



First Presbyterian Church
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Fort Worth, TX 76102

**PERIODICALS
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THE
penn street
LETTER

THE **Penn Street** LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

FEBRUARY 2019 | Volume 19, Number 2

KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS

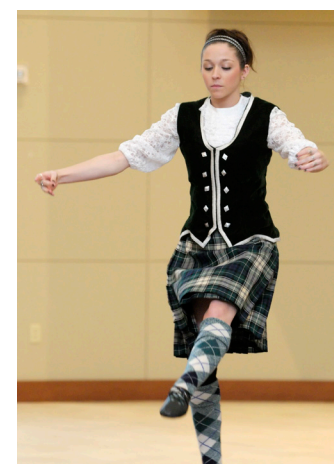
Don't miss this annual service, celebrating the Presbyterian Church's Scottish heritage. The service will be held on Sunday, February 3, 2019 in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m.

A luncheon featuring traditional Scottish fare will be held in the Great Hall following the service. The cost is \$7. Entertainment will feature bagpipes and Scottish country dancers.

Volunteers of all ages are needed to carry banners. Please contact the church office if you are willing and able.
(817.335.1231)



The guest preacher for this service is Danielle Shroyer. She is an author, speaker, blogger, and spiritual director. Her most recent book is *Original Blessing: Putting Sin in its Rightful Place*. She is also a contributor to the Common English Bible Women's Edition (2016), and *Faith of Our Mothers, Living Still* (2017), an overview of the history of women at Princeton Theological Seminary. A founding member of the emerging church, Danielle served as pastor for one of the first independent emerging churches for eight years. She now offers spiritual direction to private students as well as through her interfaith blog, www.bea-soulinja.com. She and her husband live with their two teenagers in Dallas, TX. You can find her at www.danielleshroyer.com.



AN UPDATE FROM THE SANCTUARY IMPROVEMENT TEAM



photo taken November 18, 2018

We have been worshipping in the sanctuary again since November, but our project isn't quite complete. Below is some information about what is yet to come.

There are some items that haven't been delivered or installed yet. Just when we got used to sitting a couple of inches lower in the pews, the pew cushions arrived. I know we will all be glad to be sitting tall and comfy once again! We also have some doors that haven't been installed yet, including a vented door for the audio closet in the sacristy. The roof tiles have not been totally reinstalled yet.

We still have some adjustments to make with the various systems. The sound system will be fully tuned now that the pew cushions have arrived. The professionals will continue to tweak the microphone and speaker levels until we are satisfied. We are also checking into other microphone options to make sure we have the ones that work best for our clergy.

Our entire team – architect, contractor, committee and staff, is committed to making sure all of the loose ends are tied up and the project finalized to our satisfaction. I believe I can speak for the entire committee when I say it has been an honor to work on this project. We are proud of our work and thankful for the church leadership and professionals who continue to work alongside us.

Michelle Goodwin

The preceding is an excerpt from Michelle's article. Read the full article on our website at fpcfw.org/sanctuary-renovation.

KIRKIN' OF THE TARTANS

**First Presbyterian Church's Annual Celebration of
the Presbyterian Church's Scottish Heritage**

**Sunday, February 3
11 a.m. Service in Sanctuary
12 p.m. Luncheon in Great Hall**

with special sermon by Danielle Shroyer

PASTORS' LETTER



Dear friends,

Robyn Michalove's sermon (January 13) on Jesus' baptism centered our attention on God's voice saying to Jesus, "You are my Beloved." She encouraged and invited us to spend time reflecting on the reality that, as we share in the baptismal waters with Jesus, we too hear God's voice calling us Beloved. We are God's Beloved, named and claimed in our baptisms. Each of us are God's Beloved. And together God's Beloved community.

As we journey together through this year of pastoral transition at First Presbyterian, we will do well to nurture in one another the reality that we are God's Beloved. Each of us and all of us. We are God's Beloved. As you reflect on your Belovedness as God's own, these words from Henri Nouwen's spiritual classic *Life of the Beloved* may inspire you as he reflects on hearing God's voice in his own life.

"I have called you by name, from the very beginning. You are mine and I am yours. You are my Beloved, on you my favor rests. I have molded you from the depths of the earth and knitted you together in your mother's womb. I have carved you in the palms of my hands and hidden you in the shadow of my embrace. I look at you with infinite tenderness and care for you with a care more intimate than that of a mother... Wherever you go, I go with you, and wherever you rest, I keep watch. I will give you food that will satisfy all your hunger and drink that will quench all your thirst. I will not hide my face from you. You know me as your own as I know you as my own. You belong to me... Nothing will separate us. We are one." (*Life of the Beloved*, pp.36-37)

We belong to God. God is with us. Commit to living that reality and truth in your life, and each time we gather together in worship, in classes, in service to the world, and in caring for one another. Especially during this time of transition and change. We are God's Beloved and that is more than enough.

