

# THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

JANUARY 2020 | Volume 20, Number 1

## BE INSPIRED IN 2020!

*Featured in this edition are some upcoming opportunities for being inspired into a life of discipleship through church events in the new year.*

### AN INTRODUCTION TO THE

# ENNEAGRAM



The FPC Spiritual Formation Subcommittee is offering an introductory study of the enneagram on Monday mornings for 12 weeks beginning on January 13, 2020. The enneagram is an ancient wisdom tool for understanding how our unique personality attributes can both enhance and constrict our growth. This class has been taught at FPC before. Due to growing interest, it is being offered again and will be facilitated by church members Karen Hosch and Linda Northern. Classes will meet from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on Mondays. A printed participant guide is required for the class at a cost of \$25. FPC will offer daycare for children up to five years old at no additional charge. If you would like to attend, please register at [fpcfw.org/egram](http://fpcfw.org/egram) by Friday, January 3. Please be sure to specify your requirement for childcare at the time of registration. If you prefer to register by phone or if you have any questions, please contact Keri Casciari in the church office at 817.335.1231. This invitation is open to FPC members and non-members alike. Please share it with family and friends!



## MEN'S RETREAT

### FEBRUARY 22, 2020

The annual Men's Retreat will be held Saturday, February 22, 2020 from 9:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Camp Carter (6200 Sand Springs Road, Fort Worth). Retreat speaker will be Robert Hall, and the theme will be The Power of Relationships: How We Develop Them, How They Make Us Happier, and How We Use Them to Fulfill Jesus' Command to Love Thy Neighbor. Robert is an acclaimed keynote speaker on relationships and has authored more than 150 published articles and research studies on the topic of relationships and leadership. His work has been published and discussed in *The New York Times*, *Forbes*, *The CEO Magazine* and *The Huffington Post*. Retreat cost is \$35 per person (\$30 if paid before January 31). For schedule and registration, visit [fpcfw.org/mensretreat](http://fpcfw.org/mensretreat).

## STUDYING THE BIBLE IN 2020

If one of your New Year's resolutions was to study the Bible more intentionally in 2020, First Presbyterian offers numerous options through Church School classes, PW Circles, Men's Bible Study, and a variety of small groups and covenant groups. Bible in Depth is a weekly course taught by clergy that studies a book of the Bible, verse by verse. Bible in Depth offers two sections - Sundays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 10.45 a.m. 2020 sessions studying Genesis begin Sunday, January 5 and Wednesday, January 8. For more information about Bible in Depth and other adult Bible studies at First Presbyterian, please contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski in the church office or at [michaelw@fpcfw.org](mailto:michaelw@fpcfw.org).

## JOIN AN ADULT CHOIR IN 2020

First Presbyterian Church offers two choral ensembles for adults. The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 7 - 8.30 p.m. and leads worship each week at the 11 a.m. service. The Fellowship Choir rehearses Wednesdays from 6 - 7 p.m. and sings twice monthly in the 9 a.m. service. The choirs also combine for special services and concerts throughout the year. Singers of all abilities are welcome to participate and share in the joy and fellowship of making music together. Please contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski for more information about the adult choral program at FPC.



# PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear friends,

The weekend before this past Thanksgiving, I was thrilled to go watch the new Mister Rogers movie ("A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," starring Tom Hanks as Fred "Mister" Rogers) with 31 friends and family members from Youth Group, and I want to encourage you to go see this movie over the holidays. While the film does not cover Fred Roger's Presbyterian heritage or his ordination to do children's ministry on TV, it does capture many important ideas and philosophies of Fred Rogers really well. I especially enjoyed how the movie depicted the fact that Fred did not want to be considered a saint nor a hero because such terms seem out of reach for the ordinary person. Fred Rogers believed that practicing kindness is something attainable for all people, something that we can all work at and develop throughout our lives.

