

THE Penn Street Letter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FORT WORTH

JUNE 2026 / VOLUME 26, NUMBER 6



Summer Sermon Series 2026: Reveal and Disrupt

From June 7 through September 6, our Summer 2026 sermon series, Reveal and Disrupt, will explore the parables of Jesus - focusing especially on the "unique parables" found in only one of the Gospels. These lesser-known stories offer rich insight and fresh perspective.

As theologian and author Richard Lischer reminds us, parables are meant to both "reveal and disrupt." They reveal the kingdom of God in fresh and unexpected ways, opening our eyes to deeper truths about grace, justice, and love. At the same time, they disrupt our assumptions, challenge our comfort, and invite us to reexamine how we live in response to God's call.

Each week, we will listen closely to these stories - stories that continue to speak across time - and consider how they might reveal God's presence in our lives today while also disrupting the patterns that keep us from fully embracing that vision.

Come ready to listen, reflect, and be transformed.

Digital Campus Summer Bible Study begins June 8

This summer, First Pres invites you to deepen your faith through a special online Bible study, *God Revealed: The "I Am" Sayings of Jesus*. As part of our growing Digital Campus ministries, this evening study offers a meaningful opportunity to connect with fellow First Pres community members from wherever you are. Weekly Zoom sessions will be led by Eric Varnon, with occasional guest appearances from the study's author, Jann Treadwell - a retired Christian educator from the Dallas area, 2010 APCE Educator of the Year, and current teacher at NorthPark Presbyterian Church. The study will take place on Monday evenings from 6-7 p.m., June 8 through August 10. For more information or to sign up, contact Eric (evarnon@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231).

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Please join the Evangelism Work Group in welcoming these new members.



Jamie & Blake Beckelman



Ashlee & Kyle Cowan



Christine Cowan



Dorothy & Gary Cowan



Jacob & Lexa Garrett



Laura & Benji McPhail



Rita O'Farrell



Janet Schwabe

Pastor's Letter



Dear friends,

As we head into the summer there is a myth in the life of the church that programming and business come into a slower pace. That is

certainly not the case for us here at First Pres. In many ways a number of our ministries ramp up during the summer months. The gift of summer is that youth and children are available in larger chunks of time for fellowship, study, and service. In June we have a youth mission trip heading to Memphis, TN to serve with Youth Mission Co., we have a group of 4th-6th graders heading to Mo-Ranch for Summit 46, we have an intergenerational group heading to Montreat, NC for Worship and Music Conference, and of course we host a thriving Vacation Bible School and Music and Arts Camp on Penn Street that bring together all ages.

We also find time for adults to gather in different ways with the Presbyterian Women Summer Treat, First Pres On the Move (heading to the Kimbell on June 2!), and we'll have a great Lunch and Learn opportunity with Chris Bartley on June 28 focused on the beautiful stained glass throughout our campus. Visit fpcf.org/upcomingevents to learn more about any of these events.

Wow, what a month! And, those are only the "extra" ways to engage in the life of the church. If you find yourself on the road this summer, we will miss seeing you in-person and invite you to worship online while you're away.

We look forward to spending a thriving and joy-filled summer with you all here on Penn Street, at Community Crossroads, or on the road! What a gift it is to be together in this season.

May Session Highlights

First Presbyterian Church's Session met on Sunday, May 17. Highlights from that meeting included the following items:

- Received a report on Young Adult ministry.
- Received 1st quarter investment report.
- Received an update on property renovation.

First Presbyterian Church's Session

2026 CLASS OF ELDERS

Julia Bradley
Al Comeaux
Emily Hadley
Janie Lesok
Jane Mathis
Andrew Michalove
Nancy O'Malley
J.B. Smithson
Brian Wharry

2027 CLASS OF ELDERS

Mark Beasley
Cesar Chavez
Mike Henry
Judith Kinser
Ashli Smick
Judy Stricklin
Burch Waldron

2028 CLASS OF ELDERS

Elizabeth Carlock
Blair Chappell
Beverly Howard
Becky Jenkins
George Morey
Thomas Parsons
Mark Russell

Submissions

Submissions for the next issue of the *Penn Street Letter* are due Wednesday, June 24. Submissions for the weekly *Penn Street Online* emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue. Have photos or a story idea you'd like to share? Scan the QR code here to submit!



