

THE Penn Street Letter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FORT WORTH

JULY 2026 / VOLUME 26, NUMBER 7

Ready to Grow? Discover the Enneagram this Summer!

"I thoroughly enjoyed the Enneagram program and am grateful that it was offered. I learned a lot about myself and how to tell when I am moving to an unhealthy part of who I am as well as a healthy part. I also found it to be comforting to learn that there are other people like me. What a joy it was to compare notes with others of my same number and discover that we do the same kinds of things for the same reasons. I am not as strange as I thought. The other enlightening thing was that I learned about how people of other numbers "tick". This can be very helpful in working with people. For instance, one of my co-workers is a 1 on the Enneagram. I learned that 1's think out loud, which she does all of the time. So it is easier to deal with that when I realize that is how she is and she needs to think out loud. People are not just doing the things they do to annoy me. It's just how they are."

(Sue Lowry)

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.

First Pres will host a free Enneagram seminar this summer - ***Enneagram: Growing Into Your Healthiest Self*** - on Saturday, July 18, 2026, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. in the Youth Center, with coffee and fellowship at 8:30 a.m. and an optional \$10 lunch. 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.

Register for the workshops at fpcf.org/spiritualformation or by scanning the QR code here.

A promotional graphic for 'All Church Summer Brunch'. The background is a light-colored surface with various food items: a bowl of strawberries and blueberries, a glass of orange juice, a plate of fruit, a croissant, and a plate of small round tarts. The text 'All Church' is in a cursive font, 'SUMMER' is in large bold teal letters, and 'BRUNCH' is in a blue script font with a yellow underline. Below this, the text 'A time to visit with our church family and celebrate the joy of summer!' is in orange. At the bottom, 'July 12 | 8:30 - 11 a.m.' is in large blue letters, and 'Third Floor Concourse' is in orange.

All Church
SUMMER
BRUNCH

A time to visit with our church family and celebrate the joy of summer!

July 12 | 8:30 - 11 a.m.
Third Floor Concourse

Pastor's Letter



Dear friends,

I remember learning a children's song in Sunday school that has remained with me my whole life. Perhaps you

learned it too, at some point in your faith journey.

I am the Church, you are the Church, we are the Church together.

All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we're the Church together.

This song shaped my ecclesiology at a young age and taught me part of the foundation of our polity as the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) – the church is interconnected and shares witness beyond the congregation. Through councils of the church, we collectively bear more faithful witness to Jesus Christ. The councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are the Session, Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

Our Session at First Pres is comprised of ruling elders elected by the congregation and our installed Ministers of Word and Sacrament. Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly are comprised of ruling elders and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament.

Currently the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is meeting. As stated on our Book of Order (G-3.05), "The General Assembly is the council of the whole church, and it is representative of the unity of the synods, presbyteries, sessions, and congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Comprised of equal numbers of ruling elders and Ministers of the Word and Sacrament, the General Assembly constitutes the bond of union, community, and mission among all its congregations and councils, to the end that the whole church becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness. As it leads and guides the witness of the whole church, it shall keep before it the marks of the Church (F-1.0302), the notes by which Presbyterian and Reformed bodies have identified themselves through history (F-1.0303), and the Six Great Ends of the Church. (F-1.0304)"

Please keep the General Assembly in your prayers as they travel and meet, seeking together the mind of Christ and our faithful witness in the world. Special prayers for our own Matt McGraw and Sarah Clingman who are advisory delegates (theological and youth) to the General Assembly.

God's peace to you,

Michael

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, July 22. 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



@fpcfw

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people first at First Pres

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

JULY SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES

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

Stephanie Olvera, Assistant Director, Early Education Center, 1 year

Felix Oyola, Digital Content Producer, 1 year



Thanks to all of the volunteers who came together for our annual Presbyterian House Build on Saturday, May 30 with Trinity Habitat for Humanity, raising and bracing walls in a new Fort Worth neighborhood. With plenty of teamwork (and breakfast to keep us going), another home began to take shape for a local family!



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

SUNDAYS IN JULY

- 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 JULY

- 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
- 3 p.m. Room in the Inn
- 6 p.m. Digital Campus Summer Bible Study

WEDNESDAYS IN JULY

- 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
- 5:30 p.m. WOW! Worship and Dinner at Community Crossroads
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAYS IN JULY

- 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

FRIDAY, JULY 3

First Pres, EEC & Community Crossroads closed

SATURDAY, JULY 11

- 2 p.m. Christmas in July Youth Pool Party

SUNDAY, JULY 12

- 8:30-11 a.m. All Church Summer Brunch

SATURDAY, JULY 18

- 9 a.m. Enneagram Workshop

MONDAY, JULY 13-FRIDAY, JULY 17

- 9 a.m. Music & Arts Camp Jr.

MONDAY, JULY 20-FRIDAY, JULY 24

- 9 a.m. Mission on the Move

FRIDAY, JULY 24

- 7 p.m. All Church Pool Party

Be Inspired

Finish the Story with Busy Women's Bible Study This Fall

Busy Women's Bible Study returns this fall as we complete our 5-year journey through the Old Testament with an engaging look at 1 and 2 Kings alongside the prophets. Studying Scripture through historical, biblical, and geographical lenses, we enjoy rich discussion, meaningful fellowship, and optional homework that many choose to embrace. This unique study allows us to encounter the prophets in real time - reading their words within the story of Kings and witnessing prophecy unfold - while also exploring the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles of Israel.

Now in our 24th year, this welcoming group has encouraged countless women in their faith, reminding us that time in God's Word is never wasted. We resume regular meetings Mondays, September 14 through November 16, from 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in Room 238 (bring your lunch!). All are welcome. For more information, contact Lisa Waldron at 817.239.3807.

