

# THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

JANUARY 2023 | Volume 23, Number 1

## MAKE THE MOST OF 2023!

*Upcoming opportunities in the new year*



### MISSION AND MINISTRY FAIR: SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

On Sunday morning, January 8, make plans to visit the Mission and Ministry Fair on the third floor concourse between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. (You can visit after each worship service, or before the 9 and 11 a.m. services.) Informational displays and leaders from a variety of mission and ministries of First Presbyterian give us, as we begin a new year, an opportunity to reflect on our stewardship of time and talents as disciples of Jesus Christ. Stop by to learn more and to enjoy conversation with other members and friends engaged in the full mission and ministry of the church as they answer questions and share their experiences. The Mission and Ministry Fair includes opportunities to sign up for mission and ministry opportunities as well as upcoming classes. The Mission and Ministry Fair also includes a delicious complimentary brunch at 12 noon in the Great Hall! Come and enjoy the food and fellowship!

### CHURCH HISTORY SERIES RESUMES JANUARY 12

Meeting on Thursday evenings January 12 through February 16 at 7 p.m., the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski continues leading the Church History series. This session will center on 17th and 18th century Europe and the United States. Over the course of the series, the Puritan Revolution in England, the rise of Rationalism, Spiritualism, and Pietism, as well as Christianity in the 13 American colonies will be explored. To register for the class, visit [fpcfw.info/ChurchHistory](http://fpcfw.info/ChurchHistory) or contact Deneice Allen in the church office ([dallen@fpcfw.org](mailto:dallen@fpcfw.org) or 817.335.1231, ext. 261).

### BIBLE IN DEPTH WINTER TERM

Dr. Steve Brotherton and the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski will be leading the Winter term of Bible in Depth study of Galatians on Sunday mornings (10 a.m.) beginning January 8 and Wednesday mornings (10:45 a.m.) beginning January 11. Bible in Depth studies a book of the Bible verse by verse. While a relatively short book (6 chapters), Galatians is theologically rich as Paul articulates the early church's understanding of God's grace manifested in Christ – especially concerning Gentiles and the keeping of Mosaic law. To register for either section of Bible in Depth, visit [fpcfw.info/BibleinDepth](http://fpcfw.info/BibleinDepth) or contact Deneice Allen in the church office ([dallen@fpcfw.org](mailto:dallen@fpcfw.org) or 817.335.1231, ext. 261).



# PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Happy New Year!

As we begin 2023, we are bombarded with several examples of "the year in review" and the invitation to make New Year's resolutions. It is the time in the calendar when we pause to transition from the past to the future. Moving from one year to the next allows space to notice the passage of time, how we age, how things change, and, in many cases, how things stay the same.

Some people are eager to have 2022 in the rear-view mirror, and they have high hopes for a new and, presumably, better year. The truth is, none of us know how the year will unfold, and where the moments of pain and promise will make their appearance. A new year, for me, is less about resolutions and more about renewing my resolve to trust God through whatever may come.

We practice trust individually, and we also are trust practitioners as a congregation. This year will mark 150 faithful years of trusting God through many new years and challenges and transitions for our church. In May we will celebrate this joyful anniversary, recalling God's provision and promise that has enabled generations of our church family to love God and serve others in our community.

I am looking forward to celebrating the stories of faithfulness at First Presbyterian Fort Worth for the past 150 years, and I am also looking forward to the ways that God continues to write our story as we trust God with the future.

Blessings to you and yours in the new year!

Peace,

## Highlights from the November Session Meeting

At its November Stated Meeting, the Session:

- Was led in a devotional and an opening prayer by Elder David Pettit
- Examined the incoming Elder Class
- Received a report on pledges to date for 2023
- Approved Anne Norris and Efton Park as Co-Clerks of Session for 2023
- Voted to retain the services of ArtSpeak Creative to help our church find a new branding identity

## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the **FEBRUARY** issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, JANUARY 25**. 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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# THANK YOU from the Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee extends a joyful thank you to members and friends of First Presbyterian Church for an inspiring and faithful response to the 2023 Stewardship campaign! Well over 400 giving units have pledged over \$2.5 million for 2023, with an average pledge of nearly \$6,000. Combined with anticipated non-pledge giving and contributions, the generosity of members and friends totals \$2.8 million for mission and ministry in 2023. Well done, good and faithful ones. First Presbyterian continues *Inspiring Disciples...Engaging the World!*

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

*Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming these new members.*



**Mary Brooks**, who joined by affirmation of faith on December 11. Mary had previously attended FPC and is retired from technical recruiting for the Aerospace sector.