A couple weeks ago, during breakfast with our 4-year-old twins, I played music for them from Mister Rogers Neighborhood on our Alexa device at home. After a few favorites, I played Fred Roger's wonderful song, "What Do You Do with the Mad That You Feel?" It is a great song about paying attention to angry feelings. Importantly, Rogers does not teach that it is wrong to feel mad or angry. In many ways, Rogers' genius with children's ministry lies in his encouragement to allow kids to feel their feelings. Instead of telling a child to stop crying and soothe them away from their sad feelings, Rogers urges parents to allow their child safe space to cry and feel sad... and while sitting by their side, reminding them they are not alone. In the same way, Rogers believes it is important to feel your mad feelings rather than ignore them. The focus of the song, then, becomes imagining ways that we can find positive and healthy ways to express our mad feelings. Rather than hurting someone, "Do you punch a bag? Do you pound some clay or some dough? Do you round up friends for a game of tag? Or see how fast you go?" It's a wonderful way to empower children (of all ages!) to find creative outlets for our anger and frustrations, giving them room to feel and power to "stop when [they] want to."

Well, back to the breakfast table. After listening to the song about how to embrace feelings of anger and frustration, my daughter Sippi looked at me. Then, she said the most beautiful thing. She said, "So Daddy, what do we do with the **happy** that we feel?"

Keep on keeping on.

## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the FEBRUARY issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, January 15**. Submissions for the weekly Penn Street Online emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue. Please send to Pam Burkholder at [pamb@fpcfw.org](mailto:pamb@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.



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# PENN<sup>St</sup>Arts presents

## Luther College Nordic Choir in concert February 3



The Luther College Nordic Choir, one of the premier collegiate choral ensembles in the United States, will be coming to FPC as a part of their 2020 Winter Tour. Please come and enjoy the concert on February 3, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Acclaimed for the way it honors the Lutheran choral tradition while also featuring new and innovative choral

works, Nordic Choir showcases versatility, artistry, and technical mastery across many genres of music.

The choir tours annually, performing in churches of all denominations, schools, and concert halls, including Lincoln Center in New York, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. Internationally, the ensemble has toured in Germany, Italy, England, Ireland, Scandinavia, the Caribbean, Mexico, Russia, and Eastern Europe. In 2021, Nordic Choir will make its first tour to South Africa.

Since 2017 the choir has been under the direction of Dr. Andrew Last, Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities.

### And... Nordic Choir Homestay volunteers are needed!

We also have a chance to show our FPC generosity by hosting choir students in our homes and being a part of their homestay experience. We will need housing for 40 women and 35 men. We can pair 2-3 students, or as many as you can accommodate! Students are allowed to share beds as are couches and air mattresses.

What you need to provide:

- Transportation and ample room in your vehicle after the concert. Each student will have a suitcase and a personal item
- Clean bedding, linens, and towels
- Breakfast in the morning
- Transportation to First Pres on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 9 a.m. for departure

If you are able to volunteer a homestay, please contact Director of Music/Organist Ahreum Han Congdon at [acongdon@fpcf.org](mailto:acongdon@fpcf.org) or call 817.335.1231 ex. 240. Pets and smoke are common allergies. Please let Ahreum know how many students you can accommodate and if you have any pets.



## Prayer During the Pastoral Search

The Session commends the following prayer written by the Spiritual Formation Subcommittee for our use during the pastoral search. Please pray it frequently in your own personal prayer time and in committees and gatherings of the church.

*Holy God,*

*We praise and thank you for your steadfast love of our church and humbly ask your guidance and blessing as you lead us to the pastor you are calling to this place.*

*Nurture and guide your servant for sharing ministry among us. Prepare our hearts to receive his or her gifts.*

*Give us the courage to speak truthfully and compassionately, so that we might be a building up of Your church. Teach us all the way of Jesus: to walk humbly with you, seeking justice and mercy.*

*Joyfully, we thank you for your Holy Spirit who enlightens and enlivens the path for each of us.*

*In Christ's name we pray,  
Amen.*



## BOOK PEOPLE BOOK CLUB



Book People will begin its sixth year of reading and discussion on Monday, February 10. The book for this meeting is *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward, a young writer, already winner of two National Book Awards. Book People meets on the second Monday of eight months of the year at 12 noon in Room 226. Church members and friends are welcome. Other dates for 2020 are March 9, April 6 at 1 p.m. (date and time change due to Easter), May 11, July 13, September 14, October 12, and November 9. For questions or more information, contact Elizabeth Johnson Pense at [ejpense@me.com](mailto:ejpense@me.com).

