

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

AUGUST 2018 | Volume 17, Number 8

KICKING OFF A NEW SEASON OF MINISTRY & MISSION

Sunday, August 26

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

3rd Floor Concourse

Grab a nametag and connect with church friends new and old as we kick off a new season of ministry and mission together at First Presbyterian. You will also have the chance to enjoy tasty brunch items from 10-11 a.m. and pick up information on fall opportunities for learning, playing, and serving together.

If you coordinate a ministry or mission opportunity being offered this fall and would like to have information available for members to pick up at the kickoff event, please speak with your staff liaison or contact Kathryn Breitbarth, Communications Coordinator, at kbreitbarth@fpcf.org or call 817-335-1231.

See more fall opportunities mentioned in this issue!



Introducing Kathryn Breitbarth, FPC's new Communications Coordinator



Kathryn Ritts Breitbarth has joined the FPC staff as the new Communications Coordinator, starting in mid-July. Kathryn comes to us from Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she has lived for the past 25+ years. She pursued a corporate career, working for both Target Corporation and Wells Fargo Bank. As a volunteer, she became very active in church work at the local church and Presbytery and Synod levels, serving as Chair of a number of committees for the Presbytery of the Twin Cities.

However, Kathryn grew up right here in Fort Worth, attended Paschal High School and graduated from TCU with a degree in Finance and Business Administration. Her church home was this very church where she was active in a large Youth Group. She is grateful for the opportunity to serve and give back to this church that had such an important impact on her early life and shaped the foundation of her faith.



PASTORS' LETTER

Dear friends,

I love this time of the year! (Well, not so much the late July/early August heat...) What I love is the energy being spent on the final preparations for the start of the fall program year at First Presbyterian. Bible studies, youth group kick-offs, Church School classes for all ages, choir rehearsals, PW circles, and so much more begin new times of meeting and gathering as we live into our vision statement at FPC of *Inspiring Disciples....Engaging the World*.

Beginning with this issue of the *Penn Street Letter* and in following online editions, you will be invited to consider participating in numerous opportunities to grow in your faith and exercise your discipleship. A Celebration of Mission and Ministry will occur on Sunday, August 26 in the West Concourse. Before and after the 9 and 11 a.m. services, ministries of the church and those who lead and serve in and through them will be sharing information and excitement for the fall as we begin reflection on the question *Why Church?* Over the following five Sundays each week's sermon will invite us to consider answers to the question as we connect our worship with service in the church and world. Of course no celebration would be complete without food! A free brunch will be served from 10 - 11 a.m. as a part of the Celebration of Mission and Ministry.

As the busy summer of ministry - which includes the welcoming of over a dozen new members to date - comes to an end, I give thanks to God for you and your faithfulness. May this fall be an exciting time for you and for this community of faith as we seek to follow and serve Jesus Christ, who alone is the Head of the Church.

God's Peace to You,

Michael



Choir as a Spiritual Practice

Singing engages the mind, the heart, and the body in ways that give energy and purpose to life! Breathing, relaxing the body, reflecting on texts, allowing music to touch our emotions, being part of a community ... that's all part of the experience of singing in a choir.

First Presbyterian Church offers two adult choirs that welcome new singers into this multi-sensory spiritual practice. You are invited to consider joining an adult choir this fall as an avenue for deepening your spiritual journey.

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 15

The **CHANCEL CHOIR** rehearses Wednesdays from 7 - 8.30 p.m. and sings primarily at the 11 a.m. service.

The **FELLOWSHIP CHOIR** rehearses Wednesdays from 6 - 7 p.m. and sings primarily at the 9 a.m. service.

Several times a year the two choirs combine for special worship offerings. Childcare is available for both choirs. For more information or to make plans to join a choir, please contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski in the church office (817.335.1231 or michaelw@fpcfw.org).

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the SEPTEMBER issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, August 22**. 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 or bring by the church office.

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.



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@firstpres_fw



@firstpres_fw

PUBLISHER INFO

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Spiritual Formation: JustMatters curriculum coming this fall

Would you like to be part of a small group that explores critical current issues within the context of the Gospels and the life and example of Jesus? In a world that is too quick to encourage rhetoric that divides us from one another, participating in a group that cultivates genuine dialogue, contemplative prayer, and community could be an antidote for personal frustration and, in time, become part of the healing of the world.

Spiritual Formation is excited to offer a new opportunity on Sunday mornings to form just such a group. We will offer three separate modules of the JustMatters curriculum (a condensed version of JustFaith) over the 2018-2019 program year and invite you to consider which topic(s) you would like to pursue in greater depth. You may sign up for more than one. Each group will be limited to 10-12 people.

