

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

MAY 2019 | Volume 19, Number 5



Spots Are Filling Up, So Register Today!

Complete details and registration forms can be found in brochures at church and at FPCFW.ORG/SUMMERCAMPS

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

Theme: *Peter and the Wolf*

For Ages 4 (by 6-10-19) through Entering 1st Grade

Children will explore song, dance, drums, bells and bars, and hone their visual arts skills with some of the finest teachers in North Texas. Come watch a performance at the end of camp!

ECO CAMP: June 16-21

Ferncliff Camp in Little Rock, AR

For Children Entering 2nd - 6th Grades

At Eco Camp, children gain a summer camp experience in which they learn about the environment and how to be a friend to God's creation. The camp will include green themed activities, sustainable practices, and traditional camp fun.

SUMMER FUN I: June 17-21

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Theme: *The Great Outdoors*

For Ages 3 (as of 9-1-19) through Completed Kindergarten

Join us as we set up camp and spend a week exploring the great outdoors! While on our camping adventure we'll discover animal habitats, study the night sky, and of course whip up some tasty campfire treats! Each day will bring something different as we explore, create, and learn together!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 24-27

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Theme: *Galilee by the Sea*

For Ages Entering Kinder through Completed 5th

(4 year olds may attend if one parent is volunteering)

At Galilee by the Sea everyone becomes a member of a Tribe of Israel. Tribes will visit Synagogue School, Seaside Playground and the Marketplace and every day ends the same way it begins - with singing, dancing, and celebrating. Come join us on an adventure as we set sail for Galilee!

MO-RANCH CAMP: July 14-20

Overnight camp at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX

For Ages 8-12

This is the week most FPC children attend Mo-Ranch summer camp, a traditional overnight camp experience within a Christian environment. Includes exploration of God's creation, Bible study, small groups, and a wide variety of activities sure to be remembered for a lifetime!

SUMMER FUN II: July 22-26

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

Theme: *Ocean Adventures*

For Ages 3 (as of 9-1-19) through Completed Kindergarten

Take a dive into the deep blue sea with us! This week we will learn all about the importance of our oceans, as they cover about 70 percent of the Earth's surface! Mermaids, shells, fish, reefs, water, whales and did we mention SHARKS abound as we explore life under the sea through nature, art projects, storytelling, food, and science!

ELEMENTARY MUSIC & ARTS CAMP: July 22-26

Theme: *Summer Camp, a Musical Caper*

For Children Entering 2nd - 6th Grades

Children will explore song, dance, drums, bells and bars, and hone their visual arts skills with some of the finest teachers in North Texas. Come watch a performance at the end of camp!

MISSION ON THE MOVE: July 29-August 2

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

For Children & Youth Entering 4th-8th Graders

Children and youth will reflect on issues of Earth Care, both globally and in our own community, through service at area agencies and reflection through simulations and games.



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

May is such a busy month, filled with significant moments in life. Graduations at all ages and stages and Mothers' Day take center stage on many calendars.

At First Presbyterian we welcome into adult membership 16 confirmands on May 5. It is a day for the whole church to celebrate fulfilling the promises made as a congregation at their baptisms to nurture them in faith as we prepared and invited them to make their own profession of faith as disciples of Jesus Christ. With their parents and families, the church school teachers, youth group sponsors, staff, and especially confirmation mentors, have journeyed with them so beautifully not only in these final months, but so faithfully over the years.

It is especially appropriate that Confirmation occurs during the season of Easter. Historically, Easter and Easter season have been a time of celebrating new and renewed commitments to living as disciples of Jesus Christ. The resurrection good news invites us all to live new lives in Jesus Christ. As we celebrate with our confirmands, perhaps now is the time for you to join First Presbyterian Church if you have been visiting. We receive new members after each worship service. If you are currently a member, perhaps part of your Easter season celebration will be renewing and committing to deeper engagement in the worship and ministries of First Presbyterian. Your Discipleship Coordinator, Chris Bartley, would be excited to partner with you in joining and engaging joyfully and fully in the life of First Presbyterian.

