

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

JANUARY 2022 | Volume 22, Number 1

MAKE THE MOST OF 2022!

Upcoming educational opportunities in the new year



Christian History Unit Two: The Imperial Church *begins Thursday, January 20*

The history of Christianity is rich and complex, inspiring and intriguing. Last fall 30 FPC members began the journey of Christian History with the Early Church. The series continues with Unit Two: The Imperial Church. New participants are welcome to join as we explore the impact of Constantine on the growth of Christianity in the Roman Empire. The unit will also explore the monastic movement, the Council of Nicaea, and several influential theologians such as Athanasius, Ambrose, John Chrysostom, Jerome, and Augustine.

The series will begin on Thursday, January 20 and continue through February 24, meeting Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m. The class will meet in a hybrid format – you may attend in person or via Zoom.

To register, fpcfw.info/christianhistory2 or contact Celeste Falter in the church office. (cfalter@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231 ext. 261). If you have any questions about the course, please contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski (michaelw@fpcfw.org) in the church office.

Bible in Depth: Excerpts from Luke *begins January 9 & 12*

Offered both on Sunday mornings (10 a.m.) and Wednesday mornings (10:45 a.m.), Bible in Depth will begin an eight-week study of excerpts from Luke's gospel.

Led by the Rev. Brendan McLean (Sundays) and the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski (Wednesdays), participants will experience the transformative power of this gospel and come to appreciate Luke's uniqueness among the four gospels in the New Testament. The Wednesday class is being led in a hybrid format – you may attend in person or via Zoom.

The study begins on Sunday, January 9 (10 a.m.) and Wednesday, January 12 (10:45 a.m.) and continues through February.

To register, fpcfw.info/bidlake or contact Celeste Falter in the church office. (cfalter@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231 ext. 261). If you have any questions about the course, please contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski (michaelw@fpcfw.org) in the church office.



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

T.S. Eliot wrote a piece entitled *Four Quartets*. It is often published as a complete volume these days, but it was originally four separate poems that he released over the course of six years.

Written in and around World War II, they can stand alone as independent works but also contain connectivity with each other. They share similar themes that address our innate need for human relationships as well as how we relate with time, with the universe, and with the divine.

Some of the stuff he gets into can come across as scary or frightening, but I don't think it was intended to be. For instance, one portion about the Holy Spirit reads:

*The dove descending breaks the air
With flame of incandescent terror
Of which the tongues declare
The one discharge from sin and error.
The only hope, or else despair
Lies in the choice of pyre or pyre-
To be redeemed from fire by fire.*

I think Eliot used the imagery of flames — not for intimidation purposes — but in a purifying sense. I think he saw them as a new beginning, a fresh start, a tabula rasa. And while this can seem scary, we don't have to interpret it in that way. Another line he wrote reads:

*For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.*

As we start 2022, we start a new year. It is no longer 2021 (nor is it 2020 —thanks be to God!!) And as we begin again, we realize that we are starting over once more. This can be intimidating and daunting at times, but that's only one way to interpret it. Perhaps this year can be the year after the refiner's fire. Perhaps this year can be the year in which we discover a new language. Perhaps this year can be the year of new birth adding another voice to our chorus.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope ...
1 Peter 1.3

Grace and Peace and Happy New Year,

Brian

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the FEBRUARY issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, JANUARY 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@fpcf.org.

FOLLOW US

Do you follow First Presbyterian on social media? If not, find us on the following sites and follow along for photos, reminders, encouragement, and more.



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mothers offering mothers support

Start off the new year with MOMS!

Gather for a morning of yoga and brunch

Saturday, January 8 | 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

FPC Youth Center



Bring your yoga mat (we will have extras),
\$10 and a water bottle. Childcare is provided for ages 0-5,
please indicate your need on the registration form.

REGISTER AT [FPCFW.ORG/MOMS](https://www.fpcfw.org/moms)



You're invited!



ALL CHURCH BRUNCH



Sunday, January 23 | 12 noon | Great Hall

Come enjoy a delicious FREE meal, an art show
for all ages, visit the playground, and learn more
about FPC's Early Education Center!



*Sponsored by First Presbyterian Church's
Early Education Center*

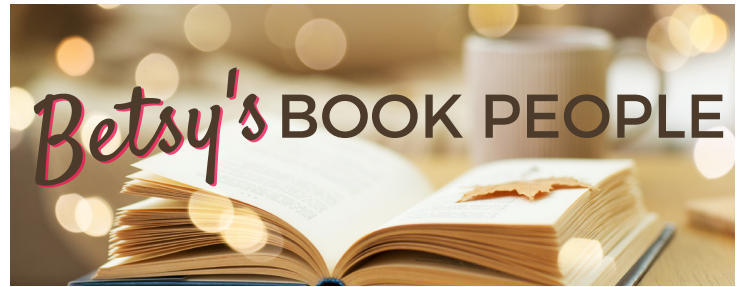


GRIEF GROUP

Beginning Sunday, January 23, First Presbyterian Church is offering a six-week in person Grief Support Group. Led by the Reverend Rachel Rigdon, this group offers a supportive and encouraging space in which to experience God's presence, comfort, and strength. We will be following the study guide in *Getting Grief Right: Finding Your Story of Love in the Sorrow of Loss*, written by Dr. Patrick O'Malley and Tim Madigan.

