

THE Penn Street Letter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FORT WORTH

MARCH 2024 / VOLUME 24, NUMBER 3

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER at First Pres

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 24

- 8 a.m. in the Chapel
- 9 a.m. in the Great Hall
- 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary or livestream at fpcf.org/livestream

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

HOLY WEEK MONDAY-WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25-27

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, MARCH 28

- 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 or livestream at fpcf.org/livestream

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. Family-style dinner included.

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 29

- 12 p.m. Worship in the Chapel
- 7 p.m. Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary or livestream at fpcf.org/livestream

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.

EASTER EGG HUNT & BREAKFAST, SATURDAY, MARCH 30

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

Families and kids of all ages are invited to a special breakfast. Egg hunt will follow. Register at fpcf.org/lentandeaster.

EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 31

- 7 a.m. Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden

Celebrate Easter with the sunrise at this joyful service outdoors in the setting of First Presbyterian's Memorial Garden and Labyrinth. Chairs provided; inclement weather location is the Youth Center.

- 8:30-11 a.m. Easter Breakfast Buffet

Enjoy a free come-and-go continental breakfast buffet from 8:30-11 a.m. on the 3rd floor concourse (outside the Great Hall).

- 8 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in the Great Hall
- 11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary or livestream at fpcf.org/livestream

Celebrate Easter at our regular worship service times.

First Pres welcomes Michelle Goodwin as Director of Operations



Michelle Goodwin has been a member of First Pres since 1992 and has served the church in many capacities during that time. Michelle holds a Bachelor's in Business, and has been an active

volunteer throughout her life.

As Direct of Operations, Michelle will oversee the facilities team, property, security, and technology, for both the First Pres and Community Crossroads campuses.

Please take a moment to welcome Michelle the next time you see her around the campus! You can also reach her at mgoodwin@fpcf.org.

First Pres announces promotion of Marisa Pinon to Director of Finance & Accounting



First Pres is pleased to announce that Marisa Pinon has been promoted to Director of Finance & Accounting (F&A).

Marisa has been with First Pres for 8 years but brings over 15 years of F&A experience and a Bachelor's in Accounting. In her role, she supports many First Pres committees, particularly Finance and Trustees.

Please take a moment to congratulate Marisa the next time you see her around First Pres. You can also reach her at mpinon@fpcf.org.

Pastor's Letter



Dear friends,

March is a liturgically rich month as we continue our journey through Lent to Easter.

Gathering on

Sundays and Wednesdays, we continue our sermon series "Table Talk with Jesus" until we arrive at Holy Week. Several significant services occur from Palm/Passion Sunday to Easter. In this edition of the *Penn Street Letter* you will find a full listing of Holy Week worship offerings.

As we prepare for Holy Week and Easter, the following brief reflections from our current *Book of Common Worship* provide an opportunity to prepare for the richness of this month.

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24, "is, by design, a day of drama and paradox, of triumph and tragedy. As the service begins, a crowd gathers, waving branches, and shouting 'Hosanna' and wanting to crown Jesus as king. But as the story of Christ's passion unfolds, the shouts of praise turn into demands for his death. The service is established on the theological principle that Jesus' death and resurrection cannot be separated. It insists that we not avoid the cross – God's way of glory leads through the grave."

Maundy Thursday, March 28, "proclaims Jesus' new commandment to love one another as he has loved us. It celebrates Christ's example of humble service and self-offering, represented by the washing of feet and the sharing of communion."

Good Friday, March 29, "proclaims the good news of salvation through the paradoxical suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. The center of this liturgy is the reading of the passion narrative from one of the gospels."

Easter, March 31, celebrating the "Resurrection of the Lord, is the center of the Christian year, and the good news we proclaim on this day is the very heart of the gospel. Theologically, the faith we claim and the life we live depend on the affirmation, celebration, and proclamation of Christ's resurrection."

May our worship this month draw us more deeply into the love of God through Jesus Christ.

God's peace to you,

Michael

First Presbyterian Church's Session

2024 CLASS OF ELDERS

Mary
Elizabeth Austin
Sarah Clingman
Lillie Doze
Randall Johnson
Martha Newman
Ralph Reece
Claire Schmid
Dawn Shepard
Austin Stubblefield

2025 CLASS OF ELDERS

Brian Cunningham
Jimmy DeFoor
Mary Susan Farrar
Vic Letbetter
Linda Northern
Lynda Richey
Amy Ryan

2026 CLASS OF ELDERS

Julia Bradley
Al Comeaux
Emily Hadley
Jane Mathis
J.B. Smithson
Jay Stepp
Brian Wharry

Submissions

Submissions for the next issue of the *Penn Street Letter* are due Wednesday, March 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.

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



@fpcf

Publisher Info

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Easter Flowering Cross: Bring your flowers to help decorate!

Continuing the annual tradition this Easter, the Liturgical Arts subcommittee will have a flowering cross set up in the grass in front of the church for all who come to worship.

