

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

FEBRUARY 2022 | Volume 22, Number 2

KIRKIN' *of the* TARTANS

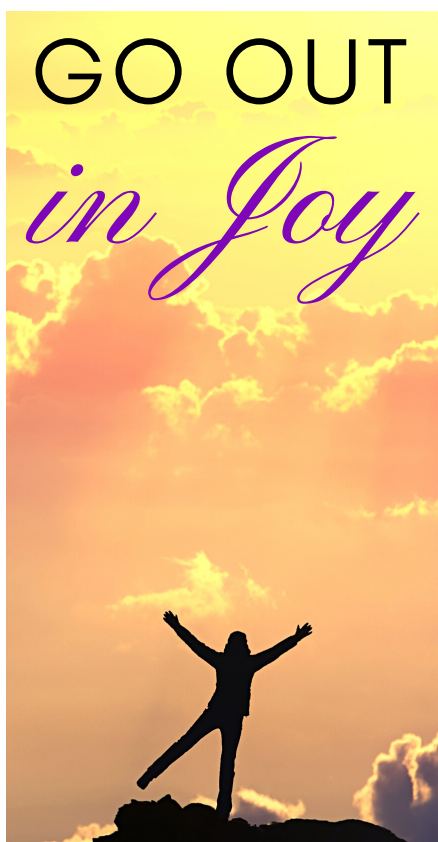
**SUNDAY,
FEBRUARY 6**

**11 A.M.
IN THE
SANCTUARY**

You're invited to the 25th annual Kirkin' of the Tartans service on Sunday, February 6 at 11 a.m. This annual service celebrates the Presbyterian Church's Scottish heritage, including a colorful procession of tartan plaid banners and bagpipes! Wear your family tartan or favorite plaid in celebration of the day.

"Kirk" is the Scottish word for "church." Tartans, with their distinctive plaid, represent specific Scottish clans, regions, or regiments. The "Kirkin' of the Tartans" or "Churching of the Tartans" is the presentation of a Scottish family's symbol, its tartan, at church for blessing. The first formal "Kirkin" service in America was conducted at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., in 1941 by Dr. Peter Marshall. A native of Scotland, Marshall was also Chaplain of the United States Senate.

This year marks First Presbyterian Church's 25th annual Kirkin' celebration. Come experience the pageantry and tradition! If you'd like to carry a tartan during the processional, please call the church office (817.335.1231).



2022 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

The theme for the 2022 Stewardship emphasis – *Go Out in Joy* – resulted in an overflowing of generosity and joy! The faithfulness of First Pres members and friends once again communicates deep discipleship and commitment to the ministry God has called us to as a congregation in the coming year. Each week in the *Penn Street Online* we will celebrate an aspect of ministry that your pledges and financial commitments enable as we live into our mission statement of *Inspiring Disciples...Engaging the World...* Monthly articles in the *Penn Street Letter* will invite our continued reflection on the discipline of generosity as a spiritual practice as we lift up and highlight a variety of ministries locally, nationally, and internationally.

In this article we celebrate the generosity of members and friends through pledges and financial commitments for 2022, which make possible the Ministry Budget the Session approved at its January 16 Stated Meeting. You will see below reasons to celebrate!

- To date* 410 pledges total \$2,353,754, an increase of \$157,783 from 2021
- Non-pledged giving and contributions are anticipated to be \$301,590
- Of the 410 pledges, 54 were new pledges for 2022
- Among the 54 new pledges were 16 new member pledging units, pledging a total of \$67,140

Thank you, First Pres, for your generosity and faithfulness as we *Go Out in Joy* this year *Inspiring Disciples...Engaging the World...*

*It's not too late to make your pledge commitment for 2022. Pledges can be made online at fpcfw.org/give or by returning a pledge card. If you need a pledge card, please contact Patty O'Brien (pobrien@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231) in the church office.



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

In reflecting on his life before he became a Christian, Augustine said that "I had my back toward the light, and my face toward the things on which the light falls." It's tempting in difficult times to embrace such a posture. More and more, the world turns its back to what it cannot explain. Disappointments and tragedies plague our existence, and yet... the light shines, and people of faith are drawn to embrace a wholly different posture – a posture of hope. But, of course, hope is so much more than a posture.