Rachel works as a chaplain at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth. Rachel is an ordained United Methodist Deacon and Board Certified Chaplain. Rachel earned her M.Div. degree at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University. She has over five years of experience working with children and adults as Chaplain and pastoral caregiver in multi-faith settings. Rachel is passionate about grief support for all ages and believes in the importance and sacredness of our own stories.

The Group will meet from 3:30-5 p.m. in Room 100. The six sessions (January 23 - February 27) are free and open to members and friends of First Presbyterian and the community. Even if you have been involved in a previous Grief Group, you are invited to attend. To register, visit fpcf.org/careandsupport or contact Celeste in the church office (817.335.1231, ext. 261 or cfalter@fpcf.org).



Betsy's Book People is a book group that meets on the second Mondays of selected months at noon in the Church Parlor. In January, the group will meet on January 10. Lynda Dinsdale will lead the discussion of *The Queen of Paris: A Novel of Coco Chanel* by Pamela Binnings Ewen. Please consider joining Book People for an opportunity to learn about the legendary fashion designer.

Betsy's Book People honors Betsy Pense, who founded this group of book lovers in February 2015. It is the group's hope that with the addition of Betsy's name, members will continue to be reminded of her legacy as the first female Presbyterian pastor ordained in North Texas, and for her love of books. As new members join the group, they will learn about Betsy and be inspired by her story.

For more information about Betsy's Book People, contact Judy Nelson (judytnelson@sbcglobal.net) or Anne Smith (anne76034@gmail.com).

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WILL HOST A

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4
9:30 A.M. TO 12:30 P.M.
IN THE FPC GYM



We will offer first and second doses of Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccines, and booster shots. Everyone 5 years of age and older is now eligible for vaccination. If you have been fully vaccinated, you may be eligible for a booster.

Please bring ID (for children, a vaccine record with their birthdate or a birth certificate) and your vaccination card (if you have one). Pre-registration is not required.

This clinic is sponsored by Tarrant County and open to the community.



WHAT OUTREACH LOOKS LIKE

Pictured here are some of the many ways FPC members and friends have blessed others over the last month. We're thankful for the many who give of themselves to show other God's love.



Above: Toy organization in preparation for the annual Christmas Toy Store. Thank you to all of the generous donors and wonderful volunteers who made the 2021 Christmas Toy Store a success! The store served more than 85 families with 320+ children.



Above, left, below: Christmas Party for the Blind Youth Call-a-Thon. Youth reached out and shared Christ's love with the blind of Tarrant County through personal phone calls and homemade Christmas cards.



Left and below: Local Girl Scout Troop 1517 filled and delivered 44 stockings to Community Crossroads for distribution to our neighbors on Christmas Eve.



Left: Robyn Michalove gives the invocation at the annual Presbyterian Night Shelter gala benefit.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

- 8 a.m. Worship in Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in Great Hall
- 10 a.m. Church School for All Ages
- 11 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary & Livestream
- 2 p.m. WHAM Worship Arts Classes
- 2:45 p.m. Children's Choir
- 3:30 p.m. Children's Bell Choir
- 3:30 p.m. Youth Choir
- 4:30 p.m. High School Bells
- 4:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group (*begins January 9*)
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Dinner (*begins January 9*)
- 6 p.m. Middle School Bells
- 6 p.m. High School Youth Group (*begins January 9*)

WEDNESDAYS IN JANUARY

- 10:45 a.m. Bible In-Depth: Luke (*begins January 12*)
- 5:30 p.m. WOW! Worship and To-Go Meal at
Community Crossroads
- 6 p.m. Fellowship Choir Rehearsal
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7 p.m. Grace Notes Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. High School Bible Study

MONDAY, JANUARY 3

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

- 9:30 a.m. MOMS Yoga and Brunch

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

- 7 p.m. Young Adult Study and Discussion

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

- 6 p.m. Circles of Christ Film Discussion (Zoom)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

- 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 Wholeness & Healing Worship in Chapel

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

- 10:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Tuesday Together

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

- 12 p.m. All Church Brunch

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

- 7 p.m. Young Adult Study and Discussion



On Sunday, December 12, the Chancel and Fellowship Choirs and soloists, accompanied by small orchestra and organ, presented selections from Handel's Messiah as a sermon in music during worship. Messiah, first performed in 1742, tells the story of God's salvation through the voices of the prophets and evangelists from scripture.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of December 16, 2021. To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant permission. Are you in the hospital? Let us know by contacting Parish Visitors Jennifer Pettet or Jennifer Regen in the church office. Let us keep the following persons in our thoughts and prayers this week...

Our loving sympathy to...

Julie and Tim Sphar on the death of her mother, Clare Laminack, on November 14. Other FPC family are **Lauren Sphar** and **Jonathan Sphar**.

Barney and Anne Holland on the death of his brother, J. Walker Holland, on November 19, in Fort Worth.