Weather permitting, the cross will be in front of the entrance to the Sanctuary, visible and available to those entering worship. We will celebrate the transition from Good Friday to Easter by filling in the cross with flowers you bring (from your yard or from a store or florist). All types and colors of flowers are welcome! Greenery will be provided by the church. The cross will grow with flowers throughout the morning, reflecting the joy of Easter.

In case of inclement weather, the cross will be on the third floor concourse outside the Great Hall.



Calendar Highlights

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

SUNDAYS IN MARCH

- 8 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in the Great Hall
- 10 a.m. Church School
- 11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream
- 11:20 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 Group

MONDAYS IN MARCH

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 10 a.m. Wellness: Tai Chi
- 11:30 a.m. Busy Women's Bible Study
- 12 p.m. Lent Covenant Group

WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH

- 10:45 a.m. Bible In Depth
- 12 p.m. Lent Noon Worship & Concert (through 3/20)
- 5:30 p.m. WOW! Worship and Dinner at Community Crossroads
- 6 p.m. Grace Notes Rehearsal
- 6 p.m. Lent Covenant Group
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. High School Bible Study (off campus)

SATURDAY, MARCH 9

- 9 a.m. Circles of Christ Circle Up for Coffee
- 10:30 a.m. Young Adult Hike & Picnic

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

- 7 p.m. MOMS Gathering

FRIDAY, MARCH 22

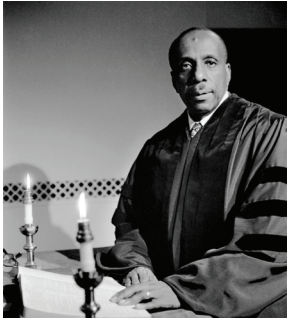
- 6:30 p.m. Easter Eggstravaganza for grades 1-5

HOLY WEEK: MARCH 24-31

See page one of this edition for a complete Holy Week and Easter schedule of events or visit fpcf.org/lentandeaster

Be Inspired

What Makes You Come Alive? Sundays, March 3-April 14



Howard Thurman

“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do that, because what the world needs is more people who have come alive.”
-Howard Thurman

Do you recognize the quote but not the name, Howard Thurman? Would you be surprised that in the early 1950’s Time magazine named him one of the ten most significant religious leaders in America (a list that also included Norman Vincent Peale and Billy Graham)?

Now, are you still wondering why you don’t recognize this man?

When the Civil Rights Movement took shape in the United States, Thurman was a nationally recognized human rights advocate, though he did not take to marching and mobilizing in the streets. He preferred to serve as a caretaker and spiritual advisor to those who did, among them Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Jesse Jackson, Marian Wright Edelman, and John Lewis. Dr. King was known to carry his Bible and a copy of Thurman’s *Jesus and the Disinherited* with him at all times.

While in India, a meeting with Mahatma Gandhi convinced Thurman and his wife Sue of the nonviolent path. Then while viewing the Kyber Pass they also became convinced of interracial, interfaith worship. Together they would work to facilitate The Church for the Fellowship of All Peoples, a church that Eleanor Roosevelt supported in its inception.

A mystic, a prophet, a mentor... Howard Thurman was this and more! Please join this six-week class on *Howard Thurman: What Makes You Come Alive?* as it begins on Sunday, March 3 and continues through April 14 during the 10 a.m. church school hour each week. Kay Love and Karen Hosch will facilitate this study using video and several of Howard Thurman’s books. Register at fpcfw.org/spiritualformation or by calling the church office (817.335.1231).

Wrestling with Faith, Racial Equity, Power and Privilege: Sundays, March 24, April 7-May 26

“And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly, to love mercy and walk humbly with your God.” *Micah 6.8*

“...I realized that I [took this calling] not only to improve our economy, but also out of a belief in the unseen: a promised land of a caring, just society.” *Heather McGhee in The Sum of Us*

How can we live into our responsibility as Christians to strive toward a caring, just society? In this course we will share our own experiences and explore those related by author Heather McGhee in her book, *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* (2021). In our weekly reflections we will seek to recognize the need for constructive change in our society that benefits not only a privileged few, but rather all of us in ways consistent with Jesus’ message for the world, and with God’s vision of Shalom that calls for justice. We hope that such sharing might lead participants to deeper spiritual and cultural connections and an opportunity for individual growth in faith.

Please join this nine-week course, Sundays from 4-6 p.m. in Room 238, beginning with an “opening retreat” on March 24, and (skipping Easter Sunday) continuing through May 26. Mark Beasley and Martha Newman will facilitate this study using videos, dialogs that allow God to teach, as well as McGhee’s book, *The Sum of Us*. Register at fpcfw.org/spiritualformation or by calling the church office at 817.335.1231.

Communion 101 for children and their families March 17 from 12:15–2 p.m.

We will focus on the meaning of communion, why we come to the table and that all are welcome. This is open to all children Kindergarten through Fifth Grade and their parents. Lunch is included!

