

# THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

APRIL 2022 | Volume 22, Number 4

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER *at* FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### MIDDAY PRAYER SERVICES

Wednesdays, through April 6

12 p.m. in the Sanctuary

*These 30-minute services offer reflection on the season with prayer, music, and message.*

### LENT AFTERNOON CONCERTS

Wednesdays, through April 6

12:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

*Enjoy a 30-minute organ concert following the Noon Lent services. A light lunch will be served after each concert. The concerts and lunch are free; no reservations are required.*

### EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA: FRIDAY, APRIL 8

6:30 p.m. Easter Eggstravaganza for Grades 1 - 5

*Grades 1-3 will have a Glow Egg Hunt and Grades 4-5 will have a Flashlight Hunt in the dark. Come for pizza dinner, egg games, and the hunt! Don't miss out on this eggciting event. Register at [fpcf.w.info/eastereggs](http://fpcf.w.info/eastereggs).*

### PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 10

8 a.m. in the Chapel

9 a.m. in the Great Hall

11 a.m. in the Sanctuary & Livestream

*On Palm Sunday we mark Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the start of his last week on earth.*

### MONDAY THROUGH WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11-13

12 p.m. Midday Prayer Services in the Chapel

*These 30-minute services in the Chapel offer reflection on the last days of Jesus' ministry with prayer, music, and message.*

### MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 14

12 p.m. Worship in the Chapel

5:30 p.m. Family Service and Dinner in the Great Hall

7 p.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

*Three worship services remembering the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples. The 5:30 p.m. service will be an interactive, family-appropriate Holy Week experience with our partner congregation, Mount Moriah. Scripture, songs, communion, and optional foot washing. Dinner included.*

### GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 15

12 p.m. Worship in the Chapel

7 p.m. Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

*Good Friday observes the day of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion on the cross. The 7 p.m. Tenebrae service includes scripture and music, ending in darkness and silence.*

### EGG HUNT AND BREAKFAST: SATURDAY, APRIL 16

9-10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt and Breakfast

*Families and kids of all ages are invited to a special breakfast. Egg hunt will follow. Register at [fpcf.w.info/egghunt](http://fpcf.w.info/egghunt).*

### EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 17

7 a.m. Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden

*Celebrate Easter with the sunrise at this joyful service outdoors in the setting of FPC's beautiful Memorial Garden and Labyrinth. Chairs provided; inclement weather location is the Atrium.*

8 a.m. Worship in the Chapel

9 a.m. Worship in the Great Hall

11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream

*Celebrate Easter at our regular worship service times.*



# PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

We held a session retreat a few weeks back. I heard this has been a tradition in your past, but not necessarily one that has been done lately. So your pastors and our current roster of ruling elders (all people you have chosen and ordained and installed to be the spiritual leaders of this congregation) spent some time momentarily retreating from the work of ministry into a conversation about ministry. And the conversation took us into some new areas!

We spent some time with Al Comeaux who is currently serving as the chair of our Communications Committee discussing a concept called "identity diffusion" and he invited us to dive a little deeper into who we truly are as a church.

We started with some of the most basic questions that were surface level. Are we "First Presbyterian" or "1st Pres" or "Hemphill Church"? All three of these names appear on vehicles parked on our church campus and while they all make logical sense to us, does it help us communicate who we are to people outside our walls?

We talked about signage and acronyms and logos at first, but then we started talking about who we are at a deeper level. Are we still "a downtown church with a heart for mission" which is who we said we were back in the early 2000s? Are we still busy "inspiring disciples, engaging the world" which is the summary of the statement we made after that Alban Institute consultant visit in 2013? Are we both? Are we neither? Are we something more? And after all we have been through in the past four years as a church (a pastor leaves, a pastor comes, an online pivot, a worldwide pandemic!?) can we really say that we remain unchanged?

The next two days we had some great conversations! Conversations about who we are and who we can become. Conversations rooted in our history and tradition but excited about our present and future. We talked about our values. We talked about our distinctiveness. We talked about our love for one another and this church family. We talked about what makes us us!

The retreat eventually came to an end, but the conversations have not. We will continue to discuss the dynamics of our ministry even as we go about the work of our ministry. We will continue to dive deeper into understanding our unique identity as a congregation. And we will continue to hold up the importance of knowing who we are as we continue to figure out how we operate and where we are heading.

