

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

MARCH 2019 | Volume 19, Number 3

SEASON OF LENT



Reflections on the Cross

LENT MIDDAY PRAYERS

Wednesdays March 13 - April 10
12-12:30 p.m.

During the season of Lent, Wednesday Midday prayer services are held in the Sanctuary at 12 noon. The services will offer Reflections on the Cross through scripture, prayers, songs, and meditations from the clergy. Each service will be followed by a 12:30 p.m. organ recital.

CHANCEL CHOIR SPECIAL MUSIC IN LENT

Throughout the Sundays of Lent the Chancel Choir will be offering choral settings of the ancient text *Kyrie eleison* (*Lord, have mercy*) as one of the anthems each week at 11 a.m. Drawing from a variety of composers, including their major works, the many meanings and yearnings of the prayer *Lord, have mercy*, will enrich our Lenten worship and reflection.

The composers featured are: Gabriel Faure (from *Requiem*), Eric Unruh, Maurice Durufle (from *Requiem*), John Rutter (from *Requiem*), and Louis Vierne.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, March 6

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a focus on repentance. Marked with the sign of ashes, we begin with a posture of humility as we focus on God's love and forgiveness. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated in each service, and the Chancel and Fellowship Choirs will sing at the 7 p.m. service.

First Presbyterian offers three opportunities to worship.

12 noon Chapel
5.30 p.m. WOW (1516 Hemphill St.)
7.00 p.m. Sanctuary

LENT AFTERNOON CONCERTS

Wednesday, March 13 - April 10 12:30pm
(30 minute program following the noon service)

March 13 **Ahreum Han Congdon**,
Director of Music/Organist
March 20 **Rebecca Sawyer**,
Music Associate
March 27 **Dalaie Choi**, Music Director,
Organist, Concordia
Lutheran Church,
Wilmington, DE
April 3 **Yoonmi Lim**, Organ
Professor, Southwestern
Baptist Theological
Seminary, Fort Worth, TX
April 10 **Joe Butler**, Associate Dean,
Professor of Music and
University Organist, Texas
Christian University,
Fort Worth, TX

A free box lunch will be provided on the West Concourse after each concert.



PASTORS' LETTER



Dear Friends,

With the month of March comes the season of spring and, also, this calendar year, the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent, the forty days in which we prepare our souls for Holy Week and Easter. For many, it's a time to give up something like candy or caffeine or control. Others prefer to cultivate something whether that be acts of kindness, or devotion, or compassion.

This season, that equates to ten percent of the year (like a tithe), encourages us to repent from all that distracts us from our call as God's children and turn towards that which nurtures our love of God and neighbor. In this time of preparation, spiritual practices or disciplines are excellent ways to get our attention focused on our intentions for living into all that God calls us to be.

The season begins on Ash Wednesday (March 6) as we confess that we are limited creatures ("we are dust and to dust we shall return") who miss the mark yet trust in the faithful grace of God to sustain us. Each week in Sunday and Wednesday worship, we will gather with our praise and prayers, our songs and hymns, and listen for God's Word to nourish us through this journey. During our half-hour Midday Prayer services on Wednesdays at noon, we will reflect on the cross with readings from scripture, a theologian, Iona liturgy and hymns. Spiritual practices like meditation or gratitude or prayer, readings from the Bible, or acts of outreach and service strengthen this season of spiritual renewal.

In whatever ways you devote time and attention during this season of Lent, may it deepen your commitment to love God and neighbor as you are strengthened through God's grace and mercy.

Peace,

Robyn

P.S. Be sure to stay after our Lenten Midday Prayer services for an organ recital in the sanctuary, followed by a lunch. And, don't miss our guest lecturer, Dr. Brian Blount, March 23-24.

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

May 21 - PW Birthday Offering Celebration/Officer Installation
10:30 a.m. Program/12 noon Lunch

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the APRIL issue of the Penn Street Letter are due Friday, **March 15**. 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@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.

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Managing Editor: Pam Burkholder

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





LENTEN CHALLENGE 40 DAYS, 40 ITEMS

Wednesday, March 6 is the beginning of Lent. This is the challenge, should you choose to accept it. Each day of Lent find an item around your home that you no longer need or use. Or you may purchase an item. Place that item into a bag or a box. At the end of 40 days, Easter Sunday, bring your box to church to donate to Community Crossroads so that someone else may be blessed by those items.

