

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

APRIL 2019 | Volume 19, Number 4



Lent Holy Week Easter

at FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LENT MIDDAY PRAYERS

Wednesdays through April 10
12-12:30 p.m. (Sanctuary)

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

LENT ORGAN CONCERTS

Wednesdays through April 10,
12:30 - 1 p.m. (Sanctuary)

30 minute concert after the noon service.

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

The April 3 concert features Yoonmi Lim, organ professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas.

The April 10 concert features Joe Butler, Associate Dean, College of Fine Arts; Professor of Music and University Organist, Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas.

HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 14

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, April 15-17
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, April 18

12 Noon (Chapel), 5:30 p.m. (Great Hall) and 7 p.m. (Sanctuary)

Three worship services remembering the Last Supper Jesus shared with his disciples. Includes communion.

New this year, the 5:30 p.m. service will be an interactive, family-appropriate Holy Week experience that tells the story between Palm Sunday and Easter. Dinner included.

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 19

12 Noon (Chapel) and 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 scripture and music, ending in darkness and silence.

EASTER

SUNRISE SERVICE

Sunday, April 21

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.

EASTER 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 on that day.



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

In just a matter of weeks we once again make the journey of Holy Week. From the waving of palms to shouts of "crucify him!" to the proclamation "he is risen!", the Holy Week journey is a rich experience of the height, depth and breadth of God's love made known in Jesus Christ. The richness is most deeply experienced by engaging the journey from beginning to end. Palm Sunday (April 14), Maundy Thursday (April 18), Good Friday (April 19) and Easter Sunday (April 21.) Midday prayer services are also held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of Holy Week. A full schedule of services, including a new service geared toward children on Maundy Thursday, is included in this edition of the *Penn Street Letter*.

We have been preparing for Holy Week and Easter throughout Lent as Midday prayers offered reflections on the cross. A central image of Holy Week is the cross. As you conclude your own spiritual preparation for Holy Week and Easter, the words of Isaac Watts may voice a prayer for you. The Chancel Choir will sing them as Palm Sunday worship nears its end. On Good Friday we will sing this hymn together at the conclusion of the noon service. In the remaining time of Lent, may they form your own prayer as we prepare to enter the Holy Week journey once again.

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died;
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flowed mingled down;
did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

God's peace to you,

Michael

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the MAY issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, April 17**. 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.

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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

Highlights from the March 17 Stated Meeting of the Session



- Heard an update on the exciting work of the Permanent Supportive Housing Task Force
- Heard a report from the Interim Search Committee that they continue conversations with potential Interim Pastors
- Received a report from FPC commissioners to the recent meeting of Grace Presbytery (February 23)
- Asked the Mission Outreach Committee to explore a gift from FPC to The Karl Travis Fund for Excellence in Ministry and Preaching, established by the Council of Grace Presbytery
- Heard committee education reports and celebrated the work of the Mission Outreach Committee and the Personnel Committee
- Updated the Funeral and Memorial Policy to reflect recent changes due to the Sanctuary renovation (flower placement, etc.) and revised non-member service fees



REGISTER TODAY!

It's time to register for FPC summer camps! We are busy planning fun, energetic, and creative camp opportunities for children. So, be sure to join in the fun and make it a summer to remember!