But please allow me to end by simply saying this ... I am eternally grateful to be serving alongside these passionate, thoughtful, and faithful spiritual leaders you have chosen. Thank you for this great team of people! Thank you for this church! And thank you for a great first year!

Grace & Peace,

## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the MAY issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, APRIL 20**. 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](mailto: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

## PUBLISHER INFO

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## SCOTLAND TRIP 2023

First Presbyterian members and friends have an opportunity to visit Scotland in June of 2023! This special trip is both a choir tour and adult study trip in one! Beginning in Scotland June 6, 2023, and ending on either June 13 or June 16, 2023, participants will visit Edinburgh, Linlithgow, Perth, St. Andrews, Dunkeld, and the Highlands. An optional add-on excursion to the Isle of Iona extends the tour to June 16. A meeting will be scheduled soon to share details of the tour including pricing for choir members or adult study participants, payment schedules, scholarships, and travel logistics.

If you have an initial interest in joining the Scotland trip in 2023 as either part of the touring choir or as an adult study participant, please email the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski (michaelw@fpcfw.org) and indicate your preference for choir or adult study. As soon as full itinerary and pricing information is available from our tour manager (Rev. Jim Wallace of SCOTUS Tours) informational meetings will be scheduled, and you will receive an email with the dates and times of the meetings. If you have any questions, please call Michael in the church office.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming Anthony and Lara DiLollo, who joined FPC by transfer of membership from Eastminster Presbyterian Church in Kansas on Sunday, March 13. Anthony is a Professor and Director of the Davies School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Texas

Christian University and Lara is an Educational Audiologist with Fort Worth ISD.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

## Inspiring Disciples... Engaging the World...

Each year, First Presbyterian Church participates in the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Combined, these offerings unite the church in mission as we share God's love, peace, and generosity with those in greatest need in our local communities, across our nation, and around the world. First Presbyterian has long been a denominational leader in generosity to the special offerings.

During April we receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. This offering is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs:

- *Rebuilding Hope – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32%)*
- *Growing Food Security – Presbyterian Hunger Program (36%)*
- *Partnering in Progress – Self-Development of People (32%)*

To make a gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, you may give online at [fpcfw.org/give](http://fpcfw.org/give) or by sending gifts to the church office marked for One Great Hour of Sharing. Gifts are received throughout the month of April.



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY —  
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

03.02.22-  
04.17.22

# BE INSPIRED...

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

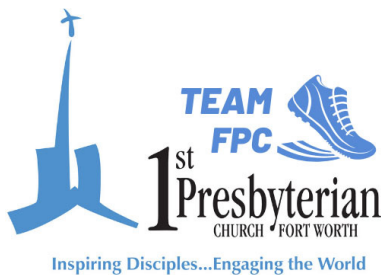


## SAVE THE DATE! WELLNESS BRUNCH: MAY 1

First Presbyterian Church's Wellness Committee is hosting a brunch on May 1. Please join us at

noon in the Great Hall to enjoy an 'Energy for Your Day' brunch. In addition to a meal focused on giving you energy for your activities, FPC's Director of Hospitality and Food Service Heath Brosi will offer a cooking demonstration for one of the dishes!

## NEXT TEAM FPC EVENT: VICTORY OVER VIOLENCE WALK/RUN APRIL 9



The next Team FPC Wellness event is the Victory Over Violence walk/run on Saturday, April 9, 2022. This event includes a 5K walk/run as well as a 1K fun run through Trinity Park in Fort Worth.

Victory Over Violence is an all-ages annual fundraising

event consisting of a 5K walk/run and 1K fun run and benefitting many of The Women's Center's anti-violence initiatives. These services give survivors the tools to heal from the devastating effects of sexual assault, child sexual abuse, and other violent crimes, as well as empower the community by providing education centered around these issues. This family-friendly event also features a dedicated Kids' Zone area and K-12 school teams.

For more information and to register for Team FPC and this race, visit [fpcf.org/wellness](http://fpcf.org/wellness).