The groups will meet for 8 weeks each and, in order to mine the full richness of the opportunity, will covenant for a full Sunday morning experience. The morning schedule will look like this:

9-10 a.m. Worship in the Great Hall
10 a.m.-12 p.m. Just Matters Covenant Group Meeting
12-12:30 p.m. Lunch together at the church

Below is a listing of the modules offered. If one or more of these is calling your name, you may register now or closer to time with Celeste Falter in the church office (817-335-1231 or cfalter@fpcf.org.)

CULTIVATING NON-VIOLENCE; HARVESTING PEACE

November 4 - December 30
(Will not meet December 23)

Advent is the season for preparing for the birth of the Prince of Peace. What better way to prepare, then, than to formulate a personal response, inspired by one's Christian beliefs, to the reality of violence in this world. Based on Jesus as model of nonviolence, the program takes participants through explorations from self-focused nonviolence to what nonviolence can look like on a national or global scale. The program includes prayer, mind- and heart-opening readings and videos, spiritual exercises, dialogue, and invitations to action. We will practice speaking peace, and suggest other ways participants can take faithful action for God's people.

The class will be limited to 12. The deadline to register is October 14.

Co-facilitators: Martha Newman and Carol Toombs

THE CHURCH OF SECOND CHANCES

September 9 - October 28

Learn about the reality of incarceration in our country and the hope for reform. This is one of the most important issues of our time and intersects other vital issues—such as race, poverty, and inequality. We will learn through video presentations, personal accounts, readings, an immersion experience, and discussion. And we will pray together for true justice.

The class is limited to ten, so register soon. Deadline is August 19th. There are two books required for the course that total \$26 if you order them from Celeste in the church office.

Co-facilitators: Jeanene McIntyre and Linda Northern

THE SULTAN AND THE SAINT

TBD 2019

The Sultan and the Saint program seeks to bring Muslims and Christians together in dialogue. By fostering active listening and respectful sharing, it aims to cultivate mutual understanding and appreciation of what these faith traditions hold in common, as well as the ways in which they differ. By nurturing relationships across religious boundaries, we hope that together participants will model interfaith cooperation as they live out a central tenet of both faiths: to love God and to love our neighbor.

The program addresses the following themes:

- exploring the commonalities and differences between the two faiths
- considering praying together as one community
- understanding the historical and present relationships between Christians and Muslims
- learning about the social justice traditions in Christianity and Islam.

SANCTUARY RENOVATION UPDATES IN PICTURES

Under Construction, Overwhelmed by Blessing

The Sanctuary Renovation project has been underway since early April. Here are some photos of the progress thus far. We give thanks for those working hard on this exciting renovation!



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BE INSPIRED...

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

The Bible & Your Faith

Reading and Studying Scripture

FPC offers seminars, courses, workshops and small group experiences for reading and studying the Bible. Whether you've never studied or read the Bible or have been studying for years, opportunities exist for an ever growing and deepening encounter with scripture. In addition to on-going Church School classes, Presbyterian Women's circles, and men's Bible study groups, two opportunities this fall are described below. To register, visit fpcf.org/adultstudies. You may also register by phone with Celeste in the church office at 817-335-1231, ext. 261.



READING THE BIBLE IN 9 MONTHS

Daily Bible readings enable participants to read through the entire Bible in 9 months. Created by Dr. Michael Waschevski, the Reading through the Bible in 9 Months reading plan begins on Sunday, September 9 and will be available at fpcf.org.

BIBLE IN DEPTH

This popular course is offered twice a week (choose one):

Sundays, 10-10:45 a.m. led by Dr. Betsy Pense

Wednesdays, 10:45 -11:45 a.m. led by Dr. Michael Waschevski

In the 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 9, or Wednesday, September 12 with a study of Exodus.

If you have questions about studying the Bible, the courses described above, or would like more information on these and other study opportunities, feel free to contact Michael Waschevski in the church office at 817-335-1231, ext. 229 or email michaelw@fpcf.org.

ENGAGE THE WORLD...

Here are a few ways to "engage the world" by service and outreach. Learn more about FPC outreach efforts at fpcf.org/serve.

SOLAR SCHOOL FOR HAITI MISSION TRIPS

Join other FPC members in our solar power mission work in Haiti by attending the next Solar School in partnership with a mission of our synod called Solar Under the Sun at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, October 11-14, 2018.

In collaboration with the Mission Committee of First Presbyterian, FPC members have the opportunity to receive training in partnership development as well as solar panel design and installation for our mission partnerships in Haiti. For those interested participants, the Mission Committee will subsidize a portion of the trip.

Those interested in learning more about Solar School may contact Amy Parker (817.335.1231 or aparker@fpcf.org) or attend a brief information session on Sunday, August 26 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 237.