God's peace to you,

Michael

COMMUNITY CROSSROADS

An opportunity to Serve our Furloughed Federal Employee Neighbors - Working Unpaid

When: Saturday, February 9
Time: 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
What: Mobile Food Pantry
How: Distribution of Food and Standing in Line for those in need unable to leave their post during this hour of assistance
Where: FMC Carswell, the federal prison



Thank you for all the ways you make our community a better place!

The Tarrant Area Food Bank is already on board with this activity and will provide all the food. We will provide leadership and volunteers to distribute the food. Contact: Dori Al Hammami (formerly Davis) at 817.333.9461 or email me at ddavis@fpcfw.org.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the MARCH issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, February 13**. Submissions for the weekly Penn Street Online emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue.

Please send to Kathryn Breitbarth at kbreitbarth@fpcfw.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: Kathryn Breitbarth
Managing Editor: Pam Burkholder

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

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of January 16, 2019 (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 **Joy Begley** who died December 26.

Family and friends of **Orrin Hilyard** who died December 30. Surviving FPC family: son, **Murray Hilyard**.

Family and friends of **Dalia Scott** who died December 30.

Karen Cahn on the death of her husband, Joe Cahn on December 31.

Family and friends of **Clark Williams** who died January 1. Surviving FPC family: wife, **Wanda Williams**.

Jaci and Karl Travis on the death of her sister, Stacy Loudon on January 11 in Dearborn, Michigan.

Family and friends of **Roger Parsons**, who died January 13. Surviving FPC family: wife, **Diane Parsons**.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...
Jaci Travis, Brent Comstock, Bettye Kinard, Bob Wilson, Jerry Brownlee, David Nation, and Judy Gasch, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Karl Travis, Marilyn Love, Jane Watson, Rush Hart, Marilyn Wilson, Vera Kendall, Phyllis Propes, Emma Coley, Marjorie Lewis, Corinna Nation, Lisa Shiner, Marge Shiner, Elizabeth Bean, Frances Blake, and Nancy Nelson who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...
Lynn Prater (daughter of **Harlene Satterfield**); Melba Matthews (mother of **Paula Robertson**); 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 **Wanda 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...
Jonathan and Jenna Leer on the birth of daughter, Grace Elizabeth on January 11. Grace joins big sister Madeline.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

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 FEBRUARY

5:30 p.m. Dinner & Worship on Wednesdays at Community Crossroads

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

11 a.m. Kirkin' of the Tartans Service
12 p.m. Kirkin' of the Tartans Lunch

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10

10 a.m. Chocolate Fest

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

10:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Tuesday Together

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14

7 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast
Valentine's Day

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16

5 p.m. Penn Street Arts Festival

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23

8:30 a.m. PW Women's Retreat in Great Hall



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN EVENTS

February Tuesday Together

"The Power of Music" presented by Jennifer Corning Lucio
Tuesday, February 19
10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall 12 p.m. lunch (\$7)
Please make reservations with Celeste in the church office by
Tuesday, February 12.

Jennifer Corning Lucio



As principal oboist with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, Ms. Corning Lucio has been featured as a soloist, including the Strauss concerto and the Mozart concerto with her own cadenzas. She has also served as guest principal oboist of the Baltimore, Milwaukee, Seattle, and Jacksonville symphonies, and has performed with the Cleveland Orchestra, Utah Symphony and Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, among others. Her national television credits include principal oboist of the PBS Live from Lincoln Center program. Born in St. Louis and raised in places as diverse as Panama, and Wisconsin, she now resides in Texas with her husband, Steven.

God's Promise: PW Tuesday Together Program Schedule for 2019

March (No Tuesday Together) due to Spring Break

April 16 - Special Opportunity to worship together during Holy Week

May 21 - PW Birthday Offering Celebration/Officer Installation

10:30 a.m. Brunch and Program/12 noon Worship

10:30 a.m. Program/12 noon Lunch

January Tuesday Together

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Presbyterian Women met in the Great Hall to listen to the Rev. Robyn Michalove speak on the topic for her doctoral thesis, "Engaging the World: Thoughtful Reflection in Congregational Mission and Outreach". Following her talk, a delicious luncheon was served. During her talk, Robyn mentioned the following books for future discovery:

1. *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson
2. *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help* by Robert D. Lupton
3. *When Helping Hurts: Alleviating Poverty without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself* by Steve Corbett and Brian Fikkert
4. *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi.