Horizons Bible Study Luncheon: August 25

All Presbyterian Women are invited to the Horizons Bible Study Luncheon on Tuesday, August 25, 2026, at 10 a.m. in the Great Hall. We are excited to welcome guest speaker Dr. Sarah Leer, author of the 2026-2027 PW/Horizons Bible Study questions, who will present "United through Christ, Bound to Each Other." The program is free, but lunch is available at a cost of \$15. Reservations are required by 5 p.m. on August 14. To register, visit fpcfw.org/pw or contact Deneice in the church office (817.335.1231 or dallen@fpcfw.org).

June Session Highlights

First Presbyterian Church's Session met on Sunday, June 14. Highlights from that meeting included the following items:

- The Board of Trustees and Finance Committee received the CPA audit report for 2025.
- Received a Ministry Motivation Report on Solar Under the Sun VBS
- Received an update from Property on the renovations.
- Revisited Session Retreat.



What a gift June 16-19 at Summit46! Our 4th-6th graders spent a few days at Mo-Ranch exploring God's beautiful creation and having a whole lot of fun. Between worship, games, and time in the river, we practiced noticing God's love all around us. We came home tired, and grateful for the ways God showed up throughout the week.



Engage the World



Make a Difference: Mentor at Morningside this Fall with Academy 4

First Presbyterian is excited to partner with Academy 4 at a new school this fall - Morningside Elementary (2601 Evans Ave., 76104).

At our previous school, about 40 mentors faithfully served students each month. With the move to Morningside, we will need to double that number to meet the need, as well as invite volunteers to lead nine monthly spark clubs.

Academy 4 connects fourth graders with caring mentors who meet one Friday afternoon each month, building meaningful, supportive relationships.

Watch for more details coming soon, and to learn more, visit academy4.org.



From January-May 2026, Community Crossroads:

- Provided **6,840** households with groceries
- Provided **1,428** individuals with clothing
- Served **3,548** sack lunches
- Provided pet food to **2,268** pet owners
- Provided **738** hygiene items to individuals
- Provided **721** cleaning products to individuals
- Provided **2,369** packages of diapers and **763** cans of formula to parents
- A dedicated team of **987** volunteers contributed a remarkable total of **8,361** hours of service!



Community Crossroads welcomed Senator Taylor Rehmet on May 20, 2026, for a meaningful day of service and community impact. He volunteered alongside our dedicated team, including Anthony Rojas, supporting our mission to serve neighbors in need.

At Community Crossroads, every helping hand makes a difference, and we are grateful for leaders and community partners who take time to engage directly with the people and ministries that support our neighbors through food, hospitality, clothing, and hope.

Thanks to Travis Bergin for coordinating the visit - and to Senator Rehmet, Anthony Rojas, and all our amazing volunteers who make this work possible each week.





What a meaningful week in Memphis with Memphis Youth Mission (June 7-12)! First Pres high school students served alongside partners like Meals on Wheels, Mid-South Food Bank, and Hope House. Beyond the projects, they showed up with curiosity, humility, and a willingness to learn from others. They worked hard, laughed often, and it was a joy to see their faith, confidence, and compassion grow. So proud of you, First Pres Youth!



Joys & Concerns

The following prayer concerns are those we have received as of June 24, 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 Harrison Kramer Williams on May 2, 2026, to parents **Cameron Kramer Williams** and Jackson Williams. First Pres Family members include grandparents, **Margaret and Philip Kramer** and great grandmother, **Nancy Dozier**.

Our loving sympathy to...

The family and friends of Susan Snowden following her death on June 20, 2026. Surviving First Pres family members include her son **Sean Austin**, her daughter-in-law **Mary Elizabeth Austin**, grandson **Henry Austin**, and grandson **Joseph Austin**.

The family and friends of Verne Lee Hargrave, Jr. following his death on June 18, 2026. Surviving First Pres family includes his son, First Pres Maintenance Technician, Blake Hargrave.

The family and friends of **Jack Jones** following his death on June 15, 2026. Surviving First Pres family members include his great-grandson **Micah Jones**, great-granddaughter-in-law **Comfort Jones**.

The family and friends of Genie Long McCartney following her death on June 14, 2026. Surviving First Pres family members include her son **Brent McCartney**, her daughter-in-law **Laura Lee McCartney**, granddaughter **Elizabeth McCartney**, and grandson **Luke McCartney**.

The family and friends of Timothy Elizondo following his death. Surviving

First Pres family members include his father-in-law and mother-in-law, **Rene and Becky Saldivar**.

The family and friends of Lucinda Coy following her death on May 31, 2026. First Pres family includes her sister **Alex Menchaca**, brother-in-law **Francisco Menchaca**, and nephew **Michael Menchaca**.

The family and friends of Irene Williams following her death May 20, 2026. First Pres family includes her granddaughter, Community Crossroads Program Manager, MaLinda Morehead.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Richard Hawpe, Mark Connolly, Joan Wright, Fred Oberkircher, Edgar Burlison, Dawn Shepard, Susie Kuipers, Hardy Phillips, son of Austin and Blitz Phillips, Jane Mathis, William King, Jr., Gene Colvin, Mary Elizabeth Austin, Heather Martin, Gail Stewart, Wil'lwin Chochola, Nancy Lynn Scott, Gaylon Peyton, Ronnie Sherwood, and Pat Richardson 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...

Troy Chapman (friend of **Bill Stokes**), Tim Alexander (cousin of **Susie Kuipers**), Ann Bartley (mother of **Chris Bartley**), Sharyl Stevens (mother of Michael Waschevski), Missy King (niece of **Bill and Barbara Holmes**), 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.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER!

Please join the Evangelism Work Group in welcoming **Askala Calhoun**





First Presbyterian Church

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