

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

NOVEMBER 2022 | Volume 22, Number 11

All Church Picnic and Blood Drive: Sunday, November 6

On Sunday, November 6, you're invited to a day of fun and wellness! The Fellowship Committee is hosting the All Church Picnic in the Great Hall 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the Wellness Committee is hosting the Carter Blood Drive mobile donation bus from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Schedule your appointment with the Carter BloodCare mobile donation bus at fpcfw.org/wellness. The free picnic will include a bounce house, face painting, balloon artist, Billy Buttons, the Texas Ice Cream Truck, and a "Fall fresh menu."



Come join the Men's Ministry for free BBQ, fellowship, and fun at Heim BBQ on the River (White Settlement Road location) on Tuesday, November 8 at 5:30 p.m. Register at fpcfw.org/men so we have a headcount for how much food to order. We will be receiving donations of razors and band aids for the Spring Goody Bags for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. This will kick-start our contribution to the annual joint effort between FPC's Men's Ministry and Presbyterian Women. We look forward to seeing you at Heim BBQ on the River!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S

Tuesday Together

NOVEMBER 15

All women are invited to Presbyterian Women's Tuesday Together on Tuesday, November 15. We will learn about Cloud Covered Streets at 10:30 a.m., followed by lunch (at a cost of \$8). Cloud Covered Streets provides hope, compassion, kindness, connection and essential supplies to those experiencing homelessness. Their mobile unit is parked at Community Crossroads each Monday and offers free showers, laundry services, haircuts, new clothing, and supplies. Register at fpcfw.org/pw by Friday, November 4.



Donations Collected November 6 and 13

Once again FPC invites you to help prepare and contribute food bags with items for a Thanksgiving meal given to those in need. The church provides the turkeys, but we need your donations for the rest of the meal!

Please bring donations to the red carts outside the Great Hall and in the Narthex on November 6 and 13. You may also drop donations off at the church office (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) during the week of November 7-11.

Donations of money are also appreciated; checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Thanksgiving Baskets 2022" in the memo.

SHOPPING LIST:

- ☐ 15 oz. can yams
- ☐ 15 oz. can cranberry sauce
- ☐ 15 oz. can corn
- ☐ 15 oz. can green beans
- ☐ 15 oz. can fruit
- ☐ 15 oz. can chicken broth
- ☐ 5+ oz. box instant mashed potatoes
- ☐ 6 oz. pkg. Jell-O
- ☐ 14 oz. bag stuffing mix (or 2 boxes Stove Top Mix)
- ☐ 1 box cake mix
- ☐ 1 can cake frosting
- ☐ 1 container Crystal Light, Kool-Aid, or small box tea bags

Please stay with sizes requested.

Note: Health regulations require that the food be in the original packaging/containers.



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Saints,

That's right. Saints. Literally, *holy ones*. That's you. That's me. That's us. And not just us...

The saints include the faithful who have gone before us. The saints include those who will come after us. The saints include all who follow Jesus Christ. We are a part of the communion (community) of saints. (Interestingly, the New Testament only includes the plural use of saints.) The communion (community) of saints experiences unity in Jesus Christ. It is a unity that transcends time and geography. What a community we share as God's holy ones.

This Sunday, November 6, we reflect on the communion of saints as we gather at 8, 9, and 11 a.m. Through scripture, preaching, prayers, and special music, we give thanks for those who have gone before us, share our unity with one another in the church universal, and celebrate God's faithfulness in ages yet to come.

This Sunday is a beautiful opportunity to invite family, friends, neighbors, co-workers and others in our lives who have experienced the loss of one near to them to worship as they seek to be comforted, uplifted, and inspired. First Presbyterian saints gathered in worship can be a profoundly spiritual experience as we witness to God's faithful and eternal love!

One of the hymns we will sing is *For All the Saints*. This verse captures well the beauty of the saints gathered in worship:

*O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!* (William Walsham Howe, 1864)

I hope you will make every effort to worship this Sunday at 8, 9, or 11 a.m., in person or online. It will be an inspiring experience as we remember and proclaim God's faithful, eternal love.