Questions? Reach out to Ann Nielsen (anielsen@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 232).

Engage the World

Solar Under the Sun: Mission Trip to Honduras, April 13-20

Join a team from First Pres to install solar energy in the Injerto community in Honduras. No prior solar experience necessary as our team will train you in advance of our trip. In partnership with Solar Under the Sun and the Presbyterian Church of Honduras, we will work alongside families in the Injerto community to install solar energy on a dozen homes during our week.

Members from First Pres visited the site in Injerto, Honduras, in February. They spent a full day meeting the families for the April installation trip, and also signed the covenant with our partners in Honduras.

For more information about the April trip or future solar trips, contact Robyn Michalove (robyn@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 266).



First Pres Staff Enrichment

On Monday, February 19, the First Pres team gathered for an afternoon of fun enrichment! The group enjoyed lunch, a guessing game filled with interesting facts about each other, fellowship, games, and prizes!



Joys & Concerns

The following prayer concerns are those we have received as of January 24. In an effort to respect the privacy of those listed below, names are only printed once permission from the individual is obtained. Are you in the hospital or dealing with an illness? Let us know by contacting Parish Associate for Pastoral Care Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz or Parish Visitors Matt McGraw or Rev. Lynda Dinsdale. Let us keep the following persons in our thoughts and prayers this month...

With Joy, we Celebrate...

The birth of Brooks Harrison Parsons to parents Harrison and Hannahbelle Parsons. He was born on February 12, 2024. He is the grandson of **Thomas and Ashley Parsons**.

Our Loving Sympathy to...

Nancy, Bill, and Molly Knight following the death of Nancy's brother, John Doss, on Sunday, February 11, 2024.

Family and friends of **Barbara Ratliff** following her death on Monday, February 12, 2024.

Family and friends of **Beverly McElroy** following her death on February 8, 2024.

Liz Barber following the death of her sister, Carolyn Brewer, on February 8, 2024.

Family and friends of **Frankye Armstrong** following her death on February 5, 2024.

Family and friends of **Beverly Yates** following her death on February 1, 2024. Surviving First Pres family member is Beverly's husband, **John Yates**.

Family and friends of **Tonnie Hendrickson** following his death on January 30, 2024.

Our Loving Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Martha Brooks, Steve Christian, Nancy Gillis, Janet Ragsdale, Jackie Taylor, Jo Ann Johnson, Elizabeth McCartney, Elizabeth Richardson, Ronnie Sherwood, Capt. Rolf Tilley, Pat Richardson, Gail Davis, and Irene Howard, who are recovering from surgery or injury. We also pray for their caregivers.

Janelle Eklund, Karen Hosch, Liz Barber, John Patterson, Henrietta

Bailey, Larry Kinard, Amanda Deitz, Levi Deitz, Tad Delgado and parents **Emily and Bryan Delgado, Ronnie Clinkscale, June Sprott, Fred Wilson, Frances Blake, Phyllis Propes, Chuck Sullivan, Susie Kuipers**, and **Karl Travis**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment. We also pray for their caregivers.

Our Caring Prayers for Extended Family include...

Lucy Redrow (daughter of **Leigh Ann and Grant Redrow**), Katie Loudon (sister-in-law of **Jaci Travis**), Michael Kibby (friend of **Mary Brooks**), Anja Dangelimer (family friend of **Lauren Black**), Claudia Masser (daughter-in-law of **Carol Toombs**), Melanie Carpenter (sister of **Paula Robertson**), Peggy Moore (sister of **Mary Brooks**), Cameron Parmelee (granddaughter of **Sally and Bob Parmelee**), Jack Barber (son of **Liz Barber**), Andy Hedrick (brother of **Patti Bradley**), Jolie Paprskar-Mozingo (daughter of **Joy Paprskar**), Walter Williams (husband of **Rachele Williams**), Caleb James Baker (great-grandson of **Betty Tillman**), Terry James (nephew of **Rachele Williams**), Tahji Hoffman (great-niece of **Rachele Williams**), 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 (uncle of **Kenda, Nancy, and Ron Love**), and John DeMore (son-in-law of **June Sprott**)

Prayers for the safety of Pape Russell (grandson of **Barbara Russell**), who is serving in the US Navy. 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.

We pray for safety and peace for those affected by conflict.

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.

Welcome New Members!

Please join the Evangelism Committee in welcoming these new members.



Cheryl Mahoney joined First Pres on Sunday, January 28. Cheryl and her husband Michael recently moved from McKinney to Fort Worth to be closer to family. Cheryl is retired from the communications sector.

SUMMER

MER

children's camps
and more

Learn more about
summer activities at

[fpcfw.org/kidsummer](https://www.fpcfw.org/kidsummer)
Registrations open March 1!



First Presbyterian Church

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The 2024 Presbyterian Women's Day Retreat on Saturday, February 17, was a huge success! Almost 60 women spent a day in fellowship, creating prayer journals and charcuterie boxes while "Seeking God's Goodness."