

THE Penn Street Letter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FORT WORTH

NOVEMBER 2024 / VOLUME 24, NUMBER 11



Help First Presbyterian Church Fort Worth prepare and contribute food bags with items for a Thanksgiving meal for those in need. Each neighbor will receive a voucher to pick up a turkey or ham at a local grocery store, but we need your donations for the rest of the meal!

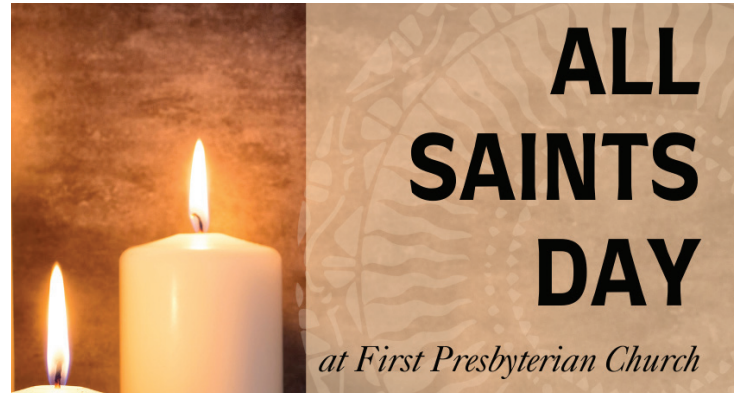
Please fill a bag with the shopping list items below, then bring filled bags to the red carts outside the worship spaces on Sundays, November 10 and 17. You may also drop donations off at the church office (Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.) November 10-16.

Donations of money are also appreciated; checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Thanksgiving Baskets 2024" in the memo.

SHOPPING LIST:

- ❑ 15 oz. can yams
- ❑ 15 oz. can cranberry sauce
- ❑ 15 oz. can chicken broth
- ❑ 5+ oz. box instant mashed potatoes
- ❑ 14 oz. bag stuffing mix (or 2 boxes stuffing mix)
- ❑ 14 oz. macaroni and cheese (shells)
- ❑ 18.4 oz. brownie mix
- ❑ 8 ct. hot chocolate mix
- ❑ 10 oz. bag marshmallows

Please stay with sizes requested. Health regulations require that the food be in the original packaging/containers.



All Saints Day, Friday, November 1, is designated for the remembrance of departed sisters and brothers in Christ, who having lived this life in faith, inspire us to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Held in God's faithful and eternal love, we gather to remember those dear to us, and especially First Presbyterian Church members, who have died during the previous year.

This beautiful service on Friday, November 1, at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary (or online at fpcfw.org/livestream) includes scripture, prayers, communion, and several musical offerings from the Chancel Choir that inspire and comfort us. The choir will be singing *Angel Band* and *Hallelujah* by Shawn Kirchner, as well as *Pilgrims' Hymn* by Stephen Paulus. Childcare is available for the service.

Please feel free to invite family and friends to attend this beautiful and moving service with you as we remember all those dear to us who are now a part of the great cloud of witnesses.

First Pres Academic Scholarships coming in 2025

We are excited to announce that First Pres is offering scholarships for the upcoming academic year! These scholarships aim to support high school students who are set to graduate in Spring of 2025 and individuals seeking to support or continue their education. All high school seniors in the First Pres Youth group, active participants at Community Crossroads, and children of First Pres staff members are eligible.

Further eligibility details and application forms will become available in January 2025 through our website. Application deadline is March 30, 2025. Questions? Reach out to Marisa (mpinon@fpcfw.org) or Susana (sleon@fpcfw.org) in the church office (817.335.1231).

Pastor's Letter



Dear friends,

I was recently in a conversation with someone who was reflecting on both the difficult season they were in and the many things for which they are grateful. They remarked that they didn't want the current burdens to over-shadow the many blessings of their life. How often do you find yourself focusing on the blessings more than the burdens? If you answered, "not very often" then November is the perfect time to practice focusing on being grateful.

This is the time of year that most of us are buckling up for the marathon that is all the commitments of November and December. As you prepare for this busy season, I invite you to set aside some time (maybe each day, maybe once a week) to note relationships, events, outcomes for which you are grateful.