One of the hymns we will sing during Easter season is *Christ is Alive!* The text by well-known hymn writer Brian Wren celebrates the joyful good news of resurrection and God's redeeming love. The fourth verse has us singing this:

Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

This Easter season, may you hear the Spirit's call to you as you live your life of faith as a renewed and joyful disciple of Jesus Christ, the Risen One. Alleluia!

God's peace to you,

Michael

INSPIRING EACH OTHER...



We love seeing you inspiring each other in discipleship through care, study, and support. Here is the **Southwest Care Team** at Patrick and Becky Sheppard's home on Sunday, April 14. For more information on Care Teams, see page 6 of this edition.

Do you have a photo of your group or class meeting? Send it to Kathryn Breitbarth at kbreitbarth@fpcf.org.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the JUNE issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, May 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

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Each month, children and youth participate in worship and generosity by dropping a dollar bill in the offering plate. Each month, we highlight a different ministry.

Children and youth, in May your \$1 bills go to Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit organization that helps families build and improve places to call home. Habitat is committed to ensuring that everyone, everywhere, has a decent place to live. Curious? Visit www.habitat.org.

Parents, teach generosity to your kids by sharing a \$1 bill for this valuable ministry.

SERVE this Spring

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

What Can I Do With All This Stuff?

Have you ever asked yourself that question? And now that Spring is here, many of us are spring cleaning or weeding out what we don't need or can't use anymore. Or maybe you have an entire home full of furniture to dispose of.

A few weeks ago, Robyn preached a sermon titled "Sparkling Joy" in which she quoted the phrase "Does this item spark joy for you?" If not, experts say, get rid of it. But you don't want to just put things out on the curb for the trash truck. Surely, someone or someplace could use it?

The good news is, there ARE places that will take your "stuff" and find a good home for it. And, give you a tax deduction, too!

One place that many FPC members have discovered is Presbyterian Night Shelter. PNS will take all household items, furniture, lamps, dishes, kitchen stuff, sheets, towels, toys, decorative items, etc.

PNS has a warehouse where they store donated items and when an individual or a family is fortunate enough to move out of PNS into their own home, a case worker can come to the warehouse and pick out items they need to set up their household. As far as donations go, one church member said "PNS staff will take large items and will come in a large truck and pick everything up. They are wonderful to work with, easy to schedule, on time with their truck, and very grateful."

Here is their contact information and link:

Presbyterian Night Shelter

<https://www.journeyhome.org/how-you-can-help>

(look under In-Kind Support)

Harriet Willis coordinates donations:

hwillis@journeyhome.org or 817.614.6644

Other places that accept donations:

Habitat ReStore

<https://www.habitat.org/restores/donate-goods>

Habitat ReStore accepts new and gently used appliances, furniture, building materials, household goods and more from individuals and companies. Each ReStore is unique, and many locations also accept items outside these categories. Habitat



Donations await new homes at the Presbyterian Night Shelter warehouse.

ReStores divert hundreds of tons from landfills each year, accepting hard-to-dispose-of items including new and used furniture, appliances and surplus building materials. In many cases, pickup service is provided for large items. Best of all, proceeds from the sale of these donated goods help families build a foundation for the future. The money raised by Habitat ReStores helps families build a decent and affordable place to call home. When the items you donate to ReStore are sold, the money helps families achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better future.

Find a local Habitat ReStore:

<https://www.habitat.org/local/restore?zip=76110>

NICA (Northside Inter-Community Agency)

<https://www.nicaagency.org/donate/ways-to-donate/>

This agency will take donations of food, hygiene items, household goods and job appropriate clothing.

Tarrant County Furniture Bank

<https://tarrantcountyfurniturebank.org>

This furniture bank provides basic furniture at little or no cost to those transitioning from homelessness, while also keeping unwanted, functional furnishings out of the landfill. Individuals and groups can help this mission by giving of their time, talent and treasures. Their motto is "Furniture: It's more than comfort. It's Hope. Pride. Dignity."



