

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

MARCH 2018 | Volume 17, Number 3

SEASON OF LENT



The forty days leading to Easter Sunday provide an opportunity for preparation, study, and meditation on Jesus' final days and the meaning of his ministry – then and now. Jesus challenged the powers of his day with God's eternal love for the world and God's people. As "Easter People" we celebrate the resurrection, and we remember all that led to it.

LENT MIDDAY PRAYERS

Wednesdays through March 28
12-12:30 p.m. (Chapel)

These 30-minute services in the Chapel offer reflection on the season with prayer, music, and message from pastors.

DEVOTIONS FOR HOME

Available Throughout the Church

Pick up a "Singing Lent & Easter" Devotions, Songs, and Prayers resource available from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Copies can be found in the Narthex (outside the Sanctuary), at the Welcome Desk (near Great Hall), or in the main office.



HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 25
8, 9, and 11 a.m. Regular Worship

On Palm Sunday, we mark Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the start of his last week on earth.

HOLY WEEK MIDDAY PRAYERS

Monday-Wednesday, March 26-28
12-12:30 p.m. (Chapel)

These 30-minute services in the Chapel offer reflection on the last days of Jesus' ministry with prayer, music, and message from pastors.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 29
12 Noon (Chapel) & 7 p.m. (Great Hall)

Two worship services remember the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples and includes communion.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 30
12 Noon (Chapel) & 7 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Good Friday observes the day of Jesus' suffering and crucifixion on the cross. The 7 p.m. service is a Tenebrae service that includes a prolonged meditation on Christ's suffering and ends in darkness and silence.

EASTER

SUNRISE SERVICE

Sunday, April 1
7 a.m. in Memorial Garden/Labyrinth

Celebrate Easter with the sunrise at this joyful service outdoors in the setting of FPC's beautiful Memorial Garden and Labyrinth. Chairs provided; inclement weather location is the Atrium.

REGULAR WORSHIP

8, 9, and 11 a.m.

Celebrate Easter at our regular worship services at 8, 9, and 11 a.m. Most church school classes do not meet today.

PASTORS' LETTER



Dear friends,

Lent is my favorite liturgical season. I imagine for some the themes of repentance, humility, and mortality seem heavy and dark. And I admit, they can be. They also, for me, invite deep reflection on my humanity and what it means to understand my humanity as a child of God. Henri Nouwen's *Life of the Beloved* is a spiritual classic that I return to each Lent. His words always call forth for me deep reflection. The following passage has done that for me often:

"Our brokenness is always lived and experienced as highly personal, intimate, and unique. I am deeply convinced that each human being suffers in a way no other human being suffers... Our brokenness is truly ours. Nobody else's. Our brokenness is as unique as our chosenness and our blessedness... Yes, fearsome as it may sound, as the Beloved ones, we are called to claim our unique brokenness, just as we have to claim our unique chosenness and our unique blessedness." (pp. 87-88)

I have always thought of Lent as such an honest season. Honest about who I am - who we are - and honest about the depth of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. As we journey through Lent and approach Holy Week, may you experience God's claim, God's blessing, and God's presence with you in your brokenness - as well as in your joy. You are Beloved. We are Beloved. God holds us all in the palm of God's hand. Today, tomorrow, and always. What a gift. Honestly.

God's Peace to Your Home,

Michael

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the APRIL issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, March 14**. Submissions for the weekly Penn Street Online emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue. Please send to Teresa Tysinger at ttysinger@fpcf.org or bring by the church office.

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: Teresa Tysinger; Managing Editor: Pam Burkholder

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Penn Street Letter at 1000 Penn Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-3496.

Sanctuary Renovation Info Meeting March 4

FPC's Session has approved in principle a project to improve the Sanctuary's public address system and to renovate the Sanctuary, likely to begin late this Spring. The Session has provided funding for the project from resources generously provided in the past and set aside to fund projects like this one. No solicitations will be made. We are so blessed! The design calls for:

- New paint
- Spacing the pews farther apart to allow for easier movement
- Adding a lift into the chancel to welcome those with mobility challenges into worship leadership
- Bringing the chancel and the Lord's Table forward, and closer to worshipers

Are you curious? Come to an information meeting on **Sunday, March 4 at 1 p.m.** in the Small Media Room (second floor, near Library) to see the plans and learn about the renovation timetable.

INSPIRING EACH OTHER...



We love seeing you inspiring each other in discipleship through care, study, and support. Here is the **Southwest Care Team** at their February meeting.

Do you have a photo of your group or class meeting? Send it to Teresa Tysinger at ttysinger@fpcf.org.