Women's Retreat



Retreat cost is \$25 which includes all workshops, lunch and a retreat gift. Please make checks payable to FPCPW. Childcare will be provided with registration.

Retreat Workshops:

The Little Art Bus, Tai Chi, Jazzercise, flower arranging, nutrition/wellness, parenting, book discussion, cookie decorating and discussion about PW pledges.

Our retreat will conclude with worship in the Great Hall at 2:30 p.m.



The First Connections class offers an opportunity to learn about First Presbyterian Church, our mission and ministries, as well as our history and connections to the PCUSA. Classes will meet on Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Parlor except where otherwise noted.

February 10	"Get to Know FPC" Breakfast and Greeting by Pastoral Staff
February 17	Presbyterian History and Theology
February 24	Walking Tour of Penn St. Campus
March 3	History of FPC
March 10	Spiritual Formation
	Meet at Labyrinth - Outside northwest corner of property
March 17	Community Outreach - Bus Tour of East Lancaster neighborhood and Community Crossroads

New members and visitors are encouraged to attend, but all are welcome! Please RSVP by phone to the church office or by email to Chris Bartley at cbartley@fpcfw.org.

New Members

FPC celebrates receiving 140 new members during calendar years 2017 and 2018.

What would you guess the average age of a new member to be? Interestingly, the average age is 42 years. New members have told us that they find FPC to be both welcoming and friendly.

If you have ideas about how FPC can be even more welcoming to visitors and prospective members of all ages, please get in touch with any member of the Evangelism Committee or Chris Bartley, Discipleship Coordinator at cbartley@fpcfw.org. We would love to hear from you.

MUSIC AND ARTS

Penn Street Arts Festival

Saturday, February 16 from 5-7:30 p.m.

Art Show & Concert

(co-hosted by Worship and Fellowship Committees)

5 - 6:30 p.m. - Visual Art Show - West Concourse

6:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Jazz & Organ Concert - Sanctuary

Enjoy artwork submitted by FPC members and guests. Paintings, Pottery, Watercolors, Sculptures, Photography, Needlework, Woodwork, etc.

This event is free and open to the public.



The Younger and Older Children's Choirs and the Children's Handbell Choir have resumed their rehearsals. The rotating Worship Arts Classes begin January 20, with 3 different classes for Spring 2019.

Students, grades 2-5 may choose to participate in 1, 2 or all 3 classes.

The Worship Arts Classes offered this Spring during WHAM are:

Liturgical Dance - Interpretation of a scripture through movement; taught by Devyn Woodruff

Mosaics - creating a work of art using glass;

taught by Barbara Heptig

Orff Instruments - Preparing music for worship using our wonderful barred instruments.

For more information, contact Becca Sawyer or call 817.335.1231, ext. 253.

BE INSPIRED...

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

February Brunch

The All-Church Brunch for February will take place during the Kirkin' of the Tartans annual luncheon on February 3. Cost is \$7 per person or \$25 family maximum. No reservation required.

Stephen Ministry Sustaining Care

The Stephen Ministry Leadership Team will be training new Sustaining Caregivers in January and February. Sustaining Care is the new program that helps care receivers whose situation does not require the traditional model of Stephen Ministry care. Instead, Sustaining Care emphasizes the value of companionship, allowing care receivers to share and to see the hope within their stories. Please pray for the new Sustaining Caregivers as they complete the training and begin carrying out this distinctively Christ-centered form of care.

Wellness Classes

Don't forget to stay in shape during 2019! The following wellness classes are offered each week:

Zumba – Wednesdays 9:30-10:30 a.m.
in the Youth Center
Yoga Stretch – Fridays 9:30-10:30 a.m.
in the Youth Center
Tai Chi – Fridays 10:30-11:30 a.m.
in the Atrium

Beacons Birthday Bash

Every third Thursday of the month. The Beacons ministry will celebrate February Birthdays at Red Lobster, 4805 Hulen St. at 1 p.m. on Thursday, February 21. Contact Keri in the church office to RSVP and be sure to let us know if you are celebrating a birthday this month.



A Message from the Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee of First Presbyterian Church writes to inform the congregation of some administrative actions that have occurred since Karl has gone on disability for health reasons. A staffing plan was put in place last year to handle extended absences by our Pastor/Head of Staff. The plan was created with input from Karl and the program staff. We have implemented that plan effective January 2, 2019.

The Staffing Plan addresses Administrative Responsibilities, Worship Responsibilities and Care of Staff.

Administrative Responsibilities:

- Michael Waschevski will be Acting Head of Staff for clergy, program, children's ministry/EEC and music.
- Dana Fickling will be Acting Head of Staff for support staff, maintenance and hospitality.