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



@fpcf

Publisher Info

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Stained Glass Lunch & Learn: Sunday, June 28

You're invited to a Stained Glass Lunch & Learn on Sunday, June 28, as we explore the rich history of First Pres' stained glass and the biblical stories and theology depicted through this beautiful and historic art form. The gathering will begin with lunch at 12:15 p.m. in Room 236 (for those who RSVP), followed by a guided tour of the stained glass in the Sanctuary and Chapel, where you'll gain new insight into their meaning and craftsmanship. This insightful afternoon will conclude around 1:45 p.m. We hope you'll come learn, reflect, and appreciate this meaningful expression of faith and artistry. Register at fpcfw.org/upcomingevents.



Each month we'll highlight First Pres staff team updates.

JUNE SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

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

Susana Leon, Accounting & Purchasing Specialist, 2 years

Monica Lindsey, Housekeeper, 1 year

Paty Martinez, Assistant Teacher (2s), 4 years

Ann Nielsen, Director, Children & Family Ministries, 6 years

Mari Vasquez Aguilar, Assistant Teacher (3s), 4 years



JUNE Calendar Highlights

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

SUNDAYS IN JUNE

- 8 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in the Great Hall
- 10 a.m. Wonder, Love & Play Children & Youth Church School
- 10 a.m. Summer Church School: Woven Book Chat
- 10 a.m. Summer Church School: Companions for the Journey
- 10 a.m. Summer Church School: Bible Study on Parables
- 11 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary & Livestream

MONDAYS IN JUNE

- 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
- 11:30 a.m. Clothing & Sack Lunch Distribution at Community Crossroads
- 3-6 p.m. Cooling Station Open at Community Crossroads (begins June 22)

WEDNESDAYS IN JUNE

- 11:30 a.m. Food & Clothing Ministry at Community Crossroads
- 11:30 a.m. Sack Lunch Distribution at Community Crossroads
- 3-6 p.m. Cooling Station Open at Community Crossroads (begins June 22)
- 5:30 p.m. WOW! Worship and Dinner at Community Crossroads
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAYS IN JUNE

- 3-6 p.m. Cooling Station Open at Community Crossroads (begins June 22)

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3

- 12 p.m. Faith Seminar for Parents of Adult Children

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

- 5:30 p.m. PW Summer Treat at Blue Mesa

SUNDAY, JUNE 7-FRIDAY, JUNE 12

Youth Mission Trip to Memphis

MONDAY, JUNE 8-FRIDAY, JUNE 12

- 9 a.m. VBS 2026
- 12 p.m. Elementary Music & Arts Camp

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

- 8:30 a.m. Enneagram Workshop

SATURDAY, JUNE 27

- 10 a.m. Children & Youth Family Meet-Up at Cidercade

Be Inspired

Back by Popular Demand: Enneagram Workshop Series

"It had been a long time since I went to the first training courses. I had forgotten a lot about my number 2 and the details about the other numbers. There were several things I learned about my number that I had not learned before, especially about giving myself permission to have and express my own needs. My nature has always been to put my needs last and never get around to them. That would sometimes lead to feelings of resentment and frustration with myself and others. I learned that is a normal reaction of people who have my personality type. It was also helpful to hear why others who are different numbers behave the way they do and how they have needs to be aware of, too. With more study one can learn how to deal with the people you come in contact with. Understanding why people respond the way they do can improve relationships with those you love and those you meet along life's journey." (Sally Parmelee)

John Calvin observed that we cannot know God without knowing ourselves, nor ourselves without knowing God. Discovering who we are and who we might become is a lifelong journey, both rewarding and challenging. The Enneagram is an ancient tool that supports this deep self-work - work that becomes soul work when engaged faithfully.

We are repeating the first two summer seminars using the same format as last year but, having learned that the third seminar requires more time and depth, we will offer it through the School of Spiritual Formation as a four-week course in September. You may take all three seminars, as they are designed to build on one another. Or, if you are already familiar with your Personality Type, you may take only those that will stretch your growing edge.

The seminars and resource notebooks are free. Lunch for the summer seminars is available at a cost of \$10 and coffee and pastries will be offered from 8:30-9 a.m. for early birds. Summer seminars will be from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Youth Center. The Fall classes (also free) will be held on Sunday afternoons, September 13-October 4, from 2-4 p.m. in Room 100.

