

# THE Penn Street Letter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FORT WORTH

MAY 2024 / VOLUME 24, NUMBER 5

## ALL CHURCH RETREAT ANNUAL RETREAT AT MO-RANCH LABOR DAY WEEKEND

**A TIME FOR CONNECTION AND FUN FOR ALL**



Make plans now for the annual All Church Labor Day Weekend Retreat at Mo-Ranch, August 30 through September 2. This year's theme is "MO with the Flow" and you'll enjoy memorable moments with your church family and friends at Mo-Ranch, a beautiful Presbyterian camp located in the Texas Hill Country.

### Lodging/Hotel Accommodations:

- Wynne/Flato lodging per night: \$120
- Pheasant Run lodging per night: \$110
- Nicklos Barn Group Housing with kitchen facilities per night: \$140
- Milk Barn Group Housing with kitchen facilities per night: \$140

### Meals:

- Ages 0-3: Free
- Ages 4-11: \$50 for 7 meals (breakfast Saturday, Sunday, Monday; lunch & dinner Saturday and Sunday)
- Ages 12 and older: \$85 for 7 meals (breakfast Saturday, Sunday, Monday; lunch & dinner Saturday and Sunday)

### Activities:

- Worship together at Chapel on the Hill Sunday morning
- Land: waterfront, hiking, labyrinth, playgrounds, star gazing, bird watching, gaga pits, courts for volleyball, tennis, basketball, pickleball, etc.
- Water: swimming pool (adult and child pools), waterfront, Mo-Slide, canoes, rapids on the Guadalupe River

**Register at [fpcfw.org/moranch](http://fpcfw.org/moranch) by May 28 and submit a 50% deposit of your total (balance due August 1).**

# Pastor's Letter



Dear friends,

It is difficult for me to imagine that we are already nearing the situationship of summer. We are swiftie approaching the heat dome! It feels like Lent just went and now Eastertide has almost both ebbed and flowed. And while you might feel a prompt to wave a beige flag, here's something to look forward to ...

This summer we are using our parasocial abilities to fill out the first-ever First Pres **HYMN BRACKET CHALLENGE**. We narrowed down the 853 hymns in our *Glory to God* hymnal to what we thought might be the most popular 64 hymns, but we are letting you all take it from there. Our **ROUND 1** voting has already happened and you have narrowed the top 64 down to the remaining 32. You decided that *Holy, Holy, Holy* and *Jesus Christ has Risen Today* both had rizz, while you got busy de-influencing *As the Deer* and *Sanctuary*.

Now the next **ROUND 2** has begun and we need your help going from 32 to 16 hymns. These 16 hymns are going to serve as the sermon series

for this summer. Each week the preacher will preach from a hymn of your choosing while supplying the scriptures that informed it, the history that shaped it, and the theology that sustained it.

We have some artwork all-ready to be commissioned to celebrate it. We have a world-class cellist coming in one Sunday to help make the music come alive. And we will have anthems and dances and soloists and instrumentals throughout this season celebrate each of your winners!

We are looking forward to this sermon series and we look forward to you helping us select our Sweet 16!

Grace & Peace

Brian

PS – I used all the slang terms that appeared as the preliminary candidates for Oxford's most recent "Word of the Year" in this article so the youth could use this as a wordsearch. See if you can find all 8 :-)

## Submissions

Submissions for the next issue of the Penn Street Letter are due Wednesday, May 22. 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



@fpcf

## 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

## Publisher Info

The Penn Street Letter is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church, 1000 Penn Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-3496. Periodicals postage is paid at Fort Worth, TX and at additional offices.

Editor: Pam Burkholder

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Each month we'll highlight First Pres staff team updates, including new hires, anniversaries, and more.

### WELCOME, NEW EMPLOYEES!



**Savanah Roberts** recently joined the Early Education Center (EEC) team as a floating afternoon Assistant Teacher.

Originally from Texarkana, Savanah and her husband recently relocated to Arlington with their 11 month old daughter, Charlotte ("Lottie"). Savannah loves animals, coffee, the outdoors, and spending time with her family.