Life is difficult, and hope is born out of struggle. Some people see hope as simply a concept or idea, as if it is a magic solution to (or, escape from) pain and suffering in order to embrace a blissful, hyper-optimist mindset on life. However, the Bible teaches that hope is not just a theological concept. Hope is a spiritual practice.

Hope is a gift. In a world that loves to ignore grief and numb heartache, hope is a discipline that gives the courage to be honest with ourselves and with the world. In this way, while following Christ, hope fuels passion to make the world a better place for everyone. Afterall, while the Christian faith roots its hope in the Resurrection, it also never denies the Cross. When life is tough, God is there...and remember, as Harold Kushner writes, "shadows are cast only because the sun is shining somewhere, to take us by the hand and lead us through the valley of the shadow and into the sunlight."

Later this month, we celebrate an important day in the life of our congregation. "Youth Sunday" is on February 27, and I hope you look forward to this day as much as I do! I am terribly proud of all our young people for their thoughtful efforts in preparing to lead worship. Our senior students have chosen a particularly interesting theme this year: "Hopecasting." It is based on Romans 8.18-28, and I'm so proud of our youth for wrestling with such a big and important theme as hope. God loves to cast hope our way in this life, especially when we least suspect it. As followers of Jesus, we are also called to be hope-full disciples who share hope – casting hope beyond ourselves and with all those who share our lives. Because the good news is that no matter how dark it gets, you are never alone.

In Faith & Hope,

Rev. Dr. Josh Stewart
Associate Pastor for Youth

P.S. Let me remind you that February 27 is also the day of our city's awesome Cowtown Marathon, so please be sure to be thoughtful in choosing your route to church that morning if you're worshipping with us in person! And if you'll be running the marathon, know that we are cheering you on as you press on toward your goal!

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the MARCH issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, FEBRUARY 16**. 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.



@firstpresfw



@firstpres_fw



@firstpres_fw

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STAYING CONNECTED

From youth group gatherings to ordination and installation of Elders during worship and a family mission activity at Community Crossroads, 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, send them to Pam Burkholder, Communications Coordinator, at pamb@fpcfw.org.



BE INSPIRED...

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



Circles of Christ invites you to join a book discussion on *Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America* by Michael Eric Dyson.

A *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Boston Globe* bestseller, the *New York Times* book review calls *Tears We Cannot Stop*, "One of the most frank and searing discussions on race... a deeply serious, urgent book."

Please purchase the book on your own and join in the first conversation via Zoom on February 15 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. To register, visit fpcfww.org/circlesofchrist.

TEAM FPC FIRST WALK/RUN OF 2022 IS MARCH 5



Was your New Year's Resolution to be more active, get fit, and generally be more healthy? Here's an opportunity to keep you on track. The first walk/run of 2022 is the Race 2 Remember Them on Saturday, March 5 benefitting the children and families of The WARM Place. All proceeds directly support The

WARM Place mission of providing grief support and services to children at no cost to their families. Whether you're a seasoned runner or a casual walker who would like to support a worthy cause, there's an event for you with distances of a 1 mile fun run/walk, 5k and 10k. For more information and to register for Team FPC, visit thewarmplace.org/r2rt. The early bird deadline is February 3, so sign up today!



The Last Week Lenten Study begins March 6

Written after many of Paul's writings, the Gospel according to Mark is the first detailing of the last week of Jesus the Messiah. Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan follow Mark's account in their study guide, *The Last Week*, to describe each day of that last week, relating the events and acts of Jesus that week to earlier scriptures in Old Testament, to other Jewish writings, and to the political and economic reality of the Jewish homeland. Using contextual analysis as their methodology, these scholars examine the political, social, and religious factors that shaped the holy land at that time.

These chapters show the day-by-day progression of Jesus in his last week: from his peasant procession into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday as the true King of the Jews; to his verbal assaults of the temple authorities; to his crucifixion by the Roman authorities at the request of the temple leaders; to his assured resurrection the morning after. In the process, these authors show that Jesus' final moment of passion, death on the cross, is propelled by his unwavering devotion to his living passion, bringing about the Kingdom of God.