Below is a list of items needed most by our neighbors at Community Crossroads:

- Tennis shoes and work boots for men and women (no high heels, no golf shoes, no cleated shoes, no flip flops)
- Men's jeans and denim pants (waist sizes 27 -40, inseams 30+)
- Men's shirts 2X and larger
- Women's large clothing
- Coats for men and women in XL, XXL, and XXXL
- Bath towels, wash cloths
- Bedding sets, blankets, bedspreads (please mark with size)
- Hotel or airplane amenity items (shampoos, conditioners, bath soaps); unopened & unused
- Children's clothing and shoes (wearable condition)
- New packages of underwear and socks (white)
- Purses, backpacks, rolling suitcases, reusable bags
- Adult diapers
- 16 or 18 ounce jars of peanut butter
- Family size boxes of cereal
- Saltine crackers
- Tuna or chicken in pop-top cans or pouches
- Ravioli or pasta in pop-top cans
- Vienna sausages in pop-top cans
- Packages of individual bags of chips
- Candy in individually wrapped packages
- Cereal bars, protein bars
- Single serving sizes of peanut butter
- Cookie packages
- Small plastic jars of jelly

BREATH PRAYERS AS A LENTEN DISCIPLINE

As many seek to adopt special spiritual disciplines during Lent, here is a suggestion: breath prayers.

Breath prayers have been around since the first century. Millions of people have found them to be an important and meaningful way of praying. What makes breath prayers so effective is their simplicity. You already know how to breathe, so you are already halfway there.

Breath prayers involve our bodies as well as our minds. The prayer is offered with the rhythm of breathing. The key is the repetition of the prayer over and over again as you breathe. This helps you discard distracting thoughts. Many have seen this as a way to pray without ceasing. (1 Thess 5:16-18)

The key is to make it short and simple. Half of the prayer is made when you inhale and the other half when you exhale. There are various forms of the breath prayer that you can adapt to your prayer needs.

- You can breathe in as you call on God. Use the name for God that fits the occasion—Almighty, Ancient of Days, Loving Father, Comforter, etc., then breathe out a simple prayer desire.
- You can adapt your prayer to a particular situation or problem you are experiencing. Breathe in the Holy Spirit and then breathe out the bad you are dealing with—anger, fear, greed, etc.
- Your prayer can also be a scripture verse.
- Here are some examples:
 - o I no longer live, ... but Christ lives in me
 - o Lord forgive me... as I forgive others
 - o Oh God... increase my faith
 - o Holy Spirit... your will, not mine
 - o Lord Jesus... thank you
 - o Jesus Christ, Son of God... have mercy upon us
 - o Holy Spirit... pray in me
 - o Speak Lord... your servant is listening

During the season of Lent you can make breath prayers a daily practice. It can be done during your quiet time or repeated often as you go through your day. Many pray breath prayers while exercising-- their attention is already on their breathing!

Special breath prayer cards will be available throughout the church during Lent to help remind you of this special discipline.

CHILDREN'S SUMMER MINISTRY



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

PRE-K MUSIC & ART CAMP:

June 10-14, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Theme: Peter and the Wolf

For Ages 4 thru Entering 1st Graders

ECO CAMP: June 16-21

Ferncliff Camp in Little Rock, AR

For Completed 1st-5th Graders

SUMMER FUN I: June 17-21

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Theme: The Great Outdoors

For Ages 3 (by 9-1-19) thru entering Kindergarten

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June

24-27, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Theme: Galilee by the Sea

For Entering Kindergarten thru Completed 5th Graders

MO-RANCH CAMP SESSION SIX :

July 14-20

Overnight Camp at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX

For Ages 8-12 Years

SUMMER FUN II: July 22-26

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Theme: Ocean Adventures

For Ages 3 (by 9-1-19) thru entering Kindergarten

ELEMENTARY MUSIC & ART CAMP:

July 22-26, 9 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Theme: Summer Camp, A Musical Caper

For Entering 2nd Through 6th Grade

MISSION ON THE MOVE:

July 29- August 2, 9 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Theme: Earth Care

BE INSPIRED...

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

Ash Wednesday Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday, March 6, 6 p.m.

You are invited to walk FPC's outdoor labyrinth on Ash Wednesday. Spend this time in contemplation as you journey to the center of the labyrinth. You will have time to complete your journey in time to join the worship service at 7 p.m. so please join us!

Members of the Labyrinth Guild will be on hand to assist. Should bad weather threaten, we will move the event into the gymnasium and utilize the indoor version of the labyrinth.

Beacons' Potluck

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.