COMMUNITY CROSSROADS

Here's a little reminder of the items needed in our ministries at Community Crossroads:

- tennis/athletic/deck shoes all sizes in wearable condition with shoe laces and wear left on the soles
- new & unused only socks and underwear
- reading glasses
- back packs
- all T-shirts in good condition
- all sizes of jeans
- all sizes of shorts
- casual wear; summer/spring dresses, sun hats, baseball caps
- winter; coats, gloves, hats
- peanut butter in small jars (14, 16 ounces) or individual serving cups (.5 ounces)
- diapers; adult and children
- individual size sun screen, insecticides in individual size lotion form or bug deterrent wrist bands (no aerosol products)

****Other items like suits and formal wear, household appliances, furnishings, games, and car seats are beyond the scope of our ability to store, organize, and distribute. We encourage you to please donate these items to Goodwill or other organizations.**



JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of July 19, 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...

Michael and Amy Harral on the death of her grandmother, Betty Sue Wolthoff, in Iowa. Other surviving FPC family includes great grandson Jackson Thomas Harral.

Friends and family of **Jimmie Green**, who died July 8.

Heather and Bill Shaffer on the death of her mother, Sanoa Hensley, on July 3. Other surviving FPC family include granddaughter, **Abby Shaffer**.

Family and friends of **Melissa "Missy" Caulder Anderson**, who died June 21. Survivors include her children Madelyn Jordan, Mason Jordan, and Merrick Anderson.

Vance and Donna Laminack on the death of his sister, Glenda Burger, on June 20 in Eastland. Other survivors include niece **Ellen Buck**, her husband Brian, and their children, Nathan, Evelyn, Henry, Annabelle and her son Thomas Shelby. Cousin **Julie Sphar**, her husband **Tim**, and their children **Jonathan** and **Lauren**.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Paula Robertson and **Judy Gasch**, who are recovering from surgery or injury. **Roger Parsons**, **Jane Watson**, **Rush Hart**, **Marilyn Wilson**, **Vera Kendall**, **Phyllis Propes**, **Emma Coley**, **Marjorie Lewis**, **Corinna Nation**, **Lisa Shiner**, **Jacquitta White**, **Marge Shiner**, **Elizabeth Bean**, **Frances Blake**, **Nancy Nelson**, and **Dalia Scott**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Bill Neil (brother of **Marilyn Love**), 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), 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...

Leigh Ann and **Grant Redrow**, who were married on July 7, in Houston at Heights Presbyterian Church.

Ben and **Michelle Osborne** on the birth of a son, Robert Preston Osborne, on July 11. Preston joins big sister, Charlotte.

CALENDAR

Below are a few highlighted events in August.
More at fpcf.org/calendar.

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

- 8 a.m. Worship in Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in Great Hall
- 10 a.m. Summer Adult Church School (through August 19)
- 11 a.m. Worship in Great Hall

WEDNESDAYS IN AUGUST

- 5:30 p.m. Worship On Wednesdays (+ dinner, classes) at Community Crossroads (begins August 8)
- 6 p.m. Fellowship Choir rehearsals (begin August 15)
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir rehearsals (begin August 15)
- 7 p.m. Intro to Handbells Class (begins August 8)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

All Day 2nd Sunday: Shoes on Sunday

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

7 a.m. Men's Ministry Breakfast

SUNDAY, AUGUST 19

All Day 3rd Sunday: Peanut Butter Sunday
6:30 p.m. Taize Worship Service

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

8:30 a.m. Ministry & Mission Fall Kickoff
6 p.m. Fellowship Dinner Groups Kickoff

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

10 a.m. PW Fall Study Gathering

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31-MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

All Day All Church Retreat at Mo-Ranch



Save the date! Fall Youth Music Retreat

SEPTEMBER 7-9
GLEN LAKES RETREAT CENTER IN GLEN ROSE, TEXAS
WATCH FOR FURTHER DETAILS.



THE
penn street
LETTER

First Presbyterian Church
1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

PERIODICALS

POSTMASTER:

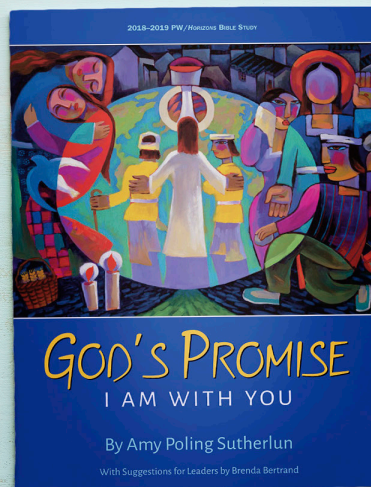
Send address changes to
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WWW.FPCFW.ORG

All Women are Invited to Meet the Author of the 2018-2019 Presbyterian Women's Bible study
The Reverend Amy Poling Sutherlun

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28
10 a.m. Fellowship
10:30 a.m. Program
12 p.m. Lunch (\$7)



Get more information and register by August 20 at fpcfw.org/pw