LECTURE & HYMN FESTIVAL

You are invited to a unique and exciting morning discovering how music and the arts deepen our theological and spiritual experiences. The event, held in FPC's beautiful facilities on Saturday, April 7 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., includes a lecture with Eric Wall, Assistant Professor of Sacred Music and Dean of the Chapel at Austin Seminary.

The lecture will be followed by a reception and concludes with a beautiful and moving hymn festival that features brass, choirs, and organ. This event is FREE and everyone is welcome, but we do ask that you RSVP at fpcf.org/beautyunbounded to help with headcount.

STEPHEN MINISTRY: SUSTAINING CARE

Stephen Ministry is doing a new thing. FPC has a long tradition of providing high-quality, Christ-centered care to those who are going through tough times. However, we recently developed a new program that recognizes the value of companionship during times that are not marked by particular difficulty or crisis.

We call it Sustaining Care. It's a ministry that encourages care receivers to tell their stories. We have received much positive feedback on this new approach which suggests that it fills a definite need within our congregation.

All Stephen Ministers receive comprehensive specialized training before beginning a caring relationship. Those in the Sustaining Care program have received additional preparation as active listeners. They meet regularly with care receivers and walk alongside them for the long term.

Stephen Ministry will continue to provide both the traditional model of caring during difficult times and the new Sustaining Care program, according to need. Please contact a member of the pastoral staff if you, or someone you know, could benefit from Stephen Ministry-- or would just like to learn more about us! You may also visit stephenministries.org.



NEW WELLNESS PROGRAM

FPC Forming Team for Victory Over Violence Walk/Run & Other Events

In a continuing effort to promote wholistic wellness that values fellowship with others and physical activity, the Wellness Committee is excited to invite all ages to join an FPC team to participate in area walk/run events throughout the year.

The first event will be the Victory Over Violence 5K/1K Walk/Run on Saturday, April 14 in Trinity Park. While all the events FPC participates in will not necessarily benefit a charity, this one will support the Women's Center.

REGISTER BY MARCH 28

Please register for this event no later than March 28 online at vovfw.org/register. Click the team tab (second tab) and choose:

Team Name: TEAM FPC

Team Captain: Mary Kay Roberto

Fill out your personal information to complete registration. The entry fee is \$18 for adults and \$15 for youth. Those who are interested in timed races may choose the option of reserving a timer for an additional \$3. You are encouraged to walk or run the distance best suited for your needs and abilities. This is meant to be a fun opportunity to be active together!

HELP NAME THE TEAM!

Do you have a clever idea for a team name for FPC? To submit your team name idea, please call Patty O'Brien in the church office (817-335-1231). Team members can vote in the coming weeks!

Please note that team members are not required to participate in all events; simply choose the ones throughout the year that interest you and fit your schedule.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER MINISTRY



Mark your calendars now for these exciting summer camps for children. Registration details will be coming soon.

ECO CAMP: June 17-22
Ferncliff Camp in Little Rock, AR
For Completed 1st-5th Graders

SUMMER FUN 1: June 18-22
9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Theme: Outside the Box
For Ages 2 (by 9-1-17) through entering Kindergarten

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:
June 25-28
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Theme: Babylon - Daniel's Courage in Captivity
For Entering Kindergarten through Completed 5th Graders

PRE-K MUSIC & ART CAMP:
July 9-13
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Theme: Baby Beluga
For Ages 4 through Entering 1st Graders

MO-RANCH CAMP: July 15-21
Overnight Camp at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX
For Ages 8-12 Years

ELEMENTARY MUSIC & ART CAMP: July 23-27
9 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Theme: It's a Hit!
For Entering 2nd Through 6th Graders

SUMMER FUN 2: July 23-27
9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Theme: Outer Space
For Ages 2 (by 9-1-17) through entering Kindergarten

BE INSPIRED...

Below are some upcoming opportunities for being inspired into a life of discipleship through church events in the coming weeks.

March Brunch

The next All-Church Brunch will be Sunday, March 4 and offers an international flare, as the Mission Outreach Committee invites you to sample items from the countries where FPC serves: USA, Cuba, Haiti, etc. The menu is: BBQ Beef, Black Beans and Rice, Cuban Grilled Vegetable Salad with Mojo, Haitian Blanc Manger (custard pudding), and Maria Luisa (Salvadoran Orange Cake). Cost is \$7 per person or \$25 family maximum. No reservation required.

Beacons' Potluck

The next quarterly Beacons' Potluck supper will be Wednesday, March 28 at 5 p.m. in the FPC Gym. The entree will be provided by FPC, so you are invited to bring your favorite side dish or dessert. Beacons are an active group of adults age 55 and older who gather for fellowship, study, service, support, and more. If you have questions, feel free to contact the Beacons' staff liaison, Eric Varnon, at 817-335-1231.