The next quarterly Beacons' Potluck supper and Program will be Wednesday, March 27 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the FPC Youth Center. The main dish and salad will be provided by FPC, so you are invited to bring your favorite side dish or dessert to share. Please RSVP to Keri in the church office.

First Connections

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.

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| March 3 | History of FPC |
| March 10 | Spiritual Formation Meet at Labyrinth - outside NW corner of property |
| March 17 | Community Outreach Bus Tour of East Lancaster nei- borhood 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.



INSPIRING EACH

OTHER... The Arlington/Mansfield Care Team met recently at the home of Pete and Melinda Van't Slot. In the tradition of FPC Care Teams we shared food, spoke of our joys and concerns, and enjoyed learning about upcoming activities within FPC.

We also mourned the loss of one of our members, The Rev. Clark Williams. As a way to remember Clark, and also each of our members who have died, we have placed a cross on the Cross Memorial Wall by the Chapel.

UPCOMING EVENTS...



Thursday, April 4, 2019
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, haircuts, 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. This year, FPC has partnered with Amazon to create a Wish List that donors can choose from. Please go to the Amazon site at <http://a.co/9OnYjWJ> or type the URL into your browser. If you have questions about how to donate using this method, please contact Dori Al Hammami at ddavis@fpcfw.org.

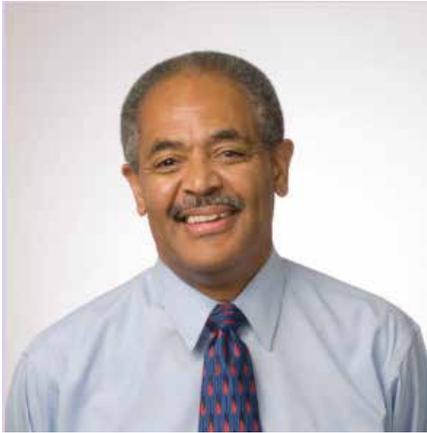
And Thank You for volunteering or donating to this very worthy event.

Save the Date

FPC All Church Retreat to Mo-Ranch.
August 30 - September 2, 2019.
Details coming soon!

Legacy Sunday
April 28, 2019 11 a.m. service
honoring our Legacy members (50+ years).

FPC Speaker Series Welcomes Dr. Brian Blount



Saturday, March 23, 2019
9 a.m. - Noon

Dr. Blount is the president of Union Presbyterian Seminary. He will offer a series of lectures on *The Cultural Interpretation of the Bible*. This event is free and open to the public, but please register on our website at fpcfw.org/speaker.

Penn St. Arts Concert Series Presents Ken Cowan



Sunday, March 3, 2019 2:30 p.m.
Ken is a Professor and Organist at Rice University, Houston, TX

Reception to follow on the West Concourse. Childcare is provided. This event is free and open to the public.

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

Every 2nd Sunday of the 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 especially need mens tennis shoes, hiking/work boots, sized 9-12. No fancy dress shoes, high heels, or shoes with cleats. Thank you.

FORMULA AND DIAPERS

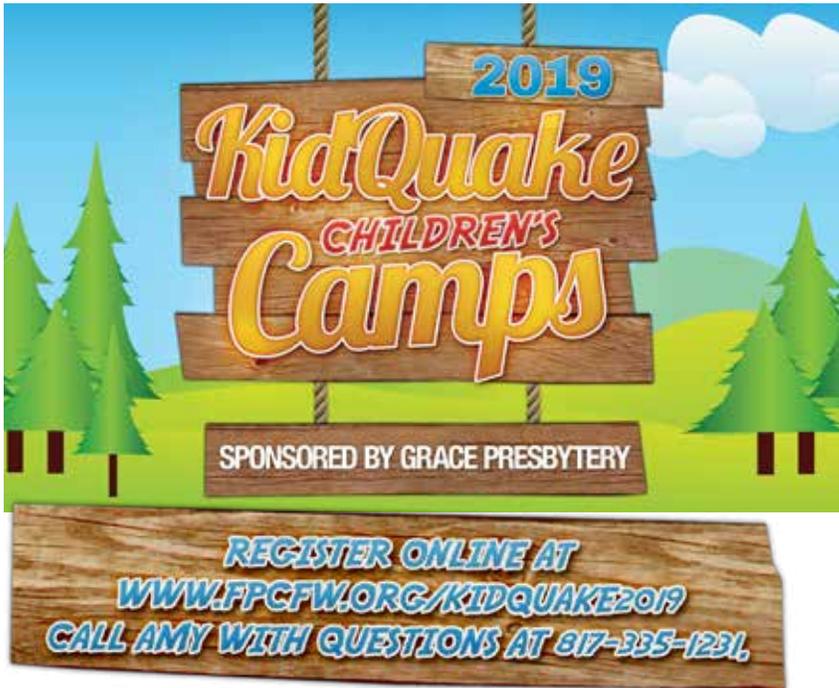
The Formula and Diapers Ministry (FAD) operates out of Community Crossroads on the 3rd Monday of each month and provides these items to mothers and children in need. All sizes of diapers and powdered formula (Similac Advance Stage 1 Formula) are appreciated.