## Donut holes are back!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 3**  
Joyful Java Cart (3rd Floor Concourse),  
2nd floor coffee station, and Parlor



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S



## Tuesday Together

**Tuesday, April 19**  
**10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall**

For Tuesday Together on April 19, the Rev. Brendan McLean will present, "The Lessons I've Learned" Since Brendan will be completing his residency at FPC at the end of May, he wanted to take time with Presbyterian Women and reflect on what he has learned throughout his two years here. He will also take the time to reflect on the lessons that the women of this church, as well as all the women in his life, have taught him that have been foundational for him. For more information, contact the church office (817.335.1231) or visit [fpcf.org/pw](http://fpcf.org/pw).

Also, save the dates for these upcoming PW events: Summer Treat at Joe T. Garcia's on Thursday, June 9 at 6 p.m. and *Horizons* Bible Study author Carol Bechtel will present "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight" on Tuesday, August 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall.

## BOOMERS FELLOWSHIP

# TACO TUESDAY

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 6-8 P.M.



Enjoy a Dutch-treat dinner together on the patio at Taco Heads on Montgomery Street with church friends and special guest, pastor Brian Coulter. Questions? Contact the church office (817.335.1231).



# ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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

## A VIEW FROM THE CLOTHING ROOM



from Lynda and Murray Richey

When Dori asked me to come up with a plan for The Clothing Room, I was both flattered and a little overwhelmed. I was given free rein to design and imagine as if it were my own. I called The Container Store, my former employer, and explained what I was doing and asked if they were willing to help. The answer was absolutely!

With a few months' work and a few tweaks, we have a very functional and visually welcoming store.

Next came staffing! Well, let me tell you God brought some of the very best people imaginable to our neighbor's help. We have fun, feel blessed, and have a wonderful ministry.

When our neighbors arrive, they are greeted by one of our fabulous people. They sign-in and wait to be called. The sign-in person has wonderful interactions with and gets to know our neighbors. This is the first step in making our neighbors feel seen and valued.

Next, one of our "Clothing Concierges" comes out to meet and greet our visiting neighbor. Each neighbor is greeted warmly, and introductions are made. Then our visiting neighbors are taken to the location in The Clothing Room where their size and needs can be met. Each neighbor chooses what clothing and shoes they would like to wear. I will have to say this huge; it means so much to our neighbors to have choices in how they dress. In the six months we have been open, we have gotten to know many of our neighbors personally, by their name.

Finally, a volunteer carefully folds and bags the new clothes, and our neighbors are provided undergarments and various sundries from the pick-up table.

When the shopping is finished, a volunteer finds the neighbor's file in our database and records what was received on that day. Each of our neighbors leaves with a smile and a blessing.

Here are some of the stories our neighbors have shared in The Clothing Room as related by volunteers: A man came in to get some clothes for an interview. He came back to let the clothing room volunteers know that he was hired for the job. He was so excited to tell us that the encouragement he received and the clothes that we provided were a huge part of his success. Another man (previous neighbor who had received clothing) came in to give us (The Clothing Room) clothing and 2 Bibles to help others, this was so touching and amazing. He is now able to help provide us with necessary clothing for others. What a celebration!

Our neighbors share story after story, they are so uplifting and encouraging. God has truly blessed this ministry. We can't wait to see what the future will bring. Thanks be to God!

The Clothing Room currently needs:

- volunteers to sort and tag donations
- volunteers to hang the clothing in the appropriate place
- volunteers to assist with keeping the clothing room well organized and presentable
- A name! "The Clothing Room" is not really a name. Send your suggestions to [lkrichey@gmail.com](mailto:lkrichey@gmail.com)

The Clothing Room volunteers want to acknowledge the good people who donate clothing. It is amazing how many new and almost new clothes and shoes are donated. For many of our neighbors, it is the first time in years that they get to wear something new.

The Clothing Room assists between 20 and 40 neighbors each day that it is open, which means that it needs a steady supply of good clothing. Every donation helps.

There are many clothing rooms in Fort Worth. We are determined to be the BEST!

# KNOW POVERTY®

CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
PRESENTS "KNOW POVERTY  
HOUR" TUESDAY, APRIL 5,  
12-1 P.M.

