Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

JULY 2019 | Volume 19, Number 7

YOUTH CUBA PARTNER MISSION TRIP: JUNE 6-14, 2019



Pentecost Sunday at "Buen Pastor" (Unión de Reyes)

Our first youth trip to Cuba was a great success! For 9 days, 21 participants (14 youth, 7 adults) from our congregation traveled together and experienced our partnerships with 3 sister congregations in Cuba. The "partner mission" work was relational in nature, nurturing new and ongoing friendships with our sisters and brothers in Cuba. While impossible to summarize in a few sentences, a few highlights from our trip include: an overnight youth retreat with students from Matanzas Presbytery (theme: Somos Juventud, "We Are Youth"), worship on Pentecost Sunday with two of our sister congregations, teaching the Pentecost story to children through story and crafts, being hosted by the pastor Rev. Liz Eleyne Capó Lima, conversations with our two mission co-workers at the seminary in Matanzas, all of the generous hospitality we received throughout the trip, learning more about the history and culture of Cuba, eating the local food and drinking the incredible coffee. Stay tuned for a gathering in the Fall (TBD) when we will share more stories and pictures from our meaningful trip.





Youth-led group games at Youth Retreat at "El Fuerte" (Cárdenas) Crafts with children at Cidra

For more photos from the trip, see page 3 of this edition.



SUMMER WORSHIP GOES AROUND THE **WORLD!**

Beginning July 7, and for the following six weeks, Sunday morning worship at First Presbyterian will take us around the world in liturgy and song. Drawing upon liturgical and musical traditions from six of the seven continents, our shared liturgy, congregational singing, and other musical offerings will highlight the global nature of the Church as we pray and sing in the words and music of our sisters and brothers. We will also pray for and highlight Presbyterian Church (USA) mission partnerships around the globe. Enjoy the journey in worship this summer. And, if you are traveling away from Fort Worth during this time, worship with sisters and brothers wherever you find yourself on a Sunday morning as we celebrate our connections as the Church of Jesus Christ.

- July 7: Europe
- July 14: North America
- July 21: Africa
- July 28: South America/Caribbean
- August 4: Asia
- August 11: Australia/New Zealand



PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

As you read this edition of the *Penn Street Letter*, we are well into summer. How is it possible we are in July? June was a full month of mission and ministry on Penn Street (especially Preschool Music and Arts Camp, Summer Fun, and Vacation Bible School), at Community Crossroads, and in Cuba. Ministry locally and internationally throughout the month allowed us to experience Christ's gift of the Church with all ages and across borders. It was a month of blessing as we give thanks for the gift of the Church.

Beginning in July, worship will continue to celebrate the gift of the global church as we engage in liturgy and music from around the world. On the front page of this edition of the *Penn Street Letter* you will find an article describing our global journey in worship. I hope you'll take time to read - Summer Worship Goes Around the World! - and when you are able, join in worship on Penn Street. As we celebrate the Church, the Body of Christ, in the coming weeks, may we keep the Church in all corners of the world, and here in Fort Worth, in our prayers.

God's peace to you,





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 July your \$1 bills go to support the ministry of our partner PC(USA) Mission Coworkers in Cuba, David Cortes-Fuentes and Josey Saez-Acevedo. Curious? Visit presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/david-cortes-and-josey-saez/

Parents, teach generosity to your kids by sharing a \$1 bill for this valuable ministry. Through May 2019, \$6,091 has been received through Dollars for Mission.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the AUGUST issue of the Penn Street Letter are due Wednesday, July 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.

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.



@firstpresfw



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MEMORIES OF CUBA:

Youth Cuba Partner Mission Trip: June 6-14, 2019

















BE INSPIRED...

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



Choir as a Spiritual Practice

Singing engages the mind, the heart, and the body in ways that give energy and purpose to life!

Breathing, relaxing the body, reflecting on texts, allowing music to touch our emotions, being part of a community... that's all part of the experience of singing in a choir.

First Presbyterian Church offers two adult choirs that welcome new singers into this multi-sensory spiritual practice. You are invited to consider joining an adult choir this fall as an avenue for deepening your spiritual journey. Rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 14.

The Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays from 7 – 8.30 p.m. and sings primarily at the 11 a.m. service.

The Fellowship Choir rehearses Wednesdays from 6 – 7 p.m. and sings primarily at the 9 a.m. service.

Several times a year the two choirs combine for special worship offerings. Childcare is available for both choirs.

For more information or to make plans to join a choir, please contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski in the church office. (817.335.1231 or michaelw@fpcfw.org)

SAVE THE DATE! Fall 2019 First Connections Class

The First Connections Class will meet on Sundays from September 8 through October 13 at 10 a.m. in the Parlor. A detailed schedule of topics will follow.

First Connections offers an opportunity to learn about First Presbyterian Church, our mission and ministries, as well as our history and connections to the PCUSA.

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.



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

Cooking Matters, July 16

The Tarrant Area Food Bank is hosting a Cooking Matters workshop every third Tuesday from 5-7 p.m. at Community Crossroads. This workshop features hands-on cooking demonstrations and teaches participants how to shop for and prepare delicious and nutritious foods on a budget. At the end of each workshop, participants will be encouraged to participate in the Choice Pantry at Community Crossroads. The workshops will run through October and there is no cost to participate. To register, volunteer, or for more information, contact Andrea Frankenfield (amfrankenfield@hotmail.com).



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.



Help us start stocking up for FPC's annual Christmas Toy Store event coming up December 14 with this Christmas in July Toy Drive! Please bring donations to the tables outside the Great Hall on Sundays, July 14 and 21.

