

# THE Penn Street Letter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FORT WORTH

AUGUST 2024 / VOLUME 24, NUMBER 8

## Hello Fall!

Here are some upcoming education opportunities beginning this Fall



### Fall Church School Classes for Adults Sundays beginning September 8, 10-10:45 a.m.

Beginning Sunday, September 8, nine adult Church School classes will meet to study and support adults in nurturing their faith and discipleship. Classes meet from 10-10:45 a.m. each week and are led by an outstanding faculty of members, staff, and friends of First Presbyterian Church. Bible study, faith formation, and contemporary issues in church and society form the curriculum. For more information, please contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski in the church office. (817.335.1231, ext. 229 or michaelw@fpcfw.org)

### Reading the Bible in 9 Months September through May

Over the past several years, hundreds of adult members and friends of First Presbyterian Church have completed the Reading the Bible in 9 Months program developed by Sr. Associate Pastor Michael Waschevski. Daily readings from September-May are arranged in such a way that the connections between the books of the Bible and the overarching themes and story cycles of scripture come together to reveal the unity of the Bible.

The reading plan for the 2024-2025 Reading the Bible in 9 Months program will be available at the beginning of September. To receive a copy, please email Deneice Allen in the church office (dallen@fpcfw.org) or visit fpcfw.org/rb9m.

### Bible In-Depth Sundays 10-10:45 a.m. or Wednesdays 10:45-11:45 a.m.

This popular course is offered twice a week (choose one) on Sunday mornings from 10-10:45 a.m., and Wednesday mornings from 10:45 -11:45 a.m. Led by the Rev. Dr. Robyn Michalove (Sunday Class) and the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski (Wednesday Class), a book of the Bible is studied verse by verse. Throughout the study participants grow in their understanding of scripture and its application to their daily life of faith. The fall session begins on Sunday, September 8, or Wednesday, September 11 with a study of First and Second Corinthians.

You may register at fpcfw.org/adulted or by contacting Deneice Allen in the church office (dallen@fpcfw.org; 817.335.1231 ext. 261).



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT WORTH

## Spiritual Formation

**Coming this Fall: Shalom**  
**September 8-October 27**  
**2-4:30 p.m. in Room 100**  
**Learn more & register at**  
**fpcfw.org/spiritualformation**

Desmond Tutu wrote a book, *God Has a Dream*. And in it, he echoes MLK, saying, "God says to you, 'I have a dream. Please help me to realize it. It is a dream of a world whose ugliness and squalor and poverty, its war and hostility, its greed and harsh competitiveness, its alienation and disharmony are changed into their glorious counterparts. When there will be more laughter, joy, and peace, where there will be justice and goodness and compassion and love and caring and sharing. I have a dream that my children will know that they are members of one family, the human family – *my family*.'"

These men took a comprehensive look at scripture and recognized that God's vision for how we were to live with one another and with God permeates all of scripture. MLK called the dream, "the beloved community;" Desmond Tutu, "Ubuntu." The Old Testament calls it "Shalom;" the New Testament, "Eirene."

This 8-week course led by Carol Toombs will trace God's dream of shalom as introduced in Genesis and fulfilled in Revelation, exploring the richness of shalom blessings and the urgency of human responsibility in co-creating it. The course will examine how, through covenants, law, prophets, Jesus Christ, and the early church, God's dream was both kept alive and revealed in ever greater depth.

# Pastor's Letter



Over the summer we have been exploring our top 16 hymns as voted by you, the congregation of First Pres. Many of these hymns elicit a faith that is based

in love and unity. Two things that, in recent memory, seem to be more elusive than prevalent in our culture. In my roles as both a pastor and a therapist I have been experiencing increased levels of cultural anxiety this year as we near the November elections.

It's times like these that I am drawn back to words from scripture and modern mystics for grounding. Being reminded to operate from a place of love, rather than fear, is needed. I find that these two quotes, from the 20th Century Trappist monk Thomas Merton and Jesus, have a helpful way of offering that grounding perspective.

Thomas Merton said, "But to love another as a person we must begin by granting him his own autonomy and identity as a person. We have to love him for what he is in himself, and not for what he is to us. We have to love him for his own good, not for the good we get out of him."

In Matthew, Jesus says, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and

with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

We know within our being that these moral guideposts are the path to right relationships. Yet, when the rubber meets the road, when we're faced with people who don't look like us or don't act like us, or who push against our expectations, how do we find ourselves responding? Is it out of a place of love or a place of fear? How do we respond to those who disagree with our point of view?