## Call for Scottish Memorabilia!

Kirkin of the Tartans is just around the corner, and we would like to fill the church display cases with your items from Scotland. Whether you lived there, have visited, or just enjoy Scottish goods, if you have any memorabilia (figurines, dolls, photos, maps, miniatures, collectibles, etc.) you would be willing to share for the display, please bring to the church office by Sunday, January 5. Please be sure to label the items with your name and phone number so we can return them to you. Thank you!

## Highlights from the December Stated Session Meeting

At its Stated Meeting of December 15, the Session:

- Heard reports from the Clerk and the Pastors.
- Received a report from the elder commissioners to the December 7 meeting of Grace Presbytery at Trinity - McKinney.
- Heard a report from the Finance Committee presenting the first read of the 2020 budget, for action at the January meeting.
- Engaged in discussion with the Beaumont Task Force in advance of receiving recommendations at the January meeting.
- Thanked and celebrated elders completing their terms of service on the session.



## MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The men of First Pres gather on the third Thursday of each month for intentional conversation or a special speaker, a shared meal (\$5 per person), and prayer with other FPC men. You'll find connection here! For reservations (not required, but helpful for our chef) or more information, visit [fpcf.org/men](http://fpcf.org/men).

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## PW January Tuesday Together takes a Walk on the Wild Side

On January 21, all women are invited to hear Kelley Snodgrass, Executive Director of Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, speak about his passion for deepening and broadening diverse partnerships necessary to create and evolve strategies to conserve and sustain wildlife and the environments in which they live. The program will be at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall, followed by lunch (cost \$7).



In his 35+ years at Fossil Rim, Kelley has been a key member of the management team involved in all aspects of growing a private wildlife ranch with four endangered species and a staff of six to an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and Zoological Association of America (ZAA) not-for-profit wildlife conservation and education facility which currently employs a staff of 100 and is involved in 20+ endangered/threatened species programs and houses fifty different wildlife species from around the world. Kelley has been active in the creation and ongoing development of both national and international wildlife conservation initiatives focusing on rhinoceroses, Attwater's prairie-chicken, cheetah, wolves, and antelope.

RSVP to Celeste Falter in the church office (817.335.1231, ext. 261 or [cfalter@fpcf.org](mailto:cfalter@fpcf.org)) by Tuesday, January 14.

**REMINDER:** All women are invited to attend the 2020 Women's Retreat, February 8-9, 2020 at Camp Crucis in Granbury, Texas. Our theme is "Light Up Your Leap Year," and will welcome author, speaker, blogger, and spiritual director Danielle Shroyer as our guest. Get details and register at [fpcf.org/womensretreat](http://fpcf.org/womensretreat).



# MEMORIES OF FPC'S 2019 SCOTLAND TRIP

On September 23, 2019 a group of 35 FPC members and friends departed for a nine day tour of Scotland. The group leader was Rev. Michael Waschevski and tour guide was Rev. Jim Wallace, a native Scot and minister in the Church of Scotland.

The trip began and ended in the city of Edinburgh. The second day the group drove west to Glasgow and visited Glasgow Cathedral where they paused for a short service of welcome in the Celtic tradition. The scenic route then continued on past the banks of Loch Lomond to the little west coast port of Oban where they caught the ferry to the Isle of Mull. Dinner and overnight stay that night was a lovely hotel overlooking Tobermory Bay.

A single track road took them next to the town of Fionnphort. Another short ferry ride took them to the historic island of Iona. This special island plays an important part in our Presbyterian heritage. St. Columba arrived here in the year 563, establishing the Christian faith in the land. In the language of Celtic spirituality, Iona is sometimes described as a thin place – as if the veil between earth and heaven were most transparent here. The group visited the Abbey, learned about Columba and the Iona Community before returning to Tobermory.

Returning to the mainland, the tour continued north past Glen Coe – a beautiful place which witnessed an infamous event in Scotland's history. Near Fort William lies "Neptune's Staircase", an ingenious series of locks on the Caledonian Canal. Then on through the Great Glen and by Loch Ness, home of the mystical monster.

Driving south the next day, they arrived in Perth ("The Fair City") where they were given a guided tour of St. John's Kirk. Here is where John Knox preached, giving light to the Reformation in Scotland. Dinner that evening began with a traditional haggis ceremony, complete with bagpipes and the poetry of Robert Burns.