Young Adults Ministry News

The Young Adult Ministry offers fellowship, study, and more. Check it out, mark your calendars, and be there! It won't be the same without you. Questions? Contact Eric Varnon (evarnon@fpcf.org)

Worship Together Week: 2nd Sundays, we'll meet at 10:45 a.m. in the Narthex (area just outside Sanctuary) then grab seats and worship together at 11 a.m.

Bowling with Boomers: On Sunday, March 18 at 5 p.m. we will invite the FPC Boomers Ministry ("Baby Boomers") out for a night of bowling. Details TBA.

YA Spring Gathering: Save the date for Saturday, March 31 from 3-6 p.m. We'll gather for a picnic and egg hunt. Details TBA.

First Connections

First Connections is a class to introduce new members and visitors to the ministries and mission of FPC. The next class begins Sunday, March 4 at 10 a.m. in the Parlor. The schedule below gives topics:

March 4: Breakfast with Karl Travis
March 11: Overview of FPC Ministries
March 18: Walking tour of FPC
March 25: Spiritual Formation
April 1: Easter; class will not meet
April 8: History of the Church
April 15: Tour of Community Crossroads

If you have questions, please contact Discipleship Coordinator, Martha Zaborowski, in the church office (marthaz@fpcf.org).

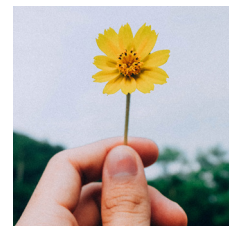
Save the Date

Save the date for August 31-September 3 for the FPC All Church Retreat to Mo-Ranch. Details coming soon!

Caring for You: Parish Visitor Series

A four-part series on the Parish Visitor ministry and its staff concluded in last week's Penn Street Online newsletter.

If you missed any of the installments, you are invited to visit fpcf.org/ministries/care-support/caring-for-you-fpc-parish-visitors/. You may also pick up a Caring For You: FPC Parish Visitors booklet, available in the Narthex (outside the Sanctuary) and at the Welcome Desk (outside the Great Hall). As always, if you have questions regarding congregational care, please feel free to contact FPC's Parish Visitors, Jennifer Pettey (jpettey@fpcf.org) or Jennifer Regen (jregen@fpcf.org).



ENGAGE THE WORLD...

Below are some a few ways you are invited to serve others through First Presbyterian Church mission and outreach efforts in the coming weeks.



Thursday, April 26, 2018
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

About Homeless Connect

Homeless Connect is an event provided for those experiencing homelessness in Fort Worth, TX. First Presbyterian will once again be the host site and coordinator for this event. On-site services, lunch, hair-cuts, glasses, free backpacks and more are provided. Dozens of social service agencies will offer information and direct assistance with health, housing, legal, and other concerns. The event usually welcomes 500+ homeless guests into our building.

Serve at Homeless Connect

It takes hundreds of volunteers to help make this event the success that it has been in the past. Duties of volunteers include set-up, greeting and directing, handing out backpacks, providing a listening ear, and more. If you'd like to volunteer, please email Donna Laminack at dlyn22@hotmail.com.

Another way to serve is to donate items for the Women's Boutique at Homeless Connect, offered by FPC's Presbyterian Women to give homeless women some much needed dignity and pride. Please place the following items in the marked box inside the Presbyterian Women's office (Room 312) or bring to the church office.

- New or gently used bras
- New underwear
- Costume jewelry
- Scarves
- Perfume and/or perfume samples
- Feminine products
- Canvas or cloth bags

Haiti Mission Trip Installs Solar Panel

Travel with a team of 8 FPC members from April 2-9 to Cheridant, Haiti, to install a solar panel system for a newly-constructed high school. Trip participants will stay at a secure Guest House and work with Haitian partners through Solar Under the Sun. Our trained church members will teach you all you need to know to work on this project. Please download a trip application at fpcf.org/mission-trips.



Hurricane Harvey Relief Mission Trip

Travel from June 10-16 to Corpus Christi and Rockport, TX to help those hardest hit by Hurricane Harvey rebuild and clean up. Youth and adults will serve side by side on this trip (rising 9th graders and older). The team will travel on charter bus will stay at Parkway Presbyterian. Cost is an estimated \$300 per person. To register, please turn in a \$100 commitment deposit to Jayne McFarland or Josh Stewart in the office no later than April 15.