Community Crossroads will need volunteers to serve hot meals to school aged children through the Summer Feeding Service Program at Community Crossroads. Volunteers are needed for Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. starting on Monday, June 3 through Thursday, August 15. Please contact Pam Grossman (pam.grossman@outlook.com) for more information or to volunteer.

BE INSPIRED...

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



Tuesday, June 25 from 6-8 p.m.

La Puertita at Joe T. Garcia's

The annual Summer Treat is a fun-filled dinner gathering for all women from FPC at a local restaurant. This year, we will enjoy an enchilada dinner in a private dining room at Joe T. Garcia's. The menu will include cheese nacho appetizer, two cheese enchiladas, rice, beans, guacamole, two beef tacos, tortillas, chips and salsa. Cash bar available as well. Please RSVP by June 18, sending a \$25 check made out to PW to Celeste Falter in the church office. Questions? Contact Sally Parmelee at bs-parmelee@sbcglobal.net.

Learn the Language of Love

A Summer Offering from the Spiritual Formation Committee

June 2 through July 28, 10-10:45 a.m. in Room 242

Marshall B. Rosenberg, PhD, the founder and world-wide teacher and practitioner of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) states:

"If violence means acting in ways that result in hurt or harm, then much of how we communicate – judging, bullying, blaming, discriminating, speaking without listening, diagnosing, criticizing, correcting, name-calling, reacting when angry, using political rhetoric, becoming defensive – could indeed be called 'violent communication.'"

If you are experiencing challenging relationships at home or work and are looking for a better way to relate, or if you are concerned about the level of violence in our country and our seeming inability to converse with someone who holds very different political, religious, or social viewpoints – without falling into 'violent communication' patterns ourselves – join Martha Newman and Carol Toombs this summer to become part of the solution.

Using Rosenberg's book, *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*, we will learn the basics of his process and will spend a lot of time practicing it. As Rosenberg admits NVC is deceptively simple, but difficult to do, since we have been so well taught in the ways of verbal violence. To register and get a copy of the book, contact Celeste in the church office (817.335.1231 or cfalter@fpcfw.org).



Seatings at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the Great Hall

The Evangelism Committee is sponsoring an all church brunch in celebration of Cinco de Mayo on Sunday, May 5. The menu will include chicken enchiladas, grilled vegetables, tortilla chips, salsa, guacamole and dessert. Seatings will be at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the Great Hall. The cost is \$7 per person or a maximum of \$25 per family. Visitors and new members eat for free. Please mark your calendars and join us for this time of fellowship!

Men's Breakfast

The men of First Pres gather on the 3rd Thursday of each month, so mark your calendar for Thursday, May 16. 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 fpcfw.org/men.



Concerts in the Garden

Saturday, June 22. Limited Tickets Available, so Sign Up Soon!

The Boomers Fellowship group will meet up for Concerts in the Garden: Music of the Beatles at the Botanic Gardens on Saturday, June 22. Enjoy table seating and dinner from East Hampton Sandwich Shop. Learn more at www.fpcfw.org/boomers.

ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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

Cooking Matters in Your Community!

A workshop sponsored by Tarrant Area Food Bank and FPC's Wellness Committee
Beginning Tuesday, May 21 from 5-7 p.m. at Community Crossroads



Beginning on Tuesday, May 21, the Tarrant Area Food Bank will host a Cooking Matters workshop every third Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. at Community Crossroads. The workshop will feature hands-on cooking demonstrations and will teach participants how to shop for and prepare delicious and nutritious foods on a budget (meals will cost less than \$10 for a family of four). At the end of each workshop, participants will be encouraged to participate in the Choice Pantry at Community Crossroads. Participants will be taught how to cook healthy meals using ingredients distributed that month at the pantry. The workshops will run through August and there is no cost to participate. To register, volunteer, or for more

information, contact Dori Al Hammami, 817.921.3955 or ddavis@fpcfw.org.

Community Conversations: Perspectives on Race, Equity and Unconscious Bias

Join Rev. Robyn Michalove and other FPC members for a unique opportunity for conversations concerning perspectives on race, equity and unconscious bias in partnership with the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission of the City of Fort Worth and Mount Moriah Baptist Church. We will collaborate with Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, an African-American congregation on the eastside of Fort Worth.