Turning to the east coast they arrived in the charming little town of St. Andrews. St. Andrews is home to Scotland's oldest university where many of the Kirk's ministers were educated. It is a significant site for the history of the Reformation. A walking tour of the town included castle and cathedral ruins.

On Sunday, the group returned to Edinburgh and shared morning worship at St. Giles Cathedral. On Monday, the group was free to explore this beautiful city full of history and full of life. Historic buildings in Edinburgh include Edinburgh Castle, Greyfriars Kirk and St. Giles Cathedral, as well as the very modern buildings of the Scottish Parliament. On Monday evening, they shared worship together and closed with a celebration dinner.

Here, in their own words, are some of the favorite places and moments of the trip by the trip participants.

*"A rainbow that reached all the way to the waters of Loch Ness. A beautiful day and a wonderful trip". - Zem Neill*

*"My favorite memory was getting to know the other church members better. I have seen many of them and even have said "Hello" but I didn't take the time to talk and get to know them. This trip allowed the time to know them better as a person instead of just another face in the crowd. Our picnic next to a Loch and our hotel on a hill overlooking Tobermory Bay was a quaint step back in time in a beautiful setting." - Dan Moore*

*"Spending time in recreation and conversation with members of our much-loved church family! Getting to know each one at a more personal level. Now seeing each in worship means so much more to me." - Donna Moore*

*"Beautiful country with beautiful people!! Awe inspiring vistas spiritually meaningful!" - Brenda Lewis*

*"The island of Iona, described as a "thin place" which means a place where the veil between heaven and earth is thin. The island is less than 3 miles long with only a few roads. I wandered down the road to the other side of the island. The road ends with a gate, which you open and go through a field to the western beach. I sat watching the wind blow clouds and rain over the water towards the island. The clouds hid the horizon where the sky and the water met. For me, that was the thin place and a highlight of the trip." - Evie Richardson*

*"The beauty, the cleanliness, the gentility, respect for ecology through intentional recycling, the well kept homes, the moss covered ground...these are just some of the ways of describing what I saw and experienced. Some of my favorite spots were the Isle of Mull, Glasgow Cathedral, the Hotel at Tobermory." - Carol Adcock*

*"The trip was magical. Our group was so congenial and had such fun together. Michael and our Scottish tour guide, Jim Wallace, kept us engaged, informed, moving, and laughing. There were moments of awe, reverence, amazement, laughter, and lots of great food and drink. As a result, I have fallen in love with Scotland!" - Linda Northern*

To view more photos from the trip, visit [fpcfw.org/scotland2019](http://fpcfw.org/scotland2019).





# A Note of Gratitude for FPC's Advent and Christmas Decorations



Every year, a cast of dozens come together behind the scenes to decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. These efforts are coordinated by the Liturgical Arts Subcommittee (a part of the Worship and Music Committee). Our great gratitude to each of these volunteers as they add to our celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior!

On the concourse outside the Great Hall, John (who constructed the table) and Susan Lenheiser set up the Holy Family journey - with figures made by Pete Van't Slot. On the Great Hall visitor's desk there is a manger scene belonging to Paula Hawpe, who had for years set it up in her former John Knox Presbyterian Church. Once again Sandra Davis has worked the garland around the Great Hall railing and tied all of those bows! The Great Hall tree and sitting area was decorated by Pam Thompson, Patti Biggers, Paula Hawpe, and Celeste Falter. The Library tree and the east Concourse stair railings were decorated by Jamie Downing and the Presbyterian All Families church school class.

The Sanctuary Chancel was decorated by Elizabeth Teeters and Nancy Gillis, and the wreaths and ledge trees were put up by Celeste Falter and FPC's own maintenance staff. The Narthex Chrismon tree and nativity scene were decorated by Nancy Gillis, Betty Elliott, Cara Sanders, and Willa Dunleavy.

Peggy Schneider, Susan Lenheiser, and Betty Elliott decorated the Parlor tree and the entrance nativity. And, on a table by the entrance to the Chapel is another manger scene belonging to David Shanahan—who is also sharing what is so meaningful from his past.