Michael

Highlights from the October Session Meeting

At its October Stated Meeting, the Session:

- Was led in a devotional from the book *Mornings with Bonhoeffer* and an opening prayer by Elder Austin Stubblefield
- Enjoyed a report on the civil rights trip led by Robyn and Josh to Little Rock and Tulsa, including a meeting with one of the Little Rock Nine, the first Black students to attend Central High School in 1957
- Celebrated that we have four new members in just the first two weeks of October
- Received a report on the September Grace Presbytery meeting
- Learned about the responsibilities of Finance, Personnel, and Property Committees

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the **DECEMBER** issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, NOVEMBER 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

PUBLISHER INFO

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Inspiring Disciples... Engaging the World...

The mission and ministry of First Presbyterian is extensive as we Inspire Disciples and Engage the World. Many of the ministries of the church accompany us in the most tender of life experiences. That is especially true of ministries when death occurs.

Over the course of a year, First Presbyterian Church Pastors conduct 30-40 Memorial Services, Funeral Services, and Graveside services for church members and their families. Services occur in the Chapel, Great Hall, Sanctuary, Memorial Garden, and at Funeral Homes and Cemeteries. For services conducted at First Presbyterian Church, the church offers families a reception following the service, which is coordinated by our Parish Visitor, Jennifer Regen. Our Director of Music/Organist, Ahreum Han Congdon, provides or arranges music for the services. Support Staff communicates to the congregation about upcoming services and prepares the bulletins, while Maintenance staff tends to the building, grounds, and sound needs.

Several committees and their ministries support families through ongoing pastoral care and concern. The Congregational Care Committee provides tender pastoral care at the time of death and in the months following through Care Teams, Stephen Ministry, Grief Support Group, Prayer Line, Prayer Shawl, and Muffin Ministry. The Worship and Music Committee provides for an All Saints service each November 1. The Chancel Choir and guest musicians, along with clergy, surround families at the All Saints service as they remember once again their loved ones who have died in the past year and encourage one another with hope. The Property Committee maintains the Memorial Garden so that it remains a place of beauty and comfort for the community.

For the thousands of people who gather for services, many who are experiencing the ministry of First Presbyterian for the first time, the members and staff of First Presbyterian Church are inspiring disciples who witness to and extend the love, grace, comfort, and peace of Jesus Christ during the tender time of grief and loss.

STEPHEN MINISTRY IS HERE FOR YOU

We all experience difficult times in our lives. Whether it is a loss of employment, a period of illness or the loss of a loved one; these times of crisis can strain us emotionally and spiritually. Fortunately, we do not have to face these times alone. There are members of FPC who are willing to walk alongside you.

Since the 1980s FPC has participated in the Stephen Ministry program. Stephen Ministry was created by Rev. Dr. Kenneth Haugk, a Lutheran minister and clinical psychologist. This program trains lay members to understand Jesus Christ as the ultimate caregiver and equips them to help individuals through a specific crisis over several months. The Stephen Ministers are also provided training in active listening, healthy boundaries, and how to use prayer and scripture pastorally. These kind members of our congregation are here and available to be a source of support.

Recognizing that there are also pastoral needs within our congregation that extend beyond a single moment of crisis, FPC developed a Sustaining Care ministry as a companion to Stephen Ministry. These caregivers work with people who may not expect a resolution to their issue, but still benefit from some support. Sustaining Care provides companionship and a friendly ear for people to share their life stories with. Sustaining Caregivers help their care receivers discover the hope within their own narratives.

Stephen Ministers and Sustaining Caregivers work with the Pastoral Care staff to meet the needs of the congregation. If you would like to know more about these programs, or if you believe that you could benefit from them, please reach out to a Pastor or Parish Visitor.

ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS In Honor and Memory of Loved Ones

The FPC Worship & Music Committee will be placing live poinsettia plants in the worship spaces from December 11-25. You may purchase a plant in honor or memory of loved ones using the form below and turning it in to Deneice in the church office by Monday, December 5, with a check made out to First Presbyterian Church and "Poinsettias" marked in the memo line. Cost is \$25 per plant. Plants may be taken home after worship on December 25. Plants not picked up will be delivered to homebound members. You may also fill out the form online at fpcfw.info/Poinsettias



Given in ☐ honor or ☐ memory of: _____

Given by: _____

BE INSPIRED...