**Tesha Shreves** recently joined the Sunday Nursery Caretakers team.

Tesha ("Teh-shu") has lived in Fort Worth for over 40 years, celebrated 20 years of marriage, and is a mom of two teenagers. As a lover of the outdoors, we will find Tesha spending spare time with her family and friends while camping, hiking, or other outdoor activities.

### MAY SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

We celebrate the following members of our staff team on their years of faithful service with First Pres:

- **May 2: Ashley Drake Mertz**, Parish Associate for Pastoral Care, 1 year
- **May 16: Matt McGraw**, Parish Visitor, 2 years
- **May 24: Starla Guisto-Williams**, Assistant Teacher Infants, 7 years
- **May 29: Norbert Jankovich**, Chef de Cuisine, 5 years

### HAPPY ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY!



On Wednesday, April 24, First Pres celebrated Administrative Professionals Day by taking our exceptional team of Ministry Assistants to lunch. We recognize and appreciate all that they contribute to the life of the church!

## Calendar Highlights

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

### SUNDAYS IN MAY

- 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
- 2 p.m. Wrestling with Faith, Racial Equity, Power & Privilege

### MONDAYS IN MAY

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 9 a.m. Formula & Diaper Ministry at Community Crossroads
- 10 a.m. Wellness: Tai Chi

### WEDNESDAYS IN MAY

- 11:30 a.m. Food & Clothing Ministry at Community Crossroads
- 11:30 a.m. Sack Lunch Distribution at Community Crossroads
- 5:30 p.m. WOW! Worship and Dinner at Community Crossroads
- 6 p.m. Grace Notes Rehearsal (ends May 15)
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (ends May 22)
- 7 p.m. Summer Choir Rehearsal (begins May 29)
- 7:30 p.m. High School Bible Study (off campus)

### THURSDAYS IN MAY

- 11:30 a.m. Food & Clothing Ministry at Community Crossroads
- 11:30 a.m. Sack Lunch Distribution at Community Crossroads

### SATURDAY, MAY 4

- 7:45 a.m. First Pres Habitat Build Day

### TUESDAYS, MAY 7 & 21

- 7 p.m. Young Adult Study & Discussion

### THURSDAY, MAY 9

- 5:30 p.m. Night Shelter Goodie Bag Stuffing Project

### SATURDAY, MAY 11

- 9 a.m. Circles of Christ Circle Up for Coffee

### MONDAY, MAY 13

- 11 a.m. Betsy's Book People Book Club

### THURSDAY, MAY 16

- 6 p.m. Boomers Dutch Treat Dinner
- 7 p.m. MOMS Gathering at Maggie's R&R

### SUNDAY, MAY 19

- All Day Young Adult Sunday
- 6 p.m. Senior Celebration & Dinner

### MONDAY, MAY 27

- All Day Church offices, Early Education Center, and Community Crossroads closed for Memorial Day

Want to join a fantastic team?  
 Know someone who does?  
 First Pres is hiring!



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



# Be Inspired

## Young Adult Sunday: May 19

All First Pres Young Adults are invited to come worship, learn, and fellowship with us on Sunday, May 19 for Young Adult Sunday! Look for young adults participating in a variety of worship activities including music, liturgist, and welcoming the community as ushers. We'll gather to meet other young adults and young professionals, learn about what's happening this summer, and enjoy lunch together in the Great Hall. Worship at 8, 9, or 11 a.m. and join us for Church School in Room 234 at 10 a.m. Lunch is provided in the Great Hall following the 11 a.m. worship service.

## Summer Choir begins May 29

Singing on Sundays from June 2 through July 28 the Summer Choir returns to offer inspiring anthems at the 11 a.m. service. Summer Choir is comprised of singers from high school age through adult. Singers of all experience levels are invited to participate. The Summer Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. in the Sanctuary and again from 10-10:30 a.m. Sunday morning. Summer Choir is great for those unable to sing throughout the year or who would like to try choir for the first time. If you are interested in the Summer Choir or have questions, contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski (michaelw@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231).