Worship Responsibilities:

- Robyn Michalove will preach each Sunday unless unavailable. Michael and Josh will rotate preaching responsibilities in the event of Robyn's unavailability.
- Michael will oversee the selection and preparation of worship music.

Care of Staff:

- The Personnel Committee has assigned personal liaisons for each staff member who reported directly to Karl. The liaisons will meet, listen, and care for their respective staff member during this period of transition.
- The Chair of the Personnel Committee will meet with Michael and Dana onsite at least weekly to address any administrative issues.
- CIGNA has made available for the entire staff a mental health counselor, if needed, as part of our insurance coverage.

We at First Presbyterian are truly blessed with an extremely competent and talented staff that has willingly stepped up to the challenge. It is very important for us as a congregation to do everything we can to love and support our staff as we move forward. The members of the Personnel Committee welcome your questions or concerns and will do our best to address them.

An Interim Search Committee has been elected by the Session to interview candidates for Interim Head of Staff.



On Sunday, February 10, look for a special table during the church school hour, to get a chocolate treat in celebration of Valentine's Day. You are also invited to donate a dozen (or more!) of your favorite chocolate creations (candies, truffles, cookies, etc.). Sign up at fpcfw.org/chocolate-fest.



Nominations for Ruling Elders

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for Elders – Class of 2022. Any active member of our congregation may suggest other active members to be considered for nomination. A suggestion does not constitute nomination. However, your suggestions are essential to the work of the Committee. Nomination forms are available in the church office. Or you may submit your nominations online at www.fpcfw.org/elder-nominations. Deadline for nominations is February 24, 2019. Questions? Contact Bill Gordon, Chair of the Nominating Committee, 817.899.7782 or billandpat1941@gmail.com.

Monthly Taizé Worship

Come experience the monthly Taizé Prayer Services on the third Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. These services are offered in the manner of the Taizé community in France. The music of the Taizé Community are short songs, mostly scripture texts, that are easy to sing and easy to remember. Come and praise!

Care Team at Room in the Inn

On Monday night, January 14, the 76109 Care Team hosted 14 men at Room in the Inn. They had a wonderful time serving a meal, visiting and dining with the guests. This is a great example of ways care teams can be involved in other missions of FPC.



MOMS Meeting Schedule for 2019



MOMS (Mothers Offering Mothers Support) is a ministry of FPC for all mothers. Gather with other mothers for support, encouragement, Bible study, fellowship, and friendship. For working moms, stay-at-home-moms, and all moms in between! Come as your schedule allows, no need to attend every meeting or the whole meeting. We will be continuing our discussions on Women in the Bible. Lunch included (\$7). Free childcare available. Please signup at fpcfw.org/moms.

MidDay MOMS

1st Thursdays and 3rd Wednesdays (exceptions: January, April)
11-12:30 p.m.

FPC Parlor

\$7 Lunch with reservation

*Complimentary childcare for children under 7 is available by advance reservation. Upcoming Dates: February 7, February 20, March 7, March 20, April 11, April 24, May 2, May 15

Second Sunday MOMS

4-5:30 p.m.

FPC Stripling Conference Room (near library)

*Complimentary childcare for children under 7 is available by advance reservation. Upcoming Dates: February 10, March 17, April 7, May 5

MidCities MOMS

2nd Mondays

7-8:30 p.m.

Email Amy Parker at aparker@fpcfw.org and she will email you the exact location closer to the date.

No childcare provided.

Upcoming Dates: February 11, March 18; April 8; May 13

ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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

PEANUT BUTTER

Every 3rd Sunday of the month is Peanut Butter Sunday. Bring peanut butter to church to help stock the shelves of the First HAND Food Pantry at Community Crossroads. Sizes needed include regular size (15-16 oz.) or the single-serving snack packs.

SHOES ON SUNDAY

This is the 2nd Sunday of every month. We request that gently used or new shoes be brought to church and dropped off either in the Narthex or at the Community Crossroads (CC) donation boxes. We need tennis/deck shoes, work boots, closed toe shoes. No fancy dress shoes, high heels, or shoes with cleats. Thank you.

FORMULA AND DIAPERS

The Formula and Diapers Ministry (FAD) operates out of Community Crossroads on the 3rd Monday of each month and provides these items to mothers and children in need. All sizes of diapers and powdered formula (Similac Advance Stage 1 Formula) are appreciated.

FOOD & CLOTHING

The First HAND Food Pantry always needs non-perishable food items for grocery bags and sack lunches. The Clothing Room takes ready to wear, seasonal clothing and shoes that are gently worn or new. Donations can be left in collection bins throughout the church or at the following times at Community Crossroads (1516 Hemp-hill Street):

Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays
9 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.