One way you can practice gratitude with your First Pres family this month is at Grace, Gratitude, and Grub on Sunday, November 10. It is an intergenerational gathering for sharing a meal and exploring gratitude rituals you can integrate year-round.

By the end of the month, you will have new habits formed and before you know it, you'll be just like my friend, not allowing the burdens to over-shadow your blessings. Now that must be a taste of the peace of Christ!

Wishing you a joyful and gratitude filled November.

Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz
Parish Associate for Pastoral Care

Submissions

Submissions for the next issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, November 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@fpcfw.org.

Follow Us

Do you follow First Pres on social media? Find us on the following sites and follow along for photos, reminders, encouragement, and more!



@firstpresfw



@firstpres_fw



@fpcfw

Publisher Info

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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

October Session Highlights

First Presbyterian Church's Session met on Sunday, October 20. Highlights from that meeting included the following items:

- Approved a recommendation from Mission Outreach for a donation to our partner church, Good Shepherd Presbyterian in Union de Reyes, Cuba
- Received an endowments update from Marisa Pinon and Michelle Goodwin
- Heard a Committee Interpretation Report from Al Comeaux on the Engagement & Outreach Committee
- Received a report from Jane Mathis on last month's Grace Presbytery meeting
- Reviewed September financials



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

NOVEMBER SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

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

November 16: Keri Casciari, Ministry Assistant, 7 years

November 30: Brenda Holsinger, Assistant Teacher (3s), 2 years



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

SUNDAYS IN NOVEMBER

- 8 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in the Great Hall
- 10 a.m. Church School for all ages
- 10 a.m. Bible In-Depth
- 11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream
- 11:20 a.m. Younger Children's Choir
- 3:30 p.m. Youth 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. High School Youth Group
- 6 p.m. Middle School Bells

MONDAYS IN NOVEMBER

- 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study
- 9 a.m. Formula & Diaper Ministry at Community Crossroads
- 9 a.m. Hot Breakfast & Choice Pantry at Community Crossroads
- 10 a.m. Wellness: Tai Chi
- 11:30 a.m. Clothing & Sack Lunch Distribution at Community Crossroads

WEDNESDAYS IN NOVEMBER

- 10:45 a.m. Bible In-Depth
- 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
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30 p.m. High School Bible Study

THURSDAYS IN NOVEMBER

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

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1

- 7 p.m. All Saints Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

- 11:30 a.m. All Church Lunch & Great Presbyterian Bake Off
- 4:30 p.m. Grace, Gratitude & Grub Family Event

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21

- 11:30 a.m. MOMS 3rd Thursday Gathering
- 6 p.m. 3rd Thursday Bonus Pantry @ Community Crossroads

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27

- 5:30 p.m. WOW Thanksgiving Dinner @ Community Crossroads

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28-29

- All Day Church offices, Early Education Center, and Community Crossroads Outreach Center closed in observance of Thanksgiving

Be Inspired

Help Support Worship as a Slide Operator

Are you interested in supporting worship services but prefer to stay behind the scenes? If singing in the choir or being a liturgist isn't your style, consider joining the team of volunteer slide operators.

Every Sunday, a volunteer runs the slideshow that displays songs and service information during 9 a.m. worship in the Great Hall. No prior experience is needed and minimal training is required. Plus, you can remain seated and still fully participate in worship. Time commitment is approximately one Sunday per month, but we're flexible to your schedule.

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Deneice Allen in the church office (dallen@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 261).

Temporary volunteer drivers needed

Community Crossroads is looking for one or more temporary volunteer drivers. If you're available to volunteer for the Tuesday food pickups at Tom Thumb off W 7th Street, please reach out to Glenn Pense (817.228.6093 or Glennpense@gmail.com). The commitment is for every Tuesday before 9 a.m. from October 29 to December 3, but you can choose the Tuesdays that work for your schedule.

Order Christmas Poinsettias

in Honor and Memory of Loved Ones

The First Pres Worship & Music Committee will place live poinsettia plants in the worship spaces from December 13-25. You may purchase a plant in honor or memory of loved ones by scanning the QR code here or by contacting



Deneice (dallen@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231) in the church office. Deadline is December 2. Cost is \$25 per plant. Plants may be taken home on Friday, December 27, or after worship on Sunday, December 29. Plants not picked up are delivered to the Fort Worth Botanic Garden for propagation.