PRE-K MUSIC AND ARTS CAMP: June 10-14

ECO CAMP: June 16-21

SUMMER FUN I: June 17-21

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 24-27

MO-RANCH CAMP SESSION SIX: July 14-20

SUMMER FUN II: July 22-26

ELEMENTARY MUSIC AND ARTS CAMP: July 22-26

MISSION ON THE MOVE: July 29-August 2

Learn more about these events and register at
FPCFW.ORG/summercamps



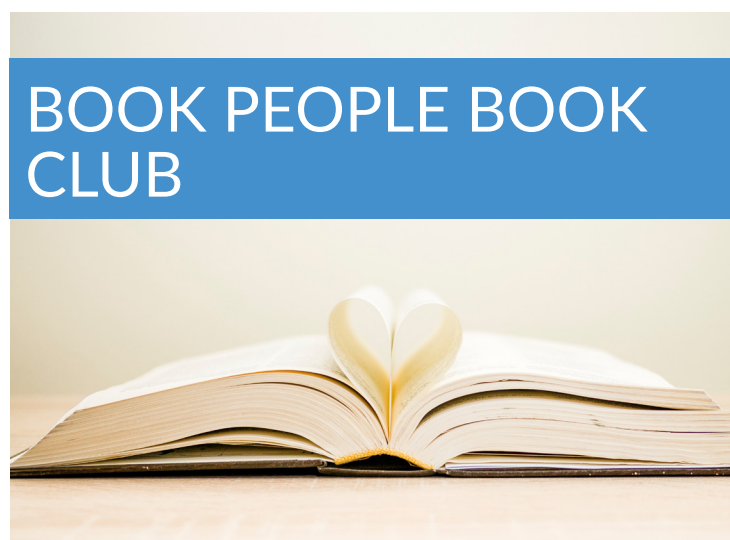
HONORING 50+ YEAR MEMBERS

On Sunday, April 28 at the 11 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary, we will honor those who have been members of the church for 50 or more years. If you've been a part of this congregation for 50+ years, please join us at 10:30 a.m. in the Narthex for a photo and stay after worship for a reception at 12 noon on the 3rd Floor Concourse. Be sure to wear your Legacy Member pins; those being honored for the first time will receive theirs on April 28. Thank you!



BBQ, ICE CREAM & MORE!

On Sunday, April 7, come to the annual All Church Picnic on the FPC grounds. Hosted by the Fellowship Committee, this fun event will include food by Roscoe's Smokehouse, balloon artist, face painting, ice cream truck, bounce house, personalized buttons, and a chance to visit with FPC friends. Cost is \$7 per person or \$25 family maximum. No RSVP needed! (Note: Inclement weather location will be the Great Hall.)



APRIL SPRING READING

Book People continues its spring reading about families of various shapes and sizes and in various life circumstances. The Monday, April 8 meeting will focus on *Another Part of the House* by Winston M. Estes. *Another Part of the House* is set in the Texas plains in the early 20th century when life was challenged by depression, drought, dust, and death. How does a family hold together? Copies are available for free. E-mail Elizabeth Johnson Pense (ejpense@me.com) to make arrangements to pick up a copy. Book People meets in Room 226 from noon to 1 p.m. Church members and friends are welcome.



Trinity Habitat celebrates 30th Anniversary

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Trinity Habitat for Humanity (Trinity Habitat). First Presbyterian Church (FPC) has been a partner with Trinity Habitat from the beginning. FPC built our 25th and 50th houses on our parking lot and we even built a few houses at Mayfest. In May, we will celebrate the 90th house that we have partnered with Habitat to build.

Since Trinity Habitat's inception in 1989, 1,891 families have been served – 697 homes built, 1,150 Preserve a Home projects completed and 44 Disaster Relief projects completed. It is important to remember Habitat for Humanity is a Hand Up, not a Hand Out, is a foundation for a better life and is community driven. Last year Trinity Habitat homes paid a total of \$720,000 to the City of Fort Worth in property taxes.

There are many steps and criteria that a prospective homeowner needs to meet and agree to become a Habitat homeowner. So how does someone become a homeowner of a Habitat home?

Continue reading at
fpcf.org/habitat

BE INSPIRED...

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

PW Holy Week Brunch

For April's Tuesday Together, Presbyterian Women will meet for Holy Week Brunch on Tuesday, April 16, 2019. Enjoy brunch at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall (\$7 cost), followed by Holy Week worship at noon in the Chapel. RSVP to Celeste Falter in the church office (817.335.1231, ext. 261 or cfalter@fpcf.org) by Tuesday, April 9.

Great Opportunity to Support Worship and Meet People!

Ushering is a great way to extend hospitality on Sunday morning as people gather for our three worship services while meeting members and visitors. Ushering works well for individuals, couples, families, church school classes, small groups, and PW Circles to serve the church together! Ushering opportunities are available at all three worship services. Rotating schedules make this ministry possible for all who are interested. Please prayerfully consider this service to the worship life of First Pres. Your gift of hospitality would be most appreciated! Contact Celeste in the church office (817.335.1231 ext. 261 or cfalter@fpcf.org) for more information.

Save the Date! Cinco de Mayo brunch

Save the date on Sunday, May 5, for a special Cinco de Mayo all church brunch. Watch for more details!



Picnic & Egg Hunt Saturday, April 20

College students, Young Adults and Young Families are invited to gather together for a picnic and egg hunt at the Varnons' from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. Enjoy the (hopefully) beautiful spring day with friends, food, and good times. Please RSVP to Eric (evarnon@fpcf.org) so we can make sure we have enough food and eggs to hide.

Men's Breakfast

The men of First Pres gather on the 3rd Thursday of each month, so mark your calendar for Maundy Thursday, April 18. They meet in the Great Hall at 7 a.m. for breakfast (\$5 per person), intentional conversation, and prayer. You'll find connection here! For reservations (not required, but helpful for our chef!) or more information, visit fpcf.org/men.

Volunteer Opportunity: Grace Presbytery is coming to First Pres!