Every December for the past few years, the Mission Outreach Committee of FPC hosts a Christmas Toy Store. At this special "store" parents and guardians may shop for Christmas gifts for their children. This year's event will be held on December 14 and will benefit people connected to FPC ministries through First HAND food and clothing, Formula and Diapers Ministry, and Worship on Wednesdays.

ITEMS NEEDED:

Dolls (18" style is most popular) **Board Books Action Figures** Gift Card & Money Donations*

*Please make checks out to FPC with "Christmas Store" in the memo and bring to the main office anytime.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT COMMUNITY CROSSROADS

Listed below are a few of the many volunteer opportunities available for serving at Community Crossroads. For information on these or other opportunities, or to volunteer, contact Dori Al Hammami at dalhammami@fpcfw.org (unless otherwise stated below.)

FIRST H.A.N.D. MINISTRIES:

- Wednesday and Thursday 9 a.m. 2 p.m. Grocery distribution.
- 1st Wednesdays 6 8 p.m. Grocery distribution. Contact Allison Blocker (allisonruyle@gmail.com) to volunteer.
- 3rd Tuesdays 6:30 8:30 p.m. Grocery distribution. Contact Eric Varnon (evarnon@fpcfw.org) to volunteer.
- Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10:30 a.m. 2 p.m. Hospitality and Sack Lunch Distribution.
- Thursday 7 8:30 am. Unpack and store groceries in the pantry (some lifting).
- Monday Friday 9:30 11:30 a.m. (times may vary) Pick up food donations from area grocery stores or food drives. Contact Patrick Sheppard (juraissicjet@gmail.com) to join our team of Divine Drivers.
- Monday and Wednesday 9:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. Clothing Room. Contact Jackie Melcher (jemm37@sbcglobal.net) to volunteer.

CROSSROADS CORNER:

Summer Happenings at Community Crossroads



Summer Meal Program going strong!
So far the program has served 71 lunches to school aged children.



Girl Scout Troop 1517 from Bedford volunteered at Community Crossroads in June. This group has collected donations for hygiene kits, and made and distributed them last year. This was their fourth time to volunteer in the pantry. The young ladies enjoy greeting and distributing items to our neighbors.

Community Crossroads May Statistics

- 1102 (April 921) grocery requests were distributed: 2204 sacks to 809 (April 704) households, 293 (April 217) households received grocery sacks twice during the month.
- 758 (April 662) sack lunches were distributed
- 51 (April 45) clothing orders were picked up
- 32 (April 26) hygiene kits were distributed
- 48 (April 44) neighbors were seen in the Salt & Light Dental Clinic, 4 clinics were held during the month, 219 neighbors assisted in the clinic this year as of May 31st.
- 60 (April 75) families, 81 (April 94) children received FAD services
- 84 (April 80) average attendance at WOW
- 6 average attendance at ESL
- In addition there were 101 in attendance at the Annual WOW Party in the Parking Lot! There were people dancing, eating pizza and snow cones, a cake walk, games, balloons, face painting and tons of fellowship!



Party in the Parking Lot!

JOYS & CONCERNS

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

Our loving sympathy to...

Jack and Vickie Walker on the death of his mother, Nancy Walker on June 14 in Jackson, Mississippi.

Family and friends of **Jerry Collins**, who died June 2. Surviving FPC family include wife, **Lois Collins**; and daughter and son-in-law **Cindi** and David **Hares**.

Donna and Vance Laminack on the death of her brother, David West, on June 2 in Taos, New Mexico. Other FPC family includes **Brian and Ellen Buck**.

Gene and Jennifer Regen on the death of his mother, Elizabeth Regen, on June 1 in Nashville, Tennessee. Other FPC family includes: **John Regen**, **Marshall Regen**, and **Cecelia Quinn**.

Ahreum and Todd Congdon on the death of her father, Kwang Je Han on May 26 in Atlanta, Georgia. Other FPC family includes: **Daniel and Bradley Congdon**.

Sylvia Mahoney on the death of her brother, Gary L. Gann on May 24 in Houston.

Family and friends of **Keith Pugh**, who died May 24. **Martha and Marcus Newman** on the death of her father, Warren G. Gibson, on May 22 in Dallas.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Mary Farmer, Diane Satterlee, Jaci Travis, Brent Comstock, Bob Wilson, Jerry Brownlee, David Nation, Paula Robertson, Dick Coffey, and Judy Gasch, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Marilyn Love, 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...

Jean Ramsay (mother of Nancy Ramsay); Lynn Prater (daughter of Harlene Satterfield); 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), 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. 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.



CALENDAR

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

SUNDAYS IN JULY

8 a.m. Worship in Chapel
9 a.m. Worship in Great Hall
10 a.m. Summer Church School
11 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

WEDNESDAYS IN JULY

5:30 p.m. Worship On Wednesdays (+ dinner, classes)

at Community Crossroads

FRIDAYS IN JULY

9:30 a.m. Wellness: Yoga Stretch 10:30 a.m. Wellness: Tai Chi

THURSDAY, JULY 4

All Day Church Offices & EEC Closed

for Independence Day

SUNDAY, JULY 14

All Day SOS: Shoes on Sunday (donations collected)

THURSDAY, JULY 18

7 a.m. Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY, JULY 21

All Day Peanut Butter Sunday (donations collected)

12:15 p.m. Session Meeting

6:30 p.m. Taize/Wholeness & Healing Worship in Chapel

MONDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 22-26

9 a.m. Elementary Music & Arts Camp9 a.m. Summer Fun: Ocean Adventures

MONDAY-FRIDAY, JULY 29-AUGUST 2

9 a.m. Mission on the Move



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