## Celebrate our Graduating Seniors!



Graduation season is upon us! Here at First Pres we want to celebrate the high school graduates of 2024 in various ways. We will be hosting a senior celebration dinner on Sunday, May 19 at 6 p.m. in the Youth Center. Seniors will also be featured in upcoming First Pres digital and printed publications as well

as a special display case in June. If you and your senior would like to attend the dinner and/or be included in the publications, please fill out the form by scanning the QR code here and upload pictures by May 10. If you are a church member, and would like to bless the seniors that attend the celebration dinner with a gift basket, please contact Becky (bquick@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231) to be assigned a senior.

## Boomers Dinner: May 16

Join the Boomers on Thursday, May 16 at Roger's Roundhouse Restaurant (1616 Rogers Road, Fort Worth 76109) for a Dutch Treat Dinner at 6 p.m. We'll enjoy food and fellowship! RSVP to the church office (817.335.1231) or at [fpcfw.org/boomers](http://fpcfw.org/boomers) by Tuesday, May 14.

## Grief Group begins June 2

First Presbyterian Church is offering a six-week Grief Support Group on Sundays beginning Sunday, June 2 through Sunday, July 7, from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in Room 100, led by Rachel Rigdon. This group offers a supportive and encouraging space in which we experience God's presence, comfort, and strength.

This group is free and open to members and friends of First Pres and the community. Learn more and register at [fpcfw.org/careandsupport](http://fpcfw.org/careandsupport).

## Summer Enneagram Workshops

Ever felt misunderstood? Ever wondered why some things trigger deep responses in you? Or - ever had someone say to you, "You're getting in your own way?" Suddenly, you go inward and start wondering.

Learning who we are and what our potentials could be is a lifetime journey that can be pleasant and painful. No doubt you've heard your favorite "pop" analyst offer lots of free advice about any of the questions above, but do we trust quick and easy information about ourselves? Delving into our emotions and our motivations takes focus, time, and work. Self work is serious and it becomes soul work when done well.

For many years First Pres offered workshops on the enneagram, an ancient wisdom about personality and how it works. Now these seminars are being offered again by the Spiritual Formation Committee. Join Carol Toombs, Linda Northern, and Karen Hosch on three Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$15 and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Register by calling the church office (817.335.1231) or at [fpcfw.org/spiritualformation](http://fpcfw.org/spiritualformation).

- **June 15: Know Your Number.** Learn the basics of Enneagram theory - centers of intelligence, triads, and stances. Identify your number.
- **June 29: Growing into your Healthiest Self.** Learn how to use energy from your wings and stress and security numbers, to deal with lost childhood messages and wounds so that they no longer control you.
- **July 13: Growing Home: The Spirituality of the Enneagram.** Learn about Holy Ideas and Virtues as well as spiritual practices for each number as it moves toward integration and reconnects with essence.



# Engage the World

In April, members of First Pres traveled to Honduras for a solar mission trip. In partnership with Solar Under the Sun and the Presbyterian Church of Honduras, the group installed solar power for ten homes and a church over the course of five days.

Solar Under the Sun is a covenant partner of the Synod of the Sun, a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Believing that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the vision of Solar Under the Sun is to illumine our fellow human beings with hope and life through solar energy by training volunteers to design and install solar power systems in communities that lack reliable electrical power.

Upon returning, trip participant David Pettit commented, "Lots of work by the entire team, but the end results and relationships built will last a lifetime."





# Recently around First Pres

From a Youth Sunday celebration and All Church Picnic to the Victory Over Violence race, pictured here are some recent First Pres happenings. If you have photos of an event or gathering that you'd like to see included here, share them with Pam Burkholder at [pamb@pfcfw.org](mailto:pamb@pfcfw.org).





# Joys & Concerns

The following prayer concerns are those we have received as of April 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 Oliver James to parents Erin and Nate Gleason-Boyer. Oliver was born on April 1. He is the grandson of **Wendi and Mark Gleason**.

## *Our Loving Sympathy to...*

Friends of **Diane Davidson** following her death on April 10.