In May, we will feature the three-part nationally acclaimed PBS documentary, *Race: The Power of an Illusion* that explores both the science and social construct of race and how unconscious bias can impact institutions and policies that advantage some groups at the expense of others. The series will culminate with another PBS film, *American Denial*, which takes a closer look at how denial, cognitive dissonance and unrecognized, unconscious attitudes continue to dominate racial dynamics in American life. Each time we gather we will debrief through conversations at tables. Most likely our gathering times will be on Thursday evenings in May and possible June, 6:30-8:30 p.m., rotating back and forth from Mount Moriah and First Presbyterian. You do not have to attend all of our gatherings if your schedule does not allow, but I do think you will benefit from attending all of them if you can. The first event is May 9 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church.

For a schedule of the film series, visit www.fpcfw.org or contact Robyn Michalove in the church office (817.335.1231 or robyn@fpcfw.org).



Help Build FPC's 90th Habitat House!

Come build FPC's 90th Habitat House for Tarrant County Presbyterians! Sign up for a date to build at <http://vhub.at/presbyterians>. You can build on any of the May and June build dates below or come on June 1 for our FPC Day! Participants can receive a special FPC 90th House T-shirt.

Location: 944 E. Myrtle St.

Days:

- May 8 (blitz build)
- May 10 (blitz build)
- May 11 (blitz build)
- May 15 (blitz build)
- May 17 (blitz build)
- May 18 (blitz build)
- May 31 (normal build)
- FPC DAY! June 1 (summer hours)
Childcare included with advance registration by May 24 for those under 7 from 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.; please email Alyssa Martin with the name of your child and age at amartin@fpcfw.org
- June 7 (summer hours)
- June 8 (summer hours)

"Summer hours" are 7:15 a.m. to 1 p.m.

"Blitz build" is 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Next Team FPC Event: Knights of Columbus Walk/Run on May 25



"Team FPC" is sponsored by the FPC Wellness Ministry and is made up of anyone who wishes to participate with other church friends in walk/run events throughout Fort Worth. Walk or run at your own pace due to your individual ability. Join the team for only the events that fit your schedule and interest!

Join us on May 25 for the Knights of Columbus Walk/Run benefiting St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. There are three options: 1 mile, 5K and 15K. The race will be held in Trinity Park. More details on the location to meet will be provided prior to the event. To register for the race, follow the online instructions

below or stop by the Wellness table outside the Great Hall on May 5 or 12 and fill out an entry form (your information will be entered for you). Once again, FPC will pay the entry fees for children 17 and younger. Hope to see you there!

To register online: visit www.kofc15k5kmemorialrun.com and scroll down to "Click Here to Register." Scroll down to either: Team-5K Run/Walk OR Team-15K Run/Walk and click "add to cart." The shopping cart is shown on the top right of the screen. Click on: Check out in the shopping cart OR Add more people to shopping cart. Input the team name: TEAM FPC, and follow the instructions to enter your individual information and check out. Note: There is a \$2 processing fee for the 5K and a \$2.50 processing fee for the 15K. If you register your children online, you will pay the fee online. Then send an email to marykay.roberto@sbcglobal.net indicating you have signed up your children (include their names in the email). Mary Kay will submit the information to our Administrative Office, and you will receive a check in the mail.

Come join us this year for these fun and healthy events!
Learn more at fpcfw.org/wellness

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 cfallter@fpcfw.org) for more information.

PW TUESDAY TOGETHER

The May Tuesday Together will be Tuesday, May 21 at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall. Lunch follows at 12 noon for a cost of \$7. We will receive the PW Birthday Offering and install PW officers. For more information or to RSVP, contact Celeste in the church office (817.335.1231 or cfallter@fpcfw.org)



What is a Care Team?

Care Teams are neighborhood groups of church members that gather for fellowship and to organize caring efforts in their areas. They provide meals, transportation, errand running, cards, visits, etc. to those who need them. Neighborhood Care Teams meet in homes for fellowship, and to coordinate this care of their neighbors.