- **June 20: Know Your Number.** Learn the basics of Enneagram Theory - Centers of Intelligence, Triads, & Stances. Identify your number.
- **July 18: Growing into your Healthiest Self.** Learn how to use energy from your Wings and Stress & Security Numbers, to deal with Lost Childhood Messages and Wounds so that they no longer control you.
- **Sept. 13-Oct. 4: 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.

Register for the workshops at fpcfw.org/spiritualformation

Faith Seminar for Parents of Adult Children: Wednesday, June 3

This seminar is for parents of adult children who do not participate in the life of a faith community. During the seminar, the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski will engage parents in exploring how to create an inviting space for conversation, understanding, and support for their adult children. Building on James Fowler's *Stages of Faith*, participants will gain a deeper insight into the opportunities and challenges adults face in faith formation.

This seminar is on Wednesday, June 3 from 12-1:30 p.m. in Room 238 with lunch included. Scan the QR code here to register.



Shaping Young Adult Ministry at First Pres: A Community Conversation

Calling all young adults! Rev. Phil Dieke, Director of Congregational Innovation at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary will be here on Saturday, June 20 to share and guide us in conversation about the young adult ministry here in our First Pres community.

Phil oversees The 787 Collective – the seminary's young adult initiative. Phil is a United Methodist clergy person. Before joining the staff at the seminary, he served in the local church for over 16 years in youth, college, young adult, and digital ministry settings.

Come be part of the conversation as we continue to envision and discern the future of our ministry with young adults here at First Pres.

The event will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 20. Lunch and childcare will be provided. Questions? Contact Alejandro Salazar in the church office (asalazar@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231).

Women of First Pres: Save these Dates!

MO-RANCH WOMEN'S CONFERENCE | JUNE 5-7

TUESDAY TOGETHER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 | 10 A.M. | GREAT HALL

For more details or to make reservations, contact Deneice Allen in the church office (817.335.1231 or dallen@fpcfw.org) or visit fpcfw.org/pw.

Engage the World

Ongoing Support Opportunities at First Pres

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

1ST MONDAYS | 10:30 A.M. | ROOM 105

Caring for a loved one can be both rewarding and challenging. This monthly group offers space to connect, share experiences, and find support. Questions? Contact Ashley (adrakemertz@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 264).

THIRD THIRD OF LIFE MONTHLY GATHERINGS

3RD WEDNESDAYS | 9:30 A.M. | ROOM 102

The Third Third of Life gathering is for those seeking connection and purposeful living in the third third (60ish and over) of life. Each gathering explores topics like spiritual growth, community, health, and life planning. Pastries and coffee provided. Questions? Contact Robyn (robynm@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 266) or Ashley (adrakemertz@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 264).

FAITHFUL ACTION & RESPONSE

3RD TUESDAYS | 8:30 A.M. | YOUTH CENTER

Join others discerning how to live out faith intentionally in a polarized world. Each gathering includes spiritual practices and conversation around engaging faithfully in today's climate. Questions? Contact Robyn (robynm@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 266) or Ashley (adrakemertz@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231, ext. 264).



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT WORTH

Community Crossroads

In April 2026, Community Crossroads:

- Provided **1,567** households with groceries
- Provided **314** individuals with clothing
- Served **775** sack lunches
- Provided pet food to **490** pet owners
- Provided **198** hygiene items to individuals
- Provided **184** cleaning products to individuals
- Provided **441** packages of diapers and **141** cans of formula to parents
- A dedicated team of **233** volunteers contributed a remarkable total of **1,866** hours of service!

Woven Study: Parents & Grandparents Invited

Join in this summer as we explore *Woven* by Meredith Miller! You're invited to a Woven Book Chat on Sunday mornings in June during the 10 a.m. hour in Room 230 - come for reflection and discussion with no reading or preparation required. Then, on August 23 from 4:30-6 p.m., we'll host Meredith Miller for a special evening of dinner and conversation focused on raising children in faith. All parents and grandparents are welcome to read along and join in the discussion. Questions? Reach out to Ann Nielsen (anielsen@fpcfw.org or 817.335.1231).

Summer Church School: Companions for the Journey

You're invited to Companions for the Journey, held Sundays in June and July during the 10 a.m. hour in Room 236. Together, we'll explore the lives of faithful women and men across history who responded to God's call with courage and devotion, becoming guides for our own spiritual journeys. Each week will highlight a different inspiring figure - such as St. Francis of Assisi, C.S. Lewis, and Dorothy Day - whose stories continue to encourage and challenge us as we grow in faith together.