PEANUT BUTTER SUNDAY

Every 3rd Sunday of the month is Peanut Butter Sunday. Please bring 15-16 oz. jars or single-serve snack packs to church to help stock the shelves of the First HAND Food Pantry at Community Crossroads. Thank you for your generosity!



Support a Child by Mentoring with Kids Hope

Do you know that First Presbyterian has elementary students on a waiting list to receive a mentor from our congregation through the mentoring ministry of Kids Hope USA? Do you know that we are also looking for a coordinator to oversee our prayer partner ministry that supports our mentors?

Perhaps God is calling you in this season of your life to join 25 other FPC members as mentors and prayer partners through Kids Hope. Kids Hope USA is a national non-profit that facilitates one-on-one relationships through church-school partnerships that pair church members with at-risk children in supportive, mentoring relationships. Mentors spend just one hour per week reading, talking, playing, and listening to a child at school. By helping the child feel loved and valued, they help that child to learn, grow, and succeed.

To learn more about becoming a mentor or to apply, please visit <http://fpcf.org/kidshope>. If you are interested in learning more about serving as our prayer partner coordinator, please contact Robyn Michalove at robynm@fpcf.org or 817-335-1231. You can also contact FPC's Kids Hope Director, Becky Jenkins, at 817-705-3019 or mbgjenkins@gmail.com.



Jump into summer with FPC Youth Conferences, fun multi-day trips to a camp or college setting that you'll remember forever! You'll experience a wide variety of exciting activities, including (but not limited to): energizers, games, Bible study, small groups, pool time, free time, keynote speaker, worship leaders, evening vespers, home group reflection time, and more. Mo-Ranch even has a cool ropes course and a beautiful river, too! JHAMS lets you lodge in real dorms at Austin College and a fun off-campus water park visit!

REGISTER with Josh Stewart at Youth Group or Jayne McFarland in the church office! And, please remember that youth who register are asked to participate in 5 Youth Group activities in this Spring semester.

MO-RANCH YOUTH CELEBRATION // June 24-29

Who: Students in Grades 9-12
 Cost: \$300, scholarships available
 Theme: Radical Love (1 John 4.16b) with Bruce Reyes-Chow
 Transportation: FPC Bus
 Registration: \$100 commitment deposit by March 11

JHAMS AT AUSTIN COLLEGE // July 19-22

Who: Students in Grades 6-8
 Cost: \$175, scholarships available
 Theme: Enough is Enough
 Transportation: FPC Bus
 Registration: \$100 commitment deposit by June 3

FPC AND JK ROWLING: HELPING TO CHANGE LIVES IN THE UKRAINE

One of the many Presbyterian mission endeavors which FPC supports is This Child Here, an organization helping orphans, children without parents, and children at risk in the region of Odessa, Ukraine. In 2018, FPC will contribute \$5,000.

In a recent update received from Robert Gamble with This Child Here, FPC learned of an exciting new development. This Child Here will now partner with European Operation of the Lumos Foundation (EOLF), which was started by famous author and advocate J.K. Rowling to deinstitutionalize children globally. While EOLF will take on the legal and political and structural changes, This Child Here will prepare youth from orphanages and families in the Odessa region for life together. Robert shares, "We are part of something historical. They have deinstitutionalized Bulgaria, Moldova and the Czech Republic. Now it's Ukraine."

Your generous giving helps to support movements like this one. Thanks be to God for the freedom of children in the Ukraine and throughout the world. Learn more at thischildhere.org.

NEW WOW! SERVICE PROJECT

Fourth and fifth graders from WOW! (Worship on Wednesdays! at Community Crossroads) are doing a new service project called Reading Buddies. They visit the Downtown Rehab Center to read to patients, some of whom can't read due to eyesight or literacy issues. FPC members like Ann Christian and Mary Kay Roberto have helped coach the children or practice reading with them. Cheryl Mireles designed a Reading Buddies logo for canvas bags that children use to tote reading materials. Robyn Michalove incorporated a commissioning prayer into WOW! worship for the Reading Buddies so that community could be in prayer for this effort.



Above, two Reading Buddies, Brandie Lopez and Jeimy Salas, attend their first visit to the Downtown Rehab Center to read to patients. This project strengthens their reading skills while also giving them a way to serve others. Reading Buddies plan to make at least monthly visits to the Downtown Rehab Center.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of February 15, 2018 (due to printing deadlines). To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

Our loving sympathy to...

Family and friends of **Edward Martin**, who died on February 12, Surviving FPC family: wife, **Sharon Martin** and sons, **Edward and Russell Martin**.

Family and friends of **Gene James**, who died on February 10. Surviving FPC family: sister, **Marjorie Gordon**; niece **Patricia Brizendine**; and nephew, **Stephen Gordon**.

