- 6 p.m. PW Dinner at Joe T. Garcia's
- 6 p.m. Young Adult Social Gathering

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

- All Day Legacy Sunday (celebrated at 8, 9, and 11 a.m.)
- 9:30 a.m. Young Adult Last Sunday Brunch
- 12 p.m. First Connections Class Begins
- 4:30 p.m. Presbyterian 101 Class Begins

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

- 7 p.m. Young Adult Study & Discussion



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PERIODICALS
POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
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WWW.FPCFW.ORG

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S

Day of Celebration

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

TUESDAY TOGETHER
WITH BRIAN COULTER

10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall
Lunch to follow at 11:30 a.m.

Pay at the door \$7.50

RSVP by Tuesday, September 14



COME ENJOY DINNER WITH FRIENDS
AND CELEBRATE PW'S HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS!

6 p.m. at La Puertita at Joe T. Garcia's
2201 N Commerce St, Fort Worth

RSVP by Tuesday, September 14

Pay at the door \$25, checks made out to FPC-PW

Details and RSVP:

FPCFW.ORG/PW