Summer Church School: Parables

This summer, adults are invited to join a Sunday Church School Bible study focused on the parables, offering meaningful discussion and insight into these powerful teachings of Jesus. The class will meet Sundays from June 7 through August 16 during the 10 a.m. church school hour in Room 237. Led by Ann Hoch and Steve Brotherton, this study provides a thoughtful opportunity for learning, reflection, and growing in faith together.

Children & Youth Summer Church School: Wonder, Love, & Play

Starting in June, Wonder, Love, and Play is back and all students in Kinder - 5th Grade, Middle School, and High School are invited! This class explores the importance of free play in human development and the value of connecting across ages. Each week will include guided free play in the Youth Center and Gym, a brief devotional, and of course - donut holes! We hope this time will offer space for imagination, movement, connection, and spiritual grounding in Christ.

Congratulations to First Pres' Graduating Seniors!



CALEB BARNES

High School: Liberty University Online Academy.

Plans: I am planning on attending Austin College in Sherman Texas for Theology.

Favorite Memory: My favorite Youth Trip memory was being able to go skiing for the first time at Wolf Creek.

Thank you: Thank you to everyone

who welcomed me into the church family. As someone who converted to Presbyterianism recently and has only attended for less than 2 years, the warmth and support I've received has strengthened my faith in a very powerful way.

Encouragement: The Bible verse that encouraged me most is Romans 8.28, as it was a verse spoken by my mother very frequently, and the underlying doctrine of predestination eventually led me to joining First Pres.



ANNABEL COULTER

High School: Fort Worth Academy of Fine Art.

Plans: Next year I will be attending the University of Texas at Austin. I will be majoring in Economics, while getting a minor in business.

Favorite Memory: During my time in youth group, I got to attend mission trips to North Carolina, Cuba,

Louisiana, and two Civil Rights Pilgrimages. Getting to work alongside the rest of the youth group and build friendships with everyone was always my favorite part.

Thank you: Over the past five years at this church, I have gotten to know many people. Thank you to everyone who has helped me grow in my faith.

Encouragement: My favorite Bible story is The Good Samaritan. This story showed me how we are called to always show love to all those around us.



ANNIKA GRONBERG

High School: Young Women's Leadership Academy.

Plans: I will study Computer Engineering at Iowa State University where I have been named a George Washington Carver Scholar. I also intend to play cello in the Symphony Orchestra and will be in the Honors College.

Favorite Memory: I have loved attending Bible Study every Wednesday night and creating connections through that. I

loved preaching on Youth Sunday and am excited for the mission trip this summer.

Thank you: I appreciate both of my churches and am especially grateful to First Pres for being open to a Lutheran.

Encouragement: My confirmation verse is Lamentations 3.22-23 so that idea of God's mercies being new every day allows me to start over and feel hopeful.



SARAH HERMUS

High School: Colleyville Heritage High School.

Plans: I will be attending Austin College in the fall term of next year where I plan to study psychology.

Favorite Memory: One of my favorite Youth trips was my second time going on the ski trip. All the members were so inviting and everybody worked

as a team to make the trip the best possible. I made many meaningful connections on that trip and great memories that I think back on.

Thank you: Thank you to my FPC family so much for all the opportunities I was given over the years and the faith that I was introduced to. I am unbelievably grateful for how much support I received and how much this group includes everyone.

Encouragement: Ephesians 4.11-12 He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.



ELIZA STUBBLEFIELD

High School: IM Terrell Academy for STEM and VPA.

Plans: I will be attending the College of Wooster in Ohio and majoring in History and Environmental Studies.

Favorite Memory: My favorite part of youth group has been Wednesday night Bible Study. I enjoyed spending time getting closer with my church friends discussing God and being in

community with each other.

Thank you: Thank you to everyone who supported me over the past few years. I found my second family at First Pres, and have always been supported by everyone I've met here from day one fifth grade year.

Encouragement: 1 Samuel 16.7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Joys & Concerns

The following prayer concerns are those we have received as of May 20, 2026. 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 Visitor Matt McGraw. Let us keep the following persons in our thoughts and prayers this month...

With joy we celebrate...

The birth of Robert Oliver Floyd on April 4 to Chandler and Emily Floyd. First Pres family member is Great-Grandmother, **Mary Margaret Floyd**.