Family and friends of **Doris Jamison**, who died February 7.

Family and friends of **Mac McCoy**, who died on February 3. Surviving FPC family: son, **Greg McCoy**.

Family and friends of **C.A. Roberson**, who died on January 29. C.A. is survived by his wife, **Shirley**.

Family and friends of **Pat Lindsay**, who died on January 27.

Family and friends of **Modell McKay**, who died on January 22. Surviving FPC family members include: husband, **Hugh McKay**; son, **Bill McKay**; son and daughter-in-law, **Gary and Janet Melton**; and grandson, **Chris Melton**.

Family and friends of **Gayle Herfel**, who died on January 20. Gayle is survived by her husband, **Dave Herfel**.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Marjorie Gordon, **Merilys Corning**, **Rush Hart**, **Donald Deshauters**, and **Lisa Priddy**, who are recovering from surgery or injury. **Vera Kendall**, **Dwight Mason**, **Phyllis Propes**, **Emma Coley**, **Marjorie Lewis**, **Rev. Floyd Kinser**, **Dorothy Kinser**, **Indi Butler**, **Nona Cobden**, **Corinna Nation**, **Lisa Shiner**, **Jacquitta White**, **Marge Shiner**, **Elizabeth Bean**, **Frances Blake**, **Carolyn Lischio**, **Nancy Nelson**, and **Dalia Scott**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment. **Jane Watson**, who is on hospice.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Bill and **Susan Neill** (brother and sister-in-law of **Marilyn Love**), **Jim Corning** (brother of **Bruce Corning**), **Warren Brown** (son-in-law of **Betty Tefft**), **Bess Hunt** (mother of **Martha Zaborowski**), **Glenda Burger** (sister of **Vance Laminack**), **Janet Laminack** (cousin of **Julie Sphar** and **Vance Laminack**), **John DeMore** (son-in-law of **June Sprott**), **Lisa Koenig** (niece of **Clark Williams**), **Kathy Kline** (**Maxine Kruse's** daughter), **Marty Kinard** (**Larry and Bettye Kinard's** daughter-in-law), **Mark Bryant** (**Joanne Sarsgard's** son), and **Susan Chenault** (**Frances Chenault's** daughter).

Prayers for peace in our world, for the safety of **Nathan Gunter** (**Russell and Vivian Norment's** nephew) who is stationed in Korea. Also for the safety of **Diego A. Saldivar**, who is serving in the US Navy; Diego is the son of **Becky and Rene Saldivar**.

Our congratulations and best wishes to...

James and Meredith Qualls on the birth of a son, **Arthur Joseph Qualls**, on January 19. He joins big brother **Jackson**. Proud grandparents are **Mike and Barbara Jiongo**.

Shannon and Greg Hargrove on the birth of a granddaughter, **Bonnie Banks Howard**, on February 7. New parents are **Sarah and Jeff Howard**.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Below are some **highlights** of special events happening in March. For a complete calendar, visit fpcf.org.

SUNDAYS IN MARCH

- 8 a.m. Worship in Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in Great Hall
- 10 a.m. Church School for All Ages
- 11 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH

- 5:30 p.m. Dinner & Worship on Wednesdays at Community Crossroads
- 12 p.m. Midday Prayer Services

SUNDAY, MARCH 4

- 11 a.m. All Church Brunch (2nd seating at 12 noon)
- 1 p.m. Sanctuary Renovation Information Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 18

- All Day Peanut Butter Sunday (donations collected)
- 6:30 p.m. Taize Worship in Chapel

MONDAY, MARCH 26 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

- 12 p.m. Midday Prayer Services (Chapel)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, MARCH 29

- 12 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship (Chapel)
- 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship (Great Hall)

GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 30

- 12 p.m. Good Friday Worship (Chapel)
- 7 p.m. Tenebrae Worship (Sanctuary)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 1

- 7 a.m. Sunrise Service (Memorial Garden/Labyrinth)
- 8 a.m. Worship (Chapel)
- 9 a.m. Worship (Great Hall)
- 11 a.m. Worship (Sanctuary)



THE
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LETTER

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**PERIODICALS
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AND A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM



Children and families in the FPC Early Education Center donated 55 stuffed bears for their annual Teddy Bear Drive this month. The bears will go to Cook Children's PrayerBear program, an interfaith ministry. These bears are given to patients who need encouragement or support after a painful procedure, during a lengthy hospital stay or during difficult times. During the EEC chapel time on February 13 and 14, a special "Blessing of the Bears" service was held to pray for the children at Cook Children's Hospital. What a heartwarming way for our littlest ones to engage the world!