Catholic Charities Fort Worth will present "Know Poverty Hour" on Tuesday, April 5, from 12-1 p.m. What does poverty mean to you? This one-hour presentation will focus on the impact of addressing poverty and the needs in our community. Find out what poverty means to us, those we serve, and how we plan to end it. A complimentary lunch will be provided with advance registration (by April 3). Visit [fpcfw.info/knowpoverty](http://fpcfw.info/knowpoverty) to register.



COME LEARN ABOUT

**TRANSFORM 1012**  
N. Main Street

SATURDAY, APRIL 9  
10:30 A.M. - 12 P.M.

Join community leaders and Board Members from Transform 1012 in First Presbyterian Church's Great Hall on Saturday, April 9, from 10:30 a.m. to Noon for a presentation about the Transform 1012 project in Fort Worth. Come learn about the plan to transform the former Ku Klux Klan Auditorium into The Fred Rouse Center for the Arts and Community Healing. Visit [fpcfw.org/race](http://fpcfw.org/race) for more information and to register.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE ALL CHURCH RETREAT

Save the date for *MOasis*, the annual All Church Retreat at Mo-Ranch over Labor Day weekend, September 2-5, 2022.

Enjoy the beauty of the Texas hill country and the joy of church community at our annual all church retreat.



Last Easter, the Liturgical Arts subcommittee had a flowering cross set up in the grass in front of the church for all who came to parking lot worship. We brought flowers and greenery, but most of all we brought ourselves - viewing our friends and fellow congregants from a distance.

This Easter, we celebrate our Risen Lord as we celebrate once again the joy and love of being truly together. And, we'll once again enjoy the flowering cross.

Weather permitting, the cross will be in front of the entrance to the Sanctuary, visible/available to those entering worship. We will celebrate the transition from Good Friday to Easter by filling in the cross with flowers you bring. The cross will grow with flowers throughout the morning. In case of inclement weather, the cross will be on the concourse outside the Great Hall.



## MENTOR A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IN YOUR SPARE TIME

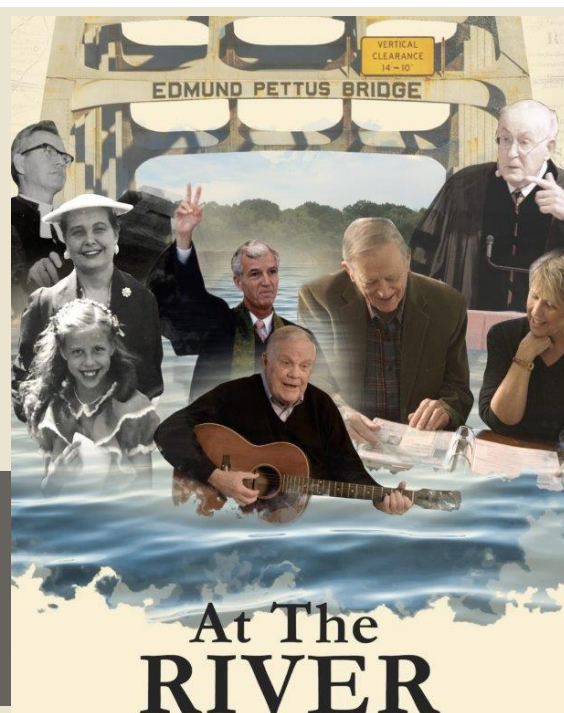
Trade an hour of mindless screen time scrolling for making a meaningful difference in the life of a student! The Mentor 2.0 program through Big Brothers Big Sisters (<https://bbbstx.org>) connects a high school student from three area high schools (Young Women's Leadership Academy, Young Men's Leadership Academy, and the Collegiate Academy of Grapevine Colleyville ISD) with a mentor that meets virtually each week and monthly in person. Weekly written online communications and once-per-month in-person group events follow an established curriculum focused on helping the 9th-12th grader do well in school, college preparation, and career exploration. A once-a-month in-person time commitment makes it easy to work into a volunteer's schedule! All volunteers must complete a background check and interview. For more information on the program and to sign up, visit [fpcf.org/engagementfw](https://fpcf.org/engagementfw).

In this brand new documentary, filmmaker Carolyn Crowder interviews Presbyterian ministers who served congregations in the south during the Civil Rights Era about their experiences combatting racism in their local communities and congregations. Through interviews and hymns, she tells the stories of courageous ministers who "tried to do the right thing when the right thing was difficult and dangerous to do."