Wade and Blair Chappell and **Paige** and **John Pritchett** on the death of their father, David Chappell, on November 18. Other surviving FPC family are Caroline Chappell, Sutherland Chappell, John Murrin Pritchett, and Lillian Pritchett.

Dawn Shepard on the death of her grandson, Jamere Chapman, on November 20, in New York City and the death of her son, Daquan Bryant, on December 4, in New York City.

Glinda and Bill King on the death of her mother, Jean Wood, on November 23.

Friends and family of **Mary Morgan Sullivan**, who died December 10. Surviving FPC family are **Judith and Kevin Kinser**, **Morgan and Gigi Sullivan**, **Owen Kinser**, **Shea Kinser** and **Austin Powell**, **Bailey** and **Logan Peresh**, **Lincoln Peresh**, and **Jonathan** and **Kacee Sullivan**.

Laura and Steve Stackhouse on the death of her mother, Elinor Ketting Ogden, on December 10, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Other FPC family are **Ellie Stackhouse** and **Robbie Stackhouse**.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Marion Lester, **Mike Bailey**, **Bill Holmes**, **Susie Kuipers**, **Paula Robertson**, **Janet Ragsdale**, **Bill Gordon**, and **Mike Millar**, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Mike Bryan, **Betty Dunham**, **Lynn Montgomery**, **Marilyn Love**, **Paul Campbell**, **Catherine Elkins**, **Glynda Coffey**, **Sarah Graham**, **Jim Goble**, **Jerry Brownlee**, **Janelle Eklund**, **Frank Stewart**, **Karl Travis**, **Emma Coley**, and **Frances Blake**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Carolyn Brewer (sister of **Liz Barber**), **Jo Gordon** (daughter-in-law of **Pat and Bill Gordon**), **Sue Quinn** (mother of **Jaci Travis**), **Tahji Hoffman** (great niece of **Rachele Williams**), **David Sloan** (father-in-law of **Murray Hilyard**), **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**), **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 and for the safety of **Lt. Rolf Tilley** (son of **Katie and Jaret Tilley** and the grandson of **Janelle Eklund**), who is serving in the US Air Force in Japan. Prayers for the safety of **Pape Russell** (grandson of **Barbara Russell**), who is serving in the US Navy. Prayers for the safety of **Thomas Shelby** (son of **Ellen Buck** and the grandson of **Vance and Donna Laminack**), who is serving in the US Navy in Japan. Prayers for the safety of **Diego A. Saldivar** (son of **Becky and Renee Saldivar**), who is serving in the US Navy. Prayers for the safety of **Cpt. Andrew Reece** (son of **Ralph and Barbara Reece**), who is serving in the US Army in Qatar. Prayers for the safety of **Nathan Gunter** (nephew of **Russell and Vivian Norment**), who is stationed in Korea. Prayers for the safety of **Cullen Cline** (grandson of **Bill and Glinda King**) who is serving in the US Navy.

Prayers for those affected by the coronavirus pandemic including medical professionals and healthcare providers.

Prayers for **Cindy Corell**, our mission co-worker in Haiti. We pray also for those affected by disasters and political turmoil.

Our congratulations and best wishes to...

Ryan and **Ashley McColl** on the birth of **Caroline Grace McColl** on October 18, 2021. **Caroline** joins big brother **William**.

Colin and **Jillian Redrow** on the birth of **Vivian Loraine Redrow** on December 8, 2021. Proud FPC grandparents are **Karen Redrow** and **David Hamre**, and **Mark** and **Cate Redrow**.



JOIN CIRCLES OF CHRIST FOR A DISCUSSION OF THE MOVIE *PASSING* (AVAILABLE ON NETFLIX).

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13
AT 6 P.M.

VIA ZOOM

[FPCFW.ORG/CIRCLESOFCHRIST](https://www.fpcfw.org/circlesofchrist)



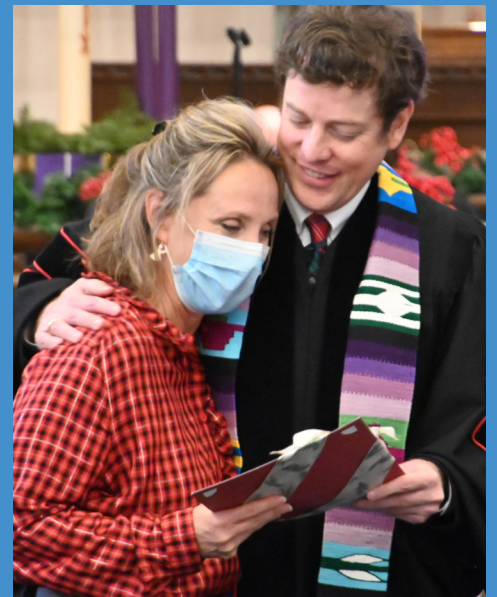
THE penn street LETTER

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Lifetime Presbyterian Women Memberships were presented to Paula Hawpe, Jacqueline Bender, D'Anne Dorrough, and the Rev. Mona Bailey (not pictured) at the PW Christmas Celebration on December 14.

For daily photos of FPC in action, FOLLOW at...