The birth of Colin Blair Floyd on May 13 to Matthew and Emma Floyd. First Pres family member is Great-Grandmother, **Mary Margaret Floyd**.

Our loving sympathy to...

Family and friends of Sylvia Stamps following her death on May 17, 2026. Surviving First Pres family members include her sister, **Gaye Kortegast**, and her niece and nephew-in-law, **Clare and Chris Yurasek**.

Family and friends of **Jean Lyons** following her death on May 10, 2026. Surviving First Pres family members include her husband, **Don Lyons**.

Family and friends of **Cecil Smith** following his death on April 29, 2026. Surviving First Pres Family members include his wife, **Ann Smith**, and son and daughter-in-law, **Robert Smith and Sue Austin**.

Family and friends of **Paula (Ansonia) Campbell** following her death in April 2026. Surviving First Pres family members are her daughters: **Ana Montanez, Susie Salas, Esmeralda Salas**.

Family and friends of Linda Henry following her death in April 2026. Surviving First Pres family members include her son **Damon Freeman**.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Jean Gorham, Rick Amos, Dawn Shepard, Susie Kuipers, Hardy Phillips, son of **Austin and Blitz Phillips, Jane Mathis, William King, Jr., Gene Colvin, Mary Elizabeth Austin, Jack Jones, Jackie Taylor, Heather Martin, Gail Stewart, Wil'win Chochola, Nancy Lynn Scott, Gaylon Peyton, and Ronnie Sherwood**, who are recovering from surgery or injury. We also pray for their caregivers.

John Pumphrey, Benjamin Adams, and parents **Will and Lauren Adams, Elizabeth McCartney, Margo Dean, Judy Stricklin, Roxy Sherwood, Rachele Williams, Manning Day, Grace Camacho, Robert and Dinah Riddle, Tad Delgado** and parents **Emily and Bryan Delgado, John Patterson, Larry Kinard, Fred Wilson, Frances Blake, Phyllis Propes, Pat Richardson, Irene Howard, Chuck Sullivan, and Karl Travis** who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment. We also pray for their caregivers.

Our Caring Prayers for Extended Family include...

Ann Bartley (mother of **Chris Bartley**), Sharyl Stevens (mother of Michael

Waschevski), Verne Hargrave, father of Blake Hargrave (First Pres staff), Missy King (niece of **Bill and Barbara Holmes**), Silvia Perez (First Pres staff), Michele Hargrave, wife of Blake Hargrave (First Pres staff), Max Hamre (son of **David Hamre**), Chris Austin (cousin of **Sean Austin**), Joel Ballew (father of **Bryan Ballew**), Martha Meador (mother of **Martha Letbetter**), Lonnie Goolsby (father of **Kelle Tillman**), Lucy Redrow (daughter of Leigh Ann and **Grant Redrow**), Terry James (nephew of **Rachele Williams**), Tahji Hoffman (great-niece of **Rachele Williams**), Audrey Hart (great-granddaughter of **Bob and Jane Trask**), and Nancy Hatfield (mother of **Sarah Haddock**).

Prayers for the safety of **Rolf Tilley**, (son of **Jaret and Katie Tilley**) who is stationed in Turkey with the U.S. Navy. 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 partner congregations: Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist in Fort Worth and for the congregations of Buen Pastor, Resurrección, and Cidra Presbyterian Churches in Cuba.

Get Your Personalized First Pres Name Tag Today!

We're excited to offer permanent name tags featuring the First Pres logo, available for purchase. Choose between a plastic pin-type or a magnetic back. Ordering is easy - just visit our vendor's website by scanning the QR code here.

The Evangelism Work Group will continue to provide adhesive name tag stickers on Name Tag Sunday, the third Sunday of each month. Plus, if you serve as an usher or greeter, you'll receive a permanent name tag at no charge. Don't miss out on this opportunity to proudly wear your name and connect with our church community!





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FIRST PRES ON THE MOVE

KIMBELL ART MUSEUM

THE HOLY SEPULCHER: TREASURES FROM THE TERRA SANCTA MUSEUM, JERUSALEM

TUES, JUNE 2 | 10 A.M.

CARPOOL FROM FIRST PRES LOT AT 9:45AM • LUNCH AT THE KIMBELL CAFE AT 11:30

For more information visit fpcfw.org/upcomingevents