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



DAY OF WELLNESS AT CLEARFORK: NOVEMBER 12



You're invited to join FPC's Wellness Committee for a day of wellness at the Trailhead at Clearfork (4801 Edwards Ranch Road) on Saturday, November 12, at 8 a.m. Opportunities include a farmer's market, biking, running, coffee at Press Cafe, dog walking, and yoga. All activities are free with the exception of purchases made at Press Café and the Farmers Market. Bring your own bike or rent one from the Fort Worth Bike Share program. Members of the Wellness Committee will be present to gather those interested in the different opportunities. Visit fpcfw.org/wellness to register for this event.



Get Creative with MOMS on Tuesday, November 15 from 6:30-8 p.m. Just in time for the holidays, come create with other moms at Pinspiration in Waterside (3700 Vision Drive, #108, 76109). We will provide light snacks and a fun evening of creativity! Register online at fpcfw.org/moms by November 6.



Youth Group's "Turkey Bowl" is a youth vs. adults flag football game at Game On Arena Sports on Sunday, November 13 from 2-4 p.m. Bring a water bottle, your running shoes, your Game On permission waiver, and get ready for some fun! Questions? Contact Josh (josh@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231).

Annual CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR THE BLIND December 1



The annual "Christmas Party for the Blind" is on Thursday, December 1 at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall. FPC has hosted this special event for our city's blind community for over 70 years! We need volunteers to drive guests to the party, so contact Becky (bquick@fpcfw.org) or Josh (josh@fpcfw.org) if you are willing to help. Youth are asked to meet at 5:30 p.m. to help set-up for the party, and we plan to end by 8 p.m.



FPC's Room in the Inn mission for Summer 2022 has ended, and members have met to evaluate this summer's program...*excellent!*

Many FPC members, adults and youth, participated in this year's summer mission of "providing safe shelter, warm meals, and fellowship for our neighbors struggling with homelessness" by volunteering to feed and visit with our guests and to serve as overnight hosts. We thank all of these members for participating.

We also wish to thank our 'behind-the-scenes' volunteers, whose responsibility it is to set up the gymnasium area for overnight guests, transport guests to and from FPC, and pick up, launder, and return 16 sets of blankets, sheets, tablecloths, towels, etc.

Interestingly, FPC's 'Laundry Team' volunteers is essentially unchanged for 12-plus years. A dedicated, unheralded, long-term commitment of serving others. We wish to especially thank the following members for their long-serving contribution for Room in the Inn success: Ann Christian, Ashley Parsons, Ashli Smick, Beth Rivers, Claire Schmid, Ellen Benson, Emily Hadley, Jennifer Regen, Mary Susan Farrar, Rachel Pettit, Shannon Hargrove, and Sue Barham.

ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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



It's time to get ready for the Christmas Toy Store! Each December, the Mission Outreach Committee of FPC hosts a Christmas Toy Store. This annual outreach event provides parents and guardians the opportunity to "shop" with dignity through a donation-provided store of new children's toys and books for a small fee per child. The store benefits people connected to FPC ministries through Community Crossroads. Each year, over 300 children are served!

How You Can Help:

SHOP! Tables will be set up outside the Great Hall and in the Nathex to collect new toys and books for children 10 and younger. (Maximum \$40 per toy.) Parents select two toys and one book per child, so we need to collect over 700 toys. Choose a star with the gender and age of a child connected to Community Crossroads ministries and return your unwrapped gift on Sundays, November 6, 13, 20, 27, and December 4, or drop off in the church office during the week.

GIVE! Not a shopper? You may also give check donations (payable to First Presbyterian Church with Christmas Toy store in the memo line) on the following Sundays: November 6, 13, 20, 27, and December 4, or drop off in the church office during the week. Other church members who love to shop can purchase gifts to stock the store.