Family and friends of William "Bill" Chenault following his death on April 7. Surviving First Pres family members include his sister **Lynda Richey** and brother-in-law, Rev. Murray Richey.

Family and friends of Melanie Robertson Carpenter following her death on April 7. Surviving First Pres family member is sister, **Paula Robertson**.

Family and friends of Mary Beth Detwiler following her death on April 5, 2024. Surviving First Pres family member is daughter, **Judy Graves**.

Family and friends of Robert "Kit" Kittredge following his death on April 4. Surviving First Pres family member is wife, **Trisha Kittredge**.

Family and friends of **Janet Ragsdale** following her death on April 1.

## *Our Loving Thoughts and Prayers are with...*

**Pat Graham, Matt Miller, Martha Brooks, Nancy Gillis, 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, 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 Work Group in welcoming these new members.*



**Erica and Bill Harp** joined First Pres on Sunday, April 21. Erica is a special education teacher in Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD. Bill is a logistics manager for GE

Appliance and a US Army reservist. Erica and Bill have three children: Carolynn Joan ("CJ"), 4; William, 3; and Brahm, 10 months.



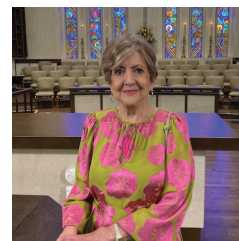
**Elizabeth and Michael Jacobsson** joined First Pres on Sunday, March 24. Elizabeth and Michael, and their children Olivia (10) and William (five), have

worshipped and been in church school at First Presbyterian regularly since last summer. Elizabeth is an attorney, and Michael is the principal in a specialty chemicals firm.



**Amanda and Andy Lewis** joined First Pres on Sunday, April 7. Amanda is with North Texas Community Foundation, and Andy is an attorney with

Rainey & Wortmann, PLLC. They have two sons, Will, seventh grade, and Cole, third grade. Andy grew up at First Pres and is the son of church member Brenda Lewis.



**Carlotta Rhoades** joined First Pres on Sunday, April 22. Carlotta is a retired Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and has been visiting worship for a few months.





THE  
Penn  
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Letter

**First Presbyterian Church**

1000 Penn Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

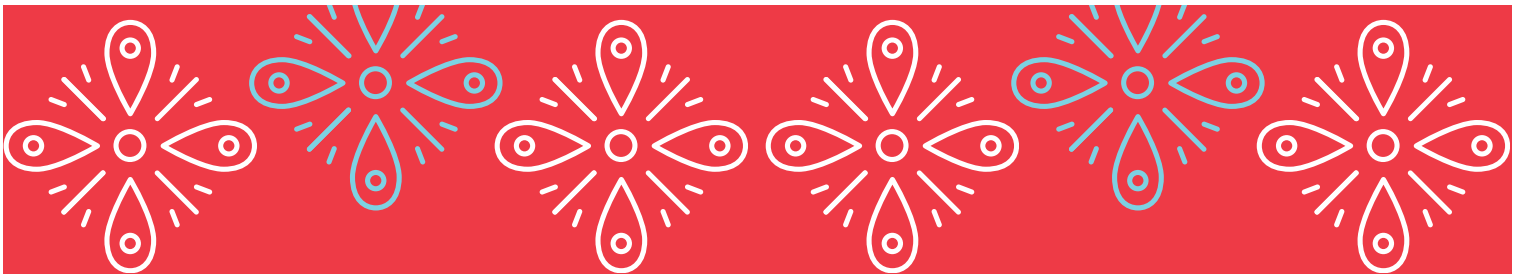
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT WORTH  
Presbyterian Women

# Summer Treat



**THURSDAY, JUNE 6 AT 6 P.M.**



La Puertita at Joe T. Garcia's (2201 N. Commerce St., Fort Worth)  
Dine with friends in a private dining room! Cost: \$30 (includes dinner, dessert, gratuity).  
Cash bar and beverages available (cash only).



For more details and to RSVP visit [fpcfw.org/pw](http://fpcfw.org/pw)  
or contact Deneice in the church office ([dallen@fpcfw.org](mailto:dallen@fpcfw.org) or 817.335.1231)