What Does a Care Team Do?

A Team's activities may include: • Providing transportation to the doctor or grocery store • Bringing meals • Carrying out small household chores • Running errands • Providing social outings • Visiting • Making phone calls • Sending cards • Providing caregivers with a respite break.

Team members participate as they can, when they can. What they do is based on their skill level and interests.

Care Teams exist in all neighborhoods surrounding FPC. For more information or to join the Care Team in your area, please contact a Parish Visitor at 817.335.1231.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of April 25, 2019. 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 **Will Courtney**, who died on April 16. **Kasha and Todd Vick** on the death of her father, Calvin Woody, on April 13 in Denton.

Family and friends of **Jane Watson**, who died April 11. Surviving FPC family: Bob Watson, **Amy and John Ryan**, **Kim and Marshall Boyd**, **Andrew Ryan**, **Claudia Boyd**, **Mimi Ryan**, and **Charlie Boyd**.

Barbara and Ralph Reece on the death of her sister, Eileen Moeller, on March 26 in New Braunfels.

Sandy Spiegel on the death of her nephew-in-law, Todd Mulholland, on March 16.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Jaci Travis, **Brent Comstock**, **Bettye Kinard**, **Bob Wilson**, **Jerry Brownlee**, **David Nation**, **Paula Robertson**, **Dick Coffey**, and **Judy Gasch**, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Karl Travis, **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.

Prayers for God's blessings on our Cuban partners at IPR El Buen Pastor, Unión de Reyes, Matanzas: for those in the community who are experiencing illness, for those who are in prison, for **Adela's** granddaughter who is expecting a baby, for **Belkis's** niece, for **Miriam**, for students who are about to take exams, and for our church and for all of our activities in the coming weeks.

Our congratulations and best wishes to...

Weston and Katie Eidson on the birth of **Henry George** on April 9. Henry joins big brother **Charles** and big sister **Caroline**.

Ryan and **Anne Ponsonby** on the birth of **Cooper Phillips** on April 6. Proud FPC grandparents are **Bart and Tina Phillips**.



CALENDAR

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

SUNDAYS IN MAY

- 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 Great Hall
- 4 p.m. Grief Group - Room 312

WEDNESDAYS IN MAY

- 5:30 p.m. Worship On Wednesdays (+ dinner, classes) at Community Crossroads

SUNDAY, MAY 5

- 12 p.m. Cinco de Mayo All Church Brunch
- 4:30 p.m. Youth Ping Pong Tournament

SUNDAY, MAY 12

- All Day SOS: Shoes on Sunday (donations collected)

THURSDAY, MAY 16

- 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY, MAY 19

- All Day Peanut Butter Sunday (donations collected)
- 3 p.m. Children's Choir Party @ Cowtown Bowling
- 6 p.m. Graduating Senior Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. Taize/Wholeness & Healing Worship in Chapel

TUESDAY, MAY 21

- 10:30 a.m. PW Tuesday Together

MONDAY, MAY 27

- All Day Church Offices Closed for Memorial Day



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PERIODICALS

POSTMASTER:

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WWW.FPCFW.ORG

MAUNDY THURSDAY FAMILY WORSHIP



New this year, FPC offered a more intimate, family oriented Maundy Thursday worship service, which was held in the Great Hall. The service included a meal, served family style around tables, much as Jesus and the disciples shared at that last supper. After the meal, communion was observed around the table by intinction, using unleavened bread and a communal cup of grape juice, signifying the body and blood of Jesus.

Another Jewish custom that was observed was to have the youngest member at each table repeatedly ask the question, "Why is this night so special?" There were questions at each table meant to spark discussion on various topics. The questions were great ice breakers for those of us sitting with people we had not met before and allowed for a more productive dialog.

The last custom observed was the washing of feet. There were several stations at which volunteers poured water on visitor's bare feet, then dried them with a towel. This practice follows what Jesus did for his disciples at that last supper. It symbolizes the ultimate act of service to others.