On Sunday, October 13, we welcomed Bruce Reyes-Chow, a teaching elder (minister) of the Presbyterian Church (USA), and a speaker, writer, and coach, to First Pres. Bruce is the author of *Everything Good about God Is True*, the basis of our Fall sermon series. Bruce preached in morning worship and also hosted a dinner and author's talk in the Youth Center that evening.



Engage the World



Christmas Party FOR THE BLIND

First Pres Youth are hosting the annual Christmas Party for the Blind on Sunday, December 8 at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall. This will be our 79th year hosting this meaningful Christmas celebration, which welcomes visually impaired guests and their caregivers/families to enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, entertainment, and gifts.

We rely on volunteers to help us transport guests to and from the party. If you would be willing to be a driver (invited to stay for dinner and the party) visit fpcf.org/youth to register.

If you know of someone who is visually impaired that would like to attend, please direct them to fpcf.org/youth to register.

If you would like additional information or have any questions, please contact Becky (bquick@fpcf.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 265).

Community Crossroads Fact Sheet

*This month we served...



1,578 Households groceries

310 Individual's clothing

751 Sack lunches

327 Households pet food

395 Hygiene & cleaning supplies

150 Cans of formula

589 Packages of diapers & wipes

218 New Neighbors

364

Volunteers

1,427

Hours Served

*These statistics reflect September 1-30, 2024

Recently around First Pres

October was a month of service! From the annual Cowtown Brush Up to the annual Youth Meal Packing Project, 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@fpcfw.org.



Joys & Concerns

The following prayer concerns are those we have received as of September 17. 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...

Family and friends of **Jack Norris** following his death on September 20, 2024. Surviving First Pres family members include his wife, **Joyce Norris**; daughter, **Janell Kilgore**; grand-daughters **Kathryn and Mary Margaret Kilgore**.

Family and friends of Arthur Zobal following his death on September 24, 2024. Surviving family members include his wife, **Julie Zobal**.

Our Loving Thoughts and Prayers are with...

Nancy Lynn Scott, Kay Love, Gaylon Peyton, Ann Biggs, Pat Graham, Martha Brooks, 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.

Patricia Villa, Manning Day, Grace Comacho, Dick Coffey, Robert and Dinah Riddle, 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...

Robert Mackay (brother of **Jane Mackay**), Dave Broz (uncle of Ashley Drake Mertz), Rebecca Montoya (mother of **Cheryl Mireles**), Lonnie Goolsby (father of **Kelle Tillman**), Lucy Redrow (daughter of **Leigh Ann and Grant Redrow**), Katie Loudon (sister-in-law of **Jaci Travis**), Anja Dangelimer (family friend of **Lauren Black**), Claudia Masser (daughter-in-law of **Carol Toombs**), Cameron Parmelee (grand-daughter 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 Dominican Republic, 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.



Nadia de la Cruz and Jaclyn Nieto joined First Pres on Sunday, October 13. Nadia is an Optician with Costco, and Jaclyn is a Speech Language Therapist with Fort Worth ISD. They have two children: Aiden, 2, and Aubrey, one. They have been worshipping at First Pres for several months.



Austin Yater joined First Pres on Sunday, September 29. Austin is a special education coordinator for Uplift Education. He has been worshipping with First Pres since the beginning of the year.



First Presbyterian Church

1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

PERIODICALS POSTMASTER:

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Fort Worth, TX 76102

Church Office

Ph: 817.335.1231

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THE
Penn
Street
Letter



THE GREAT PRESBYTERIAN
BAKE OFF



**Sunday, November 10, 2024
11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Great Hall**

**Come enjoy a free lunch and bring your baked goods!
Not a baker? Just bring your taste buds!**

**You're invited to bring baked goods from the following categories:
*Bread or Muffins - Bars, Cookies, or Brownies - Cakes, Pies, or Tarts***

(Please bring enough to serve 24 people. Drop off baked goods on
Sunday, November 10, between 9-11 a.m. at the tables on the west side
of the 3rd Floor Concourse outside the Great Hall.)

Sponsored by Wellness Together Committee