After we watch the film, Carolyn Crowder will lead us in a discussion and dialogue.

Film screening & discussion in the Great Hall  
Saturday, April 30 | 1-4 p.m.

**FPCFW.ORG/RACE**





# JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns as of March 24, 2022. To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant permission. Are you in the hospital or dealing with an illness? Let us know by contacting Parish Visitor Jennifer Regen in the church office. Let us keep the following persons in our thoughts and prayers this week...

## *Our loving sympathy to...*

Family and friends of **Mary Ann Gardner**, who died March 5. Surviving FPC family are **Russell Gardner** and **Bobbie Sullivan**, **John** and **Maria Gardner**, and **Andy Gardner**.

**Dana Freese** on the death of her husband, **Lee Freese**, on March 14.

**Murray Hilyard** and **James Sloan** on the death of **James'** sister, **Tammy Sloan Shepherd**, on March 14 in Mesquite.

Family and friends of **Jackie Melcher**, who died March 17. Surviving FPC family are **John Melcher**, **Jennifer and Gene Regen**, **Jack and Trish Melcher**, **Cecelia and Grant Goebel**, **Noble Melcher**, **Marshall Regen**, **Payton Melcher**, and **John Regen**.

## *Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...*

**Bob Parmelee**, **Velma James**, **Marion Lester**, **Mike Bailey**, **Karl Kuipers**, **Susie Kuipers**, **Paula Robertson**, **Janet Ragsdale**, and **Mike Millar**, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

**Raymond Daniel**, **Lucy Redrow** (daughter of **Leigh Ann** and **Grant Redrow**), **Mike Bryan**, **Betty Dunham**, **Marilyn Love**, **Paul Campbell**, **Catherine Elkins**, **Glynda Coffey**, **Sarah Graham**, **Jim Goble**, **Jerry Brownlee**, **Frank Stewart**, **Karl Travis**, and **Frances Blake**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

## *Our caring prayers for extended family include...*

**Taylor Minkoff** (granddaughter of **Bill and Pat Gordon**), **Jo Gordon** (daughter-in-law of **Pat and Bill Gordon**), **Carolyn Brewer** (sister of **Liz Barber**), **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**), and **John DeMore** (son-in-law of **June Sprott**).

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 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 the safety of **Jim Minkoff** (grandson-in-law of **Bill and Pat Gordon**) who is serving in the US Navy in Ukraine.

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 Manilla. 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.



## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Below are some highlights of special events happening in March. For a complete calendar, visit [fpcf.org](http://fpcf.org).

### SUNDAYS IN APRIL

- 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 APRIL

- 10:45 a.m. Bible In Depth: Revelation
- 5:30 p.m. WOW! Worship & Meal (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

### FRIDAY, APRIL 1

- All Day Early Education Center Book Fair (through 4/8)

### SUNDAY, APRIL 3

- 9 a.m. Jazz Sunday in Great Hall (livestream at 11 a.m.)

### TUESDAY, APRIL 5

- 12 p.m. Know Poverty Hour
- 6 p.m. Boomers Taco Tuesday Fellowship

### FRIDAY, APRIL 8

- 6:30 p.m. Easter Eggstravaganza

### SATURDAY, APRIL 9

- 8 a.m. Team FPC at Victory Over Violence Walk/Run
- 10:30 a.m. Transform 1012 Presentation

### TUESDAY, APRIL 12

- 7 p.m. Young Adult Study & Discussion

### MONDAY, APRIL 18

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

### TUESDAY, APRIL 19

- 10:30 a.m. PW Tuesday Together

### SATURDAY, APRIL 23

- 10 a.m. Young Adult Social Gathering @ FW Zoo

### TUESDAY, APRIL 26

- 7 p.m. Young Adult Study & Discussion

### SATURDAY, APRIL 30

- 1 p.m. At the River Film Screening & Discussion



# THE penn street LETTER

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](http://WWW.FPCFW.ORG)



*Sunday, February 27 was Youth Sunday at FPC, as our young people led worship. Between all 3 worship services and breakfast during the church school hour, 77 youth and friends participated!*

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