**Ansonia (Paula) Campbell**, who joined on Wednesday, December 7, at WOW. Paula has been coming to Community Crossroads for many years and looks forward to getting more involved.



**Charlie Johnson**, who joined by transfer of membership on November 20. Charlie is an elder and active in the Young Adult group. He is a systems engineer at Lockheed Martin.



**Allison and Thaddeus Komorowski**, who joined by affirmation of faith on December 4. Allison and Thaddeus are both educators and have been visiting FPC for several months.



**Gail West**, who joined by transfer of membership on December 11. Gail is the mother of FPC member Christal Atkinson. She has been visiting FPC and sings in the Chancel Choir. Gail is a retired educator.



## CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

*Below are some highlights of special events happening in January. For a complete calendar, visit [fpcfww.org](http://fpcfww.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
- 11:15 a.m. WHAM Younger Children's Choir
- 2 p.m. WHAM Worship Arts Classes
- 2:45 p.m. WHAM Older Children's Choir
- 3:30 p.m. Children's Bell 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 Groups

### WEDNESDAYS IN JANUARY

- 5:30 p.m. WOW! Worship and To-Go Meal at Community Crossroads
- 6 p.m. Grace Notes Rehearsal
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. High School Bible Study

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

- 10 a.m. New Year's Day Worship Service

### MONDAY, JANUARY 2

- All Day Church offices, Early Education Center, and Community Crossroads closed for New Year's Holiday

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

- 8:30 a.m. Mission and Ministry Fair

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 15

- All Day Peanut Butter Sunday (donations collected)
- 9 a.m. Jazz Sunday in Great Hall (livestream at 11 a.m.)
- 12:15 p.m. Grades 4-5 Serve Day
- 6:30 p.m. Taize Worship in Chapel

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

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

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 28

- 9 a.m. Family Service Saturday



# BE INSPIRED...

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

## Submit Your Suggestions for 2024 Elders



Any active member of our congregation may suggest other active members to the Nominating Committee to be considered for nomination. A suggestion does not constitute nomination. However, your suggestions are essential to the work of the Committee.

The spiritual growth and development of our congregation is entrusted to your officers (Ruling Elders). These are not honorary positions or rewards. They are offices requiring wisdom and maturity, exercised in service. The Ruling Elders elected will serve a three-year term beginning January 2024.

You may submit your suggestions online at [fpcf.w.org/elder-nominations](http://fpcf.w.org/elder-nominations). Paper forms will also be available at worship services during January.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S

*Tuesday Together*  
JANUARY 17

At Tuesday Together on January 17, Presbyterian Women will learn about Samaritan House, with a program at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall, and lunch to follow (cost of \$8, by advance reservation at [fpcf.w.org/pw](http://fpcf.w.org/pw)).

Samaritan House supports vulnerable individuals and families as they move toward independence by providing housing, resources, and hope. Samaritan House was established in 1991 in Tarrant County to provide housing to persons living with HIV/AIDS. Samaritan House expanded their mission to provide affordable and supportive housing to additional vulnerable populations in Tarrant County, including the medically or mentally fragile, the chronically unhoused, and those with low-incomes. Resident Services were added to improve housing stability for residents of other affordable housing properties.

The February 21 Tuesday Together program will be on New Leaf Community Services and the Quail Trail housing project.



*moms*  
mothers offering mothers support

*Pastries*  
AND  
PICKLEBALL



**SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**

**9-11 A.M. | FPC GYM & ATRIUM**

Start your new year with other moms and learn pickleball basics from veteran church players. No equipment or experience necessary – come for fun and fellowship! Complimentary childcare offered with advance registration

REGISTER AT  
**FPCFW.ORG/MOMS**





# ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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



## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: MENTOR A 4TH GRADER!