Join Karen Hosch and Jimmy DeFoor as they lead a nine-week Lenten journey through *The Last Week* starting March 6. This class will be offered during the church school hour on Sunday mornings. Please join in and add your questions and insights about the life and death of Jesus. To register or for more information, call the church office.

FEBRUARY EVENTS

Tuesday, February 1, 6 p.m.
Choice Pantry
at Community Crossroads

Tuesday, February 4, 7 p.m.
Study & Discussion
at Salsa Limon

Tuesday, February 15, 6 p.m.
Social Gathering at Sinaca
Studios School of Glass

Tuesday, February 22, 7 p.m.
Study & Discussion
at Central Market

For more information about FPC's Young Adults, contact Eric Varnon, Director of Young Adult Ministry, at evarnon@fpcfww.org or 817.335.1231 or visit fpcfww.org/youngadults



ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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

HELP EXTEND WELCOME TO A REFUGEE FAMILY

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." - Jesus

First Presbyterian is partnering with Refugee Services of Texas (RST) by creating another Welcome Team comprised of 4-10 persons who will be paired with a refugee family resettling in our community. Welcome Teams offer support to a refugee family for a limited time (3-6 months) during the initial resettlement of the family through RST.

If you are interested in being a part of this team, please attend the hybrid format (you may attend in person or via Zoom) orientation on Sunday, February 20, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Room 235. To register for the orientation visit fpcf.w.org/info/welcome-team or reach out directly to Robyn Michalove (robynm@fpcf.w.org or 817.335.1231).

PROVIDE TO-GO LUNCH BAGS FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER

Once again, First Presbyterian Church has been asked to help provide to-go sack lunches for guests at the Presbyterian Night Shelter campus (night shelter, day shelter and women and children's center, as well as for workers in PNS' employment program).

Please prepare these sack meals from your own home and deliver to the Great Hall entrance at the church on Tuesdays between 9-9:30 a.m. Meals will then be immediately delivered to the Presbyterian Night Shelter. If you are able to help receive and/or deliver the lunches, please reach out to Robyn (robynm@fpcf.w.org or 817.335.1231).

When you are preparing food and assembling bags, please use sanitary precautions: thoroughly wash your hands, use gloves, and wear a mask. Home-baked goods are fine, but please place them in individual baggies. Children (or adults!) are welcome to decorate the brown bags if they like. Bags should include:

- Sandwich of any kind with condiments on the side (please place in a plastic baggie)
- Chips
- Crackers or granola bar
- Fruit cup or fresh fruit
- Cookies or brownies
- Choose a beverage: water, soda, sports drink



Community Crossroads in action!

Are you interested in volunteering at Community Crossroads? Contact Deneice Allen (dallen@fpcf.w.org) or Dori Al Hammami (dalhammami@fpcf.w.org) for more information!



The clothing ministry at Community Crossroads needs a few extra hands to help sort and categorize clothing donations for our ministry, as well as donations of men's jeans and shoes. Please contact Lynda at lkrichey@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering with the clothing ministry.

Community Crossroads is First Presbyterian Church's mission outreach center at 1516 Hemphill Street in Fort Worth's near South neighborhood. For more information on the many outreach ministries serving the community from the Community Crossroads campus, visit fpcf.w.org/crossroads.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- 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
- 5:30 p.m. Youth Dinner
- 6 p.m. Middle School Bells
- 6 p.m. High School Youth Group

WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- 10:45 a.m. Bible In-Depth: Luke
- 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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6

- 11 a.m. Kirkin' of the Tartans Worship Service

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

- 10 a.m. PW Day Circles
- 7 p.m. Young Adult Study and Discussion

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 12:15 p.m. Worship 101
- 5 p.m. Youth Big Game Party

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 10:30 a.m. PW Tuesday Together
- 6 p.m. Young Adult Social Gathering
- 6:30 p.m. Circles of Christ Book Discussion

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

- 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, FEBRUARY 22

- 7 p.m. Young Adult Study and Discussion

PENNSt Arts

Hymn Festival coming February 27



Join organist, composer, and master song leader Mark A. Miller and First Presbyterian Church's choirs for a day celebrating the importance and power of congregational song on Sunday, February 27 at 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Mark A. Miller believes passionately that music can change the world. He also believes in Cornell West's quote that 'Justice is what love looks like in public.' His dream is that the music he

composes, performs, teaches and leads will inspire and empower people to create the beloved community.