There will be 250+ commissioners gathering here on June 1 for one of the four meetings held by Presbytery every year. Their day includes worship, breakout sessions, a general meeting, and lunch. It takes many volunteers in different capacities for this event to run smoothly. There are tasks for helping hands and smiling faces in: welcoming, registration, ushering, parking lot guides, shuttle drivers, and more! If you are interested in helping for a portion of the day, please contact Patty O'Brien in the church office (817.335.1231 or pobrien@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 4, 2019
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

About Homeless Connect

Homeless Connect is an event provided for those experiencing homelessness in Fort Worth. 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.

Donate items for Homeless Connect

This year, FPC has partnered with Amazon to create a Wish List that donors can choose from. Please visit the Amazon site at <http://a.co/9OnYjWJ>. If you have questions about how to donate using this method, please contact Deneice Allen at dallen@fpcfw.org. Thank you for donating to this very worthy event!



Join the Team!
Saturday, April 6

We're seeking a team of painters for Habitat for Humanity's Cowtown Brushup on Saturday, April 6. Every year teams of painters come together to help 'brush up' homes across Fort Worth. We're putting a team together and would love for you to join us. Anyone age 12 and older is eligible. With a full team, a house can be completed within just a few hours. Find out more at www.fpcfw.org/brushup or contact Eric Varnon (817.335.1231 or evarnon@fpcfw.org).

DID YOU KNOW?

The Mission Outreach Committee is proud to let the FPC congregation know where our Mission dollars are going. In January of each year, FPC disburses a large portion of the annual commitments. In January 2019, these disbursements included:

- The first \$12,000 of our \$132,000 commitment to Presbyterian Night Shelter.
- The first \$30,000 installment of our \$1,000,000 (over 3 years) commitment to the capital campaign for PNS Men's shelter.
- The first \$6,000 of our \$12,000 commitment to the James L. West Center Senior Adult Daycare Program.
- The first \$9,000 of our \$90,000 commitment to Habitat for Humanity.
- The first \$7,500 of our \$15,000 gift to Tarrant Churches Together.
- \$5,000 to the Pan American Schreiner Scholarship.
- \$1,350 of our \$13,500 commitment to South Central Alliance of Churches
- \$5,000 for the Presbyterian Pan American School.
- The first \$5,500 of our \$22,000 commitment for Living Water International.
- \$3,500 for the Camp Fire Camp El Tesoro summer campships.
- \$5,500 towards our \$11,000 commitment to the Presbyterian Studies Program at Brite Divinity School.
- \$5,000 towards our \$10,000 commitment for United Community Centers.
- \$11,800 to Austin College for our commitment to the Moseley Scholarship and the Spring Break endowment (\$200,000 over 4 years).
- \$1,200 to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary towards our \$12,000 commitment towards scholarship.
- \$3,300 to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary towards our \$100,000 (over 3 years) commitment to the Learning and Information Center.
- \$3,750 of our \$7,500 commitment to Northside Inter-Community Agency.
- \$29,500 of our \$295,000 commitment to Grace Presbytery to support our Mission Co-workers in Cuba and Haiti as well as our Shared Mission Support and Grace Presbytery Youth Support.
- \$5,000 to Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services.
- \$5,000 to This Child Here.
- \$10,000 of our \$40,000 commitment to the DRC.

May our giving continue to show our love to the world.



February Statistics:

(+ indicates increase of, - indicates decrease of)

- 881 (+8 from January). Grocery requests were distributed (1,762 sacks) to 696 households (+38 from January), 185 households received grocery distribution twice during the month
- 591 (-11 from January) Sack Lunches were distributed to 236 individuals (+22 from January)
- 44 (-8 from January) clothing orders were picked up
- 34 (-2 from January) hygiene kits were distributed
- 50 (+14 from January) neighbors were seen in the Salt & Light Dental Clinic
- 55 families (73 children) received FAD services
- 91.25 average attendance at WOW
- 8 average attendance at ESL (range 5 - 11)
- One average attendance of people using transportation from CC to FPCFW for Sunday services (6 people began attending and one joined the church)

Volunteers are needed for grocery and sack lunch distribution on Wednesdays from 9:30 A.M. - 1:45 p.m. and on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed for unpacking and sorting groceries on Thursday mornings from 7:15 - 8:30 a.m. Contact Director of Community Crossroads Ministries, Dori Al Hammami (ddavis@fpcfw.org) for more info or to volunteer.

The FPC Young Adults have been craving something a bit more "in the trenches." Thanks to the hard work of FPC's Director of Community Crossroads Ministries, Dori Al Hammami, the group was able to serve 29 families on March 19 at the Young Adult-hosted Choice Pantry. One young adult summed it up by simply saying: "That's how I've been wanting to give back."



Mo-Ranch

AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 2



All-Church Retreats to Mo-Ranch in the Texas hill country date back many years. An annual retreat started up again in the fall of 2011 and has been a favorite of all who attend.