Relationships are hard in the best of times, so this year as the collective anxiety and worry continue to increase, we must strive, even more diligently, to operate from a place of love. If you are looking for practical skills to stay grounded in your faith and be in relationship from a place of love over fear then join us for a workshop on Sunday, August 25 at 2 p.m. The workshop will help frame our relationships with family, friends, and even strangers, from a theological perspective while also empowering us to live out our faith in this season. Register for this workshop at [fpcf.org/upcomingevents](http://fpcf.org/upcomingevents).

## Submissions

Submissions for the next issue of the Penn Street Letter are due Wednesday, August 21. 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

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## 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



# people first at First Pres

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

## AUGUST SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

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

**August 2: Sef Sanchez**, Maintenance Technician, 9 years

**August 7: Bee Morrell**, Lead Teacher (4s), 1 year

**August 8: Lynda Dinsdale**, Parish Visitor, 1 year

**August 14: Celeste Falter**, Business Office Manager, 24 years

**August 16: Laura Collins**, Music Associate, 9 years

**August 17: Alex Ibarra**, Housekeeper, 9 years

**August 17: Josh Stewart**, Associate Pastor for Youth, 19 years

**August 21: Dakota Lester**, Assistant Teacher (2s), 1 year

**August 22: Chris Clingman**, Assistant Teacher (Toddlers), 17 years

**August 22: Alyssa Martin**, Assistant Director, Early Education Center, 11 years

**August 22: Keyanna Smith**, Assistant Teacher (3s), 1 year

**August 26: Tonya Campbell**, Lead Teacher (1s), 19 years

**August 26: Daniel Connor**, Lead Teacher (3s), 28 years

**August 26: Cathy Farris**, Lead Teacher (4s), 19 years

**August 31: Reena Krishnan**, Assistant Teacher (4s), 6 years

**Want to join a fantastic team?**

**Know someone who does?**

**First Pres is hiring!**

**FPCFW.ORG/CAREERS**



## AUGUST Calendar Highlights



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

### SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

8 a.m. Worship in the Chapel  
9 a.m. Worship in the Great Hall  
10 a.m. Summer Church School (ends August 11)  
11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream

### MONDAYS IN AUGUST

6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
9 a.m. Formula & Diaper Ministry at Community Crossroads  
10 a.m. Wellness: Tai Chi  
3 p.m. Room in the Inn

### WEDNESDAYS IN AUGUST

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  
7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsals (begins August 21)

### THURSDAYS IN AUGUST

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

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

7 p.m. Young Adult Social Gathering @ Rangers game

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 9

7 p.m. All Church Pool Party

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

9 & 11 a.m. Blessing of the Backpacks  
4 p.m. Kids & Youth Back to School Party

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

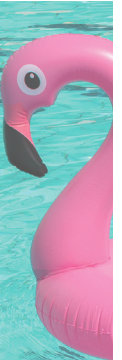
10 a.m. PW Tuesday Together with Author Patricia Tull

## All Church Pool Party

**Friday, August 9  
7-9 p.m.**

**Forest Park Pool**

**Free for the First Pres community  
and all are invited!**





# Be Inspired

## Chancel Choir resumes August 21 and you're invited!

First Presbyterian's Chancel Choir is comprised of 70 adults who offer weekly worship leadership at the 11 a.m. service and at special services throughout the liturgical year. The Chancel Choir experience includes joyful rehearsals, an encouraging and supportive community, and weekly opportunities to engage in the beauty and power of making music together. Singing together is a spiritual experience that nurtures the soul.

The Chancel Choir rehearses from 7-8:15 p.m. Wednesdays and rehearsals begin on Wednesday, August 21. New members are welcome!

To learn more about the Chancel Choir, please contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski in the church office. (817.335.1231, ext. 229 or michaelw@fpcfw.org).

## Flower Ministry Seeking Volunteers to Spread Love and Kindness

The First Pres Flower Ministry is seeking volunteers to help prepare or deliver flowers to members of the congregation. The Flower Ministry converts the flowers displayed in Sunday worship into expressions of pastoral love for members who need it. Volunteers spend a few minutes after the 11 a.m. service splitting the arrangement into deliverable bouquets. The Flower Ministry is also looking for members who would be interested in occasionally delivering flowers on behalf of the congregation.

If you are interested in participating in this caring ministry, please contact Sally Parmelee at 817.980.8422.

Meet Patricia K. Tull, author of *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation* at the Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women & Presentation of Horizons Bible Study.



# TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024

10 a.m. Gathering with coffee, juice & snacks

10:30 a.m. Program in the Great Hall

12 p.m. Lunch (Lunch is optional at a cost of \$10 per person)

Register by Thursday, August 15 at [fpcfw.org/pw](https://fpcfw.org/pw)

or by contacting Deneice Allen ([dallen@fpcfw.org](mailto:dallen@fpcfw.org) or 817.335.1231, ext. 261)





# Engage the World



First Pres is excited to partner with Academy 4 at Edward Briscoe Elementary (2751 Yuma Ave, 76104) for another year of mentoring! Academy 4 partners mentors from congregations with fourth graders who meet together one Friday afternoon a month for 90 minutes. Mentors express love and care and provide the students with a positive relationship with a dependable adult. To learn more or apply to become a mentor, visit [academy4.org/briscoe-elementary](http://academy4.org/briscoe-elementary).



## Community Crossroads Fact Sheet

\*This month we served...



- 1,341 Households groceries
- 298 Individual's clothing
- 647 Sack lunches
- 323 Households pet food
- 241 Hygiene & cleaning supplies
- 181 Cans of formula
- 581 Packages of diapers & wipes
- 189 New Neighbors

319

Volunteers

1,056

Hours Served

\*These statistics reflect June 1-30, 2024





It was a great week at Mission on the Move, July 22-26! Upper elementary campers enjoyed a weeklong immersion experience focusing on issues of earth care both globally and in our own community. Campers learned about recycling, worked at Opal's Farm, worked on art projects, practiced yoga, cleaned up trash in the Trinity River, made solar oven smores, learned about the Tarrant Regional Water District, and toured Goodwill.





# Joys & Concerns

The following prayer concerns are those we have received as of July 22. 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...

## *Our Loving Sympathy to...*

**Mar ye Drexler** following the death of her husband, Gary Drexler on July 15, 2024. Surviving family members include his stepdaughter and son-in-law, **Lea and Mike Cane**, and granddaughter, **Michelle Brkljadic** (Luks).

Family and friends of **Ronnie Clinkscale** following his death on July 10, 2024. Surviving family members include his wife **Kay**, son and daughter-in-law **Bill** and Jan Clinkscale, daughter **Lynn Clinkscale**, daughter, **Anna Meeker**, and grandchildren **William Morris**, Anna Brockman (Luke), **Emily Smith**, Jennifer Carr (Austin), **Avery Clinkscale**, **Julia Clinkscale**.

**Bear Duplisea**, and sons, Jeremiah and Jacob, following the death of Bear's father, Bernie Duplisea on July 7, 2024 in El Paso, Texas.

Family and friends of **Ted Chapman** following his death on June 26, 2024. Surviving family members include his children: daughter and son-in-law, **Beth** and Judd Jenkins, daughter and son-in-law **Kim and Blake Gore**, son and daughter-in-law **Matt** and Allison Chapman, and grandchildren **Libby, Judd, Tess and Mary Jenkins**, **Nicki and Walker Gore**, and Jules and Abby Chapman.

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

**Linda Beckworth**, **Pat Graham**, **Martha Brooks**, **Nancy Gillis**, **Jo Ann Johnson**, **Elizabeth McCartney**, **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.

**Blitz and Austin Phillips** and baby Hardy (due August 19), **Grace Camacho**, **Tad Delgado** and parents **Emily and Bryan Delgado**, **John Patterson**, **Henrietta Bailey**, **Larry Kinard**, **Amanda Deitz**, **Levi Deitz**, **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...*

Lonnie Goolsby (father of **Kelle Tillman**), 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**), 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.*



**Trey Hopkins and Maria Gutierrez** joined First Pres on Sunday, June 23. Trey works for FedEx. Maria is Trey's grandmother and is self-employed as a caregiver.



**Cynthia and Lindsey Hester** joined First Pres on Sunday, July 21. Cynthia is founder and Principal of Theology of Women Academy and Lindsey is a Commercial Banker with JPMorgan Chase.



**Nate Krieger** joined First Pres on Sunday, July 21. Nate is the Executive Director of the Dorothy Shaw Bell Choir and is a member of the First Pres Chancel Choir.



**First Presbyterian Church**

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**PERIODICALS POSTMASTER:**

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



During the month of July we hosted our Music and Arts Camp, Jr. We welcomed 48 kids each day to sing, dance, play instruments, and create works of art based on the theme *Ocean Friends*. They worked hard to prepare a performance for family and friends at the end of the week.