Mark serves as Assistant Professor of Church Music at Drew Theological School and is a Lecturer in the Practice of Sacred Music at Yale University. He also is the Minister of Music of Christ Church in Summit, New Jersey.

Since 1999 Mark has led music for United Methodists and others around the country, including directing music for the 2008 General Conference. His choral anthems are best sellers for Abingdon Press and Choristers Guild and his hymns are published in "Worship & Song", "Sing! Prayer and Praise", "Zion Still Sings", "Amazing Abundance", "The Faith We Sing", and others.

This concert is free and open to the public. For more information about Penn Street Arts, and a list of upcoming concerts, visit fpcf.org/pennstreetarts.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!

Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming **Frankye Armstrong**, who joined FPC by transfer of membership from University Christian Church on Sunday, January 9. Frankye has been a regular visitor at FPC and has a heart for mission and outreach. Please take a moment to welcome her when you see her at church and around the community.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of January 21, 2022. 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 Pettey or Jennifer Regen in the church office. Let us keep the following persons in our thoughts and prayers this week...

Our loving sympathy to...

Friends and family of **Emma Coley**, who died December 31, 2021.

Tom and Diane Hanley on the death of his sister, Barbara Hanley Meyer on December 24, 2021, in Wedel, Germany. Other FPC family includes **Grace Hanley** and **Fiske Hanley**.

Friends and family of **JoAnn Law Davis**, who died on January 9.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Barbara Holmes, Marion Lester, Mike Bailey, 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, 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 **Capt. 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 Nathan Gunter (nephew of **Russell and Vivian Normont**), 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.

We pray for our mission coworkers: Cindy Corell in Haiti, Jed and Jenny Koball in Peru, Cathy Chang and Juan Lopez in Manila. We pray for our partner congregations: Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist in Fort Worth and for the congregations of Buen Pastor, Resurrection, and Cidra Presbyterian Churches in Cuba.

Our congratulations and best wishes to...

Jordan and Chrissy Long on the birth of twins, Caroline Elizabeth Long and Emma Jean Long, on December 13, 2021. Proud FPC grandparents are **Brian and Theresa Hocker**.

Weston and Katie Eidson on the birth of William Carroll Eidson on December 22, 2021. William joins big brothers Charles and Henry and big sister Caroline.

Blake and Michele Hargrave on the birth of Tyler Hargrave, on December 26, 2021. Blake is a member of the FPC maintenance staff.

Sorelle Kimball, daughter of **Dale and Judy Gasch**, was named 2021/2022 teacher of the year at Coppell High School. Sorelle is the head of the chemistry department and recently earned her master's degree and teaching certificate.

The Early Education Center (EEC) is seeing a significant increase in COVID cases, closing classrooms for periods of time while trying to not close the school for two weeks.

We have notified families of the possibility of classes closing due to staff being exposed to COVID outside of our program.

If you know an EEC family or staff member, touch base with them. Offer to provide dinner (and wine), some words of encouragement, and a prayer during this time.

Questions or concerns?

Visit fpcf.org/eec or contact
Mindy Samples, Early Education Center
Director, at 817.335.1231
or msamples@fpcf.org

First Presbyterian Church
EARLY EDUCATION CENTER
Where young minds grow.





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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



On Sunday, January 16 the Children's Nurture Committee presented Bibles to 13 students who completed the I Know My Bible class. They began their journey in 2020 as 5th graders. Due to the pandemic, they finished their journey as 6th graders! Even now the next class of 5th graders have begun their journey in I Know My Bible.

For more photos and videos of FPC in action, FOLLOW at...