Our Academy 4 ministry partnership with Briscoe Elementary School (2751 Yuma Ave, 76104) needs a few more mentors for 4th graders. Once a month on Friday afternoons, our mentors spend 90 minutes (1-2:30 p.m.) with a student, using a prepared curriculum that encourages leadership. Our goal is for all 4th graders to have their own mentor!

We are also looking for one volunteer to lead a Spark Club (working with the Fort Worth Police Department) on those same Fridays from 11:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m. Curriculum and training are provided.

Questions? Contact Sidney Goodfriend, our Site Coordinator, at [sidney.goodfriend@academy4.org](mailto:sidney.goodfriend@academy4.org) or (214) 906-7473.

To sign up to be a mentor, visit [fpcfw.org/engagementfw](http://fpcfw.org/engagementfw) or scan the QR code here. A free FWISD background check is required and will be sent to you after you sign up.



## ROOM IN THE INN CONTINUES THIS WINTER!

Room in the Inn (RITI) is a coalition of member congregations that provide hospitality for up to 14 men experiencing homelessness in Fort Worth one night a week during the coldest and hottest months of the year. We provide delicious food, a safe place to sleep, and fellowship. The purpose of RITI is to build bridges of relationship, mutuality and respect between guests and hosts.

It takes a team to offer this hospitality so please consider using your gifts as a disciple to extend a warm welcome to guests this winter (Mondays through February 27).

LEARN MORE AND VOLUNTEER AT [FPCFW.ORG/RITI](http://FPCFW.ORG/RITI)



# RECENTLY AROUND FIRST PRES...

*From a live nativity to a Trinity Terrace Care Team meeting, Church School class Christmas parties and the Early Education Center's Christmas program, 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@fpcfw.org](mailto:pamb@fpcfw.org).*





# JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns as of December 14, 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...

Family and friends of **Nancy Gedge-Carlson**, who died November 29.

Family and friends of **Collin Hadley**, who died November 25. Surviving FPC family are **Emily Hadley**, **Connor Hadley**, and **Maddie Hadley**.

Family and friends of **Harriett Hosley**, who died on December 5.

Family and friends of **Bill Biggs**, who died December 8. Surviving FPC family are **Ann Biggs**, **Chris Biggs**, **B William** and **Jessica Biggs**, and **Merrill**, **William**, and **Maxwell Biggs**.

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

**Larry Kinard**, **Marye Drexler**, **Phyllis Tolles**, **Glenn Pense**, **Bill Sommers**, **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.

**Ronnie Clinkscale**, **June Sprott**, **Jo Armistead**, **Marilyn Love**, **Fred Wilson**, **Frances Blake**, **Phyllis Propes**, **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...

**Andy Hedrick** (brother of **Patti Bradley**), **Jolie Paprskar-Mozingo** (daughter of **Joy Paprskar**), **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...

**Martin** and **Scott Hargrove** on the birth of **Hedge Ross** on June 7. **Hedge** joins big sister **Scott**. Proud FPC grandparents are **Shannon** and **Greg Hargrove**.

**Garrett** and **Kelly Worrell** on the birth of **Annie Gene** on August 12. Proud FPC grandparents are **Gena** and **Randall Johnson**.

**Sarah** and **Jeff Howard** on the birth of **Molly Mooneyen** on October 10. **Molly** joins big sister **Bonnie** and big brother **Bill**. Proud FPC grandparents are **Shannon** and **Greg Hargrove**.

**Michael** and **Allison Iyescas** on the birth of **Leo Michael**, on November 18. **Leo** joins big brother **Miles**. Proud FPC grandparents are **Gena** and **Randall Johnson**.



## 3RD SUNDAY: PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY

Every 3rd Sunday of the month is Peanut Butter Sunday. Please bring 15-16 oz. jars or single-serve snack packs to church to help stock the shelves of the First HAND Food Pantry at Community Crossroads. The next Peanut Butter Sunday is January 15.





# THE penn street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church  
1000 Penn Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

PERIODICALS  
POSTMASTER:

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



Lifetime Presbyterian Women  
Memberships were presented to  
Mary Kay Roberto, Sue Barham,  
and Cathy Kerrigan at the  
PW Christmas Celebration  
on December 13.

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