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.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS



All 1st - 5th Graders are invited to this annual children's spring camp, sponsored by Grace Presbytery.

This year the camp will be held March 29-31, 2019 at Camp Glen Lake Retreat Center in Glen Rose.

Cost is \$100 per child and includes meals, housing, programming, and a camp t-shirt.

Registration deadline is March 8!

Registration is not complete without \$100 check to FPC office.

SPECIAL NOTE: The trip will not make if we don't have enough adult sponsors. Please let Amy Parker know if you can be a sponsor (aparker@fpcfw.org or 817-335-1231).

YOUTH SUNDAY MARCH 3

Youth Sunday is a meaningful day when our youth lead our congregation in worship. This year's Youth Sunday is on March 3 (it's early due to a late Easter), and the theme is "Upside Down."

The Youth plan the service, deliver the message, and pick the hymns. It is a great way to engage our youth in the life and ministry of the church.



SENIOR HIGH YOUTH CONNECTION (SHYC)

Fun times at the Senior High Youth Connection (SHYC) on the first weekend in February. Sixteen from our high school youth group participated and had a great experience!

FPC Youth Lauren Sphar was on the planning team for this annual youth event.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of February 20, 2019. To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

Our loving sympathy to...

Laura and Seth Anderson on the death of her grandmother, Dorothy Louise Edmiston, on January 16 in Weatherford. Other surviving family includes grandchildren: Marshall, Jane Claire, and Tyler Anderson.

Jim and Claudia Duff on the death of his father, Jack Duff on January 22. Other surviving FPC family: Andrew and **Siobhan Beaty**; Irelyn Beaty and Caroline Beaty; and Heath and Michelle Brosi.

Herd and Claire Midkiff on the death of his father, Bob Midkiff, on January 26 in Midland. Other surviving FPC family includes granddaughter, Caroline Midkiff.

Paula Robertson on the death of her mother, Melba Matthews on January 29.

Family and friends of **Bertha Kinsinger** who died January 30. Surviving FPC family: **Jill and Jim Koss**; and **Daniel Koss**.

Family and friends of **Betty Sours** who died February 2.

Family and friends of **Jesse Boulware** who died February 17. Surviving FPC family includes: **Carol and Clif Smith**, David and **Cyndi Presley**, **Gray Boulware**, **Mike and Becky Jenkins**, and **Damien Cole**.

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...

Prayers for peace in our world, and for the safety of **Thomas Shelby**, who is serving in the US Navy, deployed in Japan. Thomas is the son of **Ellen Buck** and the grandson of **Vance and Donna Laminack**.

Our congratulations and best wishes...

Bryan and Lenora Reece on the birth of Asher Edward on February 4. Asher joins brothers Elijah and Isaac.

Diego and Claudia Saldivar on the birth of Aldo James on February 13. Proud FPC family: grandparents, **Rene and Becky Saldivar**; and aunts, **Cecilia Elizondo** and **Olivia Romero**.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

- 9 a.m. Youth Sunday
- 11 a.m. Youth Sunday
- 2:30 p.m. Ken Cowan Organ Concert

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

- 12 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service (Chapel)
- 5:30 p.m. WOW! (Community Crossroads)
- 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

- 12 p.m. Midday Prayer Services (Sanctuary)
- 12:30 p.m. Lenten Organ Concerts

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

- 7 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast



THE
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 LETTER

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PERIODICALS

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WWW.FPCFW.ORG

Penn Street Arts Festival



The Penn St. Arts Festival was held last Saturday evening and was enjoyed by all. Thank You to the over 40 artists who submitted their artwork in various mediums to make an exceptional exhibit. Attendees were then treated to a fabulous Jazz concert by Mario Cruz and his band. Thanks to the Worship Committee and the Fellowship Committee for planning and hosting the event.