Special thanks to all of those who set out the many poinsettias around the church, and who kept them "iced" every 3-4 days: Peggy Schneider, Susan Lenheiser, Betty Elliott, Nancy Gillis, David Shanahan, Willa Dunleavy, Elizabeth Teeters, and Paula Hawpe. Special thanks also to the committee's staff liaisons and constant support, Ahreum Han Congdon and Celeste Falter, and our wonderful maintenance staff. They truly make all of this possible with their encouragement, ideas and willingness to take on the heaviest and highest.

We also extend thanks to the many members of our congregation who have donated needlework, ornaments, nativities, and of course contributed poinsettias in honor and memory of loved ones.

## Christmas Toy Store Volunteers and Donors

We'd like to extend a huge THANK YOU to all the volunteers and donors who made the Christmas Toy Store so wonderfully successful on Saturday, December 14. Your holiday spirit and graciousness made the event a very positive experience for all of our neighbors from Community Crossroads.



# JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of December 19, 2019. To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

## Our loving sympathy to...

**Laura and Mark Russell** on the death of her mother, Linda Carter, on November 4. Other survivors include granddaughter Elizabeth Russell

Family and friends of **Vera Kendall**, who died on November 21.

Family and friends of **Liz Bean**, who died on November 23.

Family and friends of **Corinna Nation**, who died on November 30. Surviving FPC family: husband, **David Nation**.

**Bruce and Merilys Corning** on the death of his brother, Jim Corning, on December 7 in Pierre, South Dakota. Other survivors include niece **Jennifer Lucio** and husband Steven Lucio.

Family and friends of **Emily Sullivan**, who died December 10. Surviving FPC family includes **Hardin** and Leigh **Sullivan**, **Jean and Ed Patterson**, **Jenna Patterson**, **Matt Patterson**, and **Sam Patterson**.

## Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

**Theresa Hocker**, **Joel Salazar**, **Ann Florsheim**, **Francisco Menchaca**, **Jay Dickson**, **Mary Farmer**, **Diane Satterlee**, **Brent Comstock**, **Bob Wilson**, **Jerry Brownlee**, **David Nation**, **Paula Robertson**, and **Judy Gasch**, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

**Ann Chappell**, **Elizabeth Johnson Pense**, **Sue Barham**, **Frank Stewart**, **Bob Gorham**, **Karl Travis**, **Rush Hart**, **Marilyn Wilson**, **Phyllis Propes**, **Emma Coley**, **Lisa Shiner**, and **Frances Blake**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

## Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Patrick Denton (nephew of **Bill and Pat Gordon**), 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.

## Our congratulations and best wishes to...

Logan and **Bailey Peresh** on the birth of Lincoln Thomas on December 2. Proud FPC family are grandparents **Morgan and Gigi Sullivan**, and great grandparents **George and Mary Morgan Sullivan**.

**Mike and Amy Herral** on the birth of Colton Michael on December 11, 2019. Colton joins big brother Jackson.



Below are a few highlighted events in January. More at [fpcf.org/calendar](http://fpcf.org/calendar).

## SUNDAYS IN JANUARY

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

## MONDAYS IN JANUARY

- 3 p.m. Room in the Inn

## WEDNESDAYS IN JANUARY

- 9:30 a.m. Wellness: REFIT Class
- 5:30 p.m. Worship On Wednesdays (+ dinner, classes) at Community Crossroads

## FRIDAYS IN JANUARY

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

## MONDAY, JANUARY 13

- 9:30 a.m. Introduction to Enneagram begins

## THURSDAY, JANUARY 16

- 6:30 p.m. Boomers Chuck Wagon Sack Lunch Packing

## SUNDAY, JANUARY 19

- 6:30 p.m. Taize Worship Service

## MONDAY, JANUARY 20

- All day Church Office and EEC Closed for MLK Day

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 21

- 10:30 a.m. PW Tuesday Together

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

- 5:15 p.m. Senior High Youth Connection begins



THE  
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LETTER

First Presbyterian Church  
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**PERIODICALS**

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## Kathryn Breitbarth to Retire

Kathryn Breitbarth is retiring as Communications Coordinator on January 17. You are invited to stop by the office on Friday, January 17 between 2-3 p.m. to thank Kathryn for her time serving on staff. Words of appreciation may also be shared by card or letter sent to the church office.

The Personnel Committee promoted Pam Burkholder to be our new Communications Coordinator and we celebrate her new ministry among us.