VOLUNTEER! Please consider volunteering to help on December 9 for setup and/or December 10 at the store. Sign-up sheets will be on the tables at the Great Hall and Nathex.

Let's make this a very special Christmas for many Community Crossroads families!



On Wednesday, October 26, WOW (Worship on Wenesdays) enjoyed a spooktacular trunk or treat as neighbors of all ages trick or treated in the Community Crossroads parking lot.

RECENTLY AROUND FIRST PRES...

From a Circles of Christ coffee gathering with surprise guest Opal Lee, to a children's cooking workshop and fall festival, a PAC (Presbyterian Adult Connections) lunch, a Young Adult fall retreat, and a Civil Rights pilgrimage, pictured here are some recent FPC happenings. If you have photos of an FPC event or gathering that you'd like to see included here, share them with Pam Burkholder at pamb@fpcfwh.org.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns as of October 27, 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 Visitors Jennifer Regen or Matt McGraw in the church office. Let us keep the following persons in our thoughts and prayers this week...

Our loving sympathy to...

Alan and Susan Leach on the death of her mother Margaret Dickey, on September 22 in Storm Lake, Iowa.

Family and friends of **Beverly Mason**, who died on September 24.

Family and friends of **Mike Bryan**, who died on September 26. Surviving FPC family are **Anne Bryan, Kevin and Laurel Bryan, Mary Alice Dobesh, and Beverly Dobesh.**

Phil and Pam Grossman on the death of his mother, Lavonne Grossman, on October 14 in Lenexa, Kansas.

Tony and Lara DiLollo on the death of his father, Dominic DiLollo.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Larry Kinard, Marye Drexler, Phyllis Tolles, Glenn Pense, Bill Sommers, Janelle Eklund, Gene Almy, Rosanne Almy, Jody Buening, Janie Hart, Bob Parmelee, Velma James, Mike Bailey, Karl Kuipers, and Susie Kuipers, who are recovering from surgery or injury. We also pray for their caregivers.

Fred Wilson, Frances Blake, Phyllis Propes, Kevin Bryan, Marilyn Love, Irene Howard, Dean Holloman, Chuck Sullivan, Lucy Redrow (daughter of **Leigh Ann and Grant Redrow**), **Betty Dunham, Paul Campbell, Glynda Coffey, Jim Goble, Frank Stewart, and Karl Travis**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment. We also pray for their caregivers.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Gary Drexler (husband of **Marye Drexler**), Kimberly Davis (daughter of **Marye Drexler**), Walter Williams (husband of **Rachele Williams**), Caleb James Baker (great-grandson of **Betty Tillman**), Terry James (nephew of **Rachele Williams**), 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 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 the Philippines. 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...

Femi and Violet Ayoko on their marriage in Oklahoma City on October 8. FPC members, **David Hamre and Karen Redrow** are Violet's father and stepmother.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming these new members.



Mickey and Bert Franks joined FPC by transfer of membership on Sunday, October 2. They have been worshipping with FPC for several months and are in the choir. Mickey is retired from nursing and Bert is retired as a physician in the Air Force and at TCU. They have eight adult children between them.



Sissy and Greg Johnson joined by transfer of membership on October 9. The Johnsons have visited First Presbyterian Church since 2019, and more recently have been attending online. Sissy is an RN, and Greg is with Lockheed Martin.



Lacey and Chris Kruger joined by transfer of membership on October 16. Lacey works in software, and Chris works in e-commerce. They have three daughters, Maggie (4th grade), Nellie (Kindergarten), and Bea (Preschool).



Megan Salinas joined by reaffirmation of faith on October 23. Megan has been visiting FPC for a few months, and enjoys cooking, traveling, and animals of all kinds. Megan is the daughter of FPC member Patti Latta.



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1000 Penn Street
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PERIODICALS
POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
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Church Office
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WWW.FPCFW.ORG

You're invited to

FPC Children's Ministry

Thanksgiving Dinner and Movie Night

We'd be so thankful if you'd come!
We will feast together, give thanks, have interactive gratitude stations and a movie.

November 20
5:30 - 8 p.m.
FPC Gym



Register your family
at fpcfw.org/children