To provide a flavor of what these retreats have meant to our members, here are some reflections from past participants.

What was your favorite part about the retreat?

"Meeting and getting to know other church members in a relaxed environment. And the giant cinnamon rolls available in the dining hall."

Scot Latta

"The Sunday morning worship service at Chapel on the Hill is awe inspiring. It's so refreshing to be out in nature and worshipping with song and scripture. I always go home rejuvenated."

Patti Latta

What did you take away from the retreat?

"Take time to enjoy the great outdoors. God created this earth for our enjoyment, take advantage of it. Take a walk around the property, take a hike into the hill country, swim in the Guadalupe, listen to all the nature sounds after the sun sets."

Scot Latta

"Life is precious, put something you enjoy doing on your 'To Do List'."

Patti Latta

"We have been going as a family since it was restarted back in 2011. It has become a family tradition for us and a time that we all get to go to Mo Ranch. One of the best things about this retreat is the diversity in church members that go. Our children are now in middle and high school and it is so much fun to be with young families, retired couples and single church members. We get to meet folks we don't know and spend quality time with folks that we do know. You can be as busy and active as you like or as slow and laid-back. We spend a lot of time down at the river with other church members. Floating in our inner tubes and rafts and hanging out is the best! The kids love the ropes course and being with friends. We all have a good time at game night and the theme and messages delivered always fill us up a bit and are topped off with the beautiful music from Richard Bruxfoort Colligan. It is very much a part of our church life at First Pres!"

Jacqueline Bender and Ken Garlington

Come and join others in your church family at the next All Church Retreat from August 30 - September 2, 2019.

Check out the details of this year's events at fpcf.org/mo-ranch-retreat-2019



As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

Colossians 2.6-7

Mo-Ranch All Church Retreat
August 30 - September 2, 2019
Mo-Ranch Camp and Conference Center in Hunt, Texas

What's New This Year:

- New families/individuals matched with veterans in advance of our trip
- Shared continental breakfast in the Main Auditorium with only our group
- Saturday morning intergenerational options

Registration Deadline for Guaranteed Housing: Sunday, April 28, 2019

(1/2 of Total Price Deposit and completed registration form; checks payable to FPC, memo line: Mo-Ranch Church Retreat 2019)

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of March 21, 2019. To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

Our loving sympathy to...

Steve and Ann Christian on the death of his mother, Peggy Christian on March 3.

Family and friends of **Lou Hopps**, who died March 9. Surviving FPC family: **Gary Don and Dede Hopps**, Jonathan Hopps, **Christina Poston**, Elizabeth Poston, and Tina Poston.

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, **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, 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**. 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**.

Prayers for **Cindy Corell**, our mission co-worker in Haiti. Prayers for peace and resolution for political strife, unsafe conditions, and people unable to get food and basic necessities due to riots.



GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

Sundays, April 28- June 2, 4-5:30 p.m. in Room 305

First Presbyterian Church is offering a six-week Grief Support Group led by the Rev. Dawn Hood-Patterson. The group offers a supportive and encouraging space in which to experience God's presence, comfort, and strength.

Dawn is a Chaplain at Cook Children's Medical Center, and is completing her PhD in Pastoral Theology, at Brite Divinity School, TCU. Dawn earned her M. Div. degree at George W. Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University. She has over nine years of experience working with children and adults as Chaplain and pastoral caregiver in multi-faith settings. Dawn grew up in Bogota, Colombia. This experience not only enabled her work with Spanish-speaking families, but also inspired her love of food, culture, and social justice. We are delighted to welcome her to First Presbyterian Church.

This group is free and open to members and friends of FPC and the community. To register, contact Celeste in the church office (817.335.1231 or cfaller@fpcfw.org).



CALENDAR

Below are a few highlighted events in April.
More at fpcfw.org/calendar.

SUNDAYS IN APRIL

- 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 APRIL

- 12 p.m. Lent Midday Prayer Services (through April 10)
- 12:30 p.m. Lent Organ Concerts (through April 10)
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner & Worship on Wednesdays at Community Crossroads

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

- 9 a.m. Homeless Connect

SATURDAY, APRIL 6

- 8:45 a.m. Handbell Musicians of America Spring Ring

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

- 12:30 p.m. All Church Picnic

MONDAY, APRIL 15 - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

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

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 18

- 12 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship (Chapel)
- 5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship (Great Hall)
- 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship (Sanctuary)

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 19

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

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 21

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

- 11 a.m. Legacy Sunday Celebration



THE
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LETTER

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Easter

at First Presbyterian Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 21

7 A.M.

Sunrise
service in
Memorial
Garden

|

8 A.M.

Service in
Chapel

|

9 A.M.

Service in
Great Hall

|

11 A.M.